



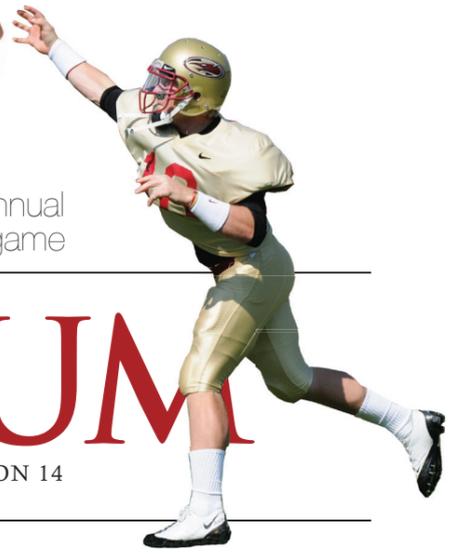
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THE PENDULUM

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University prepares response measures for swine flu threat

Rachel Cieri Features Editor

Reacting to more than 40 cases appearing across the country, Elon University officials are taking precautionary measures in case the swine flu hits campus.

The emergency response team and safety committee met Monday to review plans to deal with the threat of a pandemic. The university prepared pandemic response plans more than three years ago in response to a similar bird flu scare.

The R.N. Ellington Health Center is also taking a few precautions, although staff said the community is not at any immediate risk. Students who experience flu-like symptoms can come to the health center for evaluation, and they will be asked to wear a surgical mask in the waiting room to prevent the virus from spreading.

SYMPTOMS CHECKLIST

Symptoms of the swine flu are said to be similar to the regular human seasonal influenza:

- Fever Lethargy Lack of appetite Coughing Runny nose Sore throat Nausea Vomiting Diarrhea

Flu test results will also be sent to the local and state health departments for monitoring.

ARAMARK will also take extra precautionary steps in handling food to prevent the spread of disease in dining halls.

According to Assistant Vice President for Student Life Jana Lynn Patterson, the university has made arrangements with local health authorities to have

medications delivered to Elon should an outbreak occur.

"We don't have to worry about getting 5,000 people to the health department," Patterson said.

If an outbreak of the swine flu does occur on campus, the university will be following direction from the state and local health authorities to take the proper response steps.

"If there is a case anywhere in North Carolina, we'll escalate our surveillance," Patterson said. "(The swine flu) seems to be hopping around the country with no natural progression, which is perplexing. When students come to health services, we'll ask them if they've traveled to Mexico or Kansas recently, and if they've flown."

Elon health services has been a leader in the state in developing precautionary measures and response preparations, Patterson said.

The level of threat posed to the campus is still uncertain as officials gauge the disease's impact and spread.

A mutation of an animal influenza strain, swine flu is defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as respiratory disease of pigs. Until last month, only 12 cases of the disease had been documented in humans in the United States during the past four years, but a recent lethal outbreak in Mexico is causing international alarm.

The World Health Organization said it had "pandemic potential," and the Department of Homeland Security has declared the outbreak a public health emergency.

The swine flu has health experts concerned because it seems to be passed from human to human, as well as pig to human or pig to pig. While the closest infections are still several states away, the CDC recommends taking a few extra precautions to stay healthy.

Swine Flu

Swine flu is a respiratory disease that infects pigs but also people, typically those who have been in contact with pigs.

Symptoms in humans

People-to-people transmission is through coughing, sneezing

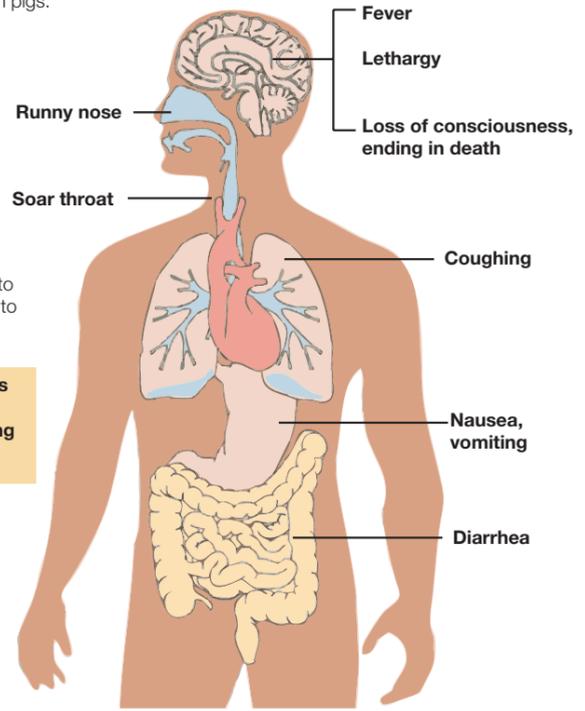
Incubation time

5-10 days

When flu spreads

person-to-person, rather than from animals to humans, it can continue to mutate, making it harder to treat or fight off

There are no vaccines that contain current swine flu virus causing illness in humans



INFORMATION COURTESY OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

MARGEUX CORBY | Graphic

Anyone who sneezes or coughs should hold a tissue to his or her mouth and throw the tissue away after using it. Individuals should wash his or her hands frequently and avoid touching one's eyes, nose or mouth.

People are asked to avoid contact with anyone who is sick and to stay home if they become ill. Anyone with flu-like symptoms should report to the health center for an examination.

The swine flu is not caught by eating pork, a common misconception. The virus is killed like any other germs when the meat is cooked at 160 degrees or higher.

Because the virus can be passed from pigs to humans, areas like pig barns and livestock exhibits with pigs at fairs could be some of the riskiest places in terms of susceptibility.

While there have been more than 100 deaths in Mexico, the toll in the United States has not been nearly so severe. No one has died, and the illness is much

like a regular flu.

The main cause for alarm is the sudden spike in numbers of a disease for which there is no vaccination and about which not much is known.

Patterson encourages students to pay attention and not panic.

An outbreak of the Spanish influenza swept the Town of Elon in 1918, according to Durward Stoke's 1982 book, "Elon College: It's History and Traditions."

The book said the sickness hit the university straight on.

Around 300 students were affected, a makeshift hospital with cots was constructed in the gym and the extremely sick were taken to and stayed at the president's house, the book said.

A student who died from the illness is still buried in Magnolia Cemetery, which is located across from the intramural fields next to the railroad tracks.



Media Services student worker sophomore Elizabeth Dobbins, left, aids a peer with finding a lost flash drive in the library. Instead of cutting jobs, Media Services adjusted the hours students work to fit into the means of their reduced budget.

Budget cuts cost some students jobs

Andie Diemer Editor-in-Chief

As university departments across campus attempt to accommodate next year's 2 percent decrease in operational funds, some programs have scaled back their student work force to meet the tighter university budget requirements.

While the department reallocations transverse all budget lines, not just one specific area, each program can choose how to arrange its budget, said Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology.

He said within every department student workers are hired, so it is up to each department to decide the future of student jobs when adjusting the budget.

So far, no jobs at the Writing Center have been cut, said Paula Rosinski, Writing Center director and English professor.

But one program that's been deeply impacted, also located in the library, is the e.l.i.t.e (Emerging Leaders in Technology at Elon) Program, which assists the campus with technological and software

problems and concerns.

Kelly Reimer, coordinator of the e.l.i.t.e Program, said there is a finite amount of resources at Elon and e.l.i.t.e's current budget is bigger than the budget it will be working with next year so adjustments had to be made.

"We had to figure out the best way to provide services within our means," Reimer said.

She said this means reallocating resources in a different way to fit within the budget, which for the e.l.i.t.e Program means cutting back student workers.

The e.l.i.t.e Program, which currently has a student force of around 30, staffs the Instructional Technology Services office, the Student Technology Center and the front desk in the library. The group also makes "house calls" to different parts of campus to assist the community with technological needs as part of its "Techies on Tour" program.

In light of the declining economy and slimmed down budget, only about a dozen e.l.i.t.e workers will staff the Student Technology Center next fall.

See JOBS | PAGE 6



DIGGING IN

Kernodle Center hosts Elon's annual Service Day

PHOTOS BY BRYCE LITTLE | Staff Photographer



(left to right) Seniors Rob Antona and Jeff Benjamin and junior Kyle Klauder work hard in Saturday's midday heat to finish weeding Timberlake Farms' spring garden.



(left to right) Junior Molly Costigan, senior Zach Smith and junior Kelsey Miller plant flowers around the Smith Elementary entrance sign. Ten organizations took part in Service Day and worked on and completed projects all over Alamance County.



ABOVE Heavy lifting was needed at Smith Elementary before senior Zach Smith could put add mulch to a small garden around the school's sign.

LEFT Senior Rob Antona rests beside a day full of weeds that he and other Elon students helped pull at Timberlake Farms.



Non-Elon volunteer Angela McDuffie, left, watches Elon junior Morgan Wallace as she tries to attract customers to the Allied Churches yard sale.



Juniors Craig Orsi, left, and Morgan Wallace stand on Church Street Saturday morning holding signs to support the Allied Churches of Alamance County Yard Sale.

The Fire of the Carolinas is currently searching for new, enthusiastic participants

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Educational funding

Colleges support tuition aid for undocumented students

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

Immigration has been vehemently debated at the local level in recent months, but a new endorsement by groups of colleges and universities has shifted the focus back to reform at the federal level.

College Board, a non-profit organization composed of more than 5,400 educational institutions, released a report last week stressing the need for federal legislation that would allow illegal immigrants to receive in-state college tuition, financial aid and legal status.

"The College Board's mission is to connect students to college opportunity and success, with a focus on equity and excellence in education," said Jennifer Topiel, executive director of communications at College Board. "The plight of undocumented students is an issue that affects our members in both K-12 and higher ed, many of whom are deeply concerned about the barriers in place for these students. Our research shows that higher education yields significant rewards to its recipients and society as a whole."

The board said illegal immigrants' ability to receive higher education and contend for better-paying jobs would increase tax revenue and consumer spending, therefore helping the nation's economy.

"A RAND study showed that a 30-year-old Mexican immigrant woman who graduates from college will pay \$5,300 more in taxes and cost \$3,900 less in government expenses each year than if

she had dropped out of high school," Topiel said. "This amounts to an annual fiscal benefit of more than \$9,000 every year, money that can be used to pay for the education of others."

The report was released by the board, according to Topiel, to add its support to the DREAM Act legislation, which has previously been passed in the Senate but failed to become a law.

Under the DREAM Act, illegal immigrants who enter the U.S. as children, defined as age 15 and younger and have lived here for five years could apply to the Homeland Security Department for conditional legal status after graduating from high school.

Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and Oklahoma prohibit illegal immigrants from paying in-state tuition rates, South Carolina bans illegal immigrants from enrolling at any of its public colleges and Alabama does not allow illegal immigrants in any of the state's two-year colleges.

Several groups are opposed to such legislation, with Americans for Legal Immigration Political Action Committee (ALIPAC) at the forefront of the battle.

"It will lead to more illegal immigration," said William Gheen, president of the North Carolina-based ALIPAC. "Recent polls show that Americans don't want illegal immigrants in our schools and definitely not at in-state tuition rates."

According to the board's findings, about 10 states that offer tuition aid to illegal



Immigration policy is a hot issue for Alamance residents such as Sammy Moser, who participated in the April 14 rally supporting federal immigration laws that make it more difficult for immigrants to enter the U.S. illegally.

immigrants generally saw increased college revenue by enrolling additional illegal students, rather than financial burdens caused by the entry of immigrants paying cheaper tuition.

"Every place they've tried DREAM Act-type legislation, the bill's been defeated," Gheen said. "This is because of massive public opposition. American families are paying out the butt for homes and decent school systems."

The only federal law addressing this issue specifically is the 1982 Supreme Court decision ruling that states illegal immigrants are entitled to a public education from kindergarten

through high school.

Currently, there is no federal legislation concerning education after high school.

The College Board found that about 360,000 illegal immigrants with high school diplomas could qualify for tuition aid. It also said 715,000 young illegal immigrants would be motivated to finish high school and pursue a collegiate degree knowing aid could be received.

"In our globalized world, the multilingual and bicultural skills and contributions of these students are more important than ever to the success and international competitiveness of the United States," Topiel said.

N.C. budget torn between public and private education systems

Laura Smith
News Editor

One of the issues facing the North Carolina budget this year is education. A debate with its roots seeded in history has surfaced again with Gov. Beverly Perdue's recent budget proposal. This debate is whether the university system or the public school system should take priority when it comes to the budget.

Perdue proposed a budget that focuses on secondary and elementary education, while the Senate has proposed one that focuses on the University of North Carolina system.

Perdue's budget would protect secondary and elementary schools, but would cut \$167 million from the UNC system. The Senate's budget would only cut \$35 million from the UNC system but would increase the size of secondary and elementary classrooms by an average of two students.

This debate is reflective of the individuals involved in the decision.

Perdue is a former teacher and a supporter of the N.C. Association of Educators. Senate leader Marc Basnight is a legislative enthusiast of the UNC system and is close to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill President Erskine Bowles.

"UNC Greensboro knows it's going to have some cuts," said Steve Gilliam, assistant vice chancellor of University Relations at UNC G. "We fall back on the amount we were asked to prepare for."

Gilliam said UNC G has a plan to deal

with cuts up to 7 percent.

"Some are vacant and some are filled," he said. "We're hoping for the best."

All UNC campuses have made these one-time budget reductions of 7 percent. This is roughly \$36 million for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I was not surprised that Governor Perdue had to make some very difficult decisions in order to balance her proposed state budget," Bowles said in a statement. "North Carolina is fortunate to have a governor who is willing to do her homework and make the tough calls — even the ones I may not like."

UNC Chapel Hill has asked Gov. Perdue for funding for enrollment growth, adequate funding for need-based financial aid as well as keeping budgets cuts only to 5 percent and make them non-recurring.

UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp described the university's move to make these cuts.

"Given the state's estimated \$3.4 billion budget shortfall, it's not in the university's best interest to delay the tough decisions required in making cuts for next fiscal year," he said. "The longer we wait to enact inevitable cuts, the deeper the cuts likely would be."

As of now, these cuts have been made in the Area Health and Education Centers Program in programs, operations and staffing.

In elementary and secondary education, employees are aware changes will be made in this sector as well.

"The basis for kids being successful later on is determined by grades K-12,"

Alamance County School System Superintendent Randy Bridges said.

While Bridges sees the importance of the K-12 education, he also said there must be a balance between the two budget decisions.

"I think we have to be advocates for both," he said. "You have to send kids to a rigorous K-12 process, but if you can't afford to send them to a quality university, I don't think you can separate them."

The school system is realistic about the cuts.

"We all know that our budgets will be cut," Bridges said. "We're looking at all the options."

This debate in North Carolina has been in action since the 1920s. At that time, the state began putting money into UNC Chapel Hill in order to increase the prominence of the university to a national level.

This money created Research Triangle Park, heightening the economy. It also benefited the state since it is cheaper to build a first-rate university system than it is to build a first-class statewide public school system.

According to North Carolina State University economist Michael Walden in a McClatchy News Service article, growth in university spending has exceeded spending on the state's public schools.

From 1972 to 2005, the proportion of income spent on North Carolina grades K-12 remained about the same, below the national average, but the state was above average in spending on the university system in 1972.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Elon announces 2009 Lumen Scholars

The university named 13 sophomores as recipients of the Lumen Prize. The award comes with a \$15,000 scholarship to support their research proposals and academic achievements.

The winners include Andrew Black, Amanda Clark, Kaitlyn Fay, Taylor Foshee, Christopher Jarrett, Elizabeth Leman, Maggie Pahos, Caroline Peckells, Anthony Rizzuto, Molly Strayer, Amber Woods, McKenzie Young and Renee Zale.

Upcoming documentary film and AIDS walk

Join the Student Global AIDS Campaign at 8 p.m. Thursday in Oaks 201 for the showing of the documentary "Blood Lines," followed by a short discussion.

On Saturday the group will participate in the AIDS Walk in Raleigh.

Visit to the Islamic Center of Raleigh

On Saturday the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life will sponsor a visit to the Islamic Center of Raleigh.

The visit will consist of a Middle Eastern lunch, a tour of the center, a presentation and Q & A session with the presiding Imam and an opportunity to observe a piece of Muslim worship.

The event is free and will leave at 10:30 a.m. and return to Elon around 5:00 p.m. Contact Shane Morris at smorris6@elon.edu.

Pie Your Professor

Alpha Phi Omega, Elon's service fraternity, will host Pie Your Professor at College Coffee May 5.

The fundraiser will benefit Doctors Without Borders and will take place on the Center of the Arts side of Moseley.

Tickets buy one pie launch. They each cost \$1 before the event and \$2 during.

Tunnel of Oppression

At 6 p.m. on May 5, Diversity Emerging Education Program will host the third annual Tunnel of Oppression.

The interactive tour will take place in the Greek Courts and will give viewers a chance to experience life through various simulations of oppressions.

CORRECTIONS

The front-page photograph on the April 22 story "Time Warner shelves plans for monitored Internet" was wrongly attributed to Laura Smith. Staff photographer Lindsay Fendt took it.

There is a correction to the April 22 story "Sustainability at Elon." The Eco-Reps Program will begin next fall and the application deadline to be an Eco-Rep has passed. Interested students should look for application announcements next spring.

Carolínians hit hard by economy

After President Obama's first 100 days in office, residents of North and South Carolina still waiting to see improvement

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

Although divided by geographical lines, both North and South Carolínians have been united by national economic woes that have resulted in the loss of retirement plans, medical coverage and jobs.

According to the April 19-23 Elon poll, 45 percent of respondents witnessed a quarter or more of their retirement plans vanish, 16 percent no longer receive medical coverage and 13 percent are unemployed.

"A lot of people have been disappointed and they're starting to see the kind of president they have voted for," said Nick Oschner, president of Elon's College Republicans.

While personal effects caused by the current recession have been felt by a majority of Carolínians, 48 percent of poll respondents believe the stimulus package will help the U.S. economy.

Daniel Shutt, president of Elon's College Democrats, said President Barack Obama's efforts during the economic decline are akin to those made by leaders during the Great Depression.

"When it comes to substance, I think you have to go back to Franklin Roosevelt to find a president who has taken as active a role as he has

getting our economy back on track," Shutt said. "He's not just talking about fixing the economy, but he's been willing to take very strong measures to strengthen our economy again. I think people have a lot of confidence in what he's done."

Although nearly half of Carolínians believe the stimulus package will deter the financial decline, 46 percent remain in opposition to the package and 52 percent oppose a second federal stimulus effort.

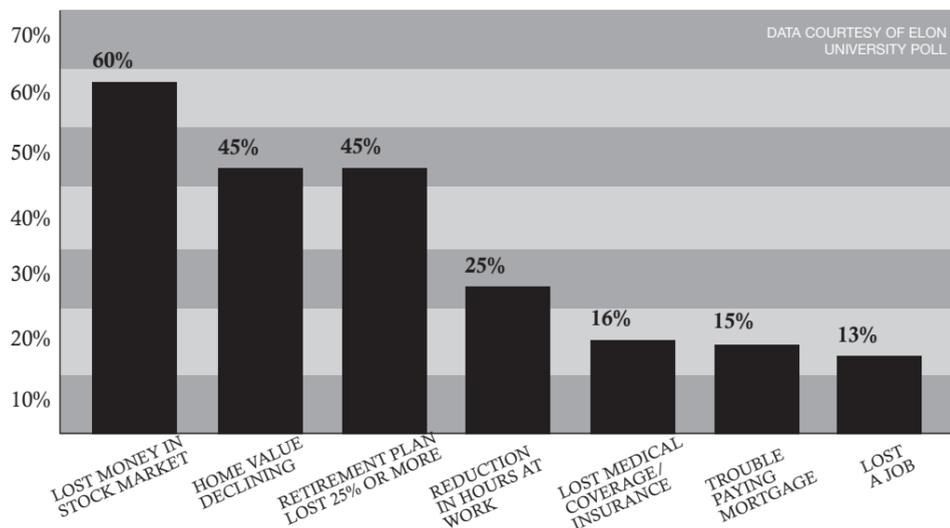
Oschner said such tenuous support is the result of an administration indifferent to public concerns.

"The way that any president gets good approval ratings is by enacting policies that the American public favors and feel that betters the country, and he didn't do that to his response to the economic crisis," Oschner said. "In certain instances, Obama has pushed his own agenda and not listened to the people."

Residents of both states believe the federal government has spent too much on auto companies and financial institutions, and 75 percent of respondents believe too much financial support has been given to large banks.

In contrast, 68 percent of those polled thought too little was spent on small business owners and 48 percent believed more funding should

PERSONAL EFFECTS OF ECONOMY ON CAROLINIANS



have gone toward homeowners facing foreclosure.

"It's easy for us to forget the sheer magnitude of the policy decisions Obama has made," Shutt said. "He has done more in the first 100 days than many presidents do in their whole term."

At the state level, South Carolínians disapprove of Gov. Mark Sanford's initial decision to not take the federal stimulus money, and 63 percent of respondents would advise him to accept the money. Sanford

has made headlines as of late because of his rejection of \$700 million in federal aid.

The Palmetto State governor has threatened to reject up to 25 percent of South Carolina's stimulus funds unless the state legislature sets a matching sum of state money to pay down its debt.

Steven DeLoach, chair of Elon's economics department, said if the stimulus package does work, as 48 percent of poll respondents believe, state crises, such as record-setting

unemployment rates, would still take time to improve.

"If the new stimulus package that the administration pushed through does its job and the stock market continues to stabilize like it seems to have been for the past few weeks, it still will be until late this fall before we could start to see any positive effect on the economy," DeLoach said. "And even then, it will take some time after that before we see unemployment start to come down."

Unemployed county residents return to school

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

Alamance County continues to beat the state unemployment rate, as 11.8 percent of county residents are without work.

According to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina's latest civilian force data, Alamance County's jobless rate is still higher than neighboring Guilford, Orange and Chatham counties.

Instead of just collecting unemployment, some of the 8,312 unemployed residents have seen the recession as an opportunity to return to the classroom.

"We're seeing more and more people that are interested in going back to school than we saw a few years ago," said Fred Cummings, manager of the Employee Exchange Commission. "People are saying I need to go back to school to do a skills upgrade or maybe go back to school for the first time since high school."

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the median annual earnings for an American worker with less than a high school diploma is about \$19,000.

Those who have graduated high school or earned an equivalent degree can expect to make \$26,712, while those with a bachelor's degree under their belt can collect \$46,277 paychecks.

"Workers in Alamance County see the need to go back to take some additional courses that keep them in line when jobs do start coming up so they will be in better shape," Cummings said.

Randy Whitfield, associate vice president of the North Carolina Basic Skills Program, part of the state's community college system, has seen an increase in workers without jobs going back to school to get high school diplomas.

“

Workers in Alamance County see the need to go back to take some additional courses that keep them in line when jobs do start coming up so they will be in better shape.

- Fred Cummings
MANAGER OF THE EMPLOYEE EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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"They can't get a new job without it," Whitfield said. "Maybe years ago when they dropped out of high school they went immediately to a furniture plant or any textile industry plant and they got a job and then all these years later those plants are closing down or they're being laid off. They know their competition for jobs have that diploma."

Whitfield said while younger high school dropouts might not be as enthusiastic about hitting the books again, older students see such basic skills or GED programs as a chance to improve and become a competitive player in the job market.

"For the older students, it is an opportunity of a lifetime," she said. "When they actually see they can do the work and they finish that diploma or GED they are so grateful and appreciative of what they've been given."

Gov. Bev Perdue's 2009-11 state budget proposal stipulates a 12.8 percent reduction in supplemental multi-campus funding for community colleges, as well as restricting continuing education fee rates to a new sliding scale based on the length of a course.

The proposal stipulates that fee increases should not reduce access to

training for dislocated workers.

Whitfield said despite best efforts, the money the community college system has to return to the state has forced some programs to close.

"Our classes are located in every community college campus as well as areas throughout the community such as local churches, civic centers, wherever they can get the space," Whitfield said. "When they start closing classes, that just makes the students have to drive farther to go to a different one. When more students are involved in one class, they can't always get attention they need."

Cummings said despite several major corporation layoffs that Alamance County has recently seen, Alamance Regional Hospital and Lab Corp remain the county's biggest

employers.

He predicted healthcare-related industries will continue to remain successful, especially with the area's many aging baby boomers.

"The two biggest areas that you see growing in Alamance County are the health field and education, which will reflect what you will see in the state and the nation," Cummings said.

Although healthcare and education industries may be growing, the state community college programs that provide the opportunity to earn such degrees are facing financial pressure as well.

"It's unfortunate that in a time where we're seeing increasing numbers of students, we are having to give money back to the state because of the budget crisis," Whitfield said.

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University updates 2009-2010 budget as economy remains unimproved

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

Elon University trustees approved the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget in early March, but certain changes have ensued as university officials keep a close eye on the tenuous movement of the Dow Jones.

Such changes include modifications to the faculty salary pool and distributions of the university's reallocation "pot" created by the 2 percent departmental operational cuts.

"We did an across-the-board cut for every department on this campus, be it academic or academic support," Provost Gerry Francis said. "Then we distributed resources back to those departments whose requests we thought were at the most important level. Not every department got money back."

Francis cited equipment requests as one of the heftier purchases the university has used the reallocated money for, as well as office set-up for the nine new faculty members arriving in the fall.

Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology said certain campus initiatives have been funded by the reallocated money

so tuition can remain at the 5.9 percent increase promised early this year.

"Some of that money was dealt back out again in the form of important priorities, like new investments in study abroad," Whittington said. "We had to get the money from somewhere and instead of raising tuition, we took it from this reallocation pot that we created."

The original budgetary plan concerning the size of the faculty salary pool was also adjusted.

The university allotted a 5 percent pool in 2008-2009, which then went down to 4 percent in this year's budget proposal. After senior staff and different boards and advisory committees reviewed the budget, that 4 percent has gone to a "two plus two" allocation.

Under the "two plus two," faculty and staff will have a 2 percent salary pool in June, and then will possibly receive an additional 2 percent to the pool in September.

Francis said the addition of 2 percent to the pool is dependent on enrollment and retention in the fall, as well as the maintenance of a viable budget.

"It's just leaving the door cracked a little bit if something crazy was to happen," Francis said. "So we still get

to the four, but we get there a little bit more cautiously."

Campus technology is still committed to the four-year faculty and staff computer replacement schedule, an increase from the original three-year replacement plan that has been the status quo in years past. Whittington said there will be some individuals who will still receive new machines every three years because of the nature of their field.

"We tried to allay fears that if you are in a really computing-intensive environment, such that in order for you to do your teaching and research you do need to have a new machine every three years, we will do that," he said.

Whittington cited programs such as communications, computing science and other technology-oriented sciences as majors where software changes fast enough that teaching is not possible with older computers.

He also said there will be some departments who could extend their computer use to five years.

"On the average, we're going to four," Whittington said. "Some people will get sooner, some people might be a little later."

Technology has made other

reallocations within the departments to accommodate campus needs while keeping the budget low, such as the reduction of the e.l.i.t.e Program.

"It was just one of those we had to do," Whittington said. "You just have to fund the most important things on the campus."

Whittington stressed although recent headlines have been proclaiming to see glimmers of hope for the housing market and the Dow Jones is currently stable, there should not be any grand spending leaps.

"We're still in choppy water globally," Whittington said. "Collectively, we need to back off our expectations quite a bit before we go rushing off and declare victory."

While Whittington said he doesn't believe the country will enter into a decade of stagflation like some economists are predicting, he does think the outlook on what is considered customary and normal will change.

"Nationally, I think all of our businesses and colleges are going to be way more cautious about making big, long-term commitments," Whittington said. "I don't believe that the normal we thought of five years ago is going to be what we think normal is five years from now."

Most programs adjust hours, not cutting jobs

STUDENT WORKERS from PAGE 1

"These are great students, but we had to make changes to make sure we're using resources in the best way possible," Reimer said.

Whittington said there was no way for e.l.i.t.e to successfully meet budget constraints without decreasing the number of student workers.

"I wouldn't characterize it as student workers are on the chopping block," Whittington said. "I would characterize it as lining up what's important."

While the staff reduction will impact the program's breadth and flexibility, Reimer said the same services will be offered, just with a different approach.

All 30 e.l.i.t.e workers were asked to reapply by Tuesday morning to make sure everyone had an equal chance of being rehired.

Reimer said current workers are given priority and the program will probably not hire outside of the staff in the near future.

"It's a good program, it's a solid program, but in the scheme of all the things that we do it is one of the highest and top priorities?" Whittington said. "Unfortunately, for that program, no it's not."

With 108 hours that need to be staffed, Reimer said the amount of hours rehired students will work depends on how many hours each student who applies indicates they are able to work.

"We couldn't provide the services we do without students," Reimer said. "Part of our mission statement is to help students develop real world skills to get a job after graduation, and while getting that skill set they can help the Elon students and faculty."

Stephanie Matthews, an e.l.i.t.e student worker whose name has been changed because staff applications are currently under review,

said some the most beneficial aspects of the program have been scratched.

"It's no longer an e.l.i.t.e program, it's 'Can you babysit this program, please?'" Matthews said. "I have absolutely no idea why Elon is cutting budgets and telling people to be more 'effective' when they're cutting programs that are effective and taking jobs away from students."

She said she's been told Elon is not being impacted by the economy, but doesn't understand why budgets would then be cut, especially as tuition rises.

"Reasonable people can disagree on what was important going forward," Whittington said.

Even though Matthews understands it's not Reimer's fault and agrees that reapplying is the fairest way to staff e.l.i.t.e, she said it's created competition between the staff. Some workers, like those that have recently been hired or plan to study abroad in the fall, are placed at an unfair advantage.

"Students that are working outside of their time should be paid for helping others," Matthews said.

While e.l.i.t.e seems to be one of the hardest-hit programs on campus, most programs, such as Media Services and Television Services, have adjusted their hours of operation to meet their budget demands, but are not planning on releasing any of their student workers.

Mel Byerley, Media Services office manager, said the program has adjusted its hours as well to fit the needs of its patrons. Media Services will staff 110 hours in the fall, which is a reduction from the current amount it serves.

Byerley said after looking at high traffic times and what hours were essential to be open, the program will base their new hours accordingly.

The same services will be provided and no student jobs will be cut, she said. She also does not anticipate any issues from the community surrounding the changes.

Peter Tulchinsky, director of Campus Recreation, said he was not aware of any changes being made to the departmental budget.

Campus Rec employs about 120 students and Tulchinsky said without students workers, it wouldn't be able to have lifeguards, host intramural sports or staff the fitness center.

"If you don't have the students in these positions, you don't have a service to provide to your campus community," he said. "It's essential for us, strictly from a campus service standpoint, to have students in roles to provide services to the community."

Moseley Front Desk also had to adjust its budget, but was able to do so with without impacting student jobs or the wages they are paid, Assistant Director of Moseley Center Clifton Johnson said.

Because the minimum wage in North Carolina has increased, that means student jobs that are paid minimum wage on campus must also increase.

Johnson said this has happened in the past, but that Moseley Front Desk's operating budget also increased to supplement the costs of labor.

He said their student staff of 22 may experience adjustments in hours if they are not allotted more money for their operating budget this time around.

Johnson said the job is mainly about having the manpower to run programs, but it also focuses on personal and professional development, as well as other growth aspects.

"While they are working, they are still learning," he said.

Supporters share Eke stories, plans of action



Ashley Barnas | Photographer
Students plan to attend this week's SGA meeting to voice their desire to keep Assistant Professor of Communications Ocek Eke at Elon. They also discussed writing letters, posting flyers and having a table in Moseley.

Ashley Barnas
Online Editor-in-Chief

Everyone has stories about their favorite professors and those who have made a difference during their time at Elon. But those shared by the group of students impacted by Assistant Professor of Communications Ocek Eke are told with the hopes of keeping him at Elon.

About 20 people gathered in Colonnades A last Thursday to discuss a plan of action. Everyone in the room introduced him or herself and announced that he or she is an Eke supporter.

Eke was not granted tenure this year and is currently in the appeal process. The group of students has been protesting to keep him at Elon, starting with their first protest held April 17 outside a Board of Trustees meeting.

The students are unsure about the reasoning behind Eke not being granted tenure, but shared what they have heard through the grapevine.

"He deserves more than just, 'you didn't do enough,'" freshman Amir Khan said. "This whole support group and the whole reason why we're organized is just to get some answers."

The students shared stories about Eke's Winter Term class in New Orleans, his help with

carrying boxes on move-in day and his work with Kiva, a Web site that allows people to give money to entrepreneurs in impoverished countries.

Sophomore Meg Hewitt said she asked Eke to be her adviser after she took his global class freshman year. She said one of the many things she likes about him is that he is not afraid to express his political views, but he is always open to the opposite side.

He also takes advantage of the chances Elon offers for service and projects for the common good.

"He doesn't know if he'll find another institution that he got so much out of because he absolutely loved Elon," Hewitt said. "Yes, he loved the students. Yes, he loved the classes he was teaching. But he really did love Elon as an institution because it gave him all these service opportunities."

Freshman Laura Levitt said she agrees.

"Everything he does is just out of pure love for the students," Levitt said. "He loves teaching because of us, because he gets to do it for us. And everything he does is definitely for the students, which I just don't think that the higher-ups see that always."

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Town still waiting for funding for proposed construction projects

Plans for pedestrian and bike paths not altered after Elon professor is killed in bicycle accident

Andie Diemer
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Elon's long-term project to add miles of pedestrian and bike paths has not changed after chemistry professor Eugene Gooch was struck and killed by a motorist while riding his bicycle on University Drive on April 3.

The plan has a 2030 finish date. Part of the reason for such a lengthy project completion is because of funding issues, Elon's Town Manager Mike Dula said.

At a Town of Elon meeting Sept. 9, the Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to pass the new Bicycle, Pedestrian and Lighting Plan.

The project aims to create 20 more miles of bike paths, five miles of walkways with pedestrian lighting and another five miles of paths for multiple uses. Construction was set to start within six months after being voted on, Town Planner Sean Tencer said at the meeting.

Currently, the town is waiting until next month to hear back about a grant they applied for. They are also hoping for stimulus money through North Carolina's Department of Transportation, Dula said.

He said if money starts flowing, projects could start to take shape this summer. But for right now, the plan is still waiting for funding from multiple grant programs, tax revenues and stimulus money.

The plan has gotten tighter as sales-tax revenue continues to fall, and the town will also lose around \$40,000 from their budget as a result of Smithfield Foods' plant closing this summer as part of a restructuring program.

Dula said there has been some confusion, since the intention of the plan was to have a guide for pedestrian and bike path priorities when the opportunities become available, acting as an inventory of possible projects.

Who would fund what and how it would be supplied was never decided, Dula said.

"We wanted to be able to know what our priorities were if grants or partnerships came available," Dula said. "So there was never any idea that we would do that plan in the next few months. It was just something we could use as a reference to what we'd like to see done in town."

A 6-foot-wide sidewalk costs \$50 a foot to build, according to the Piedmont

Triad Council of Governments, which is overseeing the project and is taking input from local residents, including Elon students and Twin Lakes Retirement Community residents.

Dula said the town wants to tackle projects on Lebanon Avenue, Trollinger Avenue and Oak Street, but that depends each on grant money.

The projects on Trollinger Avenue and Lebanon Avenue will definitely wait until the tunnel under the railroad track near the intersection of Trollinger Avenue and S. O'Kelley Avenue are complete later this year.

"We're just trying to be timely with when we decide to do something and when we find a resource available," Dula said. "The plan was not put on hold, it's the same dynamic that it's always been."

Dula said the town never planned to implement projects on University Drive, since it's a state road and would receive state funding.

He also said Gooch's death has not impacted the plan since it is technically state territory.

Instead, Dula said they would promote and encourage the idea of widening University Drive after Cook Road is widened.

"We are actively looking at resources and hopefully in the next little while we'll have some announcements about some of these priorities being addressed," Dula said. "We consider the plan in place."

TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

Sidewalks along Williamson, Lebanon and Haggard Avenues

Multiple-use paths for both pedestrians and cyclists along Williamson Avenue, connecting Beth Schmidt Park and Ball Park Road, and a shared-use ramp leading from Twin Lakes to the multiple-use path

Bicycle lanes on Williamson, Haggard and Westbrook Avenues

Intersection safety improvements at six locations

Lighting improvements in various corridors, especially University Drive

INFORMATION COURTESY OF
JESSE DAY, PIEDMONT TRIAD
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNER



Design Forum Co-owners Della Faucette and Polly Smith purchased the Victorian home on East Trollinger Avenue from a friend.



The staff is excited about the move and believe the new location will be a fun place to work.

SARAH CARIDEO | Photographer

Design Forum relocates to familiar Victorian home

Sarah Carideo
Reporter

On April 28, Design Forum Salon and Spa will be open and ready for business at their new location at 105 E. Trollinger Ave. in Elon.

The salon was originally located on South Church Street in the West End Shopping Center. The owner of the white Victorian home next to the Elon Post Office was a friend of co-owner Polly Smith and approached her about buying the space for the spa.

Smith and Design Forum's other owner, Della Faucette, could not resist the opportunity.

The house and central location made it an ideal site for the salon, Faucette said.

Faucette grew up in Elon and said the town, "makes everybody feel good."

She said she looks forward to having the salon established closer to the town and university to be part of that positive atmosphere even more.

The salon has always been involved in the community by hiring locals and Elon students.

She also said local clients and students and faculty at Elon University have always had "positive responses" to the salon, so she is very excited to increase their clientele as a result of the walking distance.

"I was not aware of the move, but that's really great and convenient because many students do not have

cars, so it is hard to go to salons in the area," sophomore Evelyn Frederickson said.

Design Forum is a full-service salon that has been in business for more than 20 years. Salon and spa treatments are provided for both men and women.

The staff provides services such as haircuts, styles, dying and extensions, as well as hair removal, manicures and pedicures, facials, massages and body wraps.

They also use and sell products like Bumble and Bumble, Goldwell, L'Oreal and Dermalogica.

Additionally, the salon will rent out rooms to local merchants, which will feature jewelry, clothing, small gifts and upscale dresses and handbags.

There is still one room available to rent.

Faucette describes the combination of the salon and spa with the shopping opportunities as being a "boutique house" that can function as a "one-place service."

She said she does not anticipate any negatives result from the move and said it's just "a real good thing," so she will not miss the old location.

Faucette also said she hopes Design Forum's fun atmosphere will make the customers feel welcome.

For more information about Design Forum Salon and Spa visit: www.designforumsalon.com or call (336) 585-1919.

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LOWE'S 50 YEARS OF FIRSTS

New study indicates collegiate mental health issues are of concern, on the rise

Alexa Milan
Managing Editor

One out of four college students who have sought mental health counseling have seriously considered suicide, found a new pilot study by the Center for the Study of Collegiate Mental Health discovered.

The study, which included 28,000 students currently receiving mental health counseling at 66 institutions nationwide, also found there has been an increase in self-injury and alcohol and substance abuse because of issues like depression.

"I think they've nailed the main issues right on the head," said Paul Fromson, professor of psychology. "The most common ones are things like depression, anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders or unhealthy eating patterns. Those are probably, in terms of classic diagnoses, the top four."

Fromson said while some issues vary from institution to institution, overall the pilot study does provide new insight into what problems students are experiencing.

"Across the 66 institutions they sampled, there really is a remarkable degree of consistency," Fromson said. "I would not be surprised to find out that the same kind of categories elsewhere are very

similar here."

According to Fromson, the increased rates of self-injury, substance abuse and suicidal ideations, as well as actions, are likely manifestations of depression and anxiety.

Rates of depression and anxiety are likely on the rise for a number of reasons, including the economy, said Gary Bailey, part-time counselor at Ellington Health and Counseling Center.

Bailey said there is more pressure to succeed in the job market now, so students are either anxious about finding jobs or about finding an alternate plan if they can't get a job after graduation.

"There's this intense pressure to perform even better academically to get into graduate school," Bailey said.

According to Bailey, other economic factors that may contribute to collegiate mental health issues could be financial problems at home. If students' families are experiencing financial stress, those feelings of anxiety could transfer to the students.

Perhaps the most troubling statistic in the study is the number of students who have seriously considered suicide, Bailey said.

He said it is difficult for counselors to determine which students experiencing issues like depression, anxiety, substance abuse and eating

disorders need the most help, but it is an important part of their job.

"I think we serve as risk management for this environment," Bailey said.

Another issue the study addresses is the rate at which psychotropic medications, or medications for psychological problems, are being prescribed.

"There has been a dramatic increase in the number of prescriptions for psychotropic medications to increasingly younger populations," Fromson said. "The numbers are staggering."

The study cites an increase in Prozac use among high school students, and Fromson said other psychotropic drugs are being prescribed to middle school-aged students and younger.

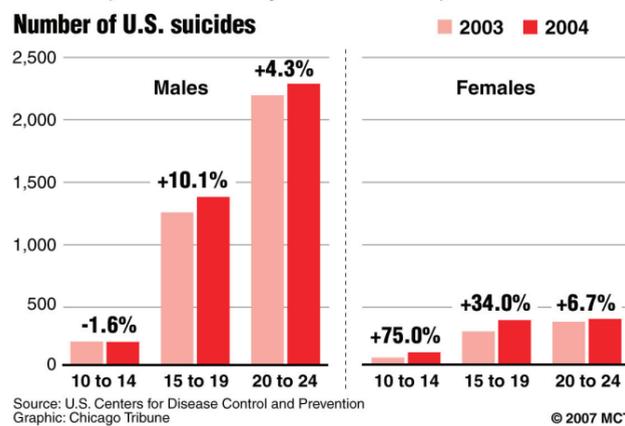
Fromson and Bailey both said that these medications do work for many people, but it is problematic that many HMOs are willing to pay for medication, but not therapy.

"Medications tend to be seen as a quick fix," Bailey said. "(Society) has pushed for briefer and briefer forms of therapy that are not necessarily the best way to treat those illnesses."

Bailey said he is glad a resource like the Center for the Study of Collegiate Mental Health exists because often counseling centers are so busy seeing students they don't have

Youth, young adult suicide rate

Suicide rates for preteen girls and teenage boys and girls jumped dramatically in 2004 – the largest increase in 15 years.



time to study how effective the practice is.

A study on substance abuse at Elon is nearing completion,

but Bailey said he hopes in the future the counseling center can conduct a study specific to mental health issues at Elon.

OTHER STATISTICS FROM THE STUDY

One percent of students who answered a question about binge drinking reported going on a binge 10 or more times in the previous two weeks.

93 percent of students who responded to a question about campus violence had little to no fear of losing control and acting violently.

The 7 percent considered to have strong fears were most likely to be male and said they had previously harmed another person.

11 percent had seriously considered suicide prior to college, 6 percent after starting college and 8 percent before and during college.

21 percent of students reported having made a non-suicidal self-injury.

One-third of students reported prior use of psychiatric medications.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COLLEGIATE MENTAL HEALTH

Bilingual professors add culture to Elon's classrooms



ANGIE LOVELACE | Staff Photographer

Assistant professor of communications Kenn Gaither is fluent in Portuguese and can hold conversations in Chinese. He thinks the academic environment will become more bilingual as students graduate from Ph.D. programs with foreign language experience.

Molly McGowan
Reporter

In today's culturally diverse society, it is becoming more important for college applicants to have a basic knowledge of a second language.

At Elon, incoming students must meet a language requirement.

If applicants took high school language courses, they can test out of Elon's 100-level language course. If they do not pass, they must take two semesters of a foreign language.

With this expectation of students to be bilingual, one may wonder whether Elon's professors are held to that same standard.

Junior Catherine Melendez, who is fluent in Spanish and French, does not necessarily think they are.

She said she thinks it is only fair that professors be expected to know a second language if that is the expectation for students.

Melendez also said applicants should not "be rejected solely because they don't know another language," because we live in "one of the only countries where it's not pushed to know another language."

Spanish major Kelly McCarty said while it is imperative that students learn a second language, meeting Elon's language requirements may be challenging for incoming students who did not have strong language programs as their former schools.

"I think it is a little difficult to require that when a lot of high schools have terrible foreign language programs," she said.

Scott Windham, the chair of the foreign languages department, empathizes.

"I think theoretically it's the right idea because there are certain things we want students to contribute to the student body as a whole, and that is one of them," he said. "In practice, it doesn't always work out. About half of the students have the high school background but don't achieve at the proficiency level that two years in high school would suggest."

Regarding faculty, Windham does not think the same standard should apply to professors of non-language studies.

He said he agrees it is always beneficial when professors know another language, yet it is not essential for a physics professor to speak a second language because his or her purpose at Elon is to teach physics.

"Students are here to be and become well-rounded people, whereas professors are here to

teach their expertise," Windham said.

He also said there are professors and faculty members at Elon who know a second language.

"The university aims to create well-educated individuals, and that's who it ought to employ, and that's who it does employ," Windham said.

Assistant Professor of communications Kenn Gaither is one of them.

Gaither is fluent in Portuguese and can hold a conversation in Chinese. He has never taught a Portuguese class, but said that "knowing another language informs (my) classes and to some extent affects my teaching."

Gaither said while he is not a foreign language professor, he would be more than happy to help students with Portuguese.

This kind of informal teaching is exactly what McCarty did with Michael Pregill, assistant professor of religious studies.

McCarty took an independent study with Pregill in Classical Arabic, which is different from the Modern Standard Arabic that Elon regularly offers.

"It's been really nice having him to teach the independent study because I get to learn at my own pace, and I get to learn a language that we don't offer at Elon," McCarty said. "When we are learning the language, he gives us reading out of the Quran or explains the religious meanings behind our vocabulary words."

The push for a bilingual society is very generation based, which is why Melendez does not blame the professors who only know English.

"It wasn't pushed in their eras," she said.

Windham supports the hypothesis that as the language requirements increase for students and they enter the teaching field, incoming faculty will naturally have more foreign language experience.

He said that in the future, "it doesn't seem implausible that K-12 teachers and university faculty will be increasingly proficient in a foreign language or two."

Gaither agrees it may take a decade or more, but eventually professors and faculty will be fluent in foreign languages.

"What we can expect to see ... as students matriculate through their Ph.D. programs and enter the ranks of the teaching profession, (is that) they will have more language skills because they grew up and have participated in an academic environment very different from 20 or 30 or even 10 years ago," Gaither said.

Blackout Elon campaign adds events to teach students about drinking misconceptions

Laura Smith
News Editor

For the second year, Elon University's Office of Substance Education will promote its Blackout Elon campaign, with some new events in addition to posters, magnets and other publicity.

Blackout Elon strives to educate students on drinking habits and eliminate misconceptions about these habits on Elon's campus.

This year, the campaign will feature the first "What Does Blackout Mean to You?" competition.

At 2 p.m. Friday, May 1, in front of Moseley, students will perform three-minute pieces addressing Elon's drinking habits and how they are helping to change their peers' drinking misconceptions. The performances will include dances, songs, art, music pieces and videos.

During these performances, students and faculty will receive Blackout Elon prizes and information from SPARKS Peer Educators.

All performances will be recorded by Elon Student Television and the top five pieces, voted on by fans and SPARKS educators, will be uploaded to the Office of Substance Education's Web site (www.elon.edu/substanceeducation).

Students will have until May 6 to vote for their favorite performance.

The top three performances will be shown at Blackout Elon's other new event for this year's campaign, the first annual "Blacklight" party, taking place at Lighthouse Tavern.

First place will win a \$200 prize, second place will win a \$100 prize and third place will win a \$50 prize.

Lauren Martin, coordinator of Substance Education, said she thought students of the Live Oak Communications agency working on the campaign wanted to be more creative this year.

"We're just trying to keep things fresh and new and get students' attention in different ways," said Chelsea Peabody, Live Oak team leader for Blackout Elon.

Live Oak held focus groups and conducted research to get a better understanding of what students want to see in the campaign.

The focus groups were held with underclassmen and SPARKS peer educators. One more will be held with upperclassmen.

Blackout Elon originated in fall 2007 from a corporate campaigns class and started in spring 2008.

Now spearheaded by Live Oak, statistics on Blackout Elon campaign materials came from the 2008 core survey from the National College Health Assessment that surveys students on drug use, nutrition and mental and physical health.

Ideas for the new campaign events all came from students, Martin said.

"They give students a chance to ask what (blackout) means to them," Martin said. "The whole point is to lose that gap between perception and reality. Students tend to overestimate alcohol use."

Peabody said she agrees. "We want people to think about it," she said. "More of a conversation. We want to make it personal."

Martin said she is hoping the campaign will have an impact on the campus community.

"The closer you get for students to realize the statistics, the more likely it will be to get the students to change their behaviors," she said.

The "What Does Blackout Mean to You" competition is open to all students, and entry forms are available in the Substance Education office in KOBC 154 and the Moseley Center front desk. They are due at 5 p.m. Thursday.

2008 BLACKOUT ELON STATISTICS

88 percent of Elon students who drink use a designated driver.

66 percent of Elon students who drink keep track of how many drinks they have consumed.

85 percent of Elon students who drink eat before or during drinking.



BRYCE LITTLE | Staff photographer

The Blackout Elon campaign is now in its second year and will host a new event Friday. The program aims to educate students on drinking habits.

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SGA

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Opinions

For the media, fashion is first Michelle Obama must step out of shadows, catwalk



Pam Richter
Columnist

President Barack Obama's first 100 days in the presidential office is here. There have been comparisons made to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his first stretch in office.

Both presidents have wives who have received a lot of attention. Currently, Michelle Obama is being called a role model for young women and a fashion icon.

What type of message is this sending to young

girls across the nation? If you marry the right man, then you will become famous?

There's no question the current first lady has an impressive resume that has made her a reputable lawyer. It was her work at the law firm Sidley & Austin that led to her relationship with her husband.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Princeton Law School. From there, she went on to attend arguably one of the best law schools in the nation: Harvard.

These are the qualities young girls should be looking up to with Michelle. But these accomplishments seem to have been swept under the rug with superficial elements being emphasized. But Michelle is not the face of women lawyers — she is becoming the face of feminine fashion instead.

Her role as a fashion icon is being publicized worldwide. She has made speeches supporting her husband's policies, but her influence so far has only resulted in an expansion of the AmeriCorps.

During times of crisis, Eleanor Roosevelt

helped run this nation with her husband, serving as first lady from 1933 to 1945. She was not initially publicized as a role model for women, but allowed her prominence to develop over time.

She helped guide this country out of the depression when her husband was not physically able. After her husband's death, she became a United States delegate to the United Nations General Assembly.

But her resume doesn't end there. She was the president and chair of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights while she was a delegate from 1946 to 1951.

Not even with the iconic Eleanor have we seen a first lady receive as much attention as Michelle in her first 100 days in the White House.

Laura Bush did not receive this much attention, even toward the end of former President George W. Bush's terms. She did not dress as fashionably as Obama does, but she has had some notable accomplishments as first lady.

Throughout her tenure, she focused on issues that impacted women and children. Most notably, she has been an advocate for breast cancer research.

Michelle has the platform and the capability of being an influential first lady. She is the wife of the most publicized president in recent memory and can be a role model for young women everywhere. It is important to remember that she has only been in office for 100 days as well.

Right now, Michelle is famous for marrying Barack. She would not have been plastered all over television without her marriage to her husband.

So does this mean you marry the right guy and you'll be okay?

Before we begin replacing Eleanor's picture of an iconic first lady with Michelle's picture, in which she will, no doubt, be wearing a trendy dress, we need to give her some time to succeed.

Politicizing the pageant



Robert Wohner
Columnist

Between rooting for Miss Utah while waiting to watch the finale of VH1's "For the Love of Ray J," I inadvertently caught the biggest controversy of the week. No, it was not that R&B crooner Ray J picked Cocktail over Unique. Instead it was the showdown, or more appropriately, the slap-fest between celebrity blogger Perez Hilton and Miss California Carrie PreJean.

During the 2009 Miss America Pageant, Hilton, who is openly gay, asked PreJean if other states should follow Vermont's example and legalize gay marriage. She answered, inarticulately, that it's a good thing states can choose, but that she herself is against gay marriage.

Not unexpectedly, Miss California lost. (By the way, the winner was Miss North Carolina!)

Expectedly, online mayhem ensued. After the show, Hilton ranted against the blonde beauty, calling her the B-word among other terms that are unprintable. The likes of Twitter users, YouTube contributors and The New York Times have since discussed the pageant conflict.

Now, while it's hard to defend someone who advocates "opposite" marriage, which I'm guessing is the California term for traditional marriage, I applaud PreJean in this respect. In a culture becoming dangerously politically correct, it was nice to hear someone brave enough to state her opinion.

As times have changed, seemingly anti-gay remarks are increasingly unpopular. In one fleeting moment, PreJean was left with a choice: win the Miss America Pageant or be honest about her beliefs.

She chose the latter and lost any chance of winning what she'd worked all her life to achieve. That's bravery.

Many might not agree with her beliefs, and it's easy to criticize her incoherence when answering Hilton's question. But, it would have been so easy for her to have answered the politically correct way and say that states have a choice and no matter what you feel on the issue, democracy works, as Hilton suggested.

Still, in today's society, it seems the only people comfortable with sharing opinions that might disagree with others are the radical left and right views of a conflict. We've become so sensitive to what other people think that we've forgotten disagreements are not a bad thing.

Civil dialogue does need to take place in America on gay marriage, but not by radicals like the Sean Hannity's or Rosie O'Donnell's of America.

That being said, many reactions to PreJean's statements have been entirely inappropriate. Along with Hilton's jabs, E! News correspondent Giuliana Rancic said, "I know I'm a journalist, and I should be objective ... but she is an ignorant disgrace and she makes me sick to my stomach."

Aside from unfairly attacking PreJean, demonizing her simply hurts the gay marriage cause. Groups like the National Organization for Marriage, whose hateful "Gathering Storm" commercial sparked fury across the country by insinuating that gay marriage, in an unknown way, impacts everyone's life, are running to PreJean's defense.

NOM will, as Focus on the Family Vice President Gary Schneeberger said, call this situation "religious persecution." Conservative groups have rallied in support of their "persecuted" pageant queen.

"The crime here is not that people have opinions we disagree with," Rich Felte, president of public relations firm RTL Strategies, wrote for the New York Times. "The crime is treating those who disagree with us with the same incivility that they treated us to."

Like it or not, the gay marriage movement has gained momentum. America's most popular evangelist, Rick Warren, recently said he is in no way "anti-gay." Right-leaning state Iowa recently granted marriage rights to homosexual couples. This issue makes the debate a mud-slinging match instead of what it can be: a thoughtful analysis of a neglected minority in America.

So is Miss California the victim of religious persecution? Probably not. Perhaps people that perform in events with a swimsuit competition should be banned from discussing political topics like gay marriage. Still, many Americans have not discovered effective and civil ways to discuss topics like homosexuality, race and religion in society.

Let's shut up self-promoting blowhards who try to dictate the terms of argument. It's the entire nation's role to debate.

THE (D)EVOLUTION OF THE FIRST LADY



BEFORE ELECTION

Education

Studied sociology and African-American studies at Princeton University.

Graduated from Harvard Law School.

Employment

Worked at the Chicago Law Firm Sidley & Austin.

Assistant commissioner of planning and development in the Chicago City Hall.

First executive director of the Chicago Chapter of Public Allies.

Associate dean of student services at the University of Chicago.

AFTER ELECTION

Subject of the Washington Post's fashion columnist Robin Givhan's new beat.

Sparked national debate with Election Day dress choice.

Forerunner of fashion industry move to off-the-rack "American" styles.

On the cover of People, Essence, More and O Magazines.

Strong proponent of national service and helped spur the expansion of the AmeriCorps.

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PRESIDENTIAL

OBAMA
FIRST
100
DAYS

Whether handling the economic crisis, appointing members of his cabinet or meeting foreign diplomats, President Barack Obama's first 100 days in office have been eventful.

"He has done a better job than expected given the nature of the problems," said Robert Anderson, a political science professor at Elon. "He has inherited a particularly bad economic crisis, and now we're dealing with new issues ranging from pirates to North Korea."

Campaigning for change and hope, Obama won the election to become the 43rd president of the United States last November. The Jan. 20 inauguration of the country's first black president drew a record crowd of more than two million people to Washington.

Now 100 days into his first term, Obama has won the approval of both the majority of the nation, as well as the majority of Carolinians.

The Associated Press reports 64 percent of Americans approve of Obama's job performance, down slightly from 67 percent in February, according to a nationwide poll of 1,000 adults conducted April 16-20.

Fifty-two percent of North and South Carolina residents approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president, according to the Elon University Poll. The poll, conducted April 19-23, surveyed 662 North and South Carolina residents and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

"I think Obama has done well with facing the public," Anderson said. "He's on TV a lot and using what got him elected to his advantage. With these kinds of problems, it's important to stay connected."

According to Elon Poll, while Carolinians generally approved of the president's job performance, they also said the country is still on the wrong track.

"There is a culture of clinging onto doing things the ways they've always been done," said senior Daniel Shutt, president of College Democrats. "I think this president has done a good job of restructuring policy and setting the reset button on a wide range of issues."

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Obama's move to the White House came during the greatest economic downturn in recent history.

Credit markets are frozen, thousands of homes are facing foreclosure, unemployment is soaring and the financial markets are in turmoil.

"On a scale of one to ten, I'd give (Obama) an eight," said Jim Barbour, an Elon economics professor, of the president's efforts to resuscitate the economy. "I don't think it's possible for him to have gotten more than an eight unless he had walked on water. To be able to get anything done is a miracle."

Obama signed a \$787 billion economic stimulus plan into law Feb. 17, after it passed in the House and Senate on Feb. 13.

Obama's handling of the economy garnered mixed reviews in the Carolinas, with 48 percent of residents disapproving of the way the president is handling the economy and 47 percent approving. Given the poll's margin of error, it is nearly a draw.

While 60 percent of residents believe Obama's economic policies have yet to take effect, 19 percent said his policies have made economic conditions better and another 19 percent said they have made conditions worse.

"What concerns me is the role that the federal government is going to play in the lives of Americans," said sophomore Nick Ochsner, president of College

Republicans. "Right now, we have a president that believes in more government and, while that is a liable position, it's dangerous."

Despite the administration taking on the economy with several different plans ranging from keeping the banking industry afloat to helping homeowners, the process has been all but smooth.

On March 16, the president said he would stop insurer American International Group Inc. from paying executives millions in bonuses after receiving billions in federal bailout funds.

"I think, emotionally, it was important to have something to get angry about and something that everyone could get their heads around," Barbour said of the AIG bonuses.

A worldwide blame game attempting to identify the culprit for the global economic crisis has ensued, with many fingers pointing at former President George W. Bush.

"We can't put this at Bush's door," Barbour said. "Bush lit the fuse, (but) the dynamite was already in place. I don't think there's any one place you can put the blame."

Although many of the economic problems plaguing Obama's administration were inherited, the new president has also inherited a sense of impatience from world leaders, particularly in Europe.

"I think the powers of the world need to sit down and look at what happened (with the economy) and look to fix it," Barbour said.

CABINET SELECTION

Obama has surrounded himself with a Cabinet of experts to help address the issues plaguing the country. But, his selection of Cabinet members was not without controversy.

"Despite a few bumps along the way, the vast majority of his picks have been met with bipartisan approval," Shutt said. "His selections of Hilary Clinton (as secretary of state) and Robert Gates (as secretary of defense) have been perceived in Washington as very prudent choices."

Clinton has perhaps had the most success of any of the Cabinet picks, earning approval from media and world leaders. She has also helped to navigate issues concerning the recent rise in violence in Mexico.

"It's still not all there yet," Ochsner said. "For a campaign that was run so well, I was surprised to see (Obama) make so many missteps with Tom Daschle and Tim Geithner."

Daschle, the former Senate majority leader, withdrew his candidacy for health and human services secretary Feb. 3, following controversy concerning his tax record. That same day, Obama said he made a mistake in nominating Daschle for the position.

"(U.S. Secretary of the Treasury) Tim Geithner has the toughest job on the planet right now," Anderson said.

Geithner's performance has met mixed reviews. Obama unveiled a \$3.55 trillion budget for 2010 on Feb. 27, which was approved by Congress despite its bringing the federal deficit to \$1.75 trillion.

According to the Elon Poll, 57 percent of Carolinians approve of the amount of attention Obama is giving the economy. A comparable 56 percent believe too much money has already been spent on the economy.

But in addition to the economy, Obama's advisers have helped him confront issues at home and abroad.



JAN. 20
More than 2 million people assemble in Washington to witness the **inauguration of the country's first black president.**

JAN. 22
Obama issues an executive order to **close Guantanamo Bay prison** within a year and declares the United States will not engage in torture.

JAN. 30
The U.S. State Department said the contract with private security contractor **Blackwater Worldwide** will not be renewed after its expiration in May.

FEB. 3
Former Senate majority leader **Tom Daschle** **withdraws his candidacy for health and human services secretary** after controversy concerning his tax record.

FEB. 17
Obama signs the **\$787 billion economic stimulus plan** into law after it passed in the House and Senate Feb. 13.

FEB. 19
The president makes his **first visit abroad**, making a seven-hour trip to **Ottawa, Canada** to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

FEB. 26
Obama unveils a **\$3.55 trillion budget for 2010**, which is approved by Congress despite it generating a record deficit of \$1.75 trillion.

FEB. 27
Obama announces withdrawal of all American combat forces from Iraq by August 2010 and said the United States will leave behind support troops with a plan for **full withdrawal by the end of 2011.**

MARCH 9
Obama **reverses President George W. Bush's ban** on federally funded embryonic stem cell research.

Jake Martin & Hannah Williams
Senior Reporter & Special Projects Editor
Designed by Carolin Matthews
Design Chief

L PRECEDENT

OBAMA'S
FIRST
100
DAYS



MEDIATING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Obama inherited a country not only in the midst of a recession, but also one involved in two wars – the War on Terror and the Iraq War.

“I think the Afghanistan-Pakistan combination is the No. 1 issue after the economy and to address going after nuclear non-proliferation treaties,” Anderson said. “I think (Obama’s) right to get the dialogue going. He is our hope in restructuring our image in the Muslim world. We’re sending a message that we want to work with them as partners.”

On March 27, Obama announced a 17,000-troop increase in Afghanistan as part of a new strategy to confront the growing problems in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“We have a big task ahead of the U.S. in dealing with Afghanistan,” Ochsner said. “I think he’s making good progress there. It’s not enough, however, to send 17,000 troops over and say OK.”

According to the Elon Poll, 55 percent of Carolinians approve of Obama’s handling of Afghanistan, while 30 percent disapprove.

Obama announced plans to withdraw most of the 142,000 troops stationed in Iraq by the end of August 2010 and said a full withdrawal is set for late 2011.

“We need to work with Iraq and make sure they are ready to handle themselves,” Ochsner said.

Obama’s performance in dealing with Iraq won the approval of 57 percent of Carolina residents, according to the Elon Poll. Thirty-four percent of residents disapprove of the president’s actions concerning Iraq.

The president also addressed Iran directly on March 20, encouraging the country’s people and leaders to overcome nearly 30 years of tension.

EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY

On March 31, Obama traveled to London, the first stop on his eight-day, six-country tour of Europe and the Middle East, to meet with international leaders to seek diplomatic progress and international help.

“He didn’t achieve much of anything (in Europe),” Ochsner said. “I think he did well, and, overall, he is doing a good job on improving relations, (but) he didn’t make much progress on issues he’s pushing. However, I think something he made progress on is missile defense with Russia.”

Obama met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev April 1 and announced the beginning of negotiations to reach a strategic-arms treaty.

“As far as Europe goes, I think you see a trend so far in giving the U.S. another chance,” Shutt said. “It’s going to be important for this president – and future presidents – to forge alliances with these countries, and I think there is a concern for improving the image of America for the first time in awhile.”

Aside from dealing with a discontented Europe in the wake of global economic stability, the Obama administration has asked for international assistance to help stabilize the Middle East and rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Obama concluded his European tour with a surprise visit to Iraq on April 7 to meet with U.S. troops and Iraqi leaders.



CONFRONTING PIRATES

Just back from his European tour, Obama dealt with pirates who hijacked the U.S. ship Maersk Alabama off Somalia’s coast.

Obama’s decision to use military force against four Somali pirates who had kidnapped U.S. Capt. Richard Phillips was met with bipartisan approval.

“(Obama) gave the go ahead— if the captain’s life was in danger — to take out the pirates and sent the message that he was on top of it despite being quiet,” Anderson said.

The rescue operation resulted in the death of three of the four pirates. The fourth was apprehended and is facing trial in New York.

“I think (Obama) needs to continue to focus on defense-related issues,” Ochsner said. “He has taken a more hawkish approach to it than many of his liberal supporters.”

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY

“I think Mexico is one of the most important regional problems to address now,” Anderson said. “We’ve been so obsessed with immigration and we’ve lost sight of the big picture, and that’s drug trafficking.”

After the U.S. announced its latest plan to improve security along the Mexican border, Clinton said some of the blame for the rise in Mexican violence should be placed on “our insatiable demand for illegal drugs.”

Clinton said both the U.S. and Mexico share responsibility and that cooperation is necessary.

Clinton’s handling of the violent situation brewing in Mexico has been met with bipartisan support as well.

More recently at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, Obama called for open dialogue between the U.S. and Latin America.

In a controversial display of diplomacy, Obama shook hands with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and reiterated his willingness to talk with Cuba.

100 DAYS IN

In his first 100 days in office, Obama has confronted many issues afflicting the country.

According to the Elon Poll, 50 percent of Carolinians believe Obama is trying to address too many issues at once and 39 percent indicate he is focusing on the right number of issues, while 7 percent think he is focusing on too few issues.

“As the president struggles with the toughest first 100 days in recent history, his support may be beginning to wane as the public grows less patient and more divided over the direction of the country,” said Hunter Bacot, director of the Elon University Poll, in a press release.

MAY 7
Professor Anthony Hatcher’s senior great ideas capstone class in the School of Communications plans to host an event using **YouTube, skits and discussion to reflect on Obama’s first 100 days from 7 - 9 p.m. in LaRose Digital Theater.**

MARCH 16 The president said he will stop insurer American International Group Inc. from paying executives millions in bonuses after receiving billions in federal bailout funds.	MARCH 19 Obama becomes the first sitting president to appear on “The Tonight Show.”	MARCH 26 The president holds the first virtual town meeting at the White House.	MARCH 27 Obama announces a new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.	MARCH 31 Obama travels to London, the first stop on his eight-day, six-country tour of Europe and the Middle East.	APRIL 1 Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev meet in London and announce the start of discussions to reduce strategic nuclear weapons.	APRIL 5 In Prague, Obama said the United States will take the lead in efforts to confront climate change and also launch an effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons.	APRIL 7 Obama makes an unannounced visit to Iraq, meeting with U.S. troops and Iraqi leaders.	APRIL 12 The president authorizes a military rescue of American Capt. Richard Phillips, who was taken hostage by Somali pirates.	APRIL 17 At the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, Obama calls for open dialogue between the United States and Latin America, shaking hands with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and reiterating that he is willing to talk with Cuba.	APRIL 29 The president’s 100th day in office.
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Style



Collaborating creativity 'Live Here'

Parker Brown
Reporter

Eight months ago, assistant professor of dance and coordinator of the dance program, Lauren Kearns, approached communications coordinator of video projects, J. McMerty, and technical director for the department of performing arts, Bill Webb, about collaborating on a new version of a piece Kearns had previously choreographed and performed with her professional dance company.

Both professors were excited about the opportunity, and the result has been a multi-departmental partnership that has combined talent and resources to produce a multimedia, live dance piece called "I Live Here."

This multi-sensory experience will serve as the third and final act of the upcoming performing

arts department's show, "Vibe."

"'I Live Here' is a hybrid form of performance that utilizes athletic modern dance, text, voice, live music, set design, visual images and video to engage the audience in a multi-sensory dialogue about the meaning of home and place," Kearns said. "This is the largest multimedia piece I've done in terms of the number of media elements that will be combined with the live dance."

Kearns' vision for this version of "I Live Here" has been made a reality by an Elon Fund for Excellence in the Arts and Sciences grant, which she co-wrote with McMerty and Webb in fall 2008.

The \$5,000 grant enabled the creation of the elaborate set, costume designs and video. With these funds, Kearns, McMerty and Webb were able to realize their joint creative dreams for the piece.

"One of our goals when writing the grant was to forge a new era of interdisciplinary collaboration between our departments and schools that enhances the experiential learning of our students," Kearns said. "(Collaborating with everyone) has been absolutely amazing."

The dance component began in the fall by casting a small ensemble that had to learn the dance quickly so the multimedia components could be developed around it.

"I Live Here" is based largely on the idea of the journey of a woman at different stages in her life, as well as finding the meaning of home and place.

Developing and reflecting on their respective characters has been key for the dancers and this hybrid project has provided

many unique challenges for them.

"I have never been a part of a dance where the movement is the simplest part," said senior Allie Lochary, who performs a solo in the piece. "Besides being consumed with the multimedia component at all times, 'I Live Here' is the most mentally challenging piece I have been involved with, as the layers of my character run deep."

The layers of each character are further developed by the addition of poetry, live cellists, the set, costumes and video.

The video elements will have a live component, as well as previously shot footage, which will enhance the audience's understanding of the piece.

McMerty has enlisted the help of his freshmen communication fellows section of digital media convergence, as well as a few upper-class communications students, to bring "I Live Here" to life.

Students were divided into crews that are producing segments, running the live performance, producing a documentary on the making of the piece and also a strategic team to promote the event through various media outlets.

Sophomore ensemble dancer Kara Griffin has a unique perspective on the collaboration.

"I'm a communications major as well as a dance major, so it has been rewarding for me to have these two aspects of my life at Elon combine in such an amazing project," she said.

To learn more about "I Live Here," visit: www.elondance.wordpress.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

(right to left) Senior Allie Lochary, senior Zibby McBride, sophomore Kara Griffin and junior Caitlyn Juengel will perform in "I Live Here," a multidisciplinary collaboration that combines dance and multimedia.

"I Live Here" will be performed at "Vibe" at 7:30 p.m. May 7-9 in McCrary Theatre.

Tickets, on sale now, are free with Elon ID or \$12 for the general public.



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TAPPED OUT!




PHOTOS BY BRYCE LITTLE | Staff Photographer

Tapped Out was a performance put on by the Elon Tap Ensemble. The show ran both Sunday and Monday nights, capturing the attention of the audience with music from the B-52's and a variety of other artists. The show included both group and solo performances by members and the Ensemble. Gene Medler directed the show.

CONCERT REVIEW

★★★★★

Dave Matthews Band brings 'Big Whiskey' to North Carolina



NOLAN ELINGBURG | Photographer

Dave Matthews Band's current tour is its first tour without saxophonist LeRoi Moore, who died in an all terrain vehicle accident last August.

Nolan Elingburg
Reviewer

Last week, Dave Matthews Band performed two shows in North Carolina promoting its new studio album, "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King," scheduled for release June 2. The band played to sold-out crowds on April 22 in Raleigh and April 24 in Charlotte.

At the concerts, the band varied its set lists with a combination of old, new and cover songs. The members played three songs from their new album, including the first single, "Funny the Way It Is," along with the groovy, riff-driven "Why I Am" and the bouncy, effects-laden love song "Spaceman."

Before playing "Why I Am" in Charlotte, lead singer Dave Matthews said, "This was the favorite song of our good friend LeRoi Moore."

Moore, a saxophonist and founding member of the Dave Matthews Band, died in 2008 following an all terrain vehicle accident.

The band played older fan-favorites such as, "Recently," "#41," "Two Step" and "Crush," each one intensely jammed out.

Everyone in the group was given the chance to stand out.

"Recently" included a solo from each band member, while "#41" and "Crush" included saxophonist Jeff Coffin dueling with guitarist Tim Reynolds and drummer Carter Beauford on solos.

The song "Corn Bread" received one

of the biggest reactions from the crowd as Matthews danced around the stage looking like he was about to have a seizure, flailing his arms and guitar in the air.

Dave Matthews Band also threw two cover songs into the mix: Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," with Matthews singing a verse from "Stairway to Heaven" during the performance, and the Talking Heads' "Burning Down the House."

Matthews is known for talking, or at least making funny, undecipherable noises, to the audience in between songs. In Raleigh, he kept commenting on how cold it was outside and said the audience members should cuddle together to keep warm.

"But make sure it's consensual, consensual cuddling," Matthews said.

On a much more somber note, this is the band's first full tour without Moore. Coffin filled in for Moore last summer and is now listed as an official touring member alongside his horn section counterpart, trumpet player Rashawn Ross. Also joining the band this summer is lead guitarist Tim Reynolds, who has toured off-and-on with Dave Matthews Band since they began playing in 1991.

Dave Matthews Band's latest studio effort, "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King," was made to honor Moore's life. Moore died after the band had already been through several studio sessions, but before the album was close to completion.

Producer Rob Cavallo (Green Day, Alanis Morissette) was able to salvage Moore's recordings from previous sessions and make many of them fit onto the record.

"If this is the last record I ever make, I hope it's the only record people listen to," Matthews said. "Even people who don't like Dave Matthews Band are going to like this record. And if they don't, then they just don't like music."

Dave Matthews Band is currently in the middle of a spring tour that will lead into a summer tour, which lasts until the beginning of October. In the next few months, the Dave Matthews Band will play more than 70 shows, so there are plenty of opportunities to see the group.

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★☆

'Obsessed' Larter has anything but a harmless crush

Adam Constantine
Film Critic

Everyone has had that incurable crush on someone that was impossible to get, and for 99.9 percent of the population it stays exactly what it is: a harmless, fleeting crush. But in "Obsessed," Lisa Sheridan's (Ali Larter) crush is anything but harmless.

A temp who finds work at a large firm crosses paths with Derek Charles (Idris Elba), a successful asset manager. She soon becomes intent on being with him at all costs. The only problem is that Derek is happily married to his wife Sharon (Beyonce Knowles), and let's face it — if you are married to Beyonce, even in a movie, why would you leave? and has a young son named Kyle.

All these facts are irrelevant to Lisa, as she continually throws herself at Derek. The situation becomes increasingly serious as Derek quickly realizes Lisa will do anything to get what she wants.

The movie takes interesting and entertaining turns as Derek and Sharon must figure out how to survive the traumatic exchange of events Lisa throws at them and keep their marriage strong.

"Obsessed" is not a groundbreaking original film, but it is a well-put together movie that brings entertainment to the screen. The movie is set in the present and gives off the traditional big city, big business-type setting. There were no glaring errors or fallacies that stuck out either.

The strongest point of the film was the character Larter crafted. She brings a certain creepiness to the screen that really keeps the

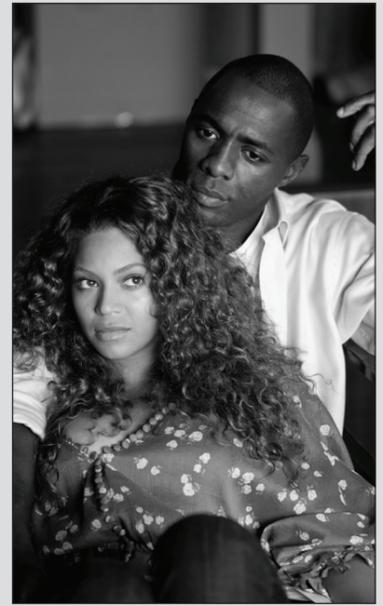


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Beyonce Knowles and Idris Elba play Sharon and Derek Charles, a married couple whose lives are turned upside down when an aggressive temp at Derek's office begins stalking him.

thriller aspect of the movie alive. While some of her lines are very powerful and definitely add to the stalker effect, a lot of times it is her reaction to how Derek moves or what she does to place herself in certain scenarios that really amps the enjoyment up.

Knowles had a very solid role as Derek's wife, but there were times when she would stray a little too far from the housewife role and exert a dominance that seemed a little too acted out.

Elba did an excellent job of showing his torment throughout the movie, as Lisa repeatedly hounded him.

He delivered a very strong performance on all fronts of his character. He was good as a businessman, husband, father and "stalkee."

While that may seem comical a lot of times, it is hard to find an actor who can play several different roles as the same character.

This movie may not deliver all the usual aspects of a thriller, but it brings an intense situation to life as one woman will stop at nothing to get the man she believes should be hers.

THEATER REVIEW

★★★★★

'Noises Off' supplies slapstick shenanigans



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer

(left to right) Senior Chris White, junior Alexandra Hensley and sophomore Caitlin Graham play three of the actors in "Noises Off," a farce about the misadventures of a theater troupe as they take their play on tour.

Alexa Milan
Managing Editor

For the past two years, Elon's department of performing arts has found success with the classic period comedies "She Stoops to Conquer" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as its spring plays. But last weekend, the department featured a completely different kind of play: "Noises Off," a slapstick sex farce about the exploits of a troupe of actors

attempting to put on a play.

In the first act, the actors are in their final dress rehearsal for the play "Nothing On," a similar farce about romance, misunderstanding and slamming doors. Director Lloyd Dallas (junior Eddie Schmidt) is desperately trying to pull the production together while mishap after mishap occurs.

There is also the beginning of some off-stage drama when it is revealed that actress Dottie Otley (junior Alexandra Hensley) is dating her younger co-star, Garry Lejeune (senior Chris White).

Lloyd has also been sleeping with both beautiful-but-dumb actress Brooke Ashton (sophomore Caitlin Graham) and stage manager Poppy Norton-Taylor (senior Heather Gilbert).

During the second act, the audience gets a glimpse at what's happening backstage during one of the performances. The romantic drama is intensifying, and a string of misunderstandings leads to constant fighting between all of the actors who aren't onstage.

In the third act, the audience sees the closing night production of "Nothing On," which at this point resembles little of the material seen in the rehearsals during the first act because the backstage fighting has gotten so out of control.

The casting for "Noises Off" was spot-on. Everyone was hilarious in their individual roles and worked well together as an ensemble.

Schmidt's increasing frustrations with the cast garnered lots of laughs as he started shouting from the back of the theater before joining the others onstage. Hensley showed off her comedic skills, especially as her character became increasingly delirious in the third act.

White eased Garry from being mild-mannered and proper to being confrontational and ax-wielding.

Graham was hilarious as the oblivious Brooke, who often zoned out when not acting and engaged in odd stretches and meditations rather than listening to angry and frantic Lloyd.

Gilbert was also impressive as quiet and plain Poppy, the polar opposite of Brooke and the last person one would expect to be caught up in a love triangle with the director.

Senior Chris Kiley was funny yet sympathetic as dim-witted actor Frederick Fellowes, who is recently divorced and unwittingly gets caught up in Dottie and Garry's romantic dilemmas. Sophomore Sarah Glover played well off of Kiley as Belinda Blair, a gossipy actress who frequently coddles Frederick.

Junior Christopher Wood is a scene-stealer as Seldson Mowbray, an elderly actor whose quest for alcohol is often more of a priority than his "Nothing On" performance. Wood proves his versatility here, as Seldson is the complete opposite of his intense and dramatic turn in "Sweeney Todd."

Freshman Alex Carmine also stood out as technical director Tim Allgood. Carmine stayed in character during the scene changes at intermission, directing the tech crew and moving sets himself.

Most impressive was the entire cast's dedication to the show's physical comedy. Every character was involved in physically demanding slapstick gags that required perfect comedic timing. The actors definitely succeeded in this area and left the audience roaring with laughter.

This play would clearly be a challenge to direct given its necessity for perfectly-timed physicality and witty dialogue delivery, and director Frederick Rubeck deserves a great deal of credit for his efforts. If there were any mistakes, they certainly were not evident to the audience.

A semester of lasts

Ashley Barnas
Online Editor-in-Chief

Open the door to George Troxler's office in the Center for the Arts and it seems like you are about to hit a bookshelf. Around the corner from two walls of bookshelves filled to the brim and beyond, Troxler sits with his datebook in front of him as he talks on his phone about bagpipes and drums.

He just made the decision on a group to perform at the Elon University School of Law's first commencement this spring. The pipe band will lead the first law school graduates out of the Carolina Theatre and parade up Greene Street, one of Troxler's ideas for making the first commencement a special event.

True historian

Troxler, currently Elon's dean of cultural and special programs, was a political science major with a pre-law emphasis at undergraduate school before his interest shifted to history. He came to Elon in 1969 as a part-time administrator and taught two courses. He eventually dropped the classes to become more immersed in his administrative position.

Named to the position of coordinator of cultural programs in 1984, Troxler is in charge of bringing guests and performers to campus, organizing the cultural calendar and supervising the fall convocation and spring commencement.

Retiring from his position this May, Troxler has received a reassignment by President Leo Lambert to compile a book on the history of Elon.

Troxler said the book will have less text, be less of an institutional history and have more pictures with longer captions.

"It will be something you can put on your coffee table and say, 'That's where I went to school,'" he said.

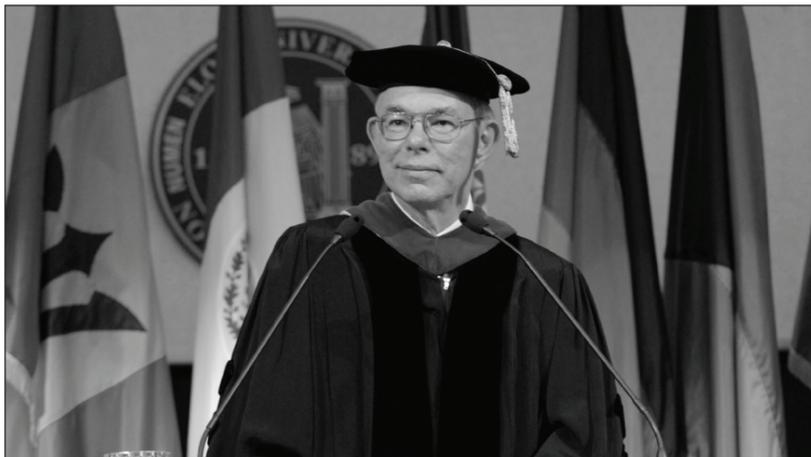
Troxler said he will probably have an office on the second floor of the library, close to Katie Nash, special collections librarian and archivist, who will work closely with him on the book.

He said he hopes to have the book ready for publication by fall 2010.

He's spent half his Elon career teaching and the other half of it as an administrator. Troxler said he's prepared to be what he has always wanted to be, once again: a historian.

His love for history is evident on his bookshelves, particularly with his collection of "The Journal of American History." Horace Cunningham began the collection and then Durward Stokes added to it. Troxler then started his own subscription and has accumulated three generations of journals dating back to December 1947.

When he leaves, he is offering them



George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs, will retire this May and work for a year on a book of Elon's history. Troxler has been at Elon for 40 years.

to the history faculty. The books, some yellowing with age, hold great sentimental value for Troxler.

In addition to passing along his books, Troxler is also handing off file cabinets of information for the next dean.

Reflections and lasts

"It's funny," Troxler said, "you do everything for the last time. The last convocation, the last Lyceum programs, the last Elder Lecture, the last commencements."

His final tasks before retirement include booking the Lyceum programs for next year, signing and approving the final two contracts and working on preparations for graduation ceremonies. Elon-style "comfort stations" will remedy last year's problem of too few restrooms during commencement, and the rain plan has been revised.

Elon has changed in so many ways, he said.

The most noticeable difference is the size. When Troxler first came to Elon, there were 1,500 students. Harper Center was new and students would complain about having to walk the long distance to Alamance.

"I think we were a very good institution then, but different," he said.

Now, Elon has a more diverse faculty, a more diverse campus and many more resources to fund programs that it couldn't even fathom nearly 40 years ago.

Elon has made Winter Term more creative and the campus more beautiful. It was physically attractive in the functional sense back then, but now, Elon is "simply beautiful," Troxler said.

Cultural programs

To book the many performances, speakers and guests, Troxler meets with

the Lyceum Committee, a group that selects programs that would appeal to the campus community.

"The committee will say what they want and I can shop for three or four companies in the area," Troxler said.

The committee ranks its choices and Troxler works with the groups' agents on when they can book. Based on that, he checks which auditoriums are available at that time: McCrary, Yeager or Whitley.

Moving on

Troxler works most closely with people from Physical Plant, Media Services, tech crews and University Relations because of publications and publicity.

"I get to deal with a lot of different people that I didn't deal with until I took this job," he said. "And I'm going to miss those people."

Troxler said it's nice at this stage in his career to look back and see what has happened during his time here.

Four people have been considered for Troxler's replacement and a final decision may be made in the coming week. His biggest piece of advice to the next dean is to "stay flexible."

Everything Troxler has accomplished as dean is because he has had tremendous support, he said.

He enjoyed Elon in 1969, but now the students and the institution are even better, he said.

Every program Elon holds and every event it sponsors is carried out with care and diligence to ensure it is special, memorable and different from anything else, he said.

"Elon became the school that I wanted to teach at, have my career," Troxler said.

The historian lives only two miles from campus, and has too much history at Elon to leave.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Performers Girls Talk and Lupe Fiasco (above) come to Elon Friday. The Student Union Board's spring show features the mash-up artist and hip-hop artist, respectively.

Concert promises popular music, high energy levels

Amanda Kennison
A&E Editor

Following months of preparation, the Student Union Board's annual spring concert will take place this Friday. Concert goers will enjoy musical performances by mash-up artist Girl Talk and hip-hop singer Lupe Fiasco.

Getting the various organizations involved with the concert, from SUB to each artist's representatives, on the same page initially proved difficult. But the music committee's consistent efforts have paid off.

With only days until the actual show, the concert's planners are focused on trying to prepare for any possible day-of situations.

"I think we're in really good shape," said senior Billy Koehn, head of the SUB Music Committee. "It's really just all that day-of stuff that needs to be worked out. We're trying to think of anything and everything that could go wrong, and that stuff is being worked out."

While Koehn is looking forward to seeing the show finished and his work complete, he's also excited about experiencing the concert and having the opportunity to work with the artists face-to-face.

"I've heard so much about Girl Talk's show and how he gets the audience involved," Koehn said. "I've heard about Lupe and how he's a really great performer and really easy to work with."

Students helping to make the concert happen have a busy Friday.

From the time load in begins early Friday morning to the time the last piece of stage is loaded to be taken away in the early Saturday morning hours, SUB members and student volunteers will be working constantly.

The day of the spring show is always full of perfecting last minute details, but all these small tasks will result in a great final product, Koehn said.

The response for this year's show has already proved quite positive. Ticket sales have doubled from last year.

"It's going to be a long day on May 1, making sure everything goes well," said junior Anna Davis, co-coordinator of SUB Live. "But it will definitely be worth the work."

Audience members are advised to prepare for a long night full of fun. Concert planners are expecting a giant dance party. Girl Talk has a reputation of getting audiences pumped up and involved in his act. Koehn believes he will start the spring concert off right.

"People who miss this show are going to be missing something really special," Koehn said.

Anyone who ordered their tickets online should pick them up from will call as early as possible, Koehn said. Parking for the event is expected to be packed, so students are advised to walk.

SPRING CONCERT INFORMATION

Will Call will open at 4 p.m. on the West Lawn of Moseley Center.

Doors to Alumni Gym will open at 7:30 p.m., the show will start at 8 p.m.

Attendees are urged to come as early as possible to get a good spot inside.

Black box offers double the fun for CELEBRATE!

Carolyn VanBrocklin
Reporter

CELEBRATE! Week offers a variety of academic and artistic events for the Elon community to experience, including the annual Black Box Festival.

This year, two productions are being staged: "Edges," written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and "Mother Courage and Her Children," written by Bertolt Brecht. "Edges" is a song-cycle about the journey of life and path to finding one's self.

"We are all representing the concept of growing up, relationships and worries after college graduation through different songs," said junior cast member Alexa Wildish.

Playwrights Pasek and Paul are two recently graduated Michigan University alums. "Edges" went through many revisions until they achieved the final product. But Elon students won't be seeing the play as its creators imagined it.

"This year, we put our own spin on 'Edges,' with the permission of the authors, of course," said Lynne Formato, director, choreographer and class instructor.

This way, the show is basically a new production. Formato combined pieces of the different existing versions to create an entirely new version of "Edges." She also increased the cast to include 16 members, when it usually includes about four.

The students involved in the performance were treated to a visit from Pasek and Paul. They provided the students with an invaluable opportunity to understand why the play was written.

"It's just an amazing experience for students to intersect

BLACK BOX SHOW TIMES DURING CELEBRATE! WEEK

"Edges"
7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday.

"Mother Courage"
7:30 p.m. tonight and Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday.

ALL SHOWS WILL
BE IN THE BLACK
BOX THEATRE.

with people actually working in New York," Formato said.

One of the challenges producing "Edges" was the fact that it's produced in a workshop or a "poor man's theater."

In other words, the students and Formato are entirely responsible for each aspect of preparation, from acquiring props to putting the program together. All the work is time well spent, when they consider the overall effect of the piece.

"These are songs that deal with personal relationships, personal qualities and situations that you would deal with yourself, and it is meant for a wide audience," sophomore cast member Sabrina Bradley said. "People who come see it will be able to relate to these songs."

The second show performed this week, "Mother Courage and Her Children," is an entirely student produced play.

Junior theatre major Sarah Pace directs the cast and crew. The play is considered one of the most successful anti-war pieces of all time, telling the story of a mother torn between protecting her children from WWII and making a profit from the conflict.

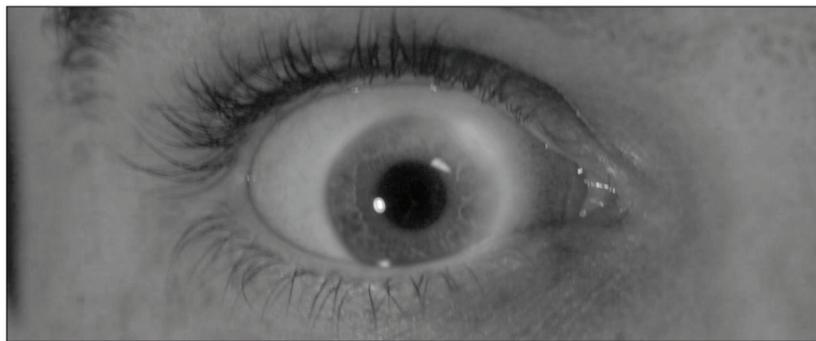


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID KOEHLER | Photographer

STRESS:

How to cope when anxiety strikes

Daniel Koehler
Reporter

On the outside, it's just an ordinary sketchpad. But on the inside, it's an Elon student's journal, a rare glimpse into someone's raw and uncensored emotions. The entries etched on well-worn pages tout triumph, deplore defeat and, of course, lament stress. One page in particular is marked by hurried pen strokes and fiery, staccato sentences.

"I have too many things to do and not nearly enough time to do them," the entry begins. "The 20-page research proposal. The astronomy midterm. The service-learning journals. The perpetual readings due every day. Opera workshop, voice lessons and 'Messiah' in Camerata. Working 11 hours a week. And retaining friends and acquaintances. And staying connected to my family. And never having time to go to the gym. Later this evening, I got a rather nasty e-mail. I cried."

As this cathartic account attests, college students are especially susceptible to stress' evils. They bear the often overwhelming burden of balancing academics, social life and extracurricular activities. According to Bruce Nelson, director of Elon's Counseling Services, 10 to 12 percent of the student body sees counseling staff. Of these, he said, a majority have stress-related symptoms. Stress is a given. But what happens when it heads your way?

"The first thing that goes is my health," sophomore Kiva Nice-Webb said. "Exercise, then eating, then sleeping. Then my relationships will suffer. Then I'll start to prioritize my classes and my organizations. Then I'll stop being ahead in my work and, God forbid, behind. It's a downward spiral."

Others experience stress' effects differently. "I eat lots of food," said freshman David Muñoz as he grabbed another handful of almonds. "I exercise, too. I sort of pretend I have nothing to do. More or

less, I try to find a means of distraction or escape." While satisfying an increased appetite might be one stress-related symptom, there exists a whole slew of physical, emotional and behavioral indications associated with stress, including fatigue, irritability and procrastination. According to Jana Lynn Patterson, vice president for student life, students may even turn to alcohol and drugs. Luckily, stress and its symptoms often come in waves, affording periods of respite. Sometimes, though, stress is not so forgiving.

"Chronic stress has been associated with numerous medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, ulcers, compromised immune system functioning and most likely makes us more vulnerable to a variety of illnesses," Nelson said. "If someone remains stressed too long, the result may be increased depression and anxiety, or a combination of both. Approximately 85 percent of the students who come in for counseling have some mixed symptoms of depression and anxiety."

There's no use denying it: stress compromises personal well-being. But that doesn't mean you're destined to a life of perpetual anxiety and unhealthiness. Instead, healthy coping tactics can be used to beat back stress. But not everyone knows these tactics. In fact, many students engage in unhealthy behaviors that actually worsen the situation.

"Putting stuff off is definitely not healthy," senior Zack Smith said. "Instead of making me feel relaxed, it actually makes me feel more anxious and overwhelmed, as I am only making it harder for (myself) to get stuff done on time. Essentially, this just makes me more stressed than I was before."

Like Smith, many students fear the snowball effect, the downward spiral of doom — a constant, gnawing, ever-growing stress. But with the proper coping techniques, fear and anxiety can morph into confidence. According to Nelson, it's a matter of finding a healthy activity best suited to your

personality, whether that be exercising or writing in a journal. Patterson, who has mentored overwhelmed students in the past, warns against overcommitting. "Be willing and prepared to say 'no' to distractions or activities which may not be conducive to your meeting your goals," she said.

Nelson and Patterson advise students to discuss their stress and anxiety with a trusted friend, mentor or family member. Students agree an outlet like this is invaluable.

"I think talking to people is really healthy for me because that's when I talk about really personal or conflicting issues," sophomore Jana Murdock said. "It's a good method for me to sort things out and reduce my stress."

Still, sometimes these coping mechanisms don't work. In situations like these, the staff at Elon's counseling service can offer further help.

Nelson gives a final word of encouragement. "The good news," he says, "is that most of us are more resilient than we might think."

Though it may sometimes seem like it, the world is not going to fall apart.

STRESSED OUT? Try these healthy coping tips

- Exercise
- Take a walk
- Write in a journal
- See a funny movie
- Don't take yourself too seriously
- Break large tasks into smaller steps
- Work downtime into your busy schedule
- Be more patient with yourself and others

Check it Out At Lighthouse

Wednesday, April 29
DJ Night

Thursday, April 30
Mug Night & Karaoke

Friday, May 1
SUB Spring Show After-Party
featuring
Anonymous at 11pm

Check us out at <http://org.elon.edu/lighthouse/>



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF

PHI KAPPA PHI

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Elon University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi would like to congratulate the following new inductees who were selected to membership from the upper 7.5% of the junior class and upper 10% of the senior and graduate classes. These students were recognized at an induction ceremony on April 22nd for their achievements. Chapter President Dr. Donna Van Rensbergen gave the opening remarks and Dean of the Elon College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Steven Hume delivered the address.

<p>Galeandra Brummett Merrine Canella Eileen Casperson Allison M. Dancy Ruh A. Elizar Michelle Elvira Peter Thomas E. Hiral Charlotte Marie Brown Howe Miranda Rose Gayson Amelie Marie Lawman Dawn E. Messenger Victor Wayne Munn Angela Wagner O'Daniel Ruger Gann Page Eris Michelle Seadon Charlene Bowen Thax Terry Diane Walker Williams</p> <p>Galeandra Brummett Cody Erin Altizer Ashley Cassara Berman Alexandra Berman-John Daniel Joseph Hill Katherine A. Hoshin Andrew Taylor Black Ryan Matthew Blum Ellis Hachison Edgeman Jonathan Scott Edgeman Amanda Katelyn Brown Devon Nicole Brown Kacey Alexandra Jung-Ae Buschler James D. Burns Kelsey A. Burr Charlene Coory Korinna Marie Clark Kam Elizabeth Cowlick Jenny Reyles-Capron Kelsey Christine Davis Ashley M. Day Katie Grace Day Gabrielle Deon Elizabeth Nicole Dedrick Lizelle M. Dennis Merrin Marie Dent Lee L. Dickman Michael Donald Duncan</p>	<p>Kimberly Brooke Duggins Alexandra Marie Dunn Lindsay Joanne Edwards Kaitlyn Anne Eby Rocky Ann Eise Elin Christine Foggsold Justica L. Fossamer Rebecca Diane Fogle Kerina Jane Fulmer Alexandra L. Ford Tyler Neal Foster Sarah Catherine Frazier Sophistic Ann Frazier Julian Martin Gruppel Erica Lee Givens Althea C. Gidding Requana Corey Gortman Emily Elizabeth Henderson Scott Clinton Harkness Allison Hoy Justica Marie Hoyle Victoria Claire Jones Christopher Colson Jantz Sarah Colborn Jency Ben Christine Jurgensen-Graham Kaitlyn Juengel Megan Nicole Justice Jennifer Michelle Kennedy Amanda Danielle Krustman Hannah Paige Kruse Amanda Lee Kruse Michael Ralph Kleinmann Tim Loribae Kubovick Candice M. Kurz Katherine Elizabeth Lampe Hannah Rose Larkin Suzie Elizabeth Lane David James Lawman Britt Rose Lippman Andrea Lee March Suzie Allison Morkham Kerianne May Munk Amanda Ann Marie McBride John Ryan McGorvey Julian McNeill Valery C. Messeri</p>	<p>Katherine Leigh Meyer Alexandra Milton Kelly Rebecca Miller Nashlie Joanne Moore Stephen E. Murray Michelle Colette Newman Anne K. Nicholson Amanda Lynn Noel Amanda Ottomari Caroline Marie Pechels Kerli Marie Pedman Kerli Marie Pechman Monica D. Pitzer Zanna Angela Pitzer Carla Anna Renshaw Nichole Marie Renshaw Tyler Stephen Rorer Emily Elizabeth Rose Zoe Elizabeth Roth Lindsay Ann Ring Erica M. Ross Matthew Paul Staff Nashlie Spayg Kara Rebecca Scantent Paquita Michelle Seely Hillary Jeannette Sherris Joseph Allen Stumm McNeill Smart Christine Rachel Smith Hannah Nicole Smith Kacey Nicole Spencer Aria Winberg Stockpile Amanda R. Stouph Molly Stumm Andrew T. Swann Kevin A. Sweet Halle Lynn Thewill Alex Mitchell Thewill Suzanne Ashley Urban Arwen Vance Gregory Alexander Wilson Loren Berk Wood Amanda Estee Wilson Chrysan Wakeham</p>
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PhiKappaPhi.org

BREAK INTO BURLINGTON:

Find favorites from mom's kitchen table at Pete's Grill on Piedmont Avenue

Nick Massa
Reporter

At 1:45 p.m. Thursday, the door to Pete's Grill swings open, revealing a man in cowboy boots, a tall hat and a leather coat. Somewhere off in the distance, Clint Eastwood's theme music plays. Then plays again. The third time, the man reaches into his pocket and pulls out his cell phone. Not a single person in the restaurant seems to find it remarkable.

Pete's Grill, located about two miles from Elon on Piedmont Avenue, has been a staple of life in Gibsonville for 60 years. Though the original owner, Pete, died a long time ago and ownership of the place has changed many times, its current owner, Hajipanioto Kostas, operates it with the same Southern feel that has made it famous throughout the years.

"There's too many generations, you know?" Kostas said. "The dad brings the boy, then the boy brings his boy, and on down."

Kostas said he believes it's that family tradition, and not so much the food, that brings people back to Pete's.

But there is definitely something to say about the food.

Pete's has a menu that offers traditional diner fare such as hamburgers, grilled chicken and meatloaf, but it is largely ignored in favor of the cafeteria-style line offerings.

"Ninety-nine percent of people come down through the line," Kostas said. "I could make them something on the grill, but by the time it comes out, they could have been already through the line and out the door."

And with a selection like Kostas', why not?



Pete's Grill, located on 137 Piedmont Ave. in Gibsonville, is famous for its fried corn bread and home cooking that is "just like Mom's." Expect a wait during breakfast and lunch crowds.

For \$7, you can get meat and three vegetables on a plate. Fried chicken, potatoes, corn and green beans. Beef stew, rice, collard greens and grilled onions. Each plate served with a biscuit and cornbread and a tall glass of sweet tea.

And don't forget to finish off the meal with a piece of homemade peach cobbler, which was voted the No. 1 peach cobbler in the South.

"The lady who cooks for us, she's been here for 25 years," Kostas said. "She's learned some things as she's been here." For example, she learned to put sugar in the cabbage for a special, Pete's signature taste.

Pete's Grill is open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, for breakfast and lunch. Lunch is the main draw during the week, so get there early for the best food. Saturday is breakfast day, and lunch is not often crowded.

Though rarely visited by Elon students, Kostas said faculty often come, as well as the Elon baseball team.

He says the students that do come, always come back.

"Pete's Grill is pretty much the most American place in the world, save for the White House," junior Evan Dempster said.

Dempster discovered Pete's in 2007 when it was an item for the Phoenix Phind Scavenger Hunt. He said he's been going there ever since, and he has no plans to stop in the near future.

Dempster said Kostas knows him by name, as he knows dozens of regulars.

DIRECTIONS TO PETE'S GRILL

Head north on South Williamson Avenue.
Turn left at West Haggard Avenue, continue on NC-100.
Turn left at Piedmont Avenue, and Pete's Grill will be to the right.

S 7 U 3 D 9 O 5 K 6 U

8				5				1
	6			9				3
9			1		7			2
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		5	2		9	4		
4		8				2		3
5			6		1			4
	3			4				6
7				8				5

HOW TO PLAY

- Fill in the above grid using the following rules:
- every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
 - every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
 - every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

ANSWERS

5	2	1	3	8	6	9	4	7
8	9	6	5	4	7	1	3	2
4	7	3	1	2	9	6	8	5
3	1	2	9	7	5	8	6	4
9	8	4	6	1	2	5	7	3
6	5	7	8	3	4	2	1	9
2	4	8	7	9	1	3	5	6
7	3	5	2	6	8	3	9	1
1	6	9	4	5	3	7	2	8

Student spreads awareness of HIV/AIDS through self-created prevention methods

Kristin Feeney
Reporter

Elon students seeking to find more information about sexual health on campus have a new resource. The Great American Condom Campaign has recently opened a SafeSite at Elon.

Operated by freshman Joe Kiernan, the Great American Condom Campaign is a grassroots initiative sponsored by the Amplify Your Voice foundation. The purpose of the campaign is to provide students with SafeSites that provide free condoms and the necessary educational tools to reduce unintended pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

Kiernan became involved with the campaign as a result of his own encounters with HIV/AIDS.

"I knew someone who had been dealing with AIDS," Kiernan said. "I felt like young people have a right to services and information on sexual health and the Great American Condom Campaign was a way I could help with that."

To receive the distinction of a SafeSite, Kiernan applied to the Great American Condom Campaign for sponsorship. After being selected, Kiernan received a box of 500 Trojan condoms to distribute. As a SafeSite, student facilitators are expected to inform their peers about safer sex, but also provide advocacy for the sexual and reproductive health rights of all.

"I started by letting my hallmates in Sloan know about it," Kiernan said. "The initial reception was really positive. People told me that it was really awkward going to the health center and they felt more comfortable going to a peer."

Kiernan hopes his SafeSite can be a viable resource to the Elon community.

"Abstinence is the only 100 percent perfect birth control method, but let's be honest. In a college environment, it's sometimes hard to commit to that," Kiernan said. "For those who are going to

have sex, the least I can do is to give out protection."

Kiernan's SafeSite at Elon is just one of many SafeSites located throughout the country. Amplify Your Voice has more than 800 sites at a variety of colleges and universities throughout the country. Other sites include public and private colleges and universities, religiously affiliated universities, community colleges, technical and trade schools, music conservatories, culinary institutions and military academies.

All SafeSites are distinguished with a sticker bearing the official logo of the campaign. Kiernan has this sticker posted on his dorm on the second floor of Sloan.

Since Sloan has card swipes, Kiernan encourages those wishing to use the SafeSite to join the Facebook group. The Facebook group has all of Kiernan's contact information posted, including his cell phone number.

"I want people to know that even if it's 3 a.m., all they have to do is call me," Kiernan said. "I feel like we are a community and it's my responsibility to help."

Though SafeSites are granted by semester, Kiernan intends on reapplying for semesters to come.

"I'm living on the second floor of Sloan again next year. Just look for the sticker to find me," he said.

Kiernan operates independently of the university. All efforts are on Kiernan's own accord with his residence assistant and do not represent any interests of the university Residence Life or the Resident Student Association.





RACHEL CIERI | Photographer
Junior Jenna Stout won second place for her essay "Hamilton's Country: Economics and Politics in Jeffersonian America," and senior Olivia Hubert-Allen was awarded first place for her essay "The Pursuit of Happiness: Thomas Jefferson's Understanding of Liberty and Empire in Early American Economic Development."

Students examine Jeffersonian economy in Elon essay contest

Rachel Cieri
Features Editor

Politics and economics have crossed paths more than once in U.S. history, as participants in the Thomas Jefferson essay contest discovered.

The essay committee picked the contest's topic before they knew the country would face a deplorable economic situation, but it turned out to be perfectly timed when they asked students to address the relationship between politics and economics in Jeffersonian America for the contest's thirteenth year of existence.

Her winnings will buy her a new pair of tennis shoes, but first-place essayist and senior Olivia Hubert-Allen found the real prize in the knowledge she gained from her research.

"I learned so much, not just about Jefferson, but about early America," the journalism and political science double-major said. "I saw the titles of the other entries, and I was intimidated. Those look awesome."

Each entrant found his or her own interpretation of the topic as guests of the contest's annual dinner learned Monday.

Hubert-Allen's take on the topic was that Jeffersonians were forced to change positions in the pursuit of a successful American economy. The Jeffersonians "abandoned hopes of a free and open marketplace," Hubert-Allen wrote in her essay.

Junior Jenna Stout, the contest's second place winner, took an entirely different side to the argument.

Jefferson was not alone in America's economic success, she said. Alexander Hamilton, one of Jefferson's strongest adversaries, played a key role in setting the country's finances in order, Stout argued.

The contest's other four essay arguments ranged from junior Brett Sculetto's assertion that slavery was a driving economic force to senior Laura Gaither's application of the past to today's economy.

Both Hubert-Allen and Stout were

surprised they were selected as winners.

"I didn't think I was going to get anything," Stout, a history major, said. "I didn't even know it was my essay (Communications Professor David Copeland) was introducing until the very end when he said the title."

Hubert-Allen received \$1,000 for her first place essay, Stout received \$600, and each of the four honorable mentions, Sarah Costello, Laura Gaither, Andrew Johnson and Brett Sculetto, received \$100.

Every participant was given \$10 in two-dollar bills, symbolic because the bills feature Jefferson's face.

This year was Hubert-Allen's second time entering the contest. Last spring, she was awarded second place, and she entered again this year at the encouragement of Registrar Mark Albertson.

Next year's essay contest will be moved to the fall in the hope that more students will be encouraged to enter and learn from Jefferson's wisdom.

BEHIND BARS: A look at the job of student bartenders

Brooke Kassner
Reporter

Connections are a wonderful thing to have around a college campus. Connections at the bars are even better.

The people who serve drinks at the bars around Elon have become popular faces at Elon. Regardless of one's bar of choice, it is safe to assume that facial recognition of the bartenders has been achieved so they have even been recognized on campus.

But the bartenders who have money pushed their way or empty pitchers shoved across the side of the bar actually sit in the same classrooms as everyone else on the other side of the bar.

So what is it like for students who work until three in the morning and stay there long after patrons have left and gone to bed?

Junior Caitis Fitzpatrick has been a bartender at Sandy's Bar and Grill for about two months now. As many regulars could guess, she said the hardest nights to work are always Thursdays, when the small space is crammed with so many people that the crowd sometimes spills out the door.

"The majority of money earned comes from tips, and it is hard because we hardly receive tips, and when we do it is no more than fifty cents," Fitzpatrick said.

But she said the atmosphere of working at bars around campus provides for a great social environment.

"It helps to be working at the bar where all of your friends are. You can make money while seeing your friends at the same time," Fitzpatrick said. "The hard part comes when your friends want to be served before others."

For Fitzpatrick, one of the toughest



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
Junior Caitis Fitzpatrick, a bartender at Sandy's Bar and Grill, grabs plastic cups to serve patrons.

parts of the job is deciding who to serve first — remaining loyal to friends or to the patrons that keep the business running.

Junior Sebastian Gunderson, also a bartender at Sandy's, discussed how the days are long, but once people start to show up, the environment becomes fun.

"Generally, shifts start around 5 p.m. and can last anywhere from 2:30 - 4:30 in the morning," Gunderson said.

Surprisingly enough, those who run around serving drinks try not to put their friends first on a busy night.

It is much more likely that strangers will become angry or violent than it is for the bartender's friends to be upset because the bartender is busy, Gunderson said.

"It is not that hard to make friends, much to popular disbelief, but one thing that is important for people to know is that if we look busy, we are, and that we see everyone who wants

drinks, so we are not going to forget them," Gunderson said.

Underage drinking is also an issue for those who work at bars on campus since they are aware of who is and is not 21 or older. This is an obstacle for bartenders because they will get into trouble if they are caught selling alcohol to someone who is underage.

There are a few pointers to take to heart in order to become better friends with the devoted bartenders around Elon.

Remember to be careful with glass bottles — Gunderson and Fitzpatrick lament cleaning up broken glass until 4 a.m. and having to wake up for classes the next day.

Finally, remember this helpful piece of advice, which was revealed in order to understand what our fellow students go through on a typical bar night: If a student can find a way to afford the drinks, then he or she can find a way to afford a decent tip.

Taking on INDIA

Class of 2012
Periclean Scholars
inducted to program,
introduced to cause

Alex Trice
Multimedia Contributor

On April 23, 31 students from the class of 2012 joined the ranks of students from previous years as the new class of Periclean Scholars. The induction ceremony occurred in Holt Chapel at 5 p.m. where the new scholars heard speeches given by two scholars from each of the older classes and were introduced by their mentors.

One of the new inductees, Brittany Moore, said the induction was "very nice and simple."

Sarah Naiman said she was glad both for the fact she was inducted in this year's class of scholars and also for the support that was offered to the 2012 class during the induction.

"Members from all of the previous classes represented offered both advice and assistance if we need guidance in the future," she said. "It was comforting to know that not only do we as a class have each other, but that our class can rely on the previous classes for guidance and feedback if we need it."

Jessica Zollinger said the previous classes "gave us a lot of information about what they had done in their countries and really challenged us to surpass what they had done."

The country charged to the scholars of 2012 is India. It was fitting that after the induction, a reception held in honor of the scholars served them Indian food.

But the celebration didn't keep the scholars distracted from the purpose at hand.

They are already thinking toward the future and demonstrating their commitment and willingness to affect change in India. Zollinger said she wanted to do something to help provide more basic health care and school supplies in India.

Moore said she did not have any great plans to help just yet but was aware of the various problems that needed to be addressed and that she wanted to fix.

"I know that we can all work together to come up with a solution to any one of the issues in India," she said. "We will have to do great amounts of research to figure out not what we want to change in India, but what the people of India would want to change." She also said she could not wait to get started and felt the 2012 class has "great potential."

Martin Kamela, the faculty adviser for the new group of Periclean Scholars, said it would be a "privilege to collaborate with, advise and befriend such a superb group of individuals."

"We're at the starting gate and it is exhilarating to imagine of where we could be three years from now."

Class Locations

2007 - Honduras

2008 - Mexico

2009 - Zambia

2010 - Ghana

2011 - Sri Lanka

2012 - India

Phoenix makes history in SoCon track meet

Erik Kendall
Reporter

The Elon women's track team solidified itself as a top contender in the Southern Conference with strong performances this weekend in Statesboro, Ga. The team placed fourth overall and had several all-conference performances, on its way to its highest finish in school history.

It was this weekend that the Elon women's track team may have announced its arrival to the upper ranks of the Southern Conference.

With a fourth-place finish overall and numerous all-conference performances from a number of competitors, this team's performance could go down as the best in the history of the program.

Appalachian State took the crown, followed by Western Carolina in second and Georgia Southern in third. Elon held off strong competitors such as Samford and UT Chattanooga for the fourth-place finish.

The team posted a final point total of 84, smashing its previous high of 59. This statistic shows the progress the Elon track program has made in recent years.

From a season that was marked with individual and team improvements throughout, the end result was just what head coach Mark Elliston's team was hoping for.

"The meet was just amazing," Elliston said. "These young ladies performed so well, and (the meet) went even better than we had planned."

The team had strong individual performances throughout the meet from a variety of team members.

Sophomores Justine Robertson and Emily Fournier each racked up multiple all-conference honors in the meet.

Robertson, a thrower for the Phoenix, finished second in both the javelin throw, with a distance of 37.11 meters that broke her own school record, and the discus throw, with a



Sophomore Emily Fournier collected two second-place finishes at the Southern Conference tournament. One was in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a school record time of 10:56.55, and the other was in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 18:07.62, just 10 seconds behind the first-place finisher.

distance of 40.38 meters.

Fournier had a successful week and broke her existing record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, placing second overall with a time of 10:56.55 on the first day of the competition. She then followed up with another second-place finish in the 5,000-meter run, finishing just 10 seconds behind the first-place finisher with a time of 18:07.62.

Other all-conference performers included junior Andrea March, who finished second in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:03.84, and freshman Amy Salek, who finished third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 55.63.

More key points were also picked up by record-breaking performances in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 47.81.

The 4x400 team consisting of sophomores Sarah Skogen and Melissa Turowski, junior Jennine Strange and Salek, never seem to be satisfied with its Elon record. They improved yet again to 3:49.15 on the biggest stage of the season.

The performance in the conference meet only confirmed the great improvements the team has been seeing all year, Elliston said.

"When I first took this job two years ago, I saw a lot of potential in the program, but there had to be a process," Elliston said. "It seems now we are starting to move up the ladder, and with a young team gaining experience from these big meets, it is really exciting for the future."



Freshman Amy Salek takes a handoff from junior Jennine Strange in the women's 4x400 meter relay, where the team broke another school record.

ATHLETIC RESULTS April 22-April 27

BASEBALL

April 22
Elon 8
Duke 7

April 24
Elon 11
Samford 8

Elon 12
Samford 7

April 25
Elon 12
Samford 9

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

April 25
Elon 2
Samford 1

Elon 5
Samford 6

April 26
Elon 4
Samford 6

MEN'S TENNIS

April 24
Elon 4
Appalachian State 2

April 25
Elon 4
College of Charleston 2

April 26
Elon 0
Furman 4

WOMEN'S TENNIS

April 23
Elon 5
Western Carolina 0

April 24
Elon 2
UNC Greensboro 4

Elon Sports This Week

WEDNESDAY 4/29
Softball @ Radford - 4 p.m.,
6 p.m.

FRIDAY 5/1
Baseball vs. Wofford - 7 p.m.
Softball vs. UNC Greensboro
- 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

SUNDAY 5/3
Baseball vs. Wofford - 1 p.m.
Softball vs. UNC
Greensboro- 1 p.m.
Women's track and field
(Duke Twilight) - all day

TUESDAY 5/5
Baseball @ North Carolina
- 6 p.m.

THE PHOENIX BATTLES THE BULLDOGS



Elon sophomore infielder Jacqueline Gonzalez looks to be at a hit in last week's game against Campbell University. The Elon softball team also traveled to Birmingham, Ala., to take on Samford over the weekend.



GAME RECAP

The Phoenix took game one on Saturday 2-1, led by sophomore infielder Ashlee Crewe, who scored three runs. The team then dropped the next two games to the Bulldogs 6-5 and 6-4.

This puts the Phoenix at 14-28 overall and 5-13 in the Southern Conference as the team travels to Radford today for a double-header against the Highlanders.

Women's golf secures third place SoCon tournament spot, ends successful season

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

The women's golf team secured a third-place finish at the Southern Conference Championship in Moss Creek April 21 in Hilton Head, S.C. The team finished with a score of 955 behind Furman and UT Chattanooga.

Furman won the championship with a three-day score of 916. Chattanooga finished second with a score of 938.

"We obviously could have played better," Elon head coach Chris Dockrill said. "We played well the first day. The second day we played poorly. It was difficult with the weather and course conditions."

After the first round, the Phoenix was in second place, only five strokes off of the Furman Paladins. The Paladins held the lead throughout the tournament.

Elon dropped to fourth place overall in the tournament after the second round.

"(The team) played well on the last day (of the tournament) and on the back nine to finish up," Dockrill said.

Senior Danielle Mills led the Phoenix with a second-place finish, shooting a 227. Mills finished behind Furman's Stefanie Kenoyer, who won the individual title with a score of 223.

"(Mills) has been playing great all year, especially in the spring," Dockrill said.

In the first two rounds, Mills shot scores of 73 and 79, respectively. She shot three over par in the final round of the tournament.

The senior had the second most birdies in the tournament with a total of eight. Mills also had 30 parred holes, which was among the tournament leaders.

"She didn't play very well on the last day, but hung in there to secure the second-place finish," Dockrill said.

Sophomore Tara McFadden tied for 11 with a score of 237. Elon's freshman Virginia Mayer tied for 24 and junior Kelsey Johnson tied for 28.

Going into the tournament, the team was ranked fourth or fifth in the conference.

"We were pleased," Dockrill said. "It was nice to finish ahead of our ranking."

The tournament capped off a successful season for the Phoenix.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Elon senior Danielle Mills finished second in the Southern Conference tournament. She led the team to a third place finish. For her performance, Mills earned a spot on the all conference team.

Dockrill said the highlight of the season for him was the University of North Carolina Wilmington Lady Seahawk Classic.

The team finished second, six shots behind East Tennessee State. It was one of the most competitive tournaments the team played in this season, Dockrill said.

Mills captured the title at the tournament, and senior Frederique Bruell placed third.

"Both girls played and worked hard over four years and played well at UNC W," Dockrill said.

Both Mills and Bruell will graduate in May, leaving the Phoenix golf program.

"One of the great things is that the younger players see the work ethic (Mills and Bruell) have," Dockrill said. "In order to play at that level, you have to work that hard."

Next season, the Phoenix will have a young team. Ashley Barbee and Kelsey Johnson will be the seniors for the team in the fall. But the five freshmen on the team this year will bring more experience to the team next season.

"We've got a rebuilding process that we'll do next year, but I'll be looking forward to working with them," Dockrill said.

Men's golf finishes in middle of pack

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

The Elon men's golf team finished sixth this season at the Southern Conference tournament in Florence, S.C. The team posted a final score of 883. UT Chattanooga won the tournament with a final score of 852.

Junior Phil Bartholomew led the Phoenix with a three-day total of 217, which was good enough to tie for a 13-place finish. He was one of the top leaders in birdies.

"He played well this spring," Elon head coach Bill Morningstar said. "I think he just put things together and was ready to play when we got there."

Morningstar also said sophomore Scott Hockemeyer and junior Mike Fekete played well. Hockemeyer finished the tournament tied for 19 with a three-day score of 220. He parred the final round of the tournament.

Fekete finished the tournament tied for 26 overall, with a score of 225. In total, he parred on 36 holes.

"Down the line, these kids played well," Morningstar said.

Prior to the SoCon tournament, the team's previous best finish was fifth overall at the Wexford Plantation

Intercollegiate tournament.

Junior Jayson Judy led that tournament in 10 place out of 81 golfers.

"I think the conference tournament was the first time we had four or five guys playing as well as they were all year," Morningstar said. "That was key."

The Phoenix had a shaky season, starting strong at the Wexford Plantation Intercollegiate, but the level of play dropped during the season.

The team finished last place out of 15 teams at the Palisades Invitational April 13-14, in Charlotte, N.C.

At the Palisades Invitational, Judy played well for the Phoenix and tied for 18 overall with a three-round score of 216.

Morningstar said the team's play was up and down. "We'd maybe get one (player) playing well and two playing mediocre and two playing bad," Morningstar said. "We never got all of them playing well at the same time."

The team doesn't have any seniors on the roster this season, which Morningstar said is good for his young team.

"We hope it's going to be a big plus for us next year," he said. "With all of them back and a little more age we should hopefully make a run at the conference tournament next year."

Athletic department silences fans, removes home field advantage

Anyone who has been to a baseball game this season at Latham Park can agree that in some games the fans are more of an attraction than the game. This is partially because the Phoenix is capable of scoring runs in droves and putting games out of doubt before the fifth inning. But it is also because the fans who stand behind the visitor's dugout are so entertaining.

You could hear things such as: "Hey number 15, has your ERA dropped below 50 yet?" or "Number eight, you might as well sit down because there's no way you're playing today."

Observers would never hear a curse word from the Elon faithful, nor would they hear a mention of an opposing player's family. One particular afternoon a fan commented on how "fat" a player was, and that fan's friend yelled: "And that came from a 300-pound person."

But the Elon Athletic Department apparently didn't approve of student athletes from other sports being so vocal in their cheering and occasional heckling. Two weekends ago, the students were unable to cheer the way they had been for the entire season and the fan support was, to say the least, weak.

By censoring the students, the athletic department has not only made games a lot quieter, but it's taken away some of the home field advantage for the team. When the Phoenix hits the road to take on Georgia Southern, East Carolina and Appalachian State, it has to deal with much worse heckling than what visitors deal with at Latham Park.

This is ironic coming from the department that puts up signs on campus to encourage students to go to games, but then tells the most loyal of the fans they can't get too loud.

If the goal is to win every game and win another Southern Conference championship, then why would the athletic department take away a vital element of the home field advantage?

"Those guys are funny, and it helps," Elon head coach Mike Kennedy said. "You know, we go on the road and that's what we get as well and those guys need to know that it really helps."

Let's examine some facts.

The first to look at is the 16-3 home record the Phoenix boasts. This includes the three times this season the Phoenix swept a Southern Conference rival in a three-game weekend series, and also posted wins over Duke and University of North Carolina Wilmington.

This season, opposing pitchers have allowed 11.4 runs per game against the Phoenix. Again, this has a lot to do with a Phoenix line-up that has already set the school record for home runs in a season. But it certainly doesn't help those opposing pitchers who hear their names mockingly serenaded after giving up home runs.

The average attendance for the Phoenix road games this season is 1,464 fans. In contrast, the average home attendance is a meager 412 fans per game. Obviously, with this difference, the Phoenix needs all the possible fan support at home because they face much bigger and more obscene crowds on the road.

And we cannot forget the timeless debate of whether "free speech" really means free speech. Aside from maybe hurting the feelings of visiting players, the fans have done nothing to warrant this censorship. And if those players really let the jeering get to them, then they shouldn't be playing college sports.

Other than the Phoenix offensive explosions, the most consistent element of each game is people asking each other: "What did they say?" in reference to the fans behind the visitor's dugout.

The people don't comment that what is said is inappropriate or that it has no place at Elon. Rather, they wish to hear everything that is said.

So there's no reason to restrict Elon fans to quiet clapping and censor what is being said.

Because the Phoenix faces rowdy crowds on the road, visiting teams should be subject to that treatment when they come to Latham Park.



Conor O'Neill
Columnist

Maroon vs. Gold spring football game sets the stage for upcoming season

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

Elon junior wide receiver Terrell Hudgins caught a pass over a defender and marched into the end zone for a touchdown. The crowd erupted.

Elon football was back in action Saturday afternoon at Rhodes Stadium in front of about 1,800 fans.

This 36-yard touchdown grab was a little different than most for Hudgins. It was thrown by sophomore quarterback Donny Kirby, instead of sophomore quarterback Scott Riddle. Hudgins and Kirby helped lead the gold team to victory in the spring football game 28-10.

"Every year the excitement continues to build around the program," head coach Pete Lembo said. "It was a great turnout today."

Riddle, the starting quarterback for the maroon team, came up short for the victory. He finished the game with 144 passing yards and one 60-yard touchdown pass to freshman wide receiver Aaron Mellette.

Mellette finished the day with four catches to total 86 yards and one touchdown reception.

"It was encouraging because we certainly need a fourth receiver to emerge," head coach Pete Lembo said. "We've got three veteran guys (Terrell) Hudgins, (Sean) Jeffcoat and (Lance) Camp. We need more guys to step up for us to run our offense the way we do."

Riddle said he liked throwing to Mellette in the spring game and hadn't had a lot of opportunities to throw to him before Saturday.

"I think we did a lot of good things today," Riddle said. "It was a lot of fun. It was good to see a lot of guys who don't play a lot get some reps and be in game situations."

Riddle also tried out a different position.

The quarterback took some punts

during the game. He punted four times with an average of 31.2 yards.

"I punted in high school, but I think I need some more coaching on it now," Riddle said, laughing.

Lembo said it was good to get through the game without any major injuries. It was also good for the coaching staff to evaluate the players in game situations.

"When you come into the stadium and when the bullets start firing, you find out how guys perform under pressure," he said. "We learned a little bit about that today."

In the fourth quarter, the gold team stepped up on the defensive side of the ball. Both sophomore defensive lineman Jordan Gibson and redshirted freshman linebacker Joshua Jones returned interceptions for touchdowns to solidify the gold team's victory.

Junior Carlos Sullivan led the gold team with a total of 5 tackles on the day. For the maroon team, junior linebacker Travis Green led the team in tackles with 4.5.

The game will help the team transition into conditioning mode before it opens preseason camp in August.

Lembo said the coaching staff will reevaluate all of the spring practices for the team's strengths and weaknesses before then.

The Phoenix will open its regular season when it hosts Davidson College on Sept. 5. A game against Presbyterian College will follow, before the highly-anticipated match-up when the team travels to Wake Forest.

The team opens Southern Conference play Sept. 26, when it will host Georgia Southern.

Mellette is confident in the team's performance in the upcoming season.

"I think we're going to have a good run this season in the conference," he said.



ANDREW DODD | Staff Photographer

Sophomore running back Brandon Newsome, left, faces off against freshman running back Dontay Taylor in drills in-between quarters of Saturday's spring game. The gold team prevailed with a 28-10 victory.

Women's tennis ends season in quarterfinals of SoCon tournament

Sam Calvert
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's tennis Southern Conference tournament started in full swing Thursday when six of the 11 teams in the conference faced off at the Burlington Tennis Center. Elon, seeded sixth, started off the tournament against No. 11 Western Carolina.

The team swept the Catamounts 5-0, beginning with the doubles point. Junior Laura Graybill and senior Whitney Butcher won the first match 8-2 at No. 3, and junior Hayley Wahl and freshman Daleen Kloppers secured the point at No. 2 with another 8-2 victory.

Wahl then turned around and won the first singles point of the match 6-0, 6-0 at No. 5. The lead quickly increased to 3-0 as No. 6 Butcher finished 6-0, 6-2. Juniors No. 1 Anna Milian and No. 2 Paige Kensrue won almost simultaneously 6-1, 6-2 and 6-0, 6-0, respectively.

"We did really well this weekend," Butcher said. "We played really well against Western Carolina, but we all knew that UNC (Greensboro) was going to be really difficult."

UNC G proved to be just that when

the Phoenix faced them Friday.

Freshman Elisa Simonetti and Butcher captured the first doubles match at No. 3 8-5, but Elon was unable to grab either the No. 1 or No. 2 matches to take the doubles point.

The Phoenix managed to take two points from the Spartans, but they couldn't avoid a 4-2 defeat. No. 2 Kensrue beat Valerie Behr 6-3, 6-4 and freshman Lauren Sessoms overcame Britney Cloer 7-5, 6-2.

"Of course, I'm disappointed we didn't beat Greensboro, but I feel like we played really well," Kensrue said. "They just came out a little more ready in doubles, and that set the tone for the rest of the match. If we had won the doubles point, I think it would have been different."

But the team cannot change the past. They can only look at what they did well.

"The girls fought really hard," head coach Elizabeth Anderson said. "It was a very competitive match and a great atmosphere."

Anderson was referring to the crowd at the match. Many people gathered to watch Elon play on its home court.

"Playing at home for the Southern

Conference tournament was the highlight of the season," Kensrue said. "It was a great atmosphere to be here and have our friends be able to come and watch."

Butcher's experience was special for another reason, as well. After four years on the team, this was Butcher's last time to play in the SoCon tournament.

"It's bittersweet," she said. "It is a wonderful experience to end (my Elon career) with the tournament at Elon."

But even with such a great event, it is still sad for her to leave the team, Butcher said.

Butcher is leaving an Elon team that is on the other end of the spectrum. Of the other nine players on the team, four are currently freshmen.

Having the conference tournament at Elon was a great learning experience, Kensrue said. Because the freshmen were able to play in the comfort and environment of Elon while still competing in tournament play, they were able to learn a lot.

"We are looking forward to build on what we accomplished this year," Anderson said. "We are ready to go onto greater things next year."



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Whitney Butcher was the only senior on a young Elon team this season. She won her doubles match in the first round against Western Carolina, 8-2 with partner, junior Laura Graybill.

SEASON IN REVIEW

For the Elon women's tennis team, the season did not begin this spring. These players have been immersed in tennis since the school year began.

The girls started out well, shining in many of the fall tournaments. In the Elon Invitational at the beginning of October, freshman Elisa Simonetti finished first, while junior Anna Milian finished second.

The team did not fare quite as well at the beginning of the spring season. Elon played three ranked teams at the beginning, two of them to open the season.

Going into conference play, Elon's record was 4-5, but the team was just

beginning to pick up speed.

"We definitely had a few ups and downs," senior Whitney Butcher said. "It took us a couple of matches to get going."

Part of that was because of how young the team was, Butcher said.

Out of the 10 women on the team, four of them were freshmen and one was a sophomore.

But as the season rolled on, the players began to pick up, as did the record. The team finished the season 13-12 overall, 6-6 in Southern Conference play.

"We have improved a lot throughout the season," head coach Elizabeth Anderson

said. "We have a lot of young players who have really developed a lot throughout the year and learned a lot."

Butcher attributed a lot of the improvement to a turning point at the end of February, when the team was playing Georgia Southern. The players expected to win, but ended up on the losing side of a 4-3 score.

The match came down to Kensrue at No. 2, who was not able to pull out the win.

"It was a wake-up call early on," Butcher said. "It's a terrible feeling, but it's how the freshmen came to find out that tennis is truly a team sport. This was

when the team came together."

After the season was over, the SoCon honored three of the players on the team. Simonetti was named the 2009 SoCon Freshman of the Year.

Milian landed a spot on the First Team All-SoCon singles selection, while she and junior Paige Kensrue picked up a Second Team All-SoCon doubles selection.

"I think we had a really good season," Kensrue said. "We had a very young team, so I think this was more of a building year. Next year, I think we will be able to capitalize on the experience the freshmen got this year."

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We were in the mood for fruity drinks :)

From your album:
"End of Spring Semester 09"

Added April 29 - [Comment](#) - [Like](#)



Mike Collins at 10:01 April 29

I can't believe Tara had three of those hawiaan punch drinks!



Abbey Smith at 10:16 April 29

I know! I was good to go with just my soda. lol



Elon Students at 10:32 April 29

66% of Elon students who drink keep track of how many drinks they have consumed.

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Sports

Phoenix soars to second place at SoCon finals

Sam Calvert
Assistant Sports Editor

After playing hard all season, the Elon men's tennis team secured a No. 2 seed and a bye for the first day of play in the Southern Conference tournament. The Phoenix took the court last Friday ready for action, and it showed.

No. 67, Elon, overpowered Appalachian State 4-2 at the Burlington Tennis Center to conclude its first of three matches in the tournament. The two teams battled for the doubles point that proved to be tough for the Phoenix.

After losing at No. 1 doubles, senior Damon Gooch and sophomore Philip Nemeč, ranked No. 33 nationally, forced doubles to come down to the No. 2 match. Sophomores Chase Helpingstine and Oscar Podlewski prevailed in the final doubles match 9-8 (9-7) to grab the first point of the match.

The Phoenix took three of the six singles matches. At No. 2 singles, Podlewski knocked off the Mountaineers' Trent Constance 6-2, 6-2. Shortly after, nationally-ranked No. 82 Gooch followed suit with a 6-3, 6-2 win. Helpingstine locked in the win at No. 4, 6-2, 6-2.

The Phoenix battled to win the match against the No. 7-seeded Appalachian State, but the team knew it was not going to be easy coming into the tournament.

"We knew that every match we played was going to be tough," head coach Michael Leonard said. "There were seven strong teams in the conference."

Elon took on College of Charleston, seeded No. 6 in the tournament, on Saturday in the semi-finals.

The Cougars are one of the most talented teams in the conference, Leonard said. The Cougars had been hurt a lot this season, but were finally healthy for the tournament.

Elon took the first two doubles matches to grab the first point of the match. Helpingstine and Podlewski won first at No. 2, 8-5. Sophomore Alberto Rojas and freshman Carlin Murray pulled out the No. 3 match 8-6 to give the team the advantage going into singles play.

No. 6 sophomore Cody Stauffer-McDowell and No. 4 Gooch finished first, putting the Phoenix up 3-0 with 6-2, 6-2 and 6-1, 6-1 wins respectively.

Elon then dropped matches at No. 3 and No. 4 to put the match at 3-2.

At No. 5, Rojas split sets. Soon after the beginning of the third set, he found himself down 1-4 to the Cougar's Mickael Boyer. After a visit from the trainer, as well as pep talks from both Leonard and himself, Rojas was able to battle back and win the point — and in turn, the match.

"I kept telling myself, 'You were able to win in the regular season, why not now?'" Rojas said. "You beat him in the regular season, why not now?"

With a win over College of Charleston, Elon advanced to the conference finals, where it met No. 1-seeded Furman University.

The Phoenix fell to a quick deficit when the Paladins won the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles matches against Gooch and Nemeč and Helpingstine and Podlewski, respectively.

Furman then won three singles matches, at No. 2, No. 3 and No. 6, to claim a 4-0 victory and the SoCon title.

"We had to play to our full potential if we were going to beat Furman," Leonard said. "We had moments where we did, but we couldn't sustain."

Although Leonard might not have been as pleased with the team's play, he said he was overjoyed with the turnout from the crowd.

The bleachers were full both days at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center as students, faculty, community members and family came out to support the Phoenix.

"Anytime you get that big of a turnout at a tennis match, it's exciting," Leonard said.

The Paladins, ranked No. 72 nationally, beat the Phoenix in regular season play 5-2 and held off Elon in the finals for the second year in a row.

"We had a tough final match," Rojas said. "I feel good about all of us doing our best. It's all we could ask for."



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Elon sophomore Cody Stauffer MacDowell won 6-2, 6-2 against College of Charleston on Saturday. MacDowell eventually fell to Furman on Sunday afternoon in the SoCon championship match.

SEASON IN REVIEW

September and October proved busy months for the Elon men's tennis team as it competed in fall tournaments to get back into competition. The players performed well at the Elon Invitational, with senior Damon Gooch landing the top singles spot, as well as the top doubles spot with his partner, sophomore Philip Nemeč.

The fall tournaments provided the team with a chance to get ready for the upcoming spring season.

To begin the season, the team played six ranked teams, the highest being No. 20, UNC Chapel Hill.

The team finished 21-6 for the regular season, 9-1 in the conference.

"We had a tough beginning, but in the end, it was a really good season," sophomore Alberto Rojas said. "We improved a lot, and we all learned a lot. That will make us much better for next year."

One of the biggest wins of the season came toward the end of March, when Elon played No. 56 Radford at home. The team edged out a 4-3 win against the Highlanders.

"We had no ranking at the time, and they were ranked No. 56 in the country," Rojas said. "Beating them made us feel comfortable and confident that we also had a good team."

During the season, Elon saw several different rankings come its way.

Before the season began, Gooch was ranked No. 115 nationally. He climbed as high as No. 56 and ended the season No. 82.

He and Nemeč were also nationally recognized for their doubles play. They reached a high spot at No. 20, but finished the season at No. 33.

While these two players were rising in the rankings, Elon also earned a team ranking for the first time in school history. On March 3, the Phoenix emerged at No. 75 before quickly dropping out of the top-75. Elon resurfaced in the rankings March 31, at No. 66. The team packed at No. 61 in the middle of April before ending the season at No. 66.

"As a year, if you look at our record and the teams we beat, I'd say our season was really successful," head coach Michael Leonard said.



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Elon senior Damon Gooch, right, hits the ball during a doubles match in the Southern Conference tournament this weekend, as his doubles partner, sophomore Phil Nemeč. The duo finished the season ranked at No. 33. Their highest ranking during the season was No. 20, earlier in the spring.

Swinging into the spotlight

Sam Calvert
Assistant Sports Editor

For most of the season, senior Damon Gooch has received a lot of national attention, between his singles and doubles play with sophomore Philip Nemeč. Such a bright spotlight on the senior left many other players left in the shadows, including sophomore Alberto Rojas. But Rojas' performance for the season kept him shining in the eyes of head coach Michael Leonard.

Rojas came into the spring season after posting a 3-4 record in singles in the fall. His freshman year was what head coach Michael Leonard called "average at best."

"At the beginning of this season, I was looking to see what he was going to do," Leonard said.

Rojas quickly showed that this season would not be the same. He went 10-0 on the regular season in conference play, tied for first in the Southern Conference with Furman sophomore Sawyer Duncan. He was also fourth in the conference in overall record, posting an impressive 20-6 record for the season.

"He worked really hard, and he just kept getting better and better," Leonard said. "By the time it was the middle of the year, he was the toughest kid for his position."

Rojas was pleased with his play, but said he couldn't take all of the credit for his

success.

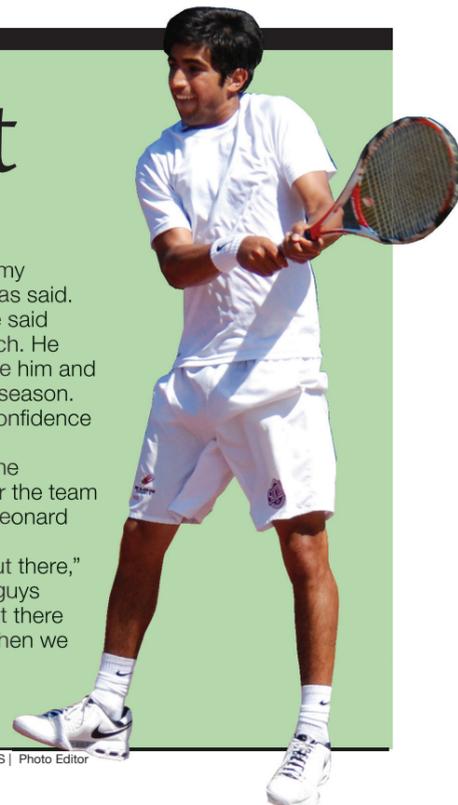
"Coach helped me a lot, and my teammates helped me a lot," Rojas said.

One of the teammates that he said specifically helped him was Gooch. He said Gooch really came alongside him and helped him improve through the season.

"(Gooch) helped me get my confidence back," Rojas said.

With all the work he put into the season, Rojas became the player the team could count on to pull through, Leonard said.

"He became a little bulldog out there," Leonard said. "I keep telling the guys any time we get all six players out there competing like he's competing, then we are going to succeed."



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor