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# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009 | VOLUME 35, EDITION 32

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## Small city, big dreams

Burlington hopes for a stronger downtown economy with the recent influx of local stores

Jack Dodson  
Senior Reporter

When Stephen Cox closed the doors of Roaster's Coffee Shop in downtown Burlington to focus specifically on roasting coffee beans, his former employees picked up the reins.

Stephanie Pratt and Kelly Vines bought a space down the street to open a new shop, keeping their regular customers and selling Cox's coffee. The two opened The Perk-O-Later Nov. 21 on Davis Street.

The coffee shop is part of a string of businesses that have opened this fall with the common goal of adding to the local scene of downtown Burlington in hopes of revitalizing the area.

With the opening of these stores — a coffee shop, a pizza place, a consignment shop and a Thai restaurant, among others — there's hope for the culture of downtown to have more to offer.

The Burlington Downtown Corporation, a nonprofit organization that is part of the nationwide downtown redevelopment-oriented Main Street Program, is one of the strongest supporters of the development. As an entity that joined The Main Street Program in 1988, the organization has recently refocused its goals.

Formerly, it was an event-coordinating group, said Executive Director Anne Morris, who was hired in June.

"We are really in a rebuilding stage," Morris said. "My position has been vacant for four years."

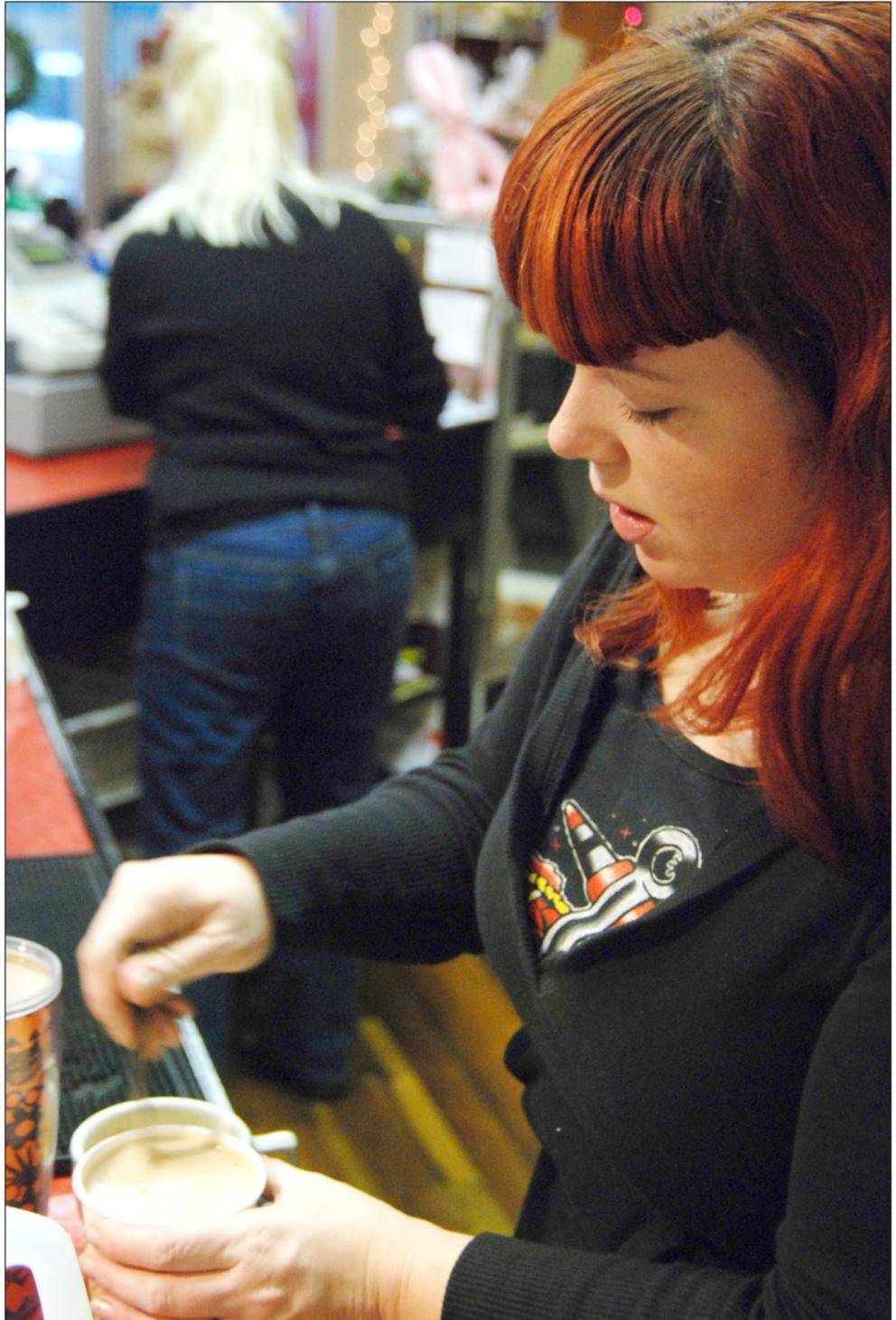
By creating a master plan in 2008, Morris said the organization has become more about managing the various parties involved in revitalizing downtown.

"Our charge is to encourage both public and private investment in the downtown area," she said.

Pratt said she has noticed a difference in the downtown area.

"I feel like it's busier down here," Pratt said. "You see more cars, you see more people on foot."

Despite the increasingly positive trends, all businesses in the city's center struggle with retaining customers in



Stephanie Pratt, co-owner of The Perk-O-Later, pours a drink for a customer while her business partner, Kelly Vines, rings up a customer. The two opened their shop Nov. 21 on Davis Street after their former employer, Roaster's Cafe, shut down. JACK DODSON | Photographer

See **DOWNTOWN** | PAGE 7

## Community celebrates six decades of Tolley's service at Elon

Andie Diemer  
Editor-in-Chief

Jerry Tolley has never missed a College Coffee while he's been on campus during his 31 years at Elon. And even though he is officially retiring from his latest role at Elon on Dec. 31, it doesn't look like Tolley is going to start missing many College Coffees in the future.

Last Monday night, around 200 people from all chapters of Tolley's life gathered in Johnston Hall to recognize Tolley's achievements and his significant impact on the university.

Tolley, currently the director of the Elon Society, the university's premier annual

giving group, first came to Elon in 1967 as a professor and athletics coach.

Former athletics director Alan White, special assistant to the president Jo Williams and former vice president for Institutional Advancement Nan Perkins all spoke and reflected on their experiences with Tolley at the reception.

"Jerry, your successes in your profession are only surpassed by your successes in your personal life," Williams said. "Today, we honor you and your myriad successes, and most especially what you have meant to Elon University during your 31 years here."

Perkins said Tolley was always a very positive staff

member and only had good comments about his associates.

"Jerry, you are an original if there ever was one," Perkins said. "And I'm so proud to have worked with you for so many years."

Tolley was named the first director of the Elon Society in 2003 and has worked to increase membership. He is also carrying out his fourth term as mayor of the Town of Elon, making him the longest-serving mayor in Elon's 117-year history.

Now 67, Tolley has finally decided to step down from his official involvement with Elon University.

"At some point, you just need to think about some other things," Tolley said earlier in

the day.

But Tolley's presence will persist on Elon's campus.

He said he will consult for the Elon Society for six months after he steps down and plans to begin his sixth book about football in January or February, which he said will most likely be written in Belk Library or the Lindner Hall reading room.

"One of the things that Elon University does when people retire, they still make them a part of the university. They do everything they can to keep you involved," Tolley said. "I'll still have my Phoenix Card and I'll still have access to everything here. I expect to still be a part of Elon University in some way."

Tolley said the most

memorable capacity in which he has served Elon was when he was head football coach and won two national titles back-to-back in 1980 and 1981, which at that time marked Elon as the third private school in history to nail the accomplishment.

Alum Bobby Hedrick, one of Tolley's players during the first championship, attended the ceremony to celebrate Tolley's influence.

"Elon wouldn't be Elon without him," Hedrick said. "He was an organizer. He knew what he wanted out of his players and he did everything in his power to get it out of us. He did an excellent job."

See **TOLLEY** | PAGE 3

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## Tolley plans to stay active in community

**TOLLEY** from page 1

Though he was involved with athletics during the beginning of his career, Tolley began working with various campaigns and giving programs in 1982.

During a more recent six-year period, Tolley increased the membership in the Elon Society from 678 members to 904 members, and increased the Elon Fund from \$975,988 to \$2,285,500, a 134 percent increase.

"There have been all these nice milestones that I've been able to be here when they happen and have some involvement in them," Tolley said.

Jim Piatt, vice president for University Advancement, said Tolley has been "completely invaluable" as part of the University Advancement staff in recent years because of his connections and ability to encourage people to support Elon with financial contributions.

"He's got a lot of different talents and a lot of different skills and he's been able to use a lot of them for Elon's benefit throughout the years," Piatt said. "Tolley's been someone who has been very fondly thought of and is a living legend around campus."

### THE ELON SOCIETY

Members contribute at least \$1,500 annually to the giving group to ensure Elon can continue to "offer academic programs in world-class facilities."

Elon Society Director Jerry Tolley said tuition doesn't cover the total costs of the university, so other money is necessary to supplement its actions.

For more information, call (877) 784-ELON.

Piatt said the growth of the Elon Society under Tolley's leadership is a real testament to his strengths, and in turn, the university is able to use the money to support more opportunities, such as financial aid packages.

Executive Vice President Gerry Francis has worked with Tolley in both the community and the institution and said Tolley has provided structure to enhance outside commitment to the university and has perfected a cohesive structure to provide support for the



Jerry Tolley, waving, was honored Monday night. For 31 years, Tolley has served Elon in a variety of capacities, including Town of Elon mayor, head football coach and director of the Elon Society.

ANDIE DIEMER | Photographer

school.

"Tolley's been a leader at the institution, he's been a leader in the community, and that's made a difference," Francis said. "He's always had a great ability to bring people together to solve problems."

Piatt said the group will start searching for Tolley's replacement shortly.

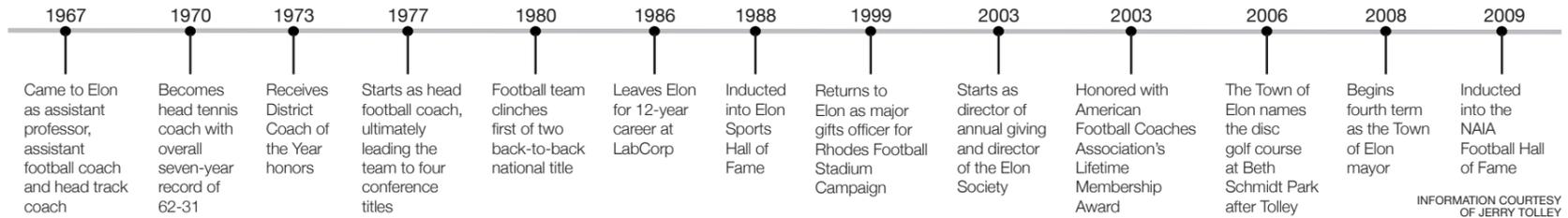
"Anytime you have somebody who has served Elon as long as Jerry has, it's just really important to recognize that and to have people who have meant a

lot in the community come together and share their appreciation for somebody who has spent most of his adult life advancing Elon," Piatt said.

Tolley said Elon is a special place to be, and that is why he has continued to work and live in the community.

"One of the benefits of working at Elon is you get a chance to go out and walk through campus and live the campus," Tolley said. "I don't think there ever was a day I didn't want to get up and come to work."

### TOLLEY'S TIME



## New BioBus route, parking sparks trouble for students

Rebecca Smith  
Senior Reporter

One of the many frustrations for Elon University students is cars. Students who do not have cars have to find ways to get to local sites in order to do volunteer work, shop or just find a new location to hang out with friends. And students who do have cars constantly have to find a place where they are allowed to park.

Currently, there are two new ideas that may help students with their car problems, whether it's a lack of parking or a lack of transportation.

### New BioBus Shuttle Route

Since the cities of Elon and Burlington are not large metropolises, there is not currently a good form of public transportation in place. This has caused problems in the past for students who need to get off campus to do volunteer work.

A new BioBus route will run from Elon to several different agencies in eastern Burlington in order to lessen Elon students' dependence on cars. This should also eliminate some of the traffic caused by Elon students, ultimately reducing the university's carbon footprint.

"The program we did earlier in the year, 'Get on the Bus,' was very successful," said Brain O'Shea, assistant to the vice president for Student Life. "Students said they wanted it to continue, and that students wanted to continue volunteering their time at many of the agencies but could not because they did not have a car."

The route has five stops in the community that drop students off at a location close to at least two different service agencies. There are 50 sites on the route including the American Red Cross, Christmas Cheer, Loaves and Fishes, the Boys and Girls Club, Centro la Comunidad, Allied Churches, Burlington Housing Authority and Eastlawn Elementary.

"The Kernodle Center saw a need for students to have transportation to various volunteer sites," said sophomore Amber Mathis, Kernodle Center student leader. Many students are taking Academic Service-Learning courses, and it only makes sense to help provide transportation if they are requiring students to do service in order to pass a class. The bus is a "service loop" however city merchants are also hoping to gain greater foot traffic from students as a result.

This biobuses will run Monday through Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The

new route is having a pilot run starting in February 2010 and will last the remainder of the semester. After this point, the route is going to be reevaluated to see how many people utilized the route, what days were most utilized and what times seemed to be most effective. If the pilot run is successful then Elon will start looking for funding for the route from the community.

### New SGA Parking Committee

All around Elon University's campus are signs that tell you who can park in which parking lots, how long you can park, and what hours you can park. Unfortunately, for students these signs often prohibit them from an ideal parking situation.

As a result of the number of students concerned by the issue SGA has created a Parking Ad Hoc Committee. This committee is made up of Sam Warren, Taylor Martin, Darien Flowers and Jasmine Nickerson.

"This committee is to address all the issues students have about parking," said Sam Warren, Parking Ad Hoc Committee Chair. "There are some big issues with parking. One is the lack of parking in east area and the unfair fees for students in east area who have to pay the standard \$160.00 even though they have less parking. Other issues are that there is no parking at night for students who at the library, in the back of Oaks there are no visitor parking spots, and the 20 minute parking by Moseley is inadequate."

Currently the Committee is meeting with representative from each area to document all of the parking concerns. They are also planning two upcoming student forums with students where all students will be invited to express their concerns. And the Committee plans to meet with Chuck Gantos, Director of Campus Safety and Police.

The Committee is looking to add at least a 20 minute parking spot in the parking lot behind Hook, Brannock, Barney and in the parking lot behind West so students who otherwise have to park in overflow parking can unload groceries. The Committee is also looking to make spots in the Moseley parking lot that are 40 minutes or an hour so students who live off campus can park and eat lunch in Octagon or attend their office hour in upstairs Moseley.

"There have also been discussions about adding a parking garage," said Warren. "We are looking into if this idea will become a reality, and where a good spot for a parking garage would be. We just want to make sure parking is as convenient for students as possible."

## Burlington Police Department to use future survey for necessary feedback, critiques

Anna Johnson  
Senior Reporter

More than 19,000 Burlington residents will receive a postcard this week urging them to participate in a survey that will provide feedback and critiques of the current services offered by the Burlington Police Department.

The survey, sent by the Burlington Police Department and an Elon University Public Administration Senior Seminar class, has more than 30 questions including: Do residents feel safe? Are drugs a major concern in Burlington? How is the communications system used by the police department? And do you feel the police discriminate based on race or gender?

Assistant Chief Greg Seel said the police station usually sends out this sort of survey every two years in order to learn what areas in the department are stronger and what parts need improvement.

"We want to gauge and get feedback on how well we perform," Seel said. "We are looking at our communications and how we deliver our services."

The results will not be released until Dec. 22, but Seel said he suspects good reports.

"We feel confident the results will say we do a good job," Seel said. "But regardless of how high the results are, we are constantly looking for ways to improve."

George S. Hill is the president of the South Beverly Hills neighborhood association, a local neighborhood in the eastern part of Burlington. He said he has already taken the survey and feels the channel of communication between the community and police station is vital.

"We formed this group (South Beverly Hills neighborhood association) because we felt this was our way to have a voice in the government," Hill said. "This (survey) is very important, and

the only way the police will be able to move forward and know our perception of them."

Hill said he believes the police station will get less than favorable reports from the black community. He said one way to improve the disparity is to increase the number of black and Hispanic police officers.

But he said he believes the police department is on the right track, and that under the current police chief they are addressing these issues.

Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall said the City Council will look at the results once they are announced.

"This is us trying to improve what we are doing," Wall said. "It is very important to get feedback, whether positive or negative, and make improvements."

Wall said this was a chance to gain "honest feedback" and effectively look at how well the Burlington Police Department is doing as a whole.

Betty Morgan, associate professor of political science, has been working with the Burlington Police Department for more than eight years and has helped conduct four surveys.

"The survey data is used for several purposes," Morgan said. "Accreditation is on the police department's part, and it is an effort by the police to ensure Burlington residents are satisfied with service and make sure they can better meet their needs."

She said this survey focuses on the communication with residents and the navigation of the Burlington Police Department Web site.

"What we have found over the years what (the police department) perceive to be issues may or may not be issues to the public," Morgan said. "It has raised sensitivity to periodically checking in."

The project is paid for by the Elon University Center for Public Affairs and cost close to \$2,100.

# Students begin quests for political leadership

**Samantha King**  
Assistant News Editor

As the end of the year comes to a close, most students begin to reminisce about the past year, the ups and downs and stress about end-of-term exams.

Junior Nick Ochsner and senior Jeremy Teetor are not like most students. While they, too, are busying themselves with finals preparation, both students have announced plans for major campaigns in the Republican and Democratic Parties, respectively.

Ochsner will be running for Chairman of North Carolina College Republicans, as the underdog of the race, when most

of the opposing incumbents represent much larger schools, such as University of North Carolina or Duke University.

As both a senior and the chairman, Ochsner would have very little free time, but his adviser and mentor, Richard Landesberg, assistant professor of communications, said this would not be a problem.

"(Ochsner) is incredibly passionate about whatever he does," Landesberg said. "He is so involved in so many important things that I'm not convinced when he sleeps or eats, but that's what he thrives on."

This is not Ochsner's first stint in the political arena. He has been deeply

involved in state-level politics since his freshman year. Just last year he was the treasurer of the North Carolina College Republicans and managed Jack Sawyer's campaign for Secretary of State.

"A lot of students are involved with many different things and for some, their academics really suffer," Landesberg said. "But I have never seen this with (Ochsner)."

Teetor recently announced his candidacy for Alamance County Commissioner and said he hopes to win the primary in May for the Democratic Party, and then the election in November for one of the five county commissioner seats.

Deborah Long, coordinator of civic engagement and director of the Elon Academy, has known Teetor since his freshman year and believes this is just the beginning for him.

"I think he's just getting his feet wet," she said.

Regardless of the results, Teetor said he plans to continue working with the Alamance County school system to promote change. Long says regardless of a win or loss, Teetor will be heard.

"I think running for office at 22 is young," Long said. "But because he is so young, he would bring a new, important perspective. His youth would be an important asset."

## Poll shows most North Carolinians lack faith in elected officials

**Sarah Costello**  
Reporter

As the economy fluctuates, the unemployment rate climbs, the issue of nationalized health care looms and war is prolonged, many Americans are second guessing the actions and intentions of elected officials.

A Nov. 16-17 Elon University Poll, which surveyed 563 North Carolina residents, revealed that 73 percent of respondents think corruption is prevalent among elected officials. According to 65 percent of those polled, elected officials are more concerned for themselves than the best interest of the public, and 67 percent said corruption is becoming more common among North Carolina public officials.

"I think a lot of citizens are frustrated, and that translates to blame on elected officials because they are the ones that we've trusted in making our country better," Student Government Association President and Elon junior Justin Peterson said. "If the state of the nation is negative, I think our perception of their job would be negative as well."

The media has reported dozens of political scandals in the past few months, from the promiscuous excursions of South Carolina Sen. Mark Sanford to Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon's bribery scandals and the questionable actions of Gov. Mike Easley in connection with the hiring of his wife at N.C. State University.

"I think, historically, distrust in government goes back to the 1970s with Watergate," SGA Vice President Evan Davis said. "I think another issue with that is the state of North Carolina. I know there are problems with the budget and state employees."

Many North Carolinians blame elected officials for the

discrepancies in the budget and handling of finances on a state and local level. The recent recession has impacted thousands of North Carolina households, and the unemployment rate continues to climb.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the North Carolina unemployment rate is 11 percent, increased 4 percent since October 2008.

"Right now, there's a lot of debate with state officials," said Taylor Foshee, president of College Democrats. "People think our officials in North Carolina have become complacent and have not addressed some of the pressing issues like the economy and jobs. There's not enough action for (many), especially given what we perceive to be a severe issue."

Corruption among elected officials is often widespread and heavily reported, contributing to a lack of faith and support for political leaders. Respondents to the Elon Poll are not the only ones who are wavering in their trust in elected officials.

A Nov. 30 Rasmussen Poll revealed a lack of confidence in politicians, particularly Democrats. The survey was conducted before President Barack Obama's speech on his plans for the war in Afghanistan.

Voters gave a 13-point edge to Republicans — 50 percent to 37 percent — in regard to trust in national security and the War on Terror.

"The intense frustration with government and politicians among North Carolinians could pose serious ramifications for the electoral landscape in 2010," said Hunter Bacot, director of the Elon University Poll. "Coupled with a poor economy, the midterm elections may shape up as more of a referendum on government in general rather than the typical repudiation of the party

"I think a lot of citizens are frustrated, and that translates to blame on elected officials because they are the ones that we've trusted in making our country better."

- Justin Peterson  
STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT

in power."

More than half of the respondents to the Elon Poll said corruption among North Carolina elected officials is more common today than 10 years ago but most appear to trust North Carolina legislative bodies more than national legislative bodies.

"I would foresee some type of shakeup in upcoming local elections and the larger elections in 2012," Davis said. "I think it's going to be interesting how the next couple of years will play out. State politics have been dominated by Democrats, and Republicans haven't held the House or Senate in 150 years."

Davis said he thinks many North Carolinians, and Americans in general, are wary of the unfulfilled campaign promises that helped elect Obama into office.

"With the Afghanistan troop surge, many are upset about that because that's something that Obama was against," Davis said. "The economy and health care are two mainstream issues that he talked about as well as gay rights and the environment. There are a lot of campaign promises he hasn't come through on."

Despite the distrust Americans may have for political leaders, 74 percent of respondents said America has the best government in the world, and 65 percent claimed support of the United States government despite any actions in Washington.



**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Fayetteville, N.C.  
**Major:** Broadcast Journalism

**Nick Ochsner**  
Candidate for Chairman of N.C. College Republicans

**PLATFORM:** "The No. 1 priority coming into office if I am elected would be to plan. We need to set goals, have long-time objectives. We just don't do enough of that now. As part of my platform, the first thing I'll do if elected is to call a leadership planning retreat with state elected officials. Under my tenure as chairman, (we would be) moving toward a place where we are working with the Republican Party to help elect more officials."

**CAMPAIGN:** "We plan to travel around the state to talk to schools about our message and get people excited. We're going to empower chapters that typically have not had a strong voice across the state. We want to encourage them to be more active. We will be using the Internet and new media."

**FUNDRAISING:** "We are working on a final budget. It's (going to) require more money than one would probably think for a college (campaign)."

**MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE:** "Being from Fort Bragg, military and national security are issues I care most about. But I would be happy to argue with you about anything."

*The election will be held in March at the College Republican state conference.*



**Age:** 21  
**Hometown:** Alamance County, N.C.  
**Majors:** Education and Teaching Fellow

**Jeremy Teetor**  
Candidate for Alamance County Commissioner

**PLATFORM:** "The biggest component of my platform is education. That's going to be what will pull the county through in getting it to the new economy." Teetor said he sees the new economy in Alamance County as the post-textile industry.

**CAMPAIGN:** "Word of mouth is going to be very important for me. I really want to have a lot of one-on-one contact." He plans to use registration drives, as well as mobilizing Elon students, family members and friends. Teetor will also largely rely on word-of-mouth and door-to-door campaigning.

**FUNDRAISING:** "At the most, we're anticipating a few thousand dollars."

**MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE:** "Alamance County has really fallen behind in competing in the new economy. It's really time to get serious about supporting our schools and their initiatives to prepare the next generation for newer types of jobs and to help older generations who are stuck in the transitioning phase."

*If Teetor does not win the primary or election, he plans to stay involved and run again in two years.*

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**Crenshaw HYUNDAI**

# Obama to send 30,000 troops to Afghanistan

## North Carolina units likely to leave soon for Global War on Terror

Laura Smith  
News Editor

On Dec. 1 President Barack Obama gave the speech many had been anticipating since his inauguration—the final decision on what is to be done with the situation in Afghanistan.

After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States launched a war on terrorism against al-Qaida just a month after the initial attacks. Now, a little more than eight years later, 30,000 additional American troops will be sent back to the country in an attempt to finish the job.

Among those troops will be several units from North Carolina, who are expected to receive deployment papers within the next few weeks.

For the Marines at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., deployment orders may come as soon as this week, according to Master Sgt. Keith A. Milks, spokesman for the Second Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We haven't received official word ... (but) we expect to be in the thousands," Milks said. "The units that will be selected will be the ones that haven't deployed in awhile...they been here the longest and have been through a long deployment program."

According to Sgt. Lisa Strickland, spokeswoman for Marine Corp Air Station in Cherry Point, N.C., marines will leave with the Marine Expeditionary Force after Jan. 1.

In addition to the influx of troops to Afghanistan, Obama also gave the American people a timeline of when the units in Iraq will exit.

According to his speech, all combat brigades will pull out by the end of next summer and all other troops will be gone by the end of 2011.

"That we are doing so is a testament to the character of the men and women in uniform," Obama said in his speech. "Thanks to their courage, grit and perseverance, we have given Iraqis a chance to shape their future, and we are successfully leaving Iraq to its people."

These decisions have been long-coming to the ears of American citizens, whether they agree with them or not.

"I'm not sure why we're resolute that sending 30,000 more troops is going to solve the problem," political science professor Rudy Zarzar said. "Philosophically it's a matter of principle. After all we know, we've been in Afghanistan now for eight years, and the only thing we've seen so far is more suffering for the Afghan people who have been seeing war after war almost the last 30 years."

Political science professor Jason Kirk said the decision to go to Afghanistan initially was the right move, but al-Qaida cells in Pakistan is what Americans should worry more about.

"The decision to go into Afghanistan in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks was the right

decision, but the United States made several mistakes for which we continue to pay a price," Kirk said. "Relying on Pakistan to secure the border between Afghanistan and the tribal areas of Pakistan was a serious error because it allowed senior al-Qaida and Afghan Taliban leaders to cross into Pakistan. Now, Pakistan has its own Taliban problem, and this is a far more serious threat to regional and international security than what happens in Afghanistan."

Senior Emily Speers' brother, Harry, is currently in Iraq serving as a platoon leader. Having a sibling in a Middle Eastern conflict is hard, but necessary she said.

"I feel like Afghanistan is still a threat because of the instability of the region in general," she said. "I think it's a responsibility to stabilize the region in general. It's a miserable feeling (to have a loved one fighting), but if we're looking at the big picture, which is national security ... if that's a solution then go for it."

Senior Catherine Melendez' father, Victor, is currently stationed in Afghanistan as a Major in the Army. Victor has been in the Army for 22 years and this is his first deployment, which he voluntarily took.

Melendez said she is proud of her father and supports Obama's decision to send more troops.

"Although this war has been going on for a long time, we have to finish what we've started,"

## Troop commitment to Afghan War

Currently, 43 nations, including the United States, have troops in the NATO-led force in Afghanistan; additional U.S. troops are also serving.

### Top contributors

NATO-ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) troops; total: 71,028\*

U.S.	34,800
U.K.	9,000
Germany	4,365
France	3,095
Canada	2,830
Italy	2,795
Netherlands	2,160
Poland	1,910
Australia	1,350
Spain	1,000
Turkey	720
Denmark	690
31 other nations	6,313

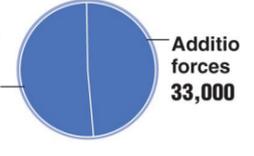
\*As of Oct. 22, 2009

\*\*As of Nov. 30, 2009

### U.S. troops

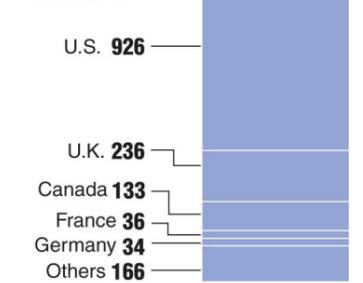
Total: 67,800

With NATO-ISAF forces 34,800



### Troop deaths

Total: 1,531\*\*



Source: NATO-ISAF, ICasualties.com  
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2009 MI

Melendez said. "The men and women that are over there are doing everything they can to keep us safe and help stabilize the nation. It was really hard on our family when he broke the news, but I support him 100 percent. His devotion and sacrifice now will ensure a more peaceful and safe future for my kids and generations to come. We are so blessed to have a military that so willingly ventures off to foreign nations to protect our

freedom."

Obama's plan is to turn over responsibility to Afghan forces and begin to take American forces out of Afghanistan in July 2011.

"The overarching mission ... is to ensure a secure and safe environment in which the Afghan people can live free of oppression and terror," Milks said. "We want to give the Afghan people a safe and secure future."

## Readership program expands online

Caitlin O'Donnell  
Reporter

Students at schools in Indiana, Missouri and Pennsylvania, now have a new way to get their daily news.

Recently, USA Today introduced an initiative within its Collegiate Readership Program that provides a free e-Edition of its newspaper for students, faculty and staff at select colleges. These online papers are identical to the print version and often include exclusive content aimed at the individual school.

In 2002, Elon University joined the Collegiate Readership Program, which provides 400 newspapers a day, including USA Today, The New York Times and the Greensboro News & Record to the McEwen School of Communications.

"We wanted to make it easier for students to stay on top of the news in their world," said Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications.

So far, the school has been unable to gain access to the e-Edition because USA Today is still finalizing the program for mass subscribers, Parsons said.

Though he counts immediacy of news and lower distribution costs as advantages for online newspapers, Parsons said the program still requires further development.

"The newspaper industry has not yet developed a financial model that works in an online world," Parsons said. "Newspapers, historically, have been profitable through a combination of subscriptions and advertising. But people don't want to pay for online information."

Communications professor Anthony Hatcher, faculty advisor for Elon's chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, echoed this sentiment.

"Younger people didn't grow up with newspapers and don't miss them, and many



Senior Matt Moroughan picks up a copy of The New York Times, which is available because of The Collegiate Readership Program. The program also allows some papers, like USA Today, to launch online editions specifically for colleges.

older people are migrating to the Web," he said. "Advertising revenue is dropping for print and doesn't pay adequately for online, so I'm not sure what the solution is."

Both Hatcher and Parsons agree the shift to online is inevitable.

Though many papers will be unable to match the expediency of news provided online, Hatcher said the future bodes convergence rather than a total shift of media sources.

"I think the future will be some combination of handheld devices and perhaps a community paper on print," he said. "Newspapers that are relentlessly local and serve a community need will likely survive. Many other mid-size dailies may die, or go strictly online."

Though today's students are more connected than ever to online forms of media, many still enjoy the benefits only print newspapers can provide.

"I wouldn't read a paperless edition of the USA Today," freshman journalism major

Rachel Southmayd said. "I like the Today because it's easy to read and easy to follow and I wouldn't like having to jump around online."

Though Southmayd said she understands media will shift in the coming years, she said the basics of news will never change.

"Traditional skills, like good writing and news gathering, will be as important as ever," she said.

Parsons said he believes it's incredibly important for students to have access to daily news, in any form.

"We need to keep encouraging students, especially in the School of Communications, to not get so wrapped up in their own social worlds that they aren't paying attention and investing themselves in the issues of the day," Parsons said. "And that means first knowing and understanding the issues of the day that the news media provide."

## Rain prompts flooding issues across campus

Rachel Southmayd  
Reporter

It's said that when it rains, it pours, and that couldn't be more true at Elon University this semester.

From September to November, 40 of 91 days included some amount of rain, and precipitation totals were 40 percent above they normal for this time of year.

In fact, nearly 13 inches of rain fell on Burlington during this three-month period.

All the rain has left Elon's campus a muddy mess, turning brick walkways into rivers, green lawns into soggy marshes and rain boots into fashion staples.

Traditionally, tropical storms could be to blame for this type of Southern weather, but what was left of Tropical Storm Ida, which washed over Elon in mid-November, was the only tropical disturbance to affect mainland North Carolina.

The National Weather Service said the effects of El Niño are to blame for the high levels of precipitation across the South. This trend is supposed to continue through January 2010.

El Niño is an irregularly warm Pacific current that affects oceanic and atmospheric temperature and activity across the world.

Tom Flood, superintendent of landscaping and grounds, said the wet weather has been so excessive that the ground that is completely saturated and has notably affected the Elon landscaping.

"The rain has significantly slowed down our fall work, especially leaf removal," Flood said. "This is especially a problem before important campus-wide events like open

house or football games."

Elon hosted five football games this fall and it poured for two of them. It also rained through the majority of Family Weekend.

Sophomore Jessica Scales said excessive rain makes her pick up her car keys rather than walk, and she avoids going far away.

"I just use closer resources. Instead of walking to Colonnades for dinner, I'll just go to Harden. Or instead of studying in the library, I'll study in the hall or in the Area Office," Scales said.

She also said that while it seems like it has rained the same number of days as last year the amount has definitely increased.

"It rains a lot harder this year, causing massive puddles," Scales said.

The excessive amounts of rain have prompted flooding on many sidewalks and paths across campus, most notably around Moseley Center.

"Over time, sidewalks tend to settle and the surrounding soil areas raise up and the constant rains shows this," Flood said.

He said many campus sidewalks need repair and are waiting for funding.

But Flood said he prefers too much rain to not enough.

"It has slowed us down a lot, but in this business the weather is a constant factor," he said. "Like the old poem, 'Whether the weather is hot, / Or whether the weather is not, / Whatever the weather, / We'll weather the weather, / Whether we want to or not.'"

So far, December isn't offering any relief from rainy conditions. As of Dec. 5, 1.72 inches of rain had fallen, 400 percent more than the typical average for this time.



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
An Elon study abroad group got to experience first hand what the "Digibahn" game attempts to give, which is a real life experience of Germany. The group walks along the remaining longest piece of the Berlin wall during a 2009 Winter Term trip.

## Professors push foreign language to the next level

Alexa Sykes  
Reporter

Imagine having the luxury of traveling to another country and experiencing the language and culture without the hassle of purchasing a plane ticket or checking luggage.

This ideal situation is now possible with Digital Game-Based Learning and is helping foreign language students at Elon University experience the countries of the languages they are studying without ever leaving their computer chairs.



David Neville  
Assistant professor of German and Director of Language Learning Technologies

According to David Neville, assistant professor of German and director of language learning technologies, Elon is the only university in the entire country that has begun to integrate DGBL into its foreign language curriculum.

Neville has been working on enhancing the experience of his German students through the "Digibahn Project," a game that takes place in an environment similar to what students would see if they actually traveled to Germany.

The goal of the game is not only to entertain students, but also to help them transform their abstract knowledge of the language into tools to help them in the real world, he said.

Neville said this is especially helpful when students are planning to study abroad.

"Even though (students) are playing in an imaginary environment, if they were dropped in a real environment, they would know what to do," he said.

Although this approach to teaching may seem taboo, especially to older generations who relied heavily on textbook learning, Neville has no intentions of abandoning the traditional practice.

"The idea is not replacing textbooks, but it is an extra tool to enhance learning, synthesize knowledge, apply what we learn in the classroom and figure out how foreign language applies to the real world," Neville said.

Spanish professor Ernest Lunsford, who incorporates a dramatic series similar to a soap opera into the curriculum for his Spanish for Health Professionals class, is also exploring this new balance between technology and textbooks.

According to Lunsford, the DVD introduces vocabulary and key concepts for the chapter while following the fortunes and misfortunes of a Hispanic family in a fictional North Carolina town. He has spent three years working with an interdisciplinary team from University of North Carolina to develop this program.

Lunsford said the DVD requires students to answer questions in Spanish throughout the story. At the end, real health care professionals speak about experiences they have

had with Hispanic patients and how the language barriers have affected their professional relationships.

Lunsford said health professionals who do not have time to take a Spanish course also use the DVD.

"It is designed to be used in the classroom, for distance learning or for people who want to study Spanish on their own, (such as) doctors and nurses who don't have time to take a class," Lunsford said.

Like many others, senior Sara Riek, an education major, aspires to learn a foreign language but simply does not have the time. Riek has been using a program called Rosetta Stone to assist her in learning Latin American Spanish because she plans to do volunteer work in South America after graduating.

Reik said a friend of hers had used the software before and had no prior knowledge of Spanish, but felt completely comfortable speaking it once in the country.

Riek's response to this method of learning a foreign language is similar to what Neville and Lunsford aim to achieve with their own students.

"It is a neat way to learn a language because you are completely immersed in the language," Riek said. "There is no English and you have to use context clues to figure out what is going on."

She said the program also checks for pronunciation, and the user may set the level of difficulty at which Rosetta Stone should evaluate.

Although Riek said she does not think she will be fluent by the time she completes all of the discs, she does believe the program has its benefits.

"You definitely learn a lot and I think that makes it worth it. Also, it's nice to do it on your own time versus taking a class at a specific time," Riek said.

Lunsford agrees with Neville and said technology-based methods of learning a foreign language are particularly effective in providing real-life examples of how students may use the language in the future.

"Technology makes the language come alive," Lunsford said. "Being able to see and hear a doctor telling a patient about his broken ankle and what the treatment is going to be like is much more compelling than simply learning that vocabulary in a traditional textbook."

Neville said it is not about moving away from textbook learning, but expounding upon it.

"There are different approaches to learning, and one is not better than the other. Technology is simply a tool. You have to play with it to figure it out," he said.

Whether learning involves sitting at a computer desk playing a game set in the town of Stuttgart, Germany, or the fictional town of Laurelville, N.C., the ultimate goal remains the same — instilling the most useful techniques of learning a new language in the most comprehensive and functional way.

Then, upon leaving Elon, students will have what it takes to thrive linguistically in a foreign country.

"It's fun, it's immersive, you play it, and even though you don't think you're learning, you actually are," Neville said. "Elon is heads and shoulders above other universities."

## Myers set to visit campus as Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership

Hannah Williams  
Senior Reporter

Dee Dee Myers will visit Elon University as the 2009-10 Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership Jan. 7-8 and 19-20. Myers was the White House Press Secretary during the first two years of the Clinton administration, becoming the first woman and the second-youngest person to hold the position.



Dee Dee Myers  
Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership

Since leaving the White House, Myers has worked as a political analyst, commentator and writer. In addition to being a contributing editor to Vanity Fair magazine, a frequent political commentator on NBC and MSNBC and a former consultant for the series "The West Wing," Myers is also a New York Times best-selling author.

In 2008, Myers published her book, "Why Women Should Rule the World," in which she considers what the world might look like under female leadership. She said the different qualities women bring to the table as leaders, including communicating, listening and encouraging consensus, are vital in today's world.

"Dr. Isabella Cannon's vision was to have someone who thinks globally and acts locally in their leadership capacity engage with students," said Rex Waters, associate dean of students, regarding the selection criteria for the visiting professor of leadership. "We're looking for someone not to just give a public appearance, but also to attend a couple of classes and meet with

students more intimately."

Myers is scheduled to give two public lectures while at Elon: "Leadership in Challenging Times" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7 in McCrary Theatre and "Why Women Should Rule the World" at 6 p.m. Jan. 19 in Whitley Auditorium. She will also hold a public question and answer session, attend two or three Winter Term classes, have multiple lunches with Elon students and faculty and visit Elon's School of Law on Jan. 20.

Elon students who are Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows and members of the leadership program are reading Myers' book in preparation for her campus visits, during which they will have the opportunity to engage Myers in discussion during lunch, in the classroom and walking across campus, Waters said. Copies of Myers' book are on reserve at Belk Library.

Waters said Myers' visit provides an opportunity for all Elon students, not only the 60 percent of whom are women, to meet and interact with someone who has been a very successful leader and to learn about tapping into their full potential as leaders.

"I have a unique perspective because I'm able to observe and enjoy the interaction of the students with someone of this stature and to be able to hear and see during other times of the year how much of an impact and impression this person has had," Waters said.

Myers is Elon's sixth Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership. The former visiting professors brought to campus through Cannon's endowment were John Alexander, William W. "Bill" Georger, Ben Bradlee, Christine Todd Whitman and David Gergen.



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# Burlington turns to new businesses for economic boom

**BUSINESS** from page 1

the evening.

"I think all the shops close early because when LabCorp leaves, it's like a ghost town," said Angie Ball, owner of Rare Breed Tattoo shop, which recently relocated to the heart of downtown.

LabCorp, one of the largest institutions of downtown Burlington and a Fortune-500 company, is a major player in the downtown business scene because many of its employees venture into the various restaurants for lunch.

Pratt said many of the coffee shop's customers are LabCorp employees. For now, her shop closes at 1 p.m. everyday, because she says it's not worth staying open for the handful of customers that come in after that.

Billy Konstantinidis opened The Pizza Corner three weeks ago with his wife, Koula, and said that they hope to draw a night crowd. They are one of the few businesses to stay open later than LabCorp's closing every evening.

"After five it's dead," he said, referring to downtown. "In a pizza business, you need the night crowd, too."

Another problem that faces the downtown businesses right now is a lack of available parking for customers. Vines said all the parallel parking spots in front of the stores get taken up by LabCorp employees, even though there are separate lots for them to park, because they are closer to the actual buildings.

"You have nowhere to park during the day," said Ball. "I mean nowhere." She continued to say that customers drive through downtown but do not stop because they can't park. A free city lot sits on off Front St., but it remains mostly unused, said Vines.

Morris said that the city has plans to address the issue. "In the short term, management of the existing supply of parking will provide the greatest benefit to downtown business owners for the lowest cost. Longer term solutions will look at how to increase the supply of parking as demand increases," she said.

One plan that the BDC has been talking to Elon University about is the development of a new BioBus route that would run into downtown

Burlington and serve as free public transportation. Keith Dimont, the supervisor of automotive services at Elon, said that the plan has been key for students doing community service, and that the Kernodle Center for Service Learning has been instrumental in developing the plan.

"I think it's going to be real successful, because it's a lot of volunteers that like having the free public transportation," he said. "Plus, it gives (the city) the opportunity to expand the downtown Burlington area."

Though the bus route will have a strong emphasis on service work, it will be a chance for students to make the trip to downtown Burlington, where business owners said they would welcome the business. "It seems like a lot of younger people don't venture down here," said Pratt, continuing to say that she and Vines have been in talks with other businesses to offer events that would draw Elon students.

"I don't think Elon students are really taking advantage of (the businesses downtown)... if they go to Burlington, it's out of absolute necessity," said Elon senior Lesley Cowie. "I'm sure if students were to go downtown more, those businesses would be booming."

Morris said that the BDC works closely with the businesses to address the issues they see, while attempting to expand upon the groundwork that's been laid in the last few months. "There are some things percolating, big and small... my hope is that this is a trend," she said. "In my view, you can't have a great city without a great downtown," said Morris.

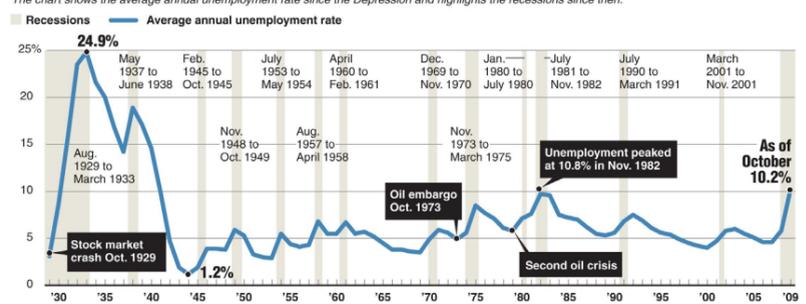
For now, the city remains in a transition period, with nearly empty streets at night and issues of parking to address. The hope is to create a stronger cultural base, though, which is a theme that was reiterated by both business owners and Morris. She said that her hope is to see a downtown that has a collection of shops and a unique retailing environment, with a nightlife that extends beyond when LabCorp closes and creates a distinct Burlington culture.

**MORE IMAGES OF NEW BUSINESSES ONLINE**



## Double-digit distress

The U.S. unemployment rate in October rose above 10 percent for the first time since mid-1983. The chart shows the average annual unemployment rate since the Depression and highlights the recessions since then.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

## State economy may see relief soon

Alexa Milan  
Managing Editor

The days of penny-pinching because of poor housing markets and high unemployment rates may soon be coming to an end for many North Carolina residents, according to a new report.

In the North Carolina Economic Outlook: Winter 2009, Mike Walden, North Carolina Cooperative Extension economist and William Neal Reynolds, professor at N.C. State University, predicts the state will slowly emerge from the recession during the next two years.

"I think it will likely be spring before there is widespread awareness among citizens that the economy is improving, and most people will judge that by how the job market is performing," Walden said. "I think by spring we'll begin to see consistent increases in jobs in the state."

Walden examined data from numerous economic reports about North Carolina job growth, factory production, trends in retail sales and unemployment rates, among other factors. Based on trends from the past six to nine months, Walden predicted how those trends could progress.

Gregory Lilly, associate professor of economics at Elon University, said

he thinks Walden's predictions are valid.

"I think most economists are now predicting that the recession is basically over," Lilly said. "I don't think there's any reason to think that North Carolina would be any different than the country as a whole."

Lilly said North Carolina is generally one of the state leaders in terms of recovering from recessions, so the state may see a stronger recovery than most states. According to Walden's report, factory output, the housing market, retail sales and the job market have all increased since the second quarter of this year.

But Walden said Burlington will not see an improvement right away. Metropolitan areas will be the first to experience some economic relief.

"It's actually the repeat of a pattern that's been going on for decades that particularly Charlotte and the Triangle have been the leaders of the North Carolina economy," Walden said. "Wilmington is a much smaller metro market, but it's grown enormously."

According to the report, areas like Burlington and the Triad may be lagging behind in 2010 because in the past, those areas have focused their economies on

manufacturing furniture, textiles and tobacco.

"Alamance County is kind of behind the times," Lilly said. "We still have a lot of manufacturing. We haven't moved to a service-based economy as fast as some of the more urban counties."

Walden said though economic growth occurs at different rates in different regions of North Carolina, most regions should ultimately see advancement.

"(Burlington and the Triad) will see improvement in the next two years, just not to the degree that the other three metro areas will," Walden said. "They won't be going backward. They're just going to be going forward at a much slower rate."

But Walden said a few factors could still get in the way of a completely recovered economy. The housing market is still weak across the state, and the unemployment rate is higher in Burlington than in the Triangle.

While national predictions said the recession is done, Lilly said it is important not to get too hopeful too fast.

"This is such a strong recession, so I don't think you want to be too optimistic that we're going to recover quickly," Lilly said. "The economy took a really strong punch to the gut."

# Greensboro aims to attract more business, industries

Pam Richter  
Sports Editor

*This is the second part of a two-part series focusing on the economy of the city of Greensboro, North Carolina.*

When President Barack Obama unveiled his stimulus plan, cities and towns across America received federal funds to improve various aspects of their economy and to develop more jobs. This applies for the development of Greensboro, N.C.

The city has secured more than \$20 million in federal stimulus money, former Greensboro mayor Yvonne Johnson said. She said the city is still anticipating receiving more grants from the government.

"I've appointed the first sustainability council Greensboro has ever had," Johnson said. "Because we had that council that put us in a good position to receive over \$2 million for weatherization and retrofitting of low wealth communities."

In addition to federal stimulus money, the city government is also working on giving incentives to businesses looking to move to the city.

"If a company is looking to relocate in Greensboro, we give

them corporate incentives and also entice them to come to the city of Greensboro," said Melvin "Skip" Alston, the chair of Guilford County commissioners.

Johnson also said the city is working with the county to provide a tax incentive with small companies that want to expand or renovate their businesses.

"If we could give them a tax incentive for X number of years, I think that would send a message," Johnson said. "We really do appreciate them and really care and want to let them know that they are the foundation of the economy. The big business and big industry are wonderful, but it's all the small businesses that hire most of the people."

Despite these initiatives, Greensboro resident Rhonda Johnson said she thinks the real impact can be seen in five to 10 years after these initiatives take hold.

Katie Darnley, a Greensboro resident, has seen businesses move out, specifically when Lincoln Mutual closed. Darnley runs her own small business, a hot dog stand downtown, and doesn't think in recent years the city has been accommodating to small businesses.

"I'm such a small business, extremely small," Darnley said.

"I don't think they are friendly toward small businesses."

The Economic Development Alliance is part of the Greensboro Partnership and is responsible for bringing new businesses into the area.

Dan Lynch, president of Greensboro Partnership, said the group is responsible for attracting new businesses and industries to the area.

Some of the companies the city secured in Greensboro include Honda Jet, Mac Truck and PreCor. PreCor is one of the nation's biggest manufacturers of exercise equipment.

"Though while we are in a very challenging financial time, we are also blessed," Johnson said. "We're not in a situation that many cities find themselves in where they just are stagnant. We're certainly not where we want to be, but we're not in the tombs either."

Alston said since Greensboro is the third largest city in the state, it has an impact on the overall economy of North Carolina.

"The eyes are on Guilford County," Alston said. "The county seat is Greensboro. When people talk about Guilford County, they talk about the county seat, which is Greensboro... People look for you for leadership opportunities."

## ATHLETIC EVENTS INCREASE REVENUE IN GREENSBORO

With each slow and steady golf clap, millions of dollars flowed into Greensboro. The city hosted a PGA Tour event, the Wyndham Championship, Aug. 17 - 23.

"Millions and millions of dollars are coming (to Greensboro) from things like the Wyndham," former Greensboro mayor Yvonne Johnson said.

Even though this is not a major PGA Tour event, it still attracts fans from around the nation to the area, which translated into revenue for the city. Johnson said the city is looking into doing more PGA events in the future.

This mid-level PGA tournament was just one athletic event Greensboro has used to not only bring entertainment to its citizens, but also to increase funds for the city.

In 2011, Greensboro will continue to expand its athletic presence when it hosts the National Figure Skating Championships. The event will be held Jan. 22-30, 2011. During this time, 12 national champions will be crowned.

Johnson estimates \$25 to 30 million will be brought into the city through this one event.

The Atlantic Coast Conference Hall of Champions will also open in 2011. Currently, the city has an established relationship with the ACC as it hosts the ACC women's basketball tournament.

During fall 2008, Greensboro residents voted for a bond, which would create a new competitive swimming pool in the city. The competitive swimming facility is estimated to cost \$12 million, according to the Greensboro News & Record.

This new facility will give the city the opportunity to host major swim meets.

With the combination of PGA events, figure skating, an ACC Hall of Champions and a new swimming facility, athletic events and initiatives are going to be used in the future to help spur the Greensboro economy.

"We're beginning to be known as a tournament town," Johnson said.



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[pendulumsports.wordpress.com](http://pendulumsports.wordpress.com)

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**"The Blind Side" is a Touchdown For Hancock**

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#### Crossing the street:

**The relationship between Elon University and Alamance County**

<http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Story.aspx?id=3070>

#### A look at Greensboro's economy through the eyes of the mayor

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

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# A look into the years to come

## Slow growth, global competition lie ahead

The future, as ambiguous and amorphous as it's often characterized, doesn't exist in an isolated vacuum. The events of the upcoming years are contingent on current trajectories, which may bode ill for an uplifting decade ahead. There are countless landmines laying in wait in the global and national landscape, and the detonation of some may already be unavoidable.

For example, Iran's ascension into nuclear statehood is now increasingly impending. Diplomatic efforts will grow increasingly frantic as Iran's stubbornness continues, Russia and China maintain their reticence to impose any sort of punitive measures against the country and Israel's unease over the thought of a nuclear rival boils over.

But Iran is in a perfect situation to pursue its atomic aims, given that no country, save Israel, seems willing to risk legitimate military action, and further economic sanctions could serve as a rallying cry for Iranian citizens to turn against the West and forget about their own government's shady dealings.

While the economy has shown signs of life, with the unemployment rate dropping to 10 percent nationwide, though North Carolina's rate is still a percentage point higher, and the International Monetary Fund projects the U.S. GDP will increase by an admittedly low 1.5 percent, the typical V-shaped recession model is unlikely to set in. Instead of a drastic increase in production following a precipitous drop in demand, which accounts for the upward part of the V, recovery will most likely be incremental.

Despite the drop in overall unemployment, long-term unemployment, as defined by those who have been out of work for 27 weeks or more, increased by 2.7 percent. And the 8.1 percent in productivity during the third quarter, the highest increase since 2003, could be attributed not to the robustness of the U.S. economy, but instead to its ability to get by

without workers.

In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts hourly wage increases, as compared to the previous year, will only hit 0.2 percent next year, as opposed to 4.1 percent just a decade earlier.

This relative stagnation of wages, when accompanied by the previously steep drop in household wealth as a result of dips in the stock and housing markets, looks to hamper future increases in consumer spending.

In spite of the typical rush for Black Friday bargains, overall retail sales increased 0.5 percent in November, according to Thomson Reuters. Though the results exclude firms such as Walmart, which release its sales figures at the end of the quarter, the consumer sector is still a shadow of its former self. And the political fallout of unimpressive growth will be immense.

Regardless of whether or not health care reform passes in Congress or if the initial results of the increased deployments to Afghanistan look good, the damage to the Democratic agenda has been done. California, already in a state of disarray because of monetary disaster, will be voting on whether to call a new constitutional convention in November 2010. The state's current setup, a complicated mix of democratic populism and progressive social programs accompanied by massive public spending on the part of the state government, won't last much longer.

Once a bastion of liberal ideology, the Republican Party will undoubtedly see its continued failures as an indication of its legitimacy. Even if President Barack Obama's administration regains some of its luster, the likelihood of Republican gains during the midterm election will put a damper on what he can and can't look to accomplish.

The legacy of the 2010s may very well be of the long-ballyhooed emergence of new world powers. China, after averaging

yearly GDP increases of almost 10 percent over the past 30 years, is expected to surpass Japan as the world's second-largest economy next year. Provided governmental efforts to increase consumer spending succeed and its various internal political conflicts don't ignite, China will finally make a big step toward parity with the United States.

Both Brazil and India look to make similar gains in the upcoming years, with both nations emerging from the recession much faster than their Western counterparts. In the previously mentioned IMF report, European GDP growth is projected to be 0.3 percent in 2010, compared to 6.4 percent for India and 3.5 percent for Brazil.

This diversification of the global community, with U.S. power declining in respect to that of emerging countries, must be subsequently reflected in the Elon community. The university's strategic plan calls for an increasingly diverse student body and places an emphasis on bringing the global community back to Elon, but as the Chronicle of Higher Education revealed, minorities account for only 9 percent of Elon's faculty.

Though the demographics are better than those of Furman University, which sits at 7 percent, and Appalachian State University with only 5 percent, the nation as a whole is projected to become increasingly diverse. The U.S. Census Bureau projects almost 20 percent of the nation's population will be Hispanic by 2020, and by 2050, 54 percent of the total population will be comprised of minorities.

But admittedly, everything above is based upon projections and predictions. Though likely, nothing is set in stone and any number of unexpected events could emerge in the next decade. What is certain is that, without vibrant debate and careful consideration, the events of the future will reflect the poor decisions of the past instead of the bold actions of which each citizen is capable.

## PEERING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL: THE POSSIBLE AMERICAN FUTURE

### BY THE NUMBERS

**1.5** percent GDP growth in 2010

**12.2** million projected to be the North Carolina population by 2030

**19.7** percent of population will be age 65 or older by 2030

**20** percent Hispanic population by 2020

**54** percent minority population by 2050

**\$722** billion deficit by 2019

SOURCES: IMF, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE



IMAGE COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

### TO COMMENT...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or fewer can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be e-mailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244. Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

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

### ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES:



# Editorial

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

## Too little, too late in Afghanistan



**Ryan Maass**  
Columnist

Eight years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, President Barack Obama delivered a speech last week reminding the country that, although the administration has taken a different

approach in foreign affairs from that of the previous Bush administration, the United States remains a nation at war with al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Almost everything about the troop deployment to Afghanistan to rout out al-Qaida has divided politicians and American citizens alike — from the amount of troops to be deployed, to the amount of time they will be occupying the country.

But is the government truly committed to the complete destruction of al-Qaida and its allies?

Furthermore, is the deployment of an additional 30,000 troops excessive, or does it fall short of what could be an effective surge in the country?

Judging from the optimistic remarks included within the fact sheet released from the Office of the Press Secretary, Obama is interested in the elimination of al-Qaida from Afghanistan and other havens for the terrorist group alongside the border of Pakistan.

The fact sheet more or less reiterates what Obama said in his speech, in that it stresses that threats to Americans at home are still a reality.

al-Qaida's growth has become a more serious problem in the recent months and these are threats "we cannot tolerate," according to the fact sheet.

In response to this unacceptable threat, Obama has announced that he will send in 30,000 troops to reinforce the 68,000 already deployed, with NATO promising an additional 5,000.

Is this enough, or does it fall short to the degree that our government is sending more Americans into a foreign country merely to fall victim to more insurgency bombings?

Given that the request from Gen. Stanley McCrystal, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, was for 40 - 60,000 troops, commanders on the ground are likely to desire the latter.

Aside from failing to send in an adequate amount of reinforcements, another flaw in the Obama administration's plan is the strict time limit the military was given to carry out its operations.

As mentioned before, it has been eight years since our forces, with the help of NATO and other key allies, invaded Afghanistan in the attempt to force terrorism out of the region.

Even at this moment, al-Qaida and its allies are still planning attacks on the Western world, the United States in particular.

After eight years, how long has the Obama administration given our military to finalize the conflict? Eighteen months.

Even with the additional 30,000 troops serving as reinforcements, it would seem like the administration has simply given the terrorists more targets instead of more obstacles.

## Hungering for better food

### The gap between student appetites and activism



**Tyrice Johnson**  
Columnist

A survey was recently conducted by Kristen Haney in various dining halls around Elon's campus in which 94 randomly selected students were asked to fill out a

questionnaire. One hundred percent of students surveyed were either indifferent or would absolutely like to see full salad bars in all Elon dining halls.

Currently, only two out of the eight dining halls accepting meal swipes offer full salad bars with more than iceberg lettuce.

Ninety-five percent of students surveyed are either indifferent or would absolutely like to see healthier foods available in campus dining halls and included on the meal plan. Ninety percent of the students surveyed wouldn't mind or would absolutely like to see nutritional facts readily available for all of the food offered in dining halls.

Seventy-four percent said they wouldn't mind or would absolutely want to see less unhealthy foods in dining halls.

These findings suggest that Elon's dining arrangements need to be

altered in some way in order to create better and healthier options for the student body.

In order to fix the dining issues, students need to speak up about their concerns and offer a possible solution.

Since 100 percent of the students surveyed wouldn't mind seeing a full salad bar — with romaine lettuce — in all of the dining halls, that could be an easy fix in each dining location.

Also, altering the meal plan system to allow more food options to fit within its barriers could also help. This year, more combo meals were added, but the nutritional value is not up to par with what a college student needs.

The question now is how to go about making this happen.

Based on a recent interview with ARAMARK Resident District Manager Jeff Gazda, students can make a huge impact in the dining selections here.

According to Gazda, students in the Student Government Association approved the idea for the new meal plan that so many students are displeased with.

"I remember repeating over and over in the meeting with SGA, is this what you want ... are you sure ... and they approved it," Gazda said.

He also suggested that if the

students want to get involved, ARAMARK is accessible and is open to suggestions.

"We have focus groups that run often, but only a few students show up," Gazda said. "ARAMARK is open, it is as easy as scheduling an appointment, and we will reply to you as soon as possible."

We need to ensure that the SGA communicates with the student body more often to eliminate the likelihood of future miscommunication. The SGA needs to release what it is planning that will have any significant effect, such as this, on the overall student body.

Furthermore, Elon needs to enforce that students become more proactive about what is offered to them, whether that be by implementing a mandatory session for all incoming freshmen or a mandatory meeting for each resident area.

Sessions could stress the importance of eating habits as well as inform students about what they can do if they are displeased with what is offered in the dining halls.

An increase in efforts from both parties, according to the results from the survey, will enforce a supportive system where students and ARAMARK are on the same page with decisions that affect their dining.

## Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor,

President Barack Obama's decision to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan is a tragic one for those who hope for change in this administration.

Although the stated reason was United States security, support was scant. The Taliban is no threat to us, and it gains in numbers where people endure abject poverty.

The president's national security adviser, Gen. James Jones, estimates al-Qaida has fewer than 100 operatives there, so its threat is better met by a targeted police action, strong intelligence and enlisting the cooperation of neighboring countries.

Speaking at Elon in October, author Khaled Hosseini reminded us no foreign invader has ever succeeded in Afghanistan. Indeed, just over two decades ago, we mocked the futility of Soviet efforts there.

The real enemy, Hosseini said, is poverty.

Afghans have a life expectancy of 42 years, 20 percent of children die before the age of five and half the population is without potable water. Poverty, albeit less desperate, also exists in the United States, right around us, as last week's Pendulum highlighted.

Congress has the power to cut funding for this war and use it to repair the destruction in Afghanistan and bring job programs to the United States. It is now time to lean on Congress to assume its responsibility for the budget and for declaring and funding wars.

Rep. Barbara Lee's, D-Ca., H.R. 3699 would stop funding for further troops. If you think a troop surge, whether for 18 months or decades, is not the answer, please ask your representative to co-sponsor this bill.

Anne Cassebaum  
Department of English

To the Editor,

As you, the class of 2013, prepare to enter the final exam period, take a minute to reflect on what you've learned this semester. Many of you have focused on Afghanistan this fall in GST 110. It appears as if you may have a better understanding of the culture, geography and history of Afghanistan than the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

As an example, freshman Mary Schwarzwaelder, a student in associate director of tutorial services Laurin Kier's GST 110 class, gave a presentation earlier this month in which she outlined 11 key factors that led to the Soviet failure in Afghanistan during the 1980s. Among them were:

- Failure to understand the Afghan culture
- Underestimation of the role of Islam
- Civil war and ethnic tribal lines
- Inadequate troop preparation
- Use of traditional weapons that were ineffective
- Extreme terrain
- No defined objective

After eight years of conflict, our military and civilian efforts in Afghanistan still face many of these same issues. I would argue that based on Obama's speech on Dec. 1, our national leaders still do not understand the fundamental fallacies of our efforts in Afghanistan, or, if they do, they continue to mislead the citizens of this country.

It is important to understand this isn't a limited conflict taking place halfway around the world. You remain under threat of international terrorism. You have classmates, family and friends serving in the armed forces. You will pay for this war.

Whether you support the escalation of this war by Obama or not, recognize that many of you now know as much or more about Afghanistan than many of our national leaders. You don't have to wait until you walk across the stage Under the Oaks in 2013 to become involved in international issues in a significant way.

Regardless of your position on this conflict, I encourage you to contact your members of Congress, to write your local or student newspaper, to participate in peaceful assemblies, to challenge assumptions about this conflict and to educate others about what you know.

Most of the members of the class of 2013 were 10 years old when the conflict in Afghanistan began. Most of you will graduate from Elon before the majority of our troops come home. As you leave Elon for winter break, I encourage you to take time to consider what you've learned and how you've changed over this first semester.

Give thanks for the tremendous opportunity you've been given. Start putting your education to work outside the "Elon Bubble." And if you happen to see someone in uniform at the airport as you fly home, take a minute to say thank you.

Jason Springer  
Director of Elon 101

# Opinions

## Moving forward and looking back



**Andie Diemer**  
Editor-in-Chief

Since I first set foot on this campus three and a half years ago, The Pendulum has been an integral part of my life. I've moved from position to position on staff, but my

period as editor-in-chief has been nothing short of astounding.

The work this staff has consistently pumped out is something that cannot be paralleled or appreciated enough, and the staff itself cannot merit enough gratitude for the breadth, depth and quality of content it supplies.

The community often views the news but rarely considers the hours logged at the courthouse sifting through documents or the late nights spent trying to track down sources for that breaking story.

It is no easy task to tackle stories about a dozen students or a counselor being arrested during final exam week, but many staff members have sacrificed hours of sleep, studying and relaxation to provide top-notch content to the Elon community to ensure everyone is kept informed on news, concerns, accomplishments and other happenings.

Throughout the past year, The Pendulum has been recognized by many local and national organizations for its dedication

and work ethic, including the coveted Pacemaker Award for a four-year, non-daily newspaper, which the staff received from the Associated Collegiate Press in November. This is regarded as the highest honor any college publication in the nation can receive, and it is a true testimonial to the work the 2009 Pendulum staff has completed.

But success could not be possible without assistance from countless others, including all of the Elon professors, staff members, administrators, students and Town of Elon residents that provide insight and expertise to weave into our content. Without you, this publication would not be possible or reliable, and we thank you for all of your time.

We also wouldn't be successful without the assistance and continuous support from our adviser, Colin Donohue, or our webmaster, J.D. Parsons, who has worked incessantly to provide the vital backbone to our online entity. Appreciation is also extended to professors like Janna Anderson and Glenn Scott, whose constant feedback, advice and criticism enhance the organization.

Many thanks as well to the workers at Acorn and Varsity, who may not even realize that their willingness to fill 10 cups of ice water or throw together six wraps every Monday night during production keeps the staff moving.

In a few short weeks the next editor-in-chief, Pam Richter, will usher in a new staff to drive the paper forward. Richter is

extremely talented, dedicated and ambitious and will continue to build on the foundation that she has helped to lay as well as continue to expand The Pendulum in a variety of outlets.

A massive staff turnover will also take place, all composed of individuals that pour themselves into making this product every week. Much gratitude to seniors Alexa Milan, Ashley Barnas, Margeaux Corby, Laura Smith, Morgan Little, Laura Wainman, Rachel Cieri, Amanda Kennison, Hannah Williams, Dan Rickershauser, Jennifer Clements, Jordan Frederick, David Koontz, Michelle Longo, Rebecca Wetherbee, David Wells, Caroline Matthews, Miriam Williamson and Chris Dorsey for their often thankless work.

And lastly, many, many thanks to the Elon community. Thanks for picking up the paper each Wednesday, thanks for visiting our Web site and thanks for supporting us. Without you, there wouldn't be a need for us to function, and with your feedback and support you have contributed to making a bigger and stronger Pendulum.

Remember that even though The Pendulum has come a long way, there is always potential for improvement. Don't ever hesitate to let us hear your ideas or what you would like to see in The Pendulum for the New Year. After all, this is a paper for you, made by community members like you, and it would not be possible for us to be successful without your feedback and support.

## When 'Twilight' loses its sparkle



**Ashley Barnas**  
Columnist

There he stood like the Greek Adonis. There she stood several feet away, tortured by the desire to approach him and weave her fingers through his tousled bronze hair and stare into his molten gold eyes. When his gravitational pull inevitably draws her close enough to touch him, realization hits. He's too good to be true. He does not

actually exist. She crumbles on the spot.

The "Twilight" series didn't invent the concept of women existing solely to find the men to marry and begin a family with. The series just perpetuates a theme that has survived in popular culture for decades. Author Stephenie Meyer even references the classic love stories of "Wuthering Heights" and "Romeo and Juliet" in her own story.

The readership of "Twilight" is the same general audience for Disney stories where the damsel in distress spends the entire tale seeking her Prince Charming. Young girls, who have never been in love before, are reading these books and gaining a false idea of what first love is like. Edward and his ilk set a high bar for men. Who wouldn't want the mysterious man with a classically tortured soul? He's beautiful, polite, refined, listens to classical music and sparkles in the sun. Any young girl would want that.

According to Box Office Mojo, "New Moon" distributor Summit Entertainment's exit polling indicated that 80 percent of the audience was female and 50 percent was under 21 years old." No matter how appealing the "Twilight" series is, and regardless of how many times girls devour the books and watch the movies, the negative connotations the themes have regarding gender roles in the context of romantic relationships cannot be avoided.

Women in popular culture are often portrayed as weak. Bella Swan "wins" in the end by getting the guy, but what she teaches her young female audience along the way lacks empowerment. When Edward leaves her, she falls apart and loses her will to live. Because of her full devotion to Edward, she has no friends to turn to in her time of need.

From the very beginning of the "Twilight" series, it's apparent that Bella's only goal is to be with Edward forever. She doesn't want college, she doesn't want a job and she doesn't even want children.

But it's not Edward's fault. Everything that drives Bella is about him. Edward pushes her to experience all those human things she would rather not have.

Any cultural production reflects the populace as a whole, and the themes in turn influence society. In the same way, it also reinforces how we perceive gender, said Lynn Huber, assistant professor of religious studies and the women's/gender studies program coordinator at Elon.

A practicing Mormon, Meyer is writing from a particular perspective with very clear thoughts on religion and sex. Beyond the theme of abstinence, Religion Dispatches cites the Mormon values of eternal marriage and family life as the strongest themes in "Twilight."

Rebecca Pope-Ruark, assistant professor of English at Elon, taught a vampire literature Winter Term class that included "Twilight." She said one has to take Bella for who she is: a 17-year-old girl who is bound to grow unhealthily attached to her first love. If Bella had been 25 years old, then she would be considered supremely weak. Like Bella, when someone we love leaves us, we seek validation elsewhere. When Edward left, Bella ran to Jacob Blake for safety and to seek that validation.

It's a puzzle as to why popular culture is ridden with weak female characters. When it comes to the best sellers and blockbusters, a damsel in distress sells.

"New Moon" brought in a \$143 million opening weekend. Women today aren't weak, but for some reason, we relate to the weak characters in popular culture. Maybe our nurturing tendencies lend themselves to pitying characters like Bella. Or maybe those weak characters help us find that fulfillment we've been seeking in knowing we are stronger than them.

The "Twilight" series won't be the last to present its female protagonist as powerless. The themes of eternal love and finding a soul mate ring true because of what we've been taught: to be attracted to the mythical male savior figure. We want someone to take care of us and protect us while we, in turn, can take care of them. It's become so culturally engrained that it's nearly impossible to step out of it.

## The wrong diagnosis

### Governmental failure in cancer detection



**Pam Richter**  
Columnist

The health care debate is at the forefront of American politics and recently the government released new guidelines that would redefine testing for various diseases.

Despite this debate, the U.S. Preventative Services task force made its position on each issue clear last month. This Task Force is an independent panel of government-appointed experts and in November they

released a report that laid out new guidelines for the screening practices for many diseases.

The most notable and most shocking element of the report regarded the guidelines for testing females. First and foremost, the task force advised most women ages 40 to 49 not to get routine mammograms.

The panel also advised that women 50 to 74 should get mammograms every other year, and self-exams should no longer be part of a doctor's instructions to female patients.

USA Today stated, "According to the American Cancer Society's Otis Brawley, population-based studies suggest that 10 percent to 33 percent of early breast cancers may not actually need to be treated."

In addition to this, the panel did provide more explanations for these new guidelines. The reasoning was that these tests cause too many false alarms and, in some cases, unnecessary treatment.

Admittedly, no woman wants to experience a false alarm with breast cancer, but even more so no woman wants to be diagnosed too late with a disease like cancer.

USA Today also explained that "for many woman, however, breast cancer is an emotional

issue, not a scientific question."

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the most influential organization across the globe for breast cancer awareness, recommends on its Web site that women should have a mammogram every year starting at the age of 40 if she is not a high-risk patient. This is a 10-year difference from what the governmental task force recommended.

The Susan G. Komen foundation is the largest breast cancer charity in the world and has raised more than \$1.3 billion since 1982. The Foundation has no hidden agendas — its mission is to simply find a cure.

According to the Komen Foundation, on average only 80 percent of breast cancer is caught through mammograms, while the other 20 percent are caught through self-exams and clinical exams.

When it comes to cancer diagnosis, our nation should err on the side of caution and not take any risks.

The Komen foundation is sticking with its recommendation for regular screenings beginning at the age of 40 and should be the trusted source, along with the American Cancer Society, on this matter.

There is no scientific need for the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, as it is strictly a cost-cutting measure on behalf of the government.

We are in a health care crisis and the government is looking to cut as many corners as possible when it comes to decreasing insurance costs.

Health care is something we need to make room for in our national budget and different governmental panels should not be recommending guidelines for screenings.

These recommendations need to be made by independent organizations or by physicians themselves.

How much blog could a blogger blog?

[www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com](http://www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com)



# OF THE BEST

# DECADE

## BOOKS

Lauren Ramsdell  
Reviewer

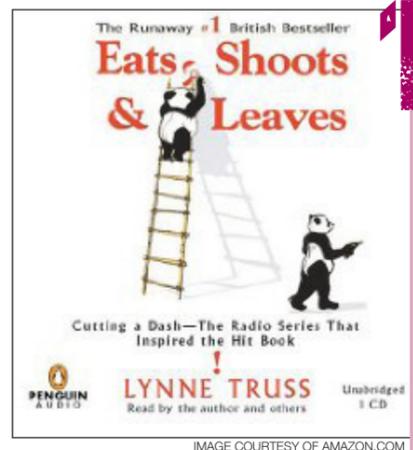


IMAGE COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

### “EATS, SHOOTS AND LEAVES” (LYNNE TRUSS, 2003)

Without following a standard for punctuation, writers' works chance being incomprehensible by the general population. Author Lynne Truss understands this and has compiled an amusing and informative rant about the joys of proper punctuation. Truss breaks down grammatical symbols by name and purpose — colon, semicolon, comma, quotation mark — and gives detailed, hilarious examples of when to use what. Truss even includes handy punctuation stickers in the back of the book, for those who can't pass by an improperly punctuated sign without wanting to red-pen it into oblivion.

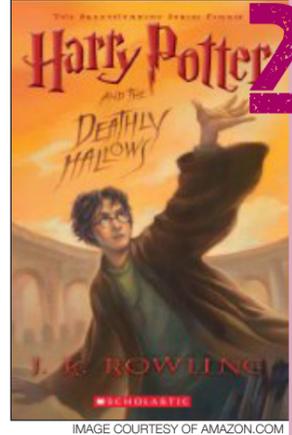


IMAGE COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

### “HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS” (J.K. ROWLING, 2007)

No list of books from the decade would be complete without a mention of Harry Potter. Since 1998, the teen wizard and his friends have entertained and captivated both children and adults. “Deathly Hallows” takes a different track than other Potter books. This time Hermione, Ron and Harry leave the predictable setting of Hogwarts and roam across Britain looking for pieces of Voldemort's soul. In this one book, the main characters grew more than in the entire series combined. Culminating with the Battle of Hogwarts, “Deathly Hallows” was the most serious, and possibly the best, book in the series.

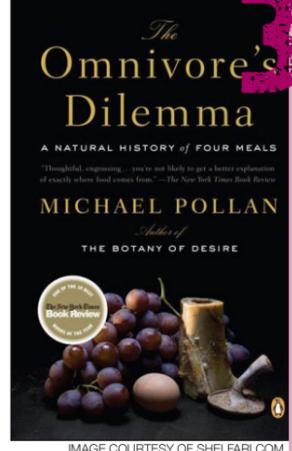


IMAGE COURTESY OF SHELFARI.COM

### “THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA” (MICHAEL POLLAN, 2006)

As author Pollan states, the question “what's for dinner?” is possibly the most complicated question one can ask today. Pollan explores the many answers — industrial feedlot cattle, organic and local food and the fare of even modern-day hunter-gatherers. Along the way, he makes meals for himself and his family featuring ingredients and procedures he's learned through his research. “The Omnivore's Dilemma” takes a less sarcastic tone than his similar book, “Fast Food Nation,” and is infinitely more approachable. Eating is, of course, vitally important, and so is this book.

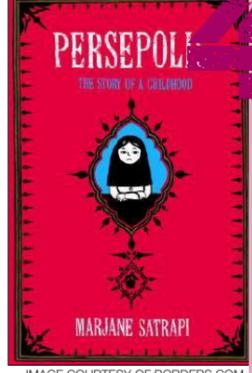


IMAGE COURTESY OF BORDERS.COM

### “PERSEPOLIS” (MARJANE SATRAPI, 2000)

“Persepolis” tells the story of an upper middle-class Iranian girl growing up in her war-torn country. “Persepolis” is written in graphic-novel style, illustrated by author Satrapi. She tells of the loss of freedom she experienced while growing up and how Islamic extremism is degrading both to the greater world and the citizens of the theocratic state. Satrapi's second graphic novel, “Persepolis 2,” continues by chronicling Satrapi's higher education in exile from her native country.

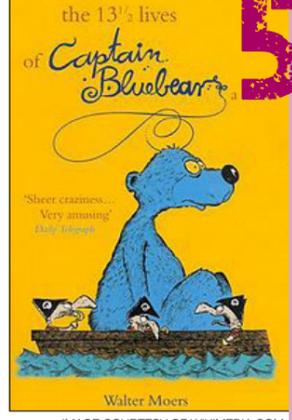


IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.COM

### “THE 13 ½ LIVES OF CAPTAIN BLUEBEAR” (WALTER MOERS, 1999, ENGLISH TRANSLATION, 2000)

Mix an outlandish, fantasy Earth and bizarre characters with a few hundred pages of sleuthing, puzzling and running away from Spiderwitches, and you've got “The 13 ½ lives of Captain Bluebear.” What the book lacks in deep, philosophical meaning it makes up for in zany escapism. The reader follows eponymous character Bluebear from the first moments he can remember (a baby floating in a walnut shell) up to the middle of his life. Originally published in Germany, the English translation is possibly the funniest book of the last 10 years.

## MUSIC

Dan Rickershaus  
Multimedia Editor

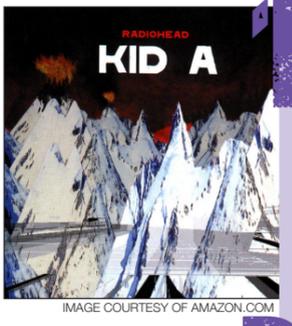


IMAGE COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

### RADIOHEAD “KID A”

In 2000, one of the most innovative bands of our time decided to experiment with electronic music. The result was an album that mastered cutting-edge technologies to create a sound that was as innovative as the music itself. This decade will be remembered as the decade where rock music was reinvented through technology.

### THE STROKES “IS THIS IT?”

Rock music was reinvented when “Is This It?” came out. The album not only saved rock music from oblivion, it was Limp Bizkit's most original in sound. While it may not have the same meanings, “Is This It?” is a classic again. It's impossible to imagine a decade would be so different.



IMAGE COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

### MODEST MOUSE “THE MOON & ANTARCTICA”

Just three years after their debut, Modest Mouse brought the indie rock sound to mainstream status. The album created this masterpiece of jagged, drooping arpeggiated guitar, mastered what became their signature sound.

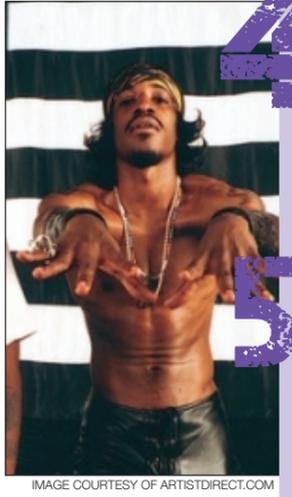


IMAGE COURTESY OF ARTISTDIRECT.COM

### OUTCAST “STANKONIA”

In a decade where the King of Pop, per se, can now be had, Outcast's Atlanta-based hip-hop lyricism, funky-funk, and perfected pop hit the world like a bomb.

### ARCADE FIRE “FUNERAL”

Music has never offered listeners a more authentic experience than the surrounds themselves with. The heartbreak that the Fire's aptly named album was there to say all right.



## TV SHOWS

Meaghan Carey  
Reviewer

### “MAD MEN”

Matthew Weiner, who previously worked as a director and writer for “The Sopranos,” created “Mad Men” in 2007. “Mad Men” follows the lives of successful men who work at the advertising agency Sterling Cooper on Madison Avenue in New York City. Each season, the viewers get a deeper perspective of the ambitious characters at work and home as their flaws are revealed, all the while providing a realistic glimpse of 1960s American culture.

## MUSIC

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IMAGE COURTESY OF LINEOUT.COM

Morgan Little  
Opinions Editor1  
**RADIOHEAD**  
"KID A"

It's the safest choice for the top spot, and in typical pretentious list-making fashion, this should mean that it's somewhere near the bottom of the upper echelon. But "Kid A" is the best album of the past year, hands down. To this day it sounds like nothing else, even in the wake of the greater electrification of rock music. It's one of the few "experimental" albums that retains all of the successful songwriting tactics of its predecessors and legitimately, not arbitrarily, pushes the boundaries of the band's creative process.

2  
**SUFJAN STEVENS**  
"ILLINOIS"

Beautiful, emotional, baroque, eclectic and eccentric. Sprawling over the course of 22 songs and clocking in at 73 minutes, "Illinois" is as much of an experience as it is an album. Anything that can so elegantly handle the transition between songs about serial killer John Wayne Gacy Jr., teenage wanderlust, losing love to cancer and zombie attacks with a gorgeously orchestrated backdrop is worthy of acclaim.

3  
**WILCO**  
"YANKEE HOTEL FOXTROT"

Jeff Tweedy had always been sitting on the precipice of greatness. Wilco's previous albums were fantastic in their own right, and his work with Uncle Tupelo was inspired but limited by the genre that he had helped create. With "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," Wilco created an album so unanimously appealing, so misleadingly simple that it demands to be listened to on a regular basis to rediscover just how fantastic every track is.

4  
**THE ARCADE FIRE**  
"FUNERAL"

It's easy to discount the importance of "Funeral" given the sheer number of imitators who have been so heavily influenced by its success, but try and remember that first listen all the way back in 2004. Rarely is an album based around such bleak themes so enthusiastically life-affirming. Just look at "Crown of Love," which starts out as a slow waltz dedicated to heartbreak and ends in an exhilarating disco-inspired breakout.

5  
**THE STROKES**  
"THIS IS IT"

In many ways, "Is This It" is a quintessentially perfect rock album. Disaffected, effortlessly cool, laden with hooks and accompanied by just the right amount of garage-band fuzz, it unabashedly plundered from the 1970's New York City scene and was repackaged brilliantly. It's important to mention that the U.S. version is a waste, tossing in the awkward "When It Started," in the place of the splendid "New York City Cops."

## MOVIES

Alexa Milan  
Managing Editor1  
**"THE DARK KNIGHT" (2008)**

Director Christopher Nolan's epic sequel to "Batman Begins" completely changed the face of comic book movies. Rather than just another effects-driven blockbuster, Nolan's adaptation is haunting, complex and deeply psychological. The flawed heroes of Nolan's Batman universe make the story feel much more raw than other comic book flicks, and Heath Ledger's Joker, rooted in anarchic chaos, is perhaps the decade's most iconic performance.

2  
**"ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND" (2004)**

Visually and emotionally beautiful, Charlie Kaufman's best script to date tells the story of love outlasting memory. Set against the sci-fi backdrop of memory-erasing procedures, the rocky relationship between Joel (Jim Carrey) and Clementine (Kate Winslet) unfolds in unexpected ways that will resonate with audiences long after the credits stop rolling.

3  
**"ONCE" (2007)**

Deeply moving in its subtle storytelling and performances, "Once" is everything a great indie film should be. This tiny \$160,000 Irish import depicts an unnamed man and woman connecting through their love of music, proving more powerful than any big-budget production number. Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova's magnetic screen chemistry and phenomenal Oscar-winning music make "Once" an instant indie classic.

4  
**"THE DEPARTED" (2006)**

Martin Scorsese finally won an Oscar for his intricate tale of undercover cops, the Irish mob and the blurred lines between good and evil. Featuring an outstanding ensemble cast led by Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson and Mark Wahlberg, Scorsese's complicated morality tale never slows down and is always surprising, even after multiple viewings.

5  
**"ALMOST FAMOUS" (2000)**

Cameron Crowe's coming-of-age story about a teenage freelance reporter for Rolling Stone is a brilliant love letter to rock 'n' roll of the 1970s, in all its untamed glory. Featuring a killer soundtrack and one of the best movie scenes involving music to date ("Tiny Dancer"), one can feel Crowe's own love of music reverberating right off the screen.



IMAGE COURTESY OF YAHOO IMAGES

Jeff Weaver  
Reviewer1  
**"NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN" (2007)**

Joel and Ethan Coen's masterpiece that set a new standard for thrillers, "No Country for Old Men," is one of the most intense and masterfully crafted movies ever. With an incredible story based on the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name, the Coens created the unparalleled movie experience of the decade. With a body count stacked up high and the bone chilling performance of a lifetime from Javier Bardem as Anton Chigurh, this picture earned Academy Awards for Best Director, Best Supporting Actor and Best Picture.

2  
**"PAN'S LABYRINTH" (2006)**

Before getting the director's spot for the upcoming "Hobbit" film, Guillermo Del Toro created one of the most intriguing and beautifully made films of the decade. Set during the Spanish Civil War, "Pan's Labyrinth" is a grown-up fairy tale that has viewers questioning oppressive societies and childhood innocence. Still to this day, it is one of the best fantasy films ever made, foreign or American.

3  
**"CITY OF GOD" (2002)**

Based on the true story of Buscapi, a young boy living in Rio de Janeiro, the story follows him as he dodges rival gangs, escapes violence on a daily basis and tries to further his career as a photojournalist. The brutal realism of this film resonates human suffering to the viewers that makes you truly feel for these characters. The fact that many of the actors in this film had no previous experience makes this film that much more incredible.

4  
**"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING" (2003)**

The most epic film of our generation. With the third and final installment of "The Lord of the Rings," director Peter Jackson was able to make a literary masterpiece into an incredible film adaptation. With amazing special effects that still hold up today and, with one of the best ensemble performances in a movie, "The Return of the King" walked away with 11 Academy Awards, including Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture.

5  
**"WALL-E" (2008)**

Pixar has had an unflinching monopoly on animation ever since their release of "Toy Story" 14 years ago, and 2008 saw the release of "WALL-E," a story about a trash-collecting robot that finds himself falling in love. Not only does this film entertain in the truest sense of the word, but it makes bold statements about the current status of humanity. The earth was overrun and trashed by out-of-control consumerism, and now all that is left of humanity is fat, lazy oafs on a spaceship.



IMAGES COURTESY OF YAHOO IMAGES

2  
**"THE SOPRANOS"**

Debuting in 1999, David Chase created a brilliant portrayal of the inner workings of modern day mafia in northern New Jersey. This rough and tough dark comedy shows the trials and tribulations of Tony Soprano, his confidantes and his family. Visually dynamic camera work, clever plots and well-chosen musical selections made this Sunday night TV show a conversation piece on Monday mornings across America until its series finale in 2007.

3  
**"LAW AND ORDER: SVU"**

Also debuting in 1999, this action-packed crime series showcases an NYPD squad that investigates sexually related crimes. The entire team offers a unique mix of personalities, as do the suspects they interview. Mariska Hargitay, who plays Detective Benson, and Christopher Meloni, who plays Detective Stabler, are consistently putting on stellar performances. After 11 seasons, the show is still at its prime, providing viewers with exciting and suspenseful episodes.

4  
**"SEX AND THE CITY"**

Based on the enormously popular book by Candace Bushnell, "Sex and the City" follows four career women living in Manhattan. Each of the four women are different, and oftentimes viewers can relate to one of the characters or the situations they are going through. New York City is portrayed well in the show and provides a colorful and diverse background. Personal lives are examined, relationships are analyzed and Manolo Blahnik shoes are purchased.

5  
**"THE OFFICE"**

The popularity of the British version of "The Office" spawned an American twin on NBC that premiered in 2005. Michael Scott, the obnoxious and outlandish boss played by Steve Carrell, as well as the other Dunder Mifflin employees never fail to amuse viewers. Like "Seinfeld," there is no set plot, so episodes range from a holiday office party to a fire that starts in the workplace. Viewers can look forward to a fresh and funny episode every week. A day at the office has never been more hysterical.

MORE  
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& COMMUNITY NOMINATIONS

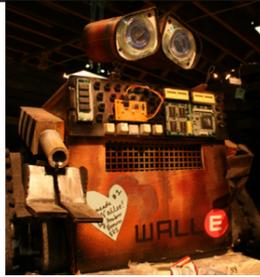
# Style



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer  
The Scrap Exchange is a creative reuse center in Durham that sells recycled materials to create art.



Ashley Barnas  
Online Editor-in-Chief



LEFT: Scepters decorated with yarn and ribbon.

CENTER: A cardboard version of WALL-E.

RIGHT: Patrons and workers of The Scrap Exchange marched in a parade Dec. 5.

In the back of the store, one can find melted and flattened green glass bottles in one corner and dolls made out of old T-shirts in the opposite corner. The main room is lined in plastic blue barrels filled to the brim with buttons, hangers, stockings, Burger King crowns and other random trinkets. In the Artist's Marketplace, one can discover everything from an adorned Chinese checkerboard, a necklace made with spoon handles, purses, decorative buttons to a cardboard construction of WALL-E.

And that just scratches the surface of the layout of The Scrap Exchange in Durham, N.C.

The creative reuse center is a place for artists, children, teachers, collectors and anyone with an imagination. Its mission is "to promote creativity, environmental awareness and community through reuse."

The nonprofit is 90 percent self-sufficient, and it supplements all activities through fundraising, support from the city of Durham, different grants and foundations and individual donations.

The Scrap Exchange's materials come from different industries. The center specializes in industrial discards, but it has opened the door to residential waste. Businesses and manufacturers get rid of leftovers by giving them to sustainable stores like The Scrap Exchange.

The store receives more than 800 drop-off material donations per year in addition to collections from regular visits to more than 250 businesses around Durham.

"There's only 44 creative reuse centers in the country in 13 states, and we are the only one in North Carolina," Executive Director Ann Woodward said.

Since the store is a destination location for people looking for strange and unusual materials, Woodward said they attract people from across the state.

Chris Rosenthal, an immigrant who worked for a similar organization in her home country of Australia, started The Scrap Exchange in 1991. Rosenthal, along with her husband, got together with some other people interested in the project.

Woodward started in 1994 when she did outreach for a creative art service. She directed hands-on programming, drove to factories to pick up materials and helped with almost every job. She minored in sculpture at Buffalo State College, where she found a particular passion for metal.

"(I) just realized there is a lot of power in found objects and found materials, and I'm very interested in how things fit together," she said.

Bethany Yoder has been to The Scrap Exchange on several occasions, but was there for a particular reason this week.

Along with her 4-and-a-half-year-old daughter Lily, Yoder was searching for materials to make Christmas gifts for her nieces and nephews. She wanted to make fuzzy little critters with eyes and noses, flags, wands or caterpillars. In the past, Yoder has come to the store to buy rugs for her home, materials for sewing projects and supplies to make birthday gifts.

The store hosts more than 70 birthday parties on- and off-site per year. Laura Conner brought her older daughter to the store for a birthday party with her school friends.

"It's very neat," Conner said. "Kids like it a lot. It's a good way to recycle things."

In addition to birthdays, The Scrap Exchange offers hands-on creative arts programming at festivals and big fairs, visits schools to host creative arts workshops, trains teachers on how to use the materials in their curriculums and leads corporate teambuilding workshops.

School visits cost \$1.75 per child. Woodward came to Elon years ago to lead a professional development course with students training to be teachers. She brought materials and gave an introduction about where they came from.

Woodward said her goal in leading workshops like these is to explain how the process of reuse centers work so the participants know there are resources out there.

"It's like teaching people how to farm," Woodward said. "If they know how to find the materials, they can use that for the rest of their life."

Woodward said her favorite materials in the center are the fire extinguishers and the construction and demolition waste, especially the metal.

"People bring in their collections of fabric, which I think is one of my favorite things that happens," Woodward said.

One woman was making saris with fabric she collected from the 1960s and 1970s and brought in her leftovers. The Scrap Exchange is well known for its fabric and for what it sells from the blue barrels. The barrels are filled with random items with which patrons can fill a bag for a set price.

The Scrap Exchange also has a "Green Gallery," where it exhibits more than 100 artists per year.

"The gallery promotes artists who are using reuse materials in their artwork," Woodward said.

Woodward said the center has a no-glue policy. When people don't use glue, they begin to think about the properties of the materials, Woodward said.

"You're not sitting around waiting for the glue to dry," Woodward said. "You're actually having this vibrant, active conversation about what you're doing with the materials. And you're creating community. You're talking to the person next to you."

The education students Woodward works with have to make something and do a critique at the end of the workshop to talk about what they made and why.

"I like function," Woodward said. "I'm a big form and function person. I want things to be beautiful that you can use on a daily basis."

Exhibit A was the orange flower pinned to her chest. It was made out of a smashed aerosol can top.

"I just think collecting and disseminating used materials should really be a part of the future because we really need to conserve resources," Woodward said. "We can't keep cutting down trees. We need to keep what is valuable out of the landfill and put it in the hands of people who can use the materials."

many men's  
**TRASH**  
...anyone's  
**TREASURE**

MORE ONLINE



Dolls made out of old T-shirts were on display and for sale in the "Green Gallery."

## Dance studio brings nearby building to life

Marlena Chertock  
Reporter

Girls and boys wearing ballet slippers and tights crowd on a few sofas, the steps and into the costume room. Some practice in the dance studio. Others work on their homework, waiting for his or her turn to dance.

This is Saturday rehearsal for Walkerdance Studio, located a few minutes down the road from Elon's campus.

The Walkerdance Studio has been in Elon for 30 years.

The name comes from director April Chandler's uncle.

"My uncle John Walker owns (the studio), and I direct it for him now," Chandler said.

Walker purchased the building that is now the Walkerdance Studio in the 1970s. Downstairs is the dance studio, and upstairs is an apartment Chandler



The dance studio is located on Haggard Avenue and is often overlooked because of its appearance.

rents out.

In the back of the studio, there is a room full of costumes, most of which are recycled.

"It's a mix (of new and old)," costume designer Beth Kennett said. "We resurrected old Russian costumes from years ago."

Walker has a history of dancing, having performed in shows in New York, around the United States and Canada. He has also choreographed and taught in North Carolina.

One of the original students at the North Carolina School of the Arts, Walker studied modern dance and ballet. He went to New York City to dance with the Joffrey Ballet Company before joining the Atlanta Ballet Company.

Walker owns other studios in Elizabeth City and Manteo, N.C. In 1979, he returned to Alamance County, where he was raised, to start Walkerdance Studio.

"I never thought I'd see the day my uncle moved on," Chandler said.

She took over the studio when her uncle moved back to Manteo, N.C., to run the state park performances there.

"I always hoped I would (run my own dance studio)," Chandler said.

She started dancing when she was three. She first received lessons in Burlington from her uncle.

"Taking lessons from my uncle was great," she said. "He probably was harder on me because I was family. I was kicked out of class once for being disrespectful to him. I don't remember him ever kicking another student out of class."

She said she danced until she was 21 and became pregnant.

Walkerdance Studio now has about 70 students. The dancers range from ages 3 to 18.

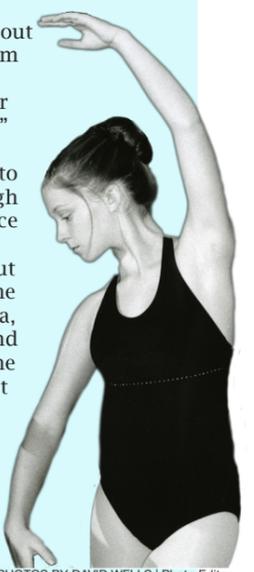
"Most of them leave their senior year, after they graduate high school," Chandler said.

Dance classes run from Monday to Thursday. Juniors and seniors in high school have rehearsals and dance classes twice a week.

This year, the studio will put on four performances of "The Nutcracker" for schools in the area, four performances for the public and one garden performance, where the dancers perform outdoors at a depot in downtown Burlington.

"Each class does a piece," Chandler said.

Walkerdance Studio will perform "The Nutcracker" Dec. 18-20 in McCrary Theatre.



PHOTOS BY DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor  
Dancers practice poses along the wall to stretch out before a routine.

# holiday hype

## CAMPUS GLOWS WITH WINTER CELEBRATIONS

Lindsay Kimble  
Copy Intern

The holiday season is here, and Elon has once again offered a slew of traditional festivities for student enjoyment. Whether one celebrates Christmas, Hanukah or Kwanzaa Elon provides an event honoring almost every tradition. There are still many exciting celebrations to come, but this week was peppered with holiday fun.

### Luminarias Holiday Celebration

On Dec. 3, Elon's main campus was illuminated with thousands of Christmas lights and luminarias lining the sidewalks between the Moseley Center and Alamance Building. Students, faculty, staff and many community members gathered in the early evening for a night of carols, hot chocolate and cider and rides in a miniature motorized train.

Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by to talk with the children and even some nostalgic Elon students. Crowds gathered around Fonville Fountain outside Alamance to watch a band and chorale group perform, as well as to view the "attempted" lighting of a menorah and finally, the beautiful white lights sparkling in the trees.

"I loved the luminarias," freshman Rachel Gianfredi said. "It was adorable and got me so excited for the holidays."

This Elon tradition is sponsored annually by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

### Holiday Celebration afterparty

Following the Luminarias Holiday Celebration, Irazú coffee shop, located in Moseley Center, continued the festivities with live holiday music, special holiday beverages and tips on going "green" during the holiday season. The small coffee shop was brimming with chilly yet spirited attendants.

### Jingle Bell Ball

Hosted by Sigma Alpha Omega, the Jingle Bell Ball offered guests mocktails and the chance to mingle and enjoy holiday tunes. The ball is an annual fundraiser, with proceeds from the \$5 ticket sales benefitting the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. The ball was held Dec. 5 at Harden Clubhouse.

### Moravian Christmas Love Feast and Candle Service

Held at Elon Community Church on Sunday, the Moravian Love Feast honored a holiday ceremony brought to North Carolina in the 1700s by German settlers. The traditional service included a special candlelight aspect and was followed by a fellowship meal of coffee and a Moravian bun.

According to tradition, the love feast is meant to be symbolic of church fellowship, and when bread is broken together those involved are united in fellowship much like a family would be. This event was also sponsored by the Truitt Center.



Elon held its annual Luminarias Holiday Celebration Dec. 3. DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

### Christmas party at El Centro

Elon's El Centro Spanish center invited students to come celebrate Christmas on Nov. 30 while learning Hispanic traditions. The event featured a wide array of food as well as Spanish Christmas music.

The Multicultural Center, in a joint effort with El Centro, also invited three local Mexican families to join in the festivities. Both centers have been providing help to the families throughout the semester.

### Hillel Hanukkah party

A campus-wide event open to all students, the Hillel-sponsored Hanukkah party for Elon's Jewish community was held Dec. 1 at the Truitt Center. The party included dreidel games, chocolate gelt (chocolate packaged to symbolize coins) and Latkes (traditional potato pancakes).

### Elon University Camerata performs Celebration of Light

Elon's choral ensemble Camerata performed a cappella works spanning the centuries Nov. 30, all with the holiday spirit in mind. The event featured not only narration from special carols and poems, but also a candlelight processional and special lighting effects.

Whitley Auditorium was decked with holiday decorations for the event, and students were graced with the presence of School of Communications chair Don Grady as narrator and University Organist Mary Alice Bragg. The annual event proved to be a festive celebration of the season for the fifth year in a row.

## Home for the holidays? International students face choice of returning home or traveling for winter break

Edith Veremu  
Reporter

For many students, the December holidays, are a time of joy and celebration. With the anxiety of exams behind them, students pack their bags to return home for a well-deserved break.

But for certain group of students, going home for the holidays may be a problem. For the international students at Elon, the December holidays mean having to make plans of their own when home is thousands of miles away.

Unlike other universities, Elon does not offer housing or place international students with U.S. families. International students are often given two choices: either go home or stay with friends or relatives in the country.

François Masuka, the director of international student and faculty scholar services, said Elon has "never had the need to institute housing" for students during the December holidays.

In addition, he said since there are no definite ways of investigating a family's history to ensure a student's safety, Elon has not implemented programs that place their students with host families.

For the students that will stay in the United States, there is still a desire to return home.

Senior Fentuo Tahiru, a foreign exchange student from Ghana, plans to embark on a tour of the East Coast with friends from the International Pavilion. Eager to explore American culture, he also expressed his feelings about the upcoming holiday season.

"If I had the chance to go home and be with my family, I would," he said. "However, the holidays are too short for my trip."

The recession has forced students like Tahiru to make arrangements with friends.

Nonetheless, a solid number of international students are excited to be going home. Freshman Fiona Alfaro, although thrilled to return to El Salvador, said it will be "weird, because I've become so accustomed to this new life that I don't know how I'm going to feel back home."

Returning home can seem unusual, as Alfaro points out, but most welcome the chance to see their loved ones.

## Decorate on a Dime: Ways to save while spreading cheer

Kristi Jacobsen  
Reporter

The holidays are just around the corner and Elon students couldn't be more excited. To celebrate, they are finding cheap and crafty ways to fill their dorms with holiday cheer.

### Have a vision

Sophomore Tori Spearman found her inspiration for a "preppy Christmas tree" from Martha Stewart Living magazine.

"It's a good idea to look through catalogs to look for ideas on how to decorate and then base your own ideas around it," Spearman said.

To deck out your dorm, search online sites like [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com) and [www.marthastewart.com](http://www.marthastewart.com) to find appealing pictures, then start shopping and crafting a similar look for half the price. And while out shopping, look through magazines at the check-out to find even more fun ideas.

### Shop cheap

Cut out coupons, search for bargains and shop at places like The Dollar Store where you will certainly get the most for your money. Shop around to compare prices and call stores to find the best deal.

Sophomore Jackie Serany said she found an adorable pre-lit pink Christmas tree for only \$20 at Michaels.

### Think like a kid

Cutting paper to make snowflakes and paper chains

isn't just for elementary school children. These simple creations can add tons of holiday splendor to bare walls and doors. So dig out those scissors, buy some construction paper and enjoy some arts and crafts time.

### One word: lights

The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity suite is glowing with holiday cheer.

"It's a good mood setter," suite manager Eric Menchacha said.

Strings of white lights, colored lights and icicle lights line the hallways.

"It's nice to turn off the fluorescent lights and just have the Christmas lights on," sophomore Brandon Gurney said.

Lights are an excellent and inexpensive way to brighten up a dorm and show off holiday spirit.

### Recycle

Ask parents, friends and family if they have any extra holiday decorations to bring back to school. Also, start saving holiday cards. They make fantastic decorations by providing material for collages, or they can be displayed in a card holder.

### Make it a group effort

Gather your roommate and suitemates together to have a fun decorating party. Put on some holiday music and pull out the arts and crafts. Decorating is always better with friends, and everyone has their own unique ideas how to best create holiday glee. Remember to set a bag of popcorn aside when popping some for the group. Let the popcorn cool, then use a needle and

thread to make a decorative strand of popcorn to put around a Christmas tree or over your door.

### Express yourself

Washable window markers make for a great way to show holiday spirit to all who pass by. These markers last for years and can be found in any store carrying craft items. Use them to draw holiday scenes of winter wonderlands or Christmas gatherings. Holiday greetings can also be written for passersby to read. Just make sure not to write it backward so everyone outside the room can read it.

### Wrap it up

Wrapping paper is a very inexpensive way to add holiday cheer to the dorm. Purchase low-priced paper, ribbon and bows at Walmart or The Dollar Store, then wrap a room door. Cover the entire door with wrapping paper, tie ribbon around it and add a festive bow. It will feel like opening a present every time the door is opened.

### Get creative

Strings of popcorn, gift-wrapped doors, soda can Christmas trees and marshmallow snowmen — there are so many unique ideas perfect for adding holiday sparkle to a room at an inexpensive price. Think of a favorite holiday items (gifts, snowflakes, candy canes, Santa, etc.) and find a fun way to craft them. Have class work that is no longer needed? Use the paper to cut up snowflakes and hang them. Construction paper, ribbon or felt can make larger holiday items to display on a door or wall.

## FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF FUNNY

Elon trustee, local humorist goes from Miss North Carolina to YouTube sensation



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Elon trustee Jeanne Robertson struck YouTube fame with her humor.

Alexa Milan  
Managing Editor

It's usually frowned upon when someone pirates a performer's material and uploads it illegally to YouTube. But for humorist and Elon trustee Jeanne Robertson, it was the best thing that ever happened to her.

Robertson had uploaded a video of a story about grocery shopping with her husband from one of her speeches and labeled it with a generic title. But when someone pirated the video and renamed it "Don't send a man to the grocery store," the number of YouTube hits skyrocketed.

"We put it up in July and it had 2 million hits within three months," Robertson said. "It changed everything."

In addition to her YouTube popularity, Robertson has a daily segment on Sirius/XM satellite radio's family comedy channel and has 75 stories on iTunes.

At a statuesque 6'2," Robertson was crowned Miss North Carolina in 1963

and, as a result, made more than 500 speeches in one year. She credits this experience as giving her the skills necessary to pursue a career as a professional speaker.

"Whereas pageants take a lot of criticism, and some of it is justified and some of it isn't, for me to be able to, at that age, be on my feet in front of audiences that many times, it was just a talent that I was able to catapult into a career," Robertson said.

Robertson taught physical education and coached basketball for nine years before pursuing humor full time. Rather than going the comedy club route, she decided to use her humor as a professional speaker. At age 66, she has been in the business for 45 years.

During that time, Robertson has been interviewed on "60 Minutes," spoken at the White House, was the first woman to be awarded the National Speakers Association Cavett Award and has released six DVDs, three of which were produced through Elon Television Services.

As an Elon trustee, Robertson and her husband Jerry have been supporters of Elon athletics since their son played basketball at Elon in the 1980s.

"She and Jerry both have done so many great things for this university," said Alan White, former Elon athletic director.

The Robertsons met White and his wife when their sons played basketball together in high school, and the families have been friends ever since. Robertson's support of Elon athletics has ranged from donations to hosting dinners at her house for the basketball and tennis teams.

"We know that while athletics is not the end all, be all for everybody, it offers young people a lot of opportunities that come to help them later," Robertson said.

Even when she's speaking or supporting Elon athletics, Robertson is constantly searching for new material to include in her speeches.

"She's always looking for a new story," White said. "She can find humor almost everywhere she goes."

Robertson said humor exists in everything, but people just have to know how to find it. In her book "Don't Let the Funny Stuff Get Away," Robertson details her process for finding the humor in everyday interactions with people.

"There's so much funny stuff that happens every day that if you're just jotting down two or three words, you're really letting it get away," Robertson said. "You're losing 'what was that phrase that was so funny?' 'How did she really word that when she said that?'"

Robertson has a sheet of paper where she records everything she does during the day that might trigger a funny thought and notes humorous stories she has experienced.

When developing stories to share in her speeches, she examines everything from experiences at the airport to something she heard on the radio to interactions with her husband, who she affectionately refers to as "Left Brain."

Above all, Robertson said it is important to find humor in even the craziest and most stressful situations.

"Any time something is really chaotic, I try to remove myself and think 'How would this look if it were in a sitcom?'" Robertson said.

When she speaks, Robertson said she hopes her audiences take away the importance of approaching everything in life with a sense of humor because it will ultimately make them happier people.

"A sense of humor makes you be a more positive person," Robertson said. "It helps you enjoy every single day. It helps you roll with the punches, and there are a lot of punches out there."



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer  
Chris Russell, owner of B. Christopher's, B's Bistro and Benjamin's Seafood, said he plans to open a "gastro pub" on Williamson Avenue near Elon's campus soon.

## Fine wine and thyme

Local restaurant entrepreneur maintains fine dining in Burlington

Laura Smith  
News Editor

The easiest thing about Chris Russell's job? The commute between the three businesses he owns.

Russell, full name Benjamin Christopher Russell, owns the upscale restaurant B. Christopher's as well as B's Bistro and Benjamin's Seafood. All three are located next to each other in the same plaza on Church Street in Burlington.

Russell moved to Elon College, N.C., in 1984 from Mississippi when he was in the eighth grade. After working in several local restaurants in high school, Russell decided he wanted to pursue a career in the restaurant industry.

Russell attended Elon College from 1990-93 and got his start in the restaurant industry during that time.

After graduating from Elon, he worked and managed several locations.

"I knew it was something I'd always been interested in," he said. "I thought it would be time to start something myself."

After working and taking culinary classes in Washington, D.C., for more than 10 years, Russell decided he wanted to come back to Elon to open his own restaurants.

"I moved here partially out of the comfort level," he said. "It was a good thing to come back. It's a nice place to raise a family, too."

B. Christopher's opened more than 10 years ago, B's Bistro four years ago and Benjamin's three years ago. Benjamin's is a seafood restaurant that specializes in fried seafood, something Russell said was different from his culinary style.

"There was a void in the (restaurant) marketplace," Russell said. "I thought fresh seafood would be the niche."

Russell's day typically begins at 9 a.m., prepping for meals, cooking and managing the business aspect of the three locations. All of his recipes are original and he usually takes a break in the middle of the afternoon to spend

time with his 6-year-old and 8-year-old kids, he said.

The only challenge Russell has is employing and managing 60 people to ensure they all get what they need.

"There are a lot of control issues you have to let go of," he said.

Russell said he also enjoys the occasional surprises he finds in his freezer. As a hunting club member, Russell's friends have left him a full deer and once 300 lbs. of halibut in hopes of having him use it for a catered event.

Russell continues to partner with Elon, as well. This past year, B. Christopher's worked with the athletic department in advertising at football games and providing a source for off-campus catering.

Russell said his newest endeavor will be opening an all-new restaurant this spring on Williamson Avenue near Acorn Coffee Shop. While he couldn't specify details yet, he said it is going to be what he calls a "gastro pub," similar to a bistro and driven by a chef.

Russell thought Elon needed a more nightlife-type restaurant and has had a mutual discussion with the university.

"Elon is such a cool school," he said. "That's the one area that might be lacking."

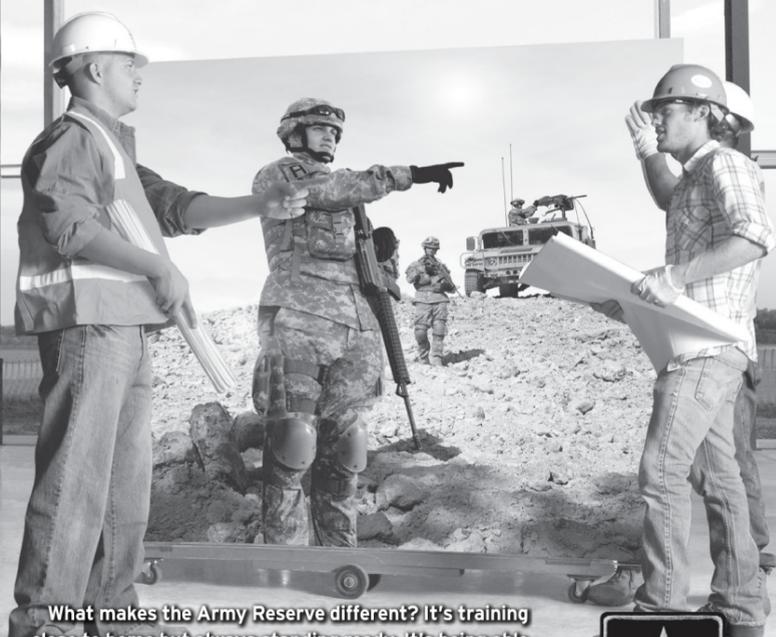
Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology, said the university has been talking to several people about developing more retail shops and restaurants in the Town of Elon. Whittington said the university cannot comment on the details until all of the contracts are signed.

Russell said he thinks by having more upscale and unique restaurants like the one coming in the spring, students will not find as much of a need to venture to Greensboro or Chapel Hill, N.C.

A "love of hospitality" is the reason Russell said he continues to do his work.

"I feel like hospitality is in my blood," he said. "It's a natural fit for me."

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# FRESHMEN

Laura Wainman  
Special Projects Editor

## REFLECTIONS

After completing their first semester, Elon freshmen share their experiences

There is no time more nerve-wrenchingly exciting than the summer before college for a new high school graduate. Expectations are high and questions abound. Many sleepless nights are spent wondering exactly what college life will be like. Too often, the idea of college can get built up to a point where the reality cannot compare to the expectations. The Pendulum explored how Elon freshmen reflect after having one semester at college under their belts, and fortunately, it seems that many of the freshmen at the university have not encountered this disappointment.

### Expectations

For many soon-to-be freshmen, adjusting to life away from home is the biggest concern. Freshman Leslie Gilman said she was pleasantly surprised at how quickly she adjusted.

"I was genuinely surprised at how easily I settled in, made a ton of great friends and found a hundred things I really wanted to get involved with," Gilman said. "It wasn't as awkward as I thought it would be to sit with an upperclassman at lunch or to ask a scary teacher for help. Elon really welcomes all personalities, and I just think it's even better than I could have ever imagined."

Freshman Rachel Shulder echoed Gilman's sentiments, as she too wasn't sure how it would feel to be separated from her friends and family and share a living space with someone she barely knew.

"I just feel really at home here already," Shulder said.

Of course, loving Elon so much could bring with it a whole new set of worries. Gilman said it is already difficult to leave Elon and her friends for breaks, and she can't imagine spending an entire summer away from them.

"I am attached to this place after just a few months," Gilman said. "I can't believe how easily that happened."

College food has long been rumored to be a nightmare and, for college boys in particular, this could cause problems.

"The food is better than I expected at Elon," freshman Will Anderson said. "We have so many cooked-in-front-of-you meals that the food tastes better than a typical college cafeteria, which is what I expected."

Anderson also said he thinks it is great how free food is available at most meetings or events.

After trying food at other universities, freshman Kelly Lahvic was also worried about the food at Elon and how it would affect her daily life. Lahvic said she was relieved to find that she loves Elon's dining halls and has a variety of options to choose from each day.

### Living situation

The thought of sharing a tiny room with a stranger can be completely unnerving. Many college freshmen are experiencing the joys and woes of sharing space for the first time at Elon, and it can be a huge change. But for a lucky few, a roommate or suitemate can become a best friend.

Freshman Katherine Wise lives in a suite in Colclough and said the best thing about Elon has been her living situation.

"Our dorm may look rather grungy, but the location is amazing, the suite layout is awesome and it is close to Moseley," Wise said. "The people I live with are amazing. Instead of having one roommate, it feels like I have seven."

Freshman Will Anderson said his living experience has greatly affected his development at Elon.

"I feel very fortunate because I get to live in the Communications Learning Community in Sloan, and I have made so many of my closest friends there," Anderson said. "Plus, we are right next to both McEwen buildings, and that is convenient."

Freshmen either live in suites or halls at Elon, and while both have their advantages and disadvantages most students have a clear preference.

"I love living in a suite and wouldn't want anything different," freshman Kelly Huston said. "My roommate situation couldn't have worked out any better, but even if it had been bad, I think living in a suite would have helped because I get to have eight roommates."

Though freshman Kelly Lahvic has enjoyed her living situation this semester, she said she would have made a change if she could.

"I like my suite, but I wish I had lived in a hall because I know the suite set up prevents me from meeting as many people as I would like," Lahvic said.

### Best and worst aspects of being a freshman

Going from being the top dog as a senior in high school back to being a scared freshman can be a difficult transition. Everything is new and completely different and, unlike starting high school, there isn't necessarily a familiar face to help make the process easier. For freshman Leslie Gilman, this wasn't as big a problem as she had anticipated.

"I have a 'momma shark' for InterVarsity, a 'shark' for swim team and a 'big' for ESA, and they are always on call if I need absolutely anything," Gilman said. "Everyone is just so friendly and I always know I have someone to turn to if I need advice, a friend or just someone to eat with."

Gilman said she has friends from other schools where this isn't the case, and she said she feels lucky to be a freshman at Elon.

Freshman Will Anderson said not knowing everything has its advantages, too.

"We are still innocent in a sense that we can get by with the excuse that we just didn't know because we truly have so much more to learn about college," Anderson said.

Of course, there are the traditional hardships that come with any new experience.

"I don't really like getting judged when I say I am a freshman," freshman Berkeley Smith said. "Laundry isn't fun either."

While meeting new people may be the most exciting aspect of being new, it can also be one of the hardest.

"It is hard not knowing the ins and outs of everything," freshman Becky Dwyer said. "I kind of wish I had expanded more and made more friends."

Figuring out how to manage all the free time that the life of a college student lends itself to can often be a challenge, particularly when there is a myriad of activities to choose from.

"The time commitments are crazy intense if you really want to be a part of an organization or group, which was tough at first, and I am still trying to find a balance," Gilman said.

Freshman Katherine Wise also said deciding which extra-curriculars to dedicate herself to was the hardest aspect of being a freshman, since Elon offers so many she wants to be a part of.



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Freshman Will Anderson said his trip to Atlanta with the communications fellows showcases Elon's networking connections. He said the trip was one of the highlights of his first semester at Elon.

“

**What are you most looking forward to for next semester?**

"Having a fairly established group of friends, activities and things to do." — Freshman Leslie Gilman

"Getting through all my 'freshmen required' courses so I can actually start thinking about taking classes for my major." — Freshman Will Anderson

"New classes and hopefully snow." — Freshman Kelly Lahvic

"I'm excited to rush ... living in the suite is like having sisters already but I can't wait to meet so many more people." — Freshman Kelly Huston

"Developing more as myself, making more friends and having fun with my friends here." — Freshman Rachel Shulder

"New classes, meeting more people and the springtime weather." — Freshman Berkeley Smith

"I want to join an intramural team." — Freshman Becky Dwyer

”



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
The girls of Colclough suite 202 are so close that they sent out Christmas cards together.

“

**What is your best memory from fall semester?**

"Making birthday rap videos to post on each of our hallmate's Facebook walls for each of their birthdays and going to Atlanta with the Communications Fellows." — Freshman Will Anderson

"Going out together to see 'New Moon' and sitting in the hall at 2 a.m. on a weekend just talking about random things." — Freshman Rachel Shulder

"Gospel Choir has honestly been such an incredible spiritual experience." — Freshman Leslie Gilman

"One of my favorite memories was when we all took Christmas card pictures. We coordinated our outfits and took photos around our recently-decorated fake tree." — Freshman Katherine Wise

"Becoming best friends with my suitemates." — Freshman Becky Dwyer

"Painting the mural with my suitemates and staying up late talking about everything and anything and laughing for hours." — Freshman Berkeley Smith

"Birthdays in our suite are awesome and pretty much just holidays in general. For the first birthday, we put signs and balloons all over the entire suite and surprised her when she came in with a birthday cake, which almost set off the fire alarms." — Freshman Kelly Huston

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# BRIGHT LIGHTS BOOMING VOICES

Junior Will Armour leads the group in "Tempted by the Fruit of Another," originally by Squeeze.



DANIEL KOCH | Photographer

## Twisted Measure shines at fall concert and beyond

Meaghan Carey  
Reporter

Dressed in all black, the co-ed a cappella group, Twisted Measure, sang and danced barefoot for its annual Fall Concert Dec. 4-5 in Yeager Recital Hall in front of a packed house of students, family and friends.

The set list was comprised of 12 songs, with an additional encore performance dedicated to alumni in attendance. Performances featured songs by notable artists Amy Winehouse and Taylor Swift, as well as lesser-known artists soulDecision and Robert Randolph.

Both male and female singers from the group provided individual numbers. Juniors Will Armour and Alex Schreiner gave impressive solo performances of "Tempted" by Squeeze and "Break Even" by The Script, respectively. Sophomore Liz Passannante and senior Stephanie Lane also sang impressive renditions of Katy Perry's "Use Your Love" and Leona Lewis' "Run."

"I like the fact that (Twisted Measure) is co-ed," junior Stephanie Oden said.

Junior Leah Hoyland said she admires the group's variety.

"It provides for a big array of sounds," she said.

Oden also praised Twisted Measure for its performance of "popular songs," specifically "Use Somebody" by Kings of Leon.

Oden said the performance showcased not only impressive vocal talent, but also personality and emotion. Those who were not singing a solo provided energy in the background by dancing.

The encore, "Faded" by soulDecision, was a choreographed piece. At one point, some male performers had dance solos that provided comic relief and resulted in laughs rippling throughout the audience.

What makes Twisted Measure unique — besides the fact they are a co-ed group — is their connection and close bond with both current and past Twisted Measure members.

At the beginning of the concert, a Twisted Measure alumnus introduced the group.

"The alumni ensure us that we're moving in the right direction," senior and president Alexa Terry said. "We try to stay true to our roots. We pride ourselves on spending time with each other. The close knit bond — it makes it that much more rewarding."

Passannante said she also appreciates the sense of community the group provides.

"Twisted Measure has been a huge support system for me and has also served as an outlet for me during my time at Elon," Passannante said. "This amazing group has provided me with great friends and brings me so much joy every day."

Besides its fall performance, the group performs several times throughout the year in preparation for bigger shows, as well as to get more exposure.

"We do little gigs," Lane said. "Elonthon, Make-A-Wish concert and Midnight Meals are all events we do. Most of the time we're showcasing new stuff. The fall concert is basically a debut of new songs we have not performed, as well as songs we have performed before."

Twisted Measure has previously been to the SoJam workshop in Durham, N.C., as well to Washington, D.C., for fall break to showcase its talent. The group works together with Twisted Measure alumni to help organize the annual Fall Break trips.

"(Fall break) is a great experience to promote our group," Terry said. "Sometimes we (even) street sing."

Whether on the stage or on the street, the members of the group agree it's necessary to rise to the occasion and put on the best show possible, which means performing with a high level of energy, emotion and personality, as well as enlivening crowds.

"What I tell the group before we go out is never lose the passion for not only music, but for friends and artists that share the love and enjoy what (music) is," Terry said.



DANIEL KOCH | Photographer

Senior Kelly Wardle sang "Wild at Heart" by Glorianna during her last concert with Twisted Measure. Wardle will graduate in December.



DANIEL KOCH | Photographer

Twisted Measure is Elon's co-ed a cappella group. It performed its annual Fall Concert on Oct. 4-5 in Yeager Recital Hall.

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW



## 'Assassins' acts as 'shooting test' for senior seminar group

Lauren Ramsdell  
Reviewer

What else would one expect from the man behind one of the bloodiest musicals of all time, "Sweeney Todd," than another rollicking good time full of bloodlust and murder? Stephen Sondheim did it again with "Assassins," a controversial musical picked up by the senior music theater majors for one of their seminar pieces.

"Assassins" features all of the major presidential assassins in U. S. history, beginning with John Wilkes Booth up until John Hinkley, attempted assassin of President Ronald Reagan.

Director and senior acting major Sarah Pace had to make the assassins believable characters, which meant drive behind their motives. She did extensive of research into the characters and claims it was some of the hardest work she completed during the production.

She said "Assassins" is possibly Sondheim's most controversial musical. But, "these people need their stories told, too," Pace said.

"Assassins" is set in a kind of alternate-reality carnival, where assassins and attempted assassins throughout the decades are free to mix and mingle and talk to each other about what makes them tick, or rather, what makes them want to shoot a president. Catering to the crowd at this twisted fair is the Proprietor, played with creepy deadpan by senior Paul H. Miller, who offers guns for sale to one and all.

The carnival feel extended outside of the Black Box Theatre, where cotton candy and other carnival goodies were for sale.

"It's a piece of Americana," Pace said. "But a broken America."

In contrast to the dirty and disjointed scenery, members of the ensemble wore muted tones of



LAUREN RAMSDELL | Photographer

The ensemble sings during their performance about how they were all able to save President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

white, representing the true America.

The set, lighting and sound were all spot-on when it came to setting the "creepy carnival" atmosphere. Though the music was pre-recorded, it was never overbearing as some canned music can be. All of the lyrics were heard loud and clear, meshing well with the accompanying background music.

All cast members played their parts well, but the standout was Charles Guiteau, assassin of President James Garfield, played by senior Teddy Scott. Guiteau's character could be manic one moment and deeply depressed the next, and Scott carried his weight without a single slip-up. Scott's performance of the dramatic lead up to the eventual hanging of Guiteau made the audience audibly gasp.

John Wilkes Booth, played by senior Christopher Wood, was the antagonist in the carnival. Sneaking up behind the people who would become assassins,

he would implore them to make something of their lives, to go down in history — to shoot a president.

The voice of reason was the Balladeer, who sang the stories of the assassins as they were introduced. Played by senior Eric Mann, he offered the glimmer of light many of the assassins missed in their own lives. But, as it is well known, history cannot be changed, and even despite the Balladeer's pleading, Booth won over all of the assassins — even a reluctant Lee Harvey Oswald.

"Assassins" could well have been a melodramatic piece, but in typical Sondheim style, bits of dark humor snuck through the solemn nature of the subject. One such scene involves Booth and attempted assassin of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Giuseppe Zangara. Zangara, played by senior Roy San Filippo, had a lifelong stomach ailment that made him a cranky, bitter man.

"Your stomach hurts?" Booth questioned. "Have you tried shooting the president?"

"No," Zangara replied. "Will that help?"

"Well, it can't hurt."

Sophomore acting major Amy McNabb said she enjoyed the experience of seeing "Assassins," and thought the senior class did a great job selecting the piece.

"It really rattles you up," she said.

On each night of the performance, admittance to the show was difficult to obtain, with lines beginning around an hour and a half before doors even opened. Every night, a substantial amount of students were turned away from the door, a testament to how well the senior seminar class did with the piece they chose.

Despite the touchy subject matter involved, "Assassins" and the senior musical theater seminar pulled off with aplomb what most companies would be too afraid to touch.

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW



# Ensemble group electrifies the stage

Rachel Southmayd  
Reviewer

"You may be right, I may be crazy," but it just might be the Elon Electric Ensemble. Elon students are looking for if they like music, talent and an all-around good time.

The show was a two-hour set of 23 well-known songs (and an additional much-called-for encore piece) from the past 40 years. The group got off to an energetic start with John Lennon's "Please, Please Me" and didn't let the energy level fall until the very last note of Lennon and Paul McCartney's "Hey Jude."

While all of the songs were excellent, some standout performances included John Mellencamp's "Jack and Diane," Sting's "Every Breath You Take" and Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Water." What made these songs great was the outstanding featured performers.

Junior vocalist Josh Carswell with junior Jacob Danieleley accompanying on acoustic guitar literally made this reviewer cry in "Bridge." The song raised the question, why in the world is Carswell still here at Elon instead of in a recording studio in New York or Hollywood? He is that good.

Junior Frank Hurd was also impressive with his strong vocals and accents of Lennon, Mellencamp and, most amusingly, Bob Dylan. He also played guitar and harmonica seamlessly while singing as front man for many of the songs.

Danieley proved his versatility by jumping from the piano to both acoustic and electric guitar, as well as leading on vocals in Neil Diamond's "I'm a Believer."



The Elon Electric Ensemble performed a two-hour set of energy-filled covers. RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | Photographer

Senior Stefan DiMuzio was also a major source of entertainment, jumping from keyboards to vocals and providing a very strong voice for Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive" and David Bowie's "Space Oddity," among others.

The lone female on the stage, senior Ashleigh Bauer, held her own. She had a commanding yet sweet persona and was a charming presence on a stage full of men. She demonstrated a pure yet powerful voice, especially in Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" and James Taylor's "Carolina in my Mind."

Seniors Mike Lobacz and Andrew Pressly were both excellent guitarists and shined during their solos. Juniors Chris Lorch and Adam Scalici also provided solid performances on the drums and bass, respectively.

This performance wouldn't have been as impressive if not for the excellent lighting design of

Matt Artigues and the very urban scenic design, with plain panels, a projected "e3" and hanging chain link fence.

The stage setup always reflected the mood of the song, with musicians either seated or standing, and no one ever upstaged the respective center of attention. The show truly looked and felt like a real rock concert.

The only thing that could have been added to the show would have been a heightened "performance level" from a few of the musicians.

If more people knew what an outstanding show the Electric Ensemble performed, McCrary Theatre would have been completely packed, and it would have been met with the demand for encore shows. It was an extremely pleasant surprise to encounter this performance, and the experience should have been shared with the entire student body because yes, it really was that good.

## fashionable voyages: TIPS OF THE TRADE for FASHIONABLE TRAVEL

Alexandra Johnston  
Columnist

The holidays are the perfect time to travel, whether that means going to see family and friends, or taking a much-needed ski or beach break. But travel can sometimes be stressful in the fashion department. What should you wear on the plane? How does one pack everything and still be able to lift that suitcase? Try these simple tips and tricks to ensure a happy holiday season.



Alexandra Johnston  
Fashion Columnist

**Make a list:** When getting ready to leave on a trip, start by making a list of the days and activities that will be taking place. Under each title, list what outfits and accessories are needed. Try

to create outfits that will use items multiple times in order to save space in the suitcase. Most pairs of pants and blazers can be worn more than once and accessories have infinite wear. Once the list is complete, head to the closet and pull out all the listed items, along with a suitcase to pack them in.

**Pack it up:** Pack shoes and heavier items at the bottom of the bag, as well as smaller items that can fill in the spaces between. Shoes with sizable holes in them, such as sneakers or boots, can be used to hold pairs of socks or small scarves to save space. Underwear and other small items will do well when packed in large, clear Ziploc bags with the air removed. This will ensure all items stay clean and fresh during travel. If all the items do not fit into the suitcase, look at the list again and purge excess items. Although it is best to be prepared for everything, packing a summer dress for the mountains isn't necessary, so be judgmental when deciding what to bring.

**Removing wrinkles:** Wrinkly clothes seem to be a given during travel. Clothes get packed tightly into suitcases without breathing room and come out virtually unwearable. Bringing along an iron is not a practical solution to the wrinkles, but something most women already own might be. While they have been dubbed "not for household use," hair straighteners are a great alternative to dragging along an iron. Not only are straighteners compact, but they are also a great way to smooth the hems of jeans and dresses that don't need a full iron. But a word of caution: straighteners without temperature control should not be used on delicate materials such as silks and synthetics, as the high heat will burn them.

**Plane and simple:** Air travel isn't exactly what it used to be. After going through security checks, it feels almost like getting dressed all over again. To avoid holding up the line for too long, consciously think about what to wear on the plane. One tip is to wear a pair of shoes that will be easy to get on and off. Slip-on flats or skimmers are great options, as are loose boots. Another important point about footwear is to always wear socks when traveling through security. Not only do socks keep feet warm, but they also prevent germs and other unsavory airport floor items from infecting the skin. Layers are key to warmth and comfort on the plane, but can be a hassle to remove in security. Try to leave space in a carry-on bag to store a jacket so it does not have to be screened separately.

While travel stress can be daunting, planning ahead will not only ensure everything gets along, but also makes planning to go on vacation a little easier for all. Try these tips this season when heading home, or away, for the holidays.

## CD REVIEW



# Christmas is a changin' with Dylan's new holiday album

Sophie Duensing  
Reviewer

On "Christmas in the Heart," Bob Dylan sings classic Christmas carols and remixes less traditional tunes. The first question that comes to mind when learning Dylan recorded a Christmas album is, "is he serious?"

Yes, Dylan is serious. But he's having a whole lot of fun, too.

Artists Tony Garnier and Donnie Herron join Dylan on the album. Adding to the Christmas spirit; all of the U.S. profits of the album will go to the hunger relief charity Feeding America, a reason to feel good about spending the \$7.99 it costs on iTunes.

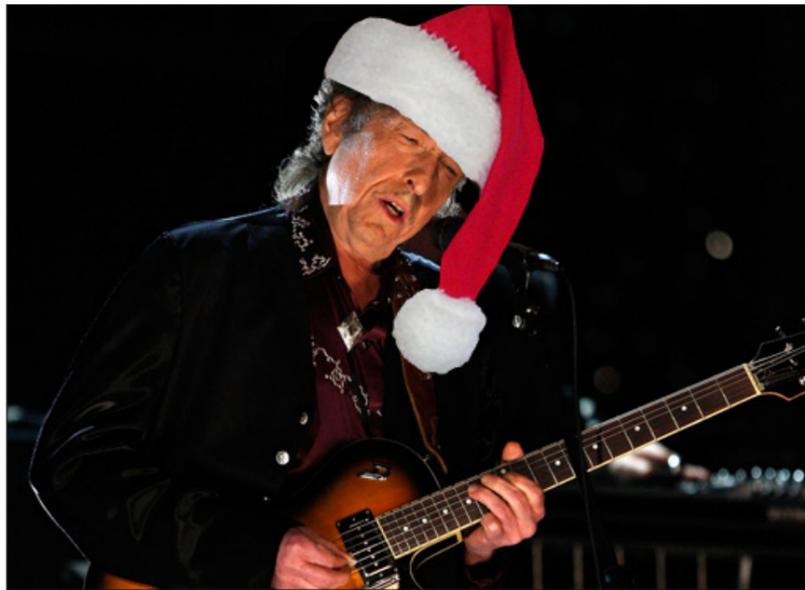
The album's single, "Must be Santa," is a festive polka jingle that sounds like it's great fun to dance to after several glasses of eggnog. Watch the music video — you'll want to be invited to Dylan's next Christmas party.

Dylan lists "Reagan, Bush and Clinton" as a few of Santa's "eight little reindeer." There's witty humor also present on the opening track of the album, "Here Comes Santa Claus."

It's easy to picture Dylan in the studio performing a holiday jig while recording. Background singers flirtatiously coo "Aloha" on "Christmas Island," a Hawaiian track Dylan gets "groovy" on.

Yet Dylan makes it clear his feelings toward Christmas run deeper than jolly debauchery. In "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O' Come All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)," there is sincerity to his voice that warms the heart more than sitting by the fireplace.

Dylan made news in the late 1970s with his widely publicized conversion from Judaism to Christianity. The honest, soulful feel of "Christmas in the Heart" shows Dylan is still strong in his faith.



Bob Dylan recently released his first Christmas album, "Christmas in the Heart." It is comprised of various Christmas carols with Dylan's own twist. PHOTO COURTESY OF NYMAG.COM

"Little Drummer Boy" is one of the best tracks on the album. His iconic voice sounds uncharacteristically soft, crooning an excellent "pa rum pum pum."

Dylan also does a great jazz version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," another noteworthy track. He breaks out the harmonica on "Christmas Blues," a blues tune that evokes visions of dancing next to a fireplace on Christmas Eve.

Dylan sounds older, raspier and out of breath on a few songs. Compared to other more traditional Christmas albums, the timing of the notes are quicker and shorter. For an aging musician who has been dubbed "the talking singer," Dylan sounds clear and makes up for lack of vocal range with a whole lot of soul (and a great set of backup singers). Yet the warmth

present on the album melts any possible criticism.

If you wanted a Christmas album for its impeccable vocal range, go buy the "Glee" cast's Christmas album.

For those already annoyed by Christmas music playing everywhere in the United States, "Christmas in the Heart" will get you in the holiday spirit.

Other respected rock 'n' roll artists have come out with Christmas albums, as well, such as My Morning Jacket in 2000 with "Xmas Fiasco Style."

Yet of all the new Christmas albums out this year, Dylan's is the one worth investing in. Dylan doing Christmas songs doesn't come along everyday. And besides, kissing under mistletoe is so much more fun when Dylan is playing in the background.



## ONE ON ONE

Christian Binder and Russell Varner  
Sports Commentators

### Tiger Woods faces controversy, college football season nears end

*One of the biggest stories of the past week revolved around Tiger Woods' accident and what has been going on in his personal life. Why doesn't Tiger just come out and say what happened? In this TMZ-driven world, should we respect Tiger's wishes and leave him and his family alone?*

**RUSSELL:**

We should absolutely leave Tiger alone. We really have no right to be dogging him endlessly to figure out what's going on with him and his family. I mean, what would've happened if we did this kind of stuff with Babe Ruth?

But I will admit doesn't help the situation when Tiger doesn't come out and say anything and keeps putting off interviews with police. He's handling this by doing everything he shouldn't. It makes no sense to me and is making this a much bigger story than it needs to be.

**CHRISTIAN:**

I completely agree. The only reason we heard about this and it's such a big deal is because the accident happened at 2:30 a.m. morning. That immediately raises questions but, contrary to popular belief, he is a person and he can do what he wants.

There are rumors circulating that he cheated on his wife (which he would be crazy to do in my opinion) and she chased him with a golf club, but what if he was going out to grab some ice cream or something?

Obviously there's something going on, given his statement, but still, leave the guy alone.

*We have now made it just one step closer to the end of the college football season with the announcement of the bowl games this past Sunday. Now that all the dust has settled and we know that it will be Texas and Alabama for the national championship, let's make some early game predictions.*

**RUSSELL:**

Well, first off, it looks like the Bowl Championship Series got it right this year. That makes them, what, two for nine now? Also, thank the Lord we won't have Tim Tebow in the championship game. Now we don't have to hear the 1,321 identical stories about how great he is.

Instead, we have to hear that about Colt McCoy. As for the game itself, Alabama is playing great right now. That defense is red hot and looks like it can stop anyone. If Texas had trouble moving on Nebraska's defense, they are going have some major trouble moving the ball against Alabama. I predict Alabama wins 23-10.

**CHRISTIAN:**

I agree that the BCS got it right. I'm most interested in seeing Texas Christian University play Boise State personally, and I think TCU will win that one. But as for the title game, I'm going to play devil's advocate and say Texas is going to win, just for the sake of argument.

McCoy is one of the best quarterbacks in college football, and Jordan Shipley has been a monster both receiving and returning. Not to take anything away from 'Bama, they have a great team, but I think Texas will pull this one out in the end. It's going to be a high-scoring affair, 31-24 Texas.

## ATHLETIC RESULTS

DEC. 2-DEC. 7

**Men's basketball**

Dec. 3

Elon 31

Samford 55

Dec. 5

Elon 82

Chattanooga 63

**Women's basketball**

Dec. 5

Elon 58

Georgia Southern 70

Dec. 7

Elon 50

College of Charleston 63

## SPORTS BRIEFS

**Baseball signs eight players to 2011 lineup**

Baseball head coach Mike Kennedy announced earlier this week that eight players have signed National Letters of Intent for the 2011 season.

Kennedy said he is looking to replace the players the team lost at the end of last season and those that may leave before the beginning of this season for the draft.

**Leonard announces three additions to next year's men's tennis team**

In the 2010-11 season, the men's tennis team will add three new players to its roster. One recruit boasts a five-star rating, while the other two hold four-star ratings.

Wesley Barrett (Cary, N.C.), Andrew Prince (Hastings Hudson, N.Y.) and Cameron Silverman (Mount Kisco, N.Y.) all rank in the top-150 in the nation, with Silverman sitting the highest at no. 40 in the country and No. 3 in the state of New York.

**Hudgins honored by the Socon in November**

Elon senior wide receiver Terrell Hudgins received the Southern Conference's Offensive Player of the Month award for November. This is the second time Hudgins has received the award this season. He first won in September.

## SPORTS THIS WEEK

DEC. 9-DEC. 16

**Dec. 13**

Men's basketball @ Wake Forest - 2 p.m.

Women's basketball @ Winston-Salem State - 2 p.m.

Check online on Thursday to hear Pam and Sam's last podcast of the semester



# U Donate. We Donate.

**Elon Dining Managers volunteered their time to work football concessions on two Saturdays to adopt families for the holidays. We collected meal swipes from Elon students during our Thanksgiving theme meals in the dining halls to adopt more families this year. Together, we collected over \$4000 to sponsor families through Christmas Cheer, a Burlington charity organization that helps local families in need. With deepest gratitude, we thank you for your generosity and kindness.**

**Happy holidays from your friends at Elon Dining Services.**



# Phoenix carries current momentum to matchups with ACC opponents

Conor O'Neill  
Reporter

The Phoenix men's basketball team started last weekend's road trip with a dismal 55-31 loss at Samford University. After that, the team had only 48 hours to prepare for its next game.

On Saturday the Phoenix routed last year's Southern Conference Tournament champion University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 82-63, which was the team's last game before heading to Winston-Salem, N.C., to take on Atlantic Coast Conference opponent Wake Forest.

Leading the balanced Phoenix scoring attack was junior guard Chris Long with 20 points. Senior forward Adam Constantine and sophomore forward Drew Spradlin also contributed with 14 points each.

The victory against the Mocs gives the Phoenix something to show for its work in the season so far.

"Saturday's win was a very important win for our team," head coach Matt Matheny said. "It gives the team a chance to see that their hard work is paying off."

Constantine said it was extremely important for the Phoenix to earn a SoCon victory on the road. Last season, the Phoenix went 2-8 on the road in the SoCon.

"It doesn't matter where we play," Constantine said. "Every conference victory matters, especially games away from (Alumni Gym)."

The game also meant the end of a four game losing streak.

The next two games for the Phoenix will be against ACC opponents — Wake Forest on Sunday and North Carolina State on Dec. 17.

With no games on the slate between Saturday's victory and the matchup

with the Demon Deacons, Matheny's team has a chance to catch their breath.

The Phoenix practices five times before the game against Wake Forest, which is the longest stretch of practices for the Phoenix since the season began.

"It allows us to go back and reemphasize the basic fundamentals of our offense and defense," Matheny said. "We can go back to our simple drills so that we can polish up."

Matheny said the week of practice will allow his coaching staff the opportunity to review film and correct minute details.

Some emphasis in practices will be on free throw shooting and rebounding, Matheny said. The Phoenix is shooting a paltry 64 percent from the line, and is being outrebounded by 5.6 rebounds per game.

Practicing for a week after a win means the team's spirits will be elevated, sophomore guard Josh Bonney said.

"Our spirits will be up, but we try to bring the same amount of energy (to) every practice," Bonney said.

Matheny said he will do his best to make sure that the Phoenix does not get too far ahead of itself.

"There are a lot of smiling faces right now because our immediate memory is of a very good team effort on Saturday," Matheny said. "When we went in the film room to watch Saturday's game, our first 20 clips were examples of how we're getting better. And then our next 40 clips were mistakes that we made on Saturday."

By watching clips of mistakes made in a 19-point victory, Matheny is continuing to work toward the Phoenix's season goal of getting better every day.



FILE PHOTO  
Junior guard Chris Long, left, goes up for a shot in the Nov. 16 loss against University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In the game against The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Long had 20 points and nine assists to help propel Elon to a 82-63 victory.

## MISSING A YEAR:

# Hovatter's love of the game keeps her positive



FILE PHOTO  
In Elon's Dec. 14 loss to the Naval Academy, sophomore guard Kallie Hovatter looks to push past Midshipman defenders toward the hoop. Hovatter is a sophomore transfer student who, after sitting out all of last year, has played in all seven of Elon's games so far this season.

Justine Schulerud  
Staff Photographer

When women's basketball player Kallie Hovatter puts on the Elon uniform and laces up her shoes, she approaches the court a bit differently than her other teammates. This is Hovatter's first season actually playing with the Phoenix, despite being an academic junior.

Hovatter was a sophomore transfer from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa., last year.

According to NCAA rules, Hovatter was forced to sit out a season after arriving at Elon. Despite staying on the bench during her sophomore year, she still had an instant impact on the team, head coach Karen Barefoot said.

Hovatter said her family has had a huge impact on her basketball career.

Influenced by her father and older sister, she had a basketball in her hand for most of her life.

Hovatter has worn the number four throughout her entire basketball career. She said it represents her family because she is one of four children. Also, she plays the game for four main reasons — passion, energy, reward and the love of the game.

Growing up on a farm in Mt. Jackson, Va., Hovatter developed a work ethic long before she stepped onto the court.

"You get your hands dirty, and you got to do that in games sometimes, too, especially with defense," Hovatter said. "You don't stop until the job gets done. You don't ever stop."

Hovatter even compared the team to a farm.

She said last year, the team was in harvest season, and the stock was emerging. This year, they are blasting into the mix of things.

Hovatter has not just made an impact at Elon, but also back home in her community. Coming from a small town where many people attend local schools or do not go to college at all, Hovatter was one of the first athletes to receive a Division I scholarship.

"It was a big deal for me to move forward and receive a DI scholarship," Hovatter said.

She received many honors throughout high school, including being named a three-time

Virginia Player of the Year. She also led her high school team to back-to-back appearances in the semi-final rounds of the Virginia State tournament and holds multiple personal records at her high school, including setting the single-game scoring record with 43 points and leading all players, both men and women, with 2,100 points and 1,000 assists.

Hovatter received multiple scholarship offers, but narrowed down her final selection to St. Joseph's University and the University of Virginia. She picked St. Joseph's with the desire to get out of the Virginia area, but after being there for a year, she knew it was not the right place for her.

"I'm a Southern girl, and the North wasn't the place for me," Hovatter said. "It was definitely a culture shock. I tried it out, and it didn't work."

Hovatter also said the matchup of the team did not fit her playing style. She soon began searching for something more.

Because she had been recruited by Barefoot's previous employer, Old Dominion University in Virginia, Barefoot already knew about Hovatter. When Hovatter heard Barefoot was starting another program elsewhere, she was interested in finding out more.

As soon as the word reached Barefoot that Hovatter was looking for somewhere to transfer, the head coach said she knew she would have to take action quickly because Hovatter would begin receiving many offers once again.

The biggest challenge Hovatter said she faced with the transfer process was having to sit out a season.

Despite not being able to play all season, she still brought a fresh energy to the team.

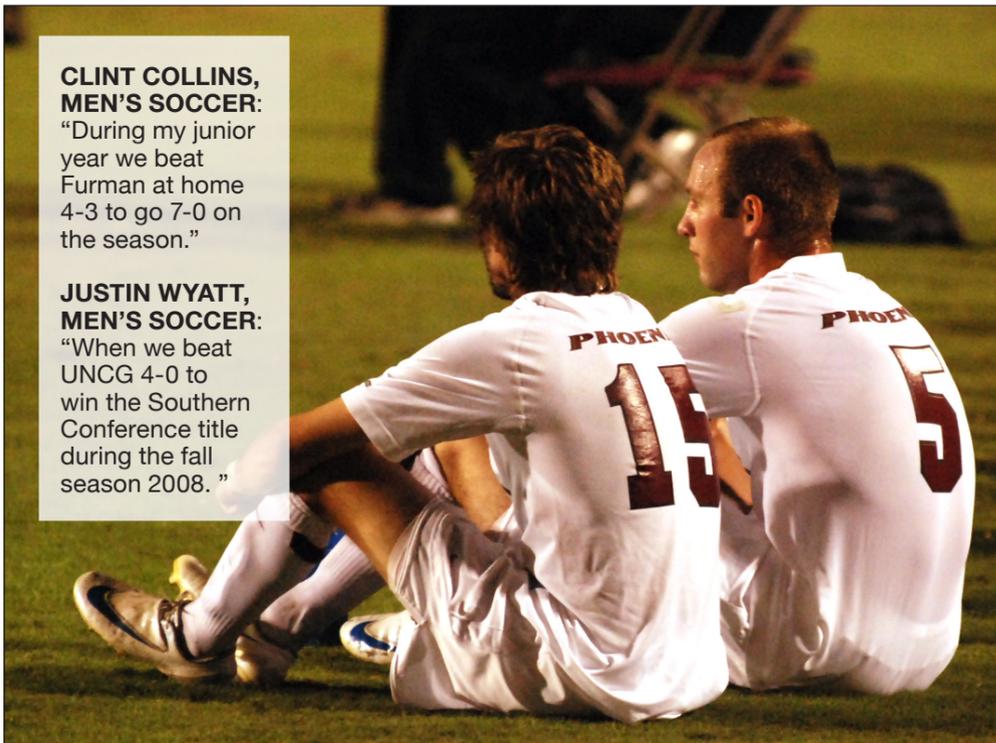
"She was our sparkplug, and she wasn't even playing," Barefoot said.

Because she could not travel with the team last year, Hovatter made a conscious effort to make it to every away game. At one game, she was even yelled at for being too loud by the referee.

"On and off the court, she brings a lot of energy," sophomore teammate Aiesha Harper said. "She can relate to every single one of us. She is such a positive person and that spreads throughout the team."

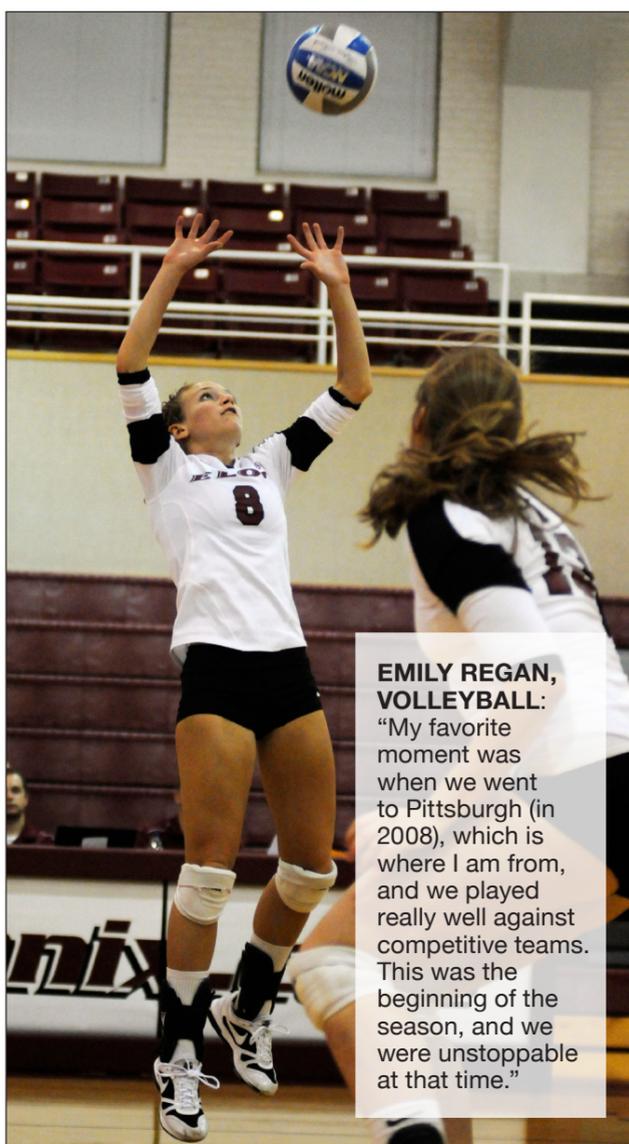
# SENIOR MEMORIES

Compiled by Pam Richter, Sam Calvert, Justine Schulerud and Jordan Scahill  
Executive Editors and Reporters

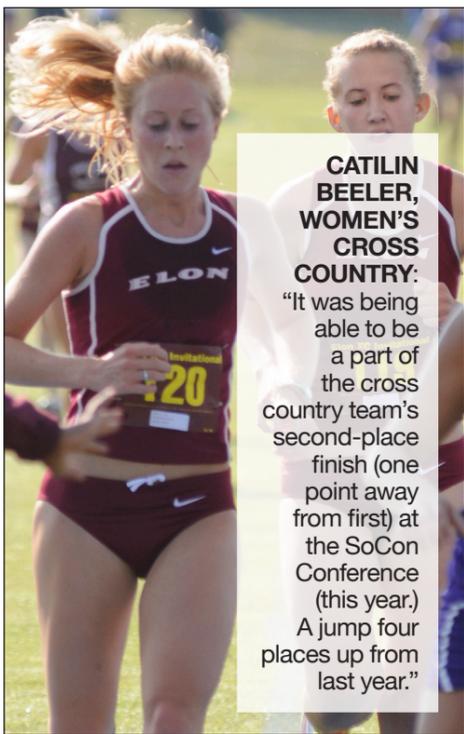


**CLINT COLLINS, MEN'S SOCCER:**  
"During my junior year we beat Furman at home 4-3 to go 7-0 on the season."

**JUSTIN WYATT, MEN'S SOCCER:**  
"When we beat UNCG 4-0 to win the Southern Conference title during the fall season 2008."



**EMILY REGAN, VOLLEYBALL:**  
"My favorite moment was when we went to Pittsburgh (in 2008), which is where I am from, and we played really well against competitive teams. This was the beginning of the season, and we were unstoppable at that time."



**CATILIN BEELER, WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY:**  
"It was being able to be a part of the cross country team's second-place finish (one point away from first) at the SoCon Conference (this year.) A jump four places up from last year."



**SYDNEY LITTLE, WOMEN'S SOCCER:** "The girls here are absolutely amazing. We all have a lot fun with each other. Really good family this year. Really good time with each. Bus trips are great. Overall experience getting to meet these girls and able to play with."

**ALIX HEINICKE, WOMEN'S SOCCER (BELOW):** "I feel really blessed to have the opportunity to play all four years. It is really neat how everybody had different personalities and attributes to offer and blended them together to make one team. I thought the environment was really great. I feel very blessed to play for Elon and to have met all these girls."



**MOLLY CALPIN, WOMEN'S SOCCER (LEFT):**  
"I would have to say beating Furman at home this year. We beat them in double overtime with 18 seconds to go. That was a team that we haven't beaten since we were in the Southern Conference."



# Recapping the fall sports season

Pam Richter and Sam Calvert  
Executive Editors

## Team: Football

**Record this season:** 9-3 overall, 7-1 Southern Conference

**Record last season:** 8-4 overall, 6-2 SoCon

**Longest winning streak:** Six games from Sept. 26 to Nov. 7

**Highlight:** At the end of the season, the Phoenix received an at-large bid to the Division I NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. This was the first time the team reached the postseason since joining the FCS in 1999. Elon was defeated in the first round by No. 4 University of Richmond by a score of 16-13.

**Overall result:** With a win against Samford University in the last game of the season, Elon secured its ninth win of the year. This was the first time the team recorded a nine-win season since 1999. At the end of the regular season, the Phoenix was ranked ninth in the country and received an at-large bid to the FCS playoffs.

**Seniors:** 14



## Team: Men's Cross Country

**Highlight:** Elon junior Justin Gianni ran a school-record time of 25:39 at the Louisville Classic in Louisville, Ky. His time of 25:39 was good enough for a 90th-place finish out of 334 participants. Gianni then broke the 10K school record at the Southeast Regional with a time of 32:10.93.

**Overall result:** At the regional meet, the Phoenix finished 20th overall. In the Southern Conference championship, the Phoenix finished fifth overall. The team started its season with a first-place finish at the first-ever Elon Invitational.

**Seniors:** Three



## Team: Women's soccer

**Record this season:** 12-5-2 overall, 7-3-1 Southern Conference

**Record last season:** 8-8-3 overall, 4-6-1 SoCon

**Longest winning streak:** Five games from Sept. 18 to Oct. 2.

**Highlight:** The five-game win streak is the longest for an Elon women's soccer team since the 1996 season. The Phoenix started the season 6-2-1 overall and 2-0-0 in the conference, which was also the best start by an Elon team since 1996. It was the first time an Elon team has started conference play at 2-0.

**Overall result:** In the last game of the regular season, the women's soccer team lost to UNC Greensboro. With the loss, the Phoenix dropped to fifth in the conference and narrowly missed the playoffs. If the team had won the game, it would have clinched its first-ever conference title.

**Seniors:** Six



## Team: Volleyball

**Record this season:** 23-8 overall, 9-7 Southern Conference

**Record last season:** 19-16 overall, 8-10 SoCon

**Longest winning streak:** Eleven games from Aug. 28 to Sept. 18

**Highlight:** The team started off the season 11-0 before dropping its first match of the season to Georgia State University on Sept. 19. Elon only allowed its first 11 opponents to win five total sets and shut out seven teams. The Phoenix recorded just more than 42 kills per match and 36.8 assists per game in its 11-game winning streak.

**Overall result:** The Phoenix finished third in the North division of the SoCon, just missing the playoffs because of the new format for the conference tournament. Elon concluded its season behind Samford University and Appalachian State University in the North division. The team's record placed sixth overall in the SoCon.

**Seniors:** Three



FILE PHOTOS

## Team: Men's soccer

**Record this season:** 10-8-2 overall, 4-2-0 Southern Conference

**Record last season:** 10-9-1 overall, 7-0-0 SoCon

**Longest winning streak:** Three games from Sept. 13 - 19 and from Oct. 3 - 10

**Highlight:** This season the Phoenix made a key addition to the team in freshman Chris Thomas. In prep school play, Thomas received many awards, including the 2008-09 Gatorade Georgia Boy's Soccer Player of the Year and the 2009 Georgia High School State Player of the Year. He was also named one of ESPN RISE's boy's soccer player of the week in his senior year of high school and was chosen as part of the 2009 ESPN RISE spring high school boys' soccer All-America first team.

**Overall result:** Elon entered the SoCon playoffs as the No. 3 seed, playing No. 2 College of Charleston. With a 2-0 victory against the Cougars, the team moved on to the conference finals against No. 1 Wofford College. The Phoenix was defeated in the title game 2-1.

**Seniors:** Seven



## Team: Women's Cross Country

**Highlight:** The women's cross country team was ranked No. 15 in the Southeast Region going into the regional meet. The team was led by senior Caitlin Beeler, who finished seventh in the Southern Conference championship meet with a time of 15:54.55.

The team also finished second in the conference. **Overall result:** The Phoenix finished second in the SoCon, which was the team's best finish. It also finished one point behind Samford University, which won its first SoCon Championship this year.

**Seniors:** Two



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# Sports

## FREE THROW SHOOTING

### THE 15-FOOT SHOT WITH NO DEFENSE

Story by Conor O'Neill  
Reporter  
Photos by David Wells  
Photo Editor

It's an old adage that seems to be reiterated in every game on TV: "Free throws win basketball games." Even those who are tired of the saying cannot deny the validity of the quote.

If a team is winning late in a game, its players will be fouled and sent to the free-throw line in an attempt to put away the opponent. By contrast, the team that is losing sends opposing players to the line in hopes that the players will miss 15-foot, uncontested shots, which happens a lot more often than it should.

But is there too much work that goes into a free throw? Today's players, from professional to recreational, sometimes put more effort into a pre-shot routine than into the actual shot. Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas can be seen taking the ball around his back and dribbling once for every person close to him before attempting a foul shot.

Elon senior forward Adam Constantine, sophomore guard Josh Bonney and head coach Matt Matheny walk us through the difficulties of shooting a free throw.

## ROUTINES SIZE DOESN'T MATTER

**BONNEY:**  
"Take a deep breath, try to calm myself down. When you're running up and down the court for three or four minutes, sometimes you need to settle down. The deep breath helps if it's a late game situation with a lot of pressure. Dribble twice and spin the ball back against my hand, then shoot."

**CONSTANTINE:**  
"It's all about getting into a routine. I just keep it simple with one hand behind my back. One thing I do is make a hand gesture of 'I love you' in sign language to my grandmother, who has cancer."

**BONNEY — WHO IS SECOND ON THE TEAM BEHIND CONSTANTINE — ON HOW HE GETS TO THE RIM AS OFTEN AS A GUARD:** "Just being aggressive and always attacking the rim. Our system is designed for guards to attack. Coach Matheny is always encouraging us to drive to the basket because good things happen, and most of the time, they're going to hit you."

## TOO MUCH?

**CONSTANTINE ON WHETHER SOME ROUTINES ARE TOO EXTRAVAGANT:**  
"Some people certainly do it for show. But if your free throw percentage is high enough and you can back it up, then I guess you can do whatever you want."

## THE FUTURE

**MATHENY ON PHOENIX FREE THROW DIFFICULTY:**  
"Our biggest obstacle is simple: We just have to make more. We're a good free throw shooting team. If you combine our early practices with our exhibition games, we were shooting about 85 or 90 percent as a team. In practice we changed our free throw shooting routine so that it's not monotonous. And we really try to treat every practice free throw that we take as a game-like situation."

## THE STEPS TO NOTHING BUT NET

**JOSH BONNEY**  
SOPHOMORE  
GUARD #0

