

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014 • VOLUME 40, EDITION 4

## Master plan brings major changes to Town of Elon

Jonathan Black  
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Elon has proposed a new revitalization plan that would restructure the eight-block area known as downtown Elon.

The plan calls for the construction of 10 mixed-use buildings, six residential buildings, an office space and a civic/hospitality space.

The first floor of the mixed-use buildings will house retails and restaurants, while the upper floors will serve as either offices or residential spaces depending on the building. The area will surround a green space called Town Commons. However, the plan is subject to change.

Davis Montgomery, a member of the Elon Board of Aldermen, said the board began to ask why businesses didn't want to move their locations to downtown Elon. As a result, a committee was formed four years ago to discuss the revitalization of downtown Elon.

The committee was made up of Montgomery, Alderman Mark Greene, Elon resident Clark Bennett, Town Planner Sean Tencer, former Town Manager Ed Wyatt and Gerald

See *PLAN* page 3

## Elon's new budget raises tuition, financial aid

The Elon University Board of Trustees met Tuesday to approve the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget, which includes a 3.69 percent increase in undergraduate tuition. Next year, tuition will cost \$30,848 with the total cost of living on campus adding up to \$41,914.

In an email sent out to the faculty and staff, President Leo Lambert said next year's tuition will remain lower than the national average. Additionally, the cost of tuition will be between \$5,000 to \$15,000 lower than Elon's peer institutions.

According to Lambert, financial aid will increase by 6.88 percent with a commitment to increase need-based aid to support the university's goal of providing complete access to a global experience.

# Phoenix frozen



With shouts of "Long live Elon!" the right team charged down the hill in an organized attack during a campus wide snowball fight Thursday.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

## Strong winter weather causes roads, schools to close down

Hannah Wolfe  
Senior Reporter

2014 was rung in with excitement, resolutions and an unexpected cold front. This winter season has been unseasonably cold in North Carolina, and authorities have had to go the extra mile to combat the frigid temperatures and snow.

Temperatures in Raleigh reached the single digits this winter for the first time since 2000, only 18 degrees away from the record low of -9 degrees. Similar temperatures have been report-

ed in other parts of the state.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has surpassed their \$30 million budget for winter weather this year. The storms have required the assistance of extra employees, the purchase of more salt and the use of more heavy-duty machinery in order to recover.

Jennifer Brandenburg, the state asset management engineer at the NCDOT, reported that \$30 million is set aside annually for winter weather snow and ice removal. Usually only about \$12 to \$15 million of this budget is spent.

It's not unusual for this budget to be extend-

ed. In one particularly snowy year, the NCDOT spent \$60 million, twice its budget.

"We see what we have planned when spring comes and skip some other activities," Brandenburg said.

The average North Carolinian would be unlikely to notice the spring cutback. Public grass won't be cut as often, and less will be done to manicure the state in order to make up the lost funds.

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# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>19</b> 'SNL's' Kate McKinnon 8:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	<b>20</b> Half the Sky - Part II Screening 7 p.m. McEwen 011	<b>21</b> Baseball vs. Wagner 4 p.m. Latham Park	<b>22</b> TEDxElonUniversity 'Innovation into Practice' 1 p.m. Whitley Auditorium
<b>23</b> Softball vs. Iona 1:45 p.m. Hunt Softball Park	<b>24</b> Truitt Center hosts 'Whirlwind Tour' of world religions 4 p.m. Numen Lumen Pavilion	<b>25</b> PEEPLI [Live] (2010) film screening 7 p.m. LaRose Digital Theatre, KOBC	<b>26</b> 'Destination: After Elon' Info Session 7 p.m. LaRose Digital Theatre, KOBC	<b>27</b> Men's Basketball vs. Wofford 7 p.m. Alumni Gym	<b>28</b> SUBLive: Kevin Mac 8 p.m. Irazu	<b>March 1</b> Men's Basketball vs. Davidson 7 p.m. Alumni Gym
<b>2</b> Baseball vs. Gardner-Webb 4 p.m. Latham Park	<b>3</b> Edward W. Felten, 'TMI: Information, Identity, and Privacy' 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	<b>4</b> The Music of Dan Asia 6:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium				

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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## PLAN

from cover

Whittington, Elon University's senior vice president for business, finance and technology.

Recently, the committee began to take bigger steps into having the plan come to fruition.

"Within the last year and a half we began to look at this plan more seriously," Greene said. "We had different stakeholders and citizens come in so we could get a feel for what they wanted from a new downtown space."

Following their input, the committee sent a proposal out to six to eight firms to come up with a master plan for downtown Elon.

"We took a look at what their response to our proposal looked like," Montgomery said. "We [threw out] the things we didn't like. We had to tell them exactly what we were looking for to get a decent bid in."

The committee chose Kaufmann & Associates, a Pennsylvania-based company.

Greene said the committee wanted the area to be a different template from the university's design but still complement it.

"The committee wanted to establish a separate downtown area because the downtown isn't going to rely on the student population," he said.

The proposed plan was presented to the Board of Aldermen earlier this month. A public hearing will take place at 6 p.m. March 3 and the Board of Aldermen will vote on the plan March 11.

If the vote passes, Greene estimated the plan will take 10 to 20 years to complete, but there is no intention to let the project go to waste.

"It's a marathon, not a sprint," he said. "We don't want it to be something that sits on the shelf."



## Map Legend

- 1: The Oaks Apartments
- 2: Monumental/Civic Space
- 3: McEwen Dining Hall
- 4-13: Mixed used buildings
- 14-19: Residential buildings
- 20: Arts West

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF ELON

## SNOW

from cover

"Generally, most governments have a bit more flexibility in spending than they advertise," said John Herlin, instructor in economics at Elon University. "If the winter weather spending is more than the budget, then they can draw funds from elsewhere."

Compensating the budget is not predicted to create any problems, as the NCDOT is prepared each year for the possibility.

"We will spend money on snow and ice regardless for safety of transportation," Branden-

burg said.

Schools experienced delayed openings and cancellations because of the low temperatures and multiple inches of snow. Elon was subject to three snow days last week after a two-day snowstorm.

Dangerous conditions on the roads as a result of freezing temperature, combined with the unusually high rate of snowfall, was a major reason for all the snow days. The big storm during the last week of January resulted in six fatalities in motor vehicle accidents.

Gov. Pat McCrory declared North Carolina to be in a state of emergency Jan. 28 and

again Feb. 12. State officials hoped this would encourage drivers to stay off the roads and prevent the threat of any more automobile-related incidents.

Officials across the state are trying to figure out how to make up for all the snow days. North Carolina state law requires districts to have 185 days of classes or 1,025 hours of instruction per school year. Many districts have already missed more than a week of school.

Gov. Pat McCrory is working with education leaders to piece together an action plan. Options for making up school days include extending the school year, having classes on

holidays like Good Friday, Saturday classes or a shorter spring break.

Experts say that the unusual weather patterns are from environmental inconsistencies.

"I would think it has a lot to do with the disruption of the polar vortex this January," said Patricia Thomas-Laemont, adjunct instructor in environmental studies at Elon. "Cold air that is normally trapped in the arctic breaks away and moves southward, bringing exceptionally cold weather to our region."

Despite the cold weather this winter, the spring is predicted to follow normal weather patterns.

# Federal authorities investigate Duke Energy, state



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Duke Energy have been subpoenaed in a federal investigation after Duke Energy spilled thousands of tons of coal ash into the Dan River near Gaston, N.C.

**Stephanie Lamm**  
Assistant News Editor

The federal government launched a criminal investigation into the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Duke Energy after thousands of tons of coal ash spilled into the Dan River.

The subpoena, issued Feb. 10, requests the DENR appear before the Eastern District Court of North Carolina in Raleigh March 18.

The United States Attorney's Office requested records from the DENR beginning in 2000 up to the date of the spill.

Items mentioned include permit requests and permits issued to Duke Energy's Dan River plant, inspection reports from Duke Energy's Dan River facility, any documents concerning coal ash leaks at the Dan River facility, records of enforcement actions taken by the DENR

against Duke Energy's Dan River facility, press releases issued by the DENR surrounding the Feb. 2 leak, records of maintenance to the broken stormwater pipe that released the coal ash and any correspondence shared between Duke Energy and the DENR.

In a statement, the DENR said it plans to give its full cooperation in the investigation. The department's chief environmental lawyer will appear before a grand jury next month.

Duke Energy also received a subpoena related to the Dan River spill. In a company statement, Duke Energy said they plan to cooperate with the investigation. In regards to the Dan River spill, Paul Newton, president of Duke Energy in North Carolina, said the company takes full responsibility for the spill.

"We will do the right thing for the river and surrounding communities. We are accountable," Newton said.

The exact charges have not been announced, but the hearing will likely focus on possible criminal collusion between Duke and the DENR to avoid federal regulation.

A pipe burst Feb. 2 at a Duke Energy coal-fired plant in Eden, N.C. The spill, which is the third largest in U.S. history, dumped enough toxic sludge to fill 73 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Duke Energy initially estimated 82,000 tons of coal ash leaked from the broken pipe, but lowered their estimate to 30,000-39,000 tons the following week.

On Feb. 13, as crews were working to contain the spill, another leaky pipe released 1,000 gallons of treated wastewater at the same site. Though state officials say the second spill poses no health risks to the surrounding communities, Duke Energy was given 10 days to develop a plan to stop the leak.

The Division of Water Resources within the

DENR is responsible for permitting, regulating and inspecting all 14 coal-fired power plants in North Carolina in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

After the Feb. 2 spill, the DENR released a statement saying contaminate levels were below state and federal clean water standards. Upon review of the data, the department revised their statement. Follow up tests the week after the spill showed arsenic levels were four times higher than in samples taken the week before.

"The next step is working with other agencies and Duke Energy to coordinate a clean-up plan for the Dan River," said DENR spokesman Drew Elliot. "We will be investigating what happened, why it happened and at that time we will explore any enforcement, penalties or other actions we might take against the utility."

# environmental agency following coal ash spill

Environmental groups have criticized the state's handling of the most recent coal ash spill, saying state officials are trying to downplay the severity of the spill and avoid holding Duke Energy accountable. Gov. Pat McCrory, who worked at Duke Energy for 28 years and holds at least \$10,000 in company stock, has come under fire from environmental groups for shielding the company from complying with federal regulations.

As part of McCrory's push to get more private sector officials into regulatory agencies, he appointed John Skvarla as secretary of the DENR last year. Skvarla previously served as CEO for Restoration Systems, an investment banking firm focused on environmental mitigation. In an interview with WRAL last year, Skvarla said he believed some rules in the DENR were over-regulating the utilities, and he promised to take a customer service approach to operating the DENR.

The DENR's mission statement says, "The DENR must always be a customer service-friendly organization, whether we're issuing permits or educating citizens about recycling."

Amy Adams, former regional director of the DENR in charge of enforcing surface water standards, said she resigned last November because she felt Skvarla was moving the DENR in the wrong direction.

"We have a governor right now that has very close ties to Duke, the state's largest polluter and a major political contributor to his campaigns. Under the new administration, North Carolina has changed the definition of who its customer is from the public and natural resources it is supposed to protect to the industries it regulates," Adams said. "There's been a huge push away from environmental protection and toward promoting economic growth."

Adams now works for Appalachian Voices, a nonprofit agency aimed at protecting natural resources in the Appalachian Mountains. Many other environmental groups have spoken out against the DENR's relationship with Duke Energy.

Duke Energy and federal regulatory agencies have clashed in the past few years, with the state agency often siding with Duke Energy.

Groundwater monitoring from the Dan River plant in 2011 found dangerous levels of

antimony and arsenic, both toxic. Though the high toxin levels were reported, the DENR took no action against Duke Energy. Six months before the Dan River spill, the state government announced that Duke Energy was in violation of the Clean Water Act for dumping pollution into the Dan River without a proper permit, but the agency did not take enforcement action.

"Duke Energy and the state of North Carolina have known about contamination from aging and dangerous coal ash storage pits for years, yet have taken no action to clean up the waste pits and protect our waterways and our

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN DUKE ENERGY AND DENR

MARCH 2013:

Coalition of environmental groups file civil suit against Duke Energy

AUGUST 2013:

DENR takes on case instead of coalition and enters a settlement

FEBRUARY 2, 2014:

Dan River spill

FEBRUARY 10, 2014:

Federal criminal investigation launched into Duke Energy and DENR

MARCH 18, 2014

Duke Energy and DENR will appear in U.S. District Court

people," the Sierra Club said in a press release. "The DENR only filed an enforcement action against Duke's unlawful coal ash pits after conservation advocates like the Sierra Club forced their hand. Even then, the DENR's customer service approach would allow Duke Energy to continue business as usual."

In the summer of 2013, the state blocked three civil suits that would have held Duke Energy accountable for previous coal ash pol-

lution. Under the Clean Water Act, civil suits must give the polluter 60 days notice, and during this time period the DENR took on the lawsuits. The state then enacted the enforcement clause of the Clean Water Act, essentially blocking all future civil lawsuits against Duke Energy. In the case of a coal ash storage basin contaminating groundwater near Asheville, the DENR proposed a \$99,111 fine against the \$50 billion corporation and required increased monitoring of plant sites.

Environmental groups were not satisfied with the proposed settlement and said Duke Energy needs to be held accountable for cleaning up the pollution and reforming their coal ash storage methods.

Duke Energy and the DENR said the settlement will work in the interest of the original coalition of environmentalist groups that brought the case against Duke Energy.

"All environmental groups that have asked to be involved in the suits against Duke Energy have been allowed to participate, so we do not oppose their intervention. They will have their say in the lawsuit," Elliot said.

After the settlement proposal was announced, environmental groups were invited to provide their input. More than 5,000 people wrote letters against the proposal with only one person writing in support.

On Feb. 10, the department told the judge to disregard their settlement after widespread criticism from environmental groups who believed the penalties were not stiff enough. Given the recent criminal investigation, the case against Duke Energy remains open.

"The DENR has been studying Duke Energy's coal ash for years and has never taken action to enforce the law until conservation groups forced it to act," said Frank Holleman, senior attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center. "Now, instead of taking action to clean up the coal ash pollution and protect the public, the DENR is going back to the drawing board and proposing to delay action for who knows how long."

Environmentalists and state regulatory agencies say Duke has been polluting waterways for years, but the groups disagree over the best way to hold Duke accountable and prevent further environmental damage.

"The DENR has been carefully monitoring our response to the Dan River events, and they have issued litigation," said Lisa Hoffmann, spokesperson for Duke Energy. "We have a regulator-regulated relationship with the department, and the penalties imposed on Duke Energy for the Dan River spill are yet to be seen."

Adams said she feels the customer service approach under Skvarla's leadership goes beyond a regulator-regulated utility relationship.

"Giving industries extra room to violate regulations weakens DENR's position. It's like a get out of jail free card. Instead of maintaining a hard line and pursuing violation of state law, Skvarla did not want the DENR to come across as tough," Adams said. "He wants the DENR to partner with the industries, but they aren't partners. We need to reinstate a regulator-regulated relationship." §

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# Impact of coal spill could last a decade

**Michael Papich**  
Assistant News Editor

As more leaks are discovered in North Carolina's Dan River, environmental groups are saying the effects of the tens of thousands of tons of coal ash could remain in the ecosystem for at least a decade.

On Feb. 2, a pipe containing coal ash produced by Duke Energy burst, releasing the coal byproduct containing metals like arsenic, lead and mercury into the Dan River. Duke Energy initially said around 82,000 tons of coal ash were released, but changed that number to between 30,000 and 39,000 tons.

Kara Dodson, field organizer with the area environmental group Appalachian Voices, said the pollution from the spill mixes with the river's sediment and remains for a long time.

"Most studies have shown the environ-

mental impacts from coal ash leaks last for 10 years or more," Dodson said. "The science isn't out on that yet, but it could be decades before we stop seeing effects from this spill."

The health effects are then multiplied over time by the wildlife in the river.

"The insects ingest these heavy metals. Fish eat these insects and it moves up the food chain. In a few months or years we will see an accumulation of arsenic, lead and mercury in these animals," Dodson said.

Arsenic, lead and mercury are all cumulative toxins, which are absorbed more quickly than the body can expel them. This leads to the toxins remaining in the body longer. Even if the amount of the toxin in the environment is not very high, it can do more significant damage in the body because of its longevity.

The Dan River is the source of drinking water for towns like Danville, Va., where City

Manager Joe King said the water is safe to drink.

"When the ash spill occurred Sunday, Feb. 2, we found we were able to treat the water very safely using all our current technologies. The water we deliver is clear and meets all state drinking standards," King said in a statement Feb. 13.

As far as recreational use of the river goes, King said the city is basing its advisories on regulatory agencies, primarily the Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality.

"They're assuring us that the river conditions are as they were before this coal ash incident," King said. "Before this incident, there was an advisory from the state not to consume certain kinds of fish, and that is still in effect, but it is not affected by the coal ash spill."

King said he's glad that Duke Energy is taking responsibility for the spill, but as one of the affected cities, Danville will work to hold the company accountable. He said that process starts by assessing the damage to the Dan River.

"We just have no idea what the damage is and now it's a little early to even guess at that because we don't really know how much coal ash made it into the water or how much made it down this far," King said.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency also said it tested treated water from plants in towns like Danville and said they have not "shown any detections above federal maximum contaminant Levels."

Since the Feb. 2 spill, the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reported that another piping system put in place to divert the coal ash has burst in the Dan River, releasing 1,000 tons of wastewater.

In addition, the DENR reported Feb. 14

that a second pipe containing coal ash in the area is leaking as well, although it has not yet burst. The N.C. Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources has given Duke Energy 10 days to come up with a plan to prevent another burst.

Duke Energy spokeswoman Lisa Hoffmann said this is a unique spill because a stormwater pipe spilled the coal ash from the basin.

"We are working to identify and locate other stormwater pipes that may interfere with our storage facilities," Hoffmann said.

Dodson said the risk of coal ash spills like this come from storing the material in wet disposal areas or "impoundments," where it has a much higher chance of affecting surrounding ecosystems in the event of a spill or leak.

"Duke needs to remove all of their wet impoundments. They need to de-water the

ponds, excavate the ash and sediment and put that material into lined landfills away from drinking water resources," Dodson said.

While lining dry landfills prevents the coal ash from seeping into groundwater, there is also the risk of wind blowing the coal ash into the air and creating a breathing hazard.

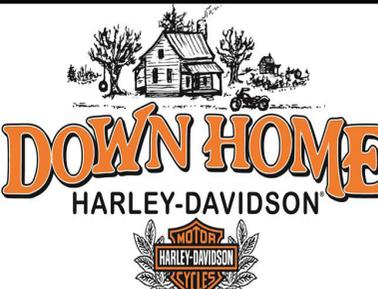
A 2009 report by the EPA on the Dan River Steam Station found that the basins used to store coal ash were "significant hazard potential structures," which the report defines as structures that would cause economic and environmental damage, but not loss of life, if they fail.

In addition to concerns over the current spills, the DENR also filed a lawsuit against Duke Energy on Aug. 16, 2013, for seepage from coal ash ponds to the Dan River.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina subpoenaed Duke Energy and the DENR to testify before a federal grand jury March 18.

**"WE JUST  
HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT THE  
DAMAGE IS."**

**JOE KING  
DANVILLE CITY MANAGER**



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# NC abortion provision heads to appeals court

**Michael Papich**  
Assistant News Editor

North Carolina will participate in one of the first appeals court hearings on the constitutionality of “speech and display laws.”

Speech and display laws require a patient seeking an abortion to receive an ultrasound and medical description of the fetus displayed before having the procedure.

A 2011 law in North Carolina contained a speech and display provision, which was deemed unconstitutional by United States district court judge Catherine Eagles Jan. 14. But now, N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper said he will appeal the ruling to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

“While I oppose laws like this that force the state into women’s medical decisions, the state will appeal this ruling because legitimate constitutional questions remain that should be decided by a higher court. It is the duty of the Office of Attorney General to defend state laws regardless of whether I agree with them,” Cooper said.

Scott Gaylord, associate professor of law at Elon University, said the outcome of this case will be particularly important because so far, only the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled on speech and display laws.

In Texas, a similar bill was signed into law, and the 5th Circuit determined whether the information doctors had to provide was truthful and non-misleading.

“The 5th Circuit held that ultrasound images are the epitome of truthful, non-misleading information since it’s an exact image of what’s going on in utero, so they held that this falls within the abilities of the state to regulate,” Gaylord said.

Paige Johnson, vice president of external affairs for Planned Parenthood Action Fund of Central North Carolina, said the ultrasound provision puts politics into the doctor’s office. Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina is one of the organizations that initially brought the law to the U.S. District Court.

“This law was never about protecting women or advancing women’s health and safety,” Johnson said. “The court found that, in essence, this law would force medical professionals to act as a mouthpiece for the state legislature and for politicians that are hell-bent on making a woman feel judged and ashamed for the decisions she makes with her pregnancy.”

Johnson said she was happy to have one of the few circuit court hearings on speech and display laws come out of North Carolina.

“It’s a good day for women’s health, it’s a good day for women’s health providers and a good day for North Carolina to be leading the country in some ways with our advocates,” Johnson said.

## Unique case

From a legal perspective, the 4th Circuit case is novel because it is one of the few cases surrounding abortion that deals with the First Amendment.

“A lot of the time, when we think about abortion-related regulations, we think about due process because of *Roe v. Wade*, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* and other big cases in this area that have been decided on due process grounds,” Gaylord said. “It’s a new twist - a new approach to challenge this type of legislation.”

If the 4th Circuit eventually decides the speech and display provision is unconstitutional, Gaylord said this would make a Supreme Court appeal more likely to succeed.

“It doesn’t guarantee anything, but it increases the chances that the Supreme Court may take up the case to resolve the tension between circuits,” Gaylord said.

While the ultrasound provision is being taken up in the courts, the rest of the 2011 law that included other regulations on abortion are still in effect or set to take effect. Johnson was not put off by this fact and said she believes there will be a gradual process where other abortion regulations Planned Parenthood does not agree with will be challenged in court.

She referenced recent court decisions that halted the defunding of Planned

Parenthood and disallowed state license plates with anti-abortion messages.

“This is the third case that has been heard, and there will likely be others,” Johnson said.

## Politics of the courts

While the 4th Circuit is known as one of the more conservative circuits in the country, Gaylord said anyone trying to predict the outcome based on this stereotype alone may not be successful.

“Historically, the 4th Circuit has been known as a conservative court. There have been a lot of appointments during the Obama administration, so that’s less true now, I think, in terms of broad generalizations,” Gaylord said.

Although Cooper said he would de-

fend the provision in court, Gaylord said proponents of the provision may feel uneasy, given that Cooper is a Democrat and his statement includes his personal disapproval for the law.

North Carolina General Assembly House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate Majority Leader Phil Berger, both Republicans, said they expect Cooper to move forward quickly with the appeals process. Tillis added that he is pleased with Cooper’s decision.

Gov. Pat McCrory, on the other hand, said he does not think the ruling should be appealed because it will be costly and most of the law is still in place.

“I do not believe costly and drawn out litigation should be continued concerning only one provision that was not upheld by the court,” McCrory said.



Part of a 2011 North Carolina law, the provision requiring a doctor to describe an ultrasound’s image before an abortion will be one of the first of its kind to be heard in a federal appeals court.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

# SGA's no-contest election: Many run unopposed, executive presidency competitive

Michael Bodley  
News Editor

A group of aspiring Elon University student government representatives convened Monday, Feb. 17 in McEwen to deliver speeches in favor of their candidacies, followed by a spirited debate between the two executive president hopefuls.

Juniors Joe Incorvia and Jessica Petrillo, both self-described “fast friends,” will split the voting for executive president, set to begin Tuesday, Feb. 18 and last through 5 p.m. Wednesday.

During that period, all others running for SGA executive positions, senators and council members will also be up for election, but a bulk of the candidates are running unopposed, including every executive position save the president.

Jana Lynn Patterson, associate vice president for student life and SGA faculty adviser, said the vacancies may indicate a larger misunderstanding about the organization's role in making campus decisions that affect each student every day.

Though the adviser questioned student involvement, she praised the new group of hopefuls for “committing themselves to bettering this campus.”

“I think that SGA really is the voice of the students,” she said. “I wish that more people were engaged. I think that students don't understand the influence that SGA has on decision making at the university. Our students sometimes have an adversity to losing races. I wish we had built a healthier culture around that.”

The presidential hopefuls' openings were followed by a debate in which each candidate was given one minute to speak, followed by 30 seconds for a rebuttal. After, they were each allotted time for closing statements.

Incorvia is one of Patterson's unafraid “exceptions,” as the rising senior has been involved in some capacity with SGA since he stepped foot on campus. He currently serves as the president for the Class of 2015.

Current Junior Class Secretary Petrillo said her shorter time within SGA brings new ideas that were overlooked by the administration set to cede its power. The position was her first within the organization.

“I think one of the biggest differences between us is that Joe has been on SGA quite a bit longer than I have,” she said. “But I think I can bring different things and new ideas to SGA that maybe weren't there before, or haven't been experienced before, because I was able to spend my time working on different campus initiatives prior to that.”

The almost three years of experience Incorvia brings to the table comes with its own set of benefits, the junior said, and he has his own experience to speak of outside SGA. The biology major and hopeful doctor-to-be has traveled to Ghana on a medical brigade, and he's a member of the American Chemical Society, a national honors organization.

In her opening statement, Petrillo said she views herself as a conduit between the student body and the administration, a position she leveraged as secretary after a Jewish student and a black student found a swastika, the letters “KKK” and male genitalia drawn on a whiteboard outside their dorm in Colonnades D in

September 2013.

As the university issued its own response from Smith Jackson, vice president for Student Life, Petrillo said she, along with several SGA senators, formed a student group for discussion and healing in the aftermath of the event.

In his own opening statement, Incorvia said Elon students asked about their defining experiences would have different answers, ranging from 3 a.m. Cook Out runs to time spent under the tutelage of an especially caring professor. But Incorvia said his job as executive president would be to tie all of the threads together the only way he knows how: by opening his office door.

“I want SGA to be more accessible to you all,” he said. “I want to be more than a face on a poster or a silhouette in an office.”

Patterson said the ranks of the new SGA are being filled at a transformative time for the organization and the university.

“SGA is the voice of the student body here at Elon,” she said. “For decades and de-

cadecades here in our history, SGA has been the body that every major decision on this campus comes to for debate and feedback from the senior administration. And that responsibility is only growing.”

The following lists the students running for SGA office, divided by position sought: Sophomore Class Senator: Brett Huntley, Kelsea Johnson, Mark Schenk; Sophomore Class Secretary: Shelby Allen, Elyse Ruppert, Vashti Shiwmangal; Sophomore Class Treasurer: Mark McGann; Sophomore Class Vice President: Freddy Suppes; Sophomore Class President: Kyle Porro; Junior Class Senator: Cash Armstrong, Ruth Robinson; Junior Class President: Sean Barry, Bobby King; Senior Class Treasurer: Jennifer Lauterbach; Senior Vice President: Joshua Kaufmann, Yashvi Patel; Senior Class President: Sarah Paille-Jansa; Executive Secretary: Mathew Crehan; Executive Treasurer: Avery Steadman; Executive Vice President: Bryan Kozin; Executive President: Joseph Incorvia, Jessica Petrillo.



Though Incorvia and Petrillo agreed on issues like faculty transparency, better-allocated funding and the role of the Senate, the two differ in experience.

# Eboo Patel chosen as Elon's 2014 Baccalaureate speaker

Simone Jasper  
Senior Reporter

Eboo Patel, founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), will deliver Elon University's 2014 Baccalaureate address, scheduled for May 23 in Alumni Gym.

The IFYC is an organization that promotes interfaith collaboration among young people. Patel, an American Muslim of Indian heritage, has spoken at several conferences as well as college and university campuses across the country.

"I think that Baccalaureate is a perfect opportunity to speak about the cooperation between people of different faiths," Patel said.

Baccalaureate is typically a religious-based service that precedes Commencement, which is set for May 24 this year. Jan Fuller, university chaplain at Elon, invited Patel to speak at the university this spring.

"Baccalaureate is a spiritual event that celebrates the accomplishments of the graduates," Fuller said. "In my mind, it is the opening of commencement weekend, a service in which we think about the meaning of one's

Elon years. We hope that many will come who are not religious because it's for all seniors."

Patel has addressed the Elon community twice before and said he is excited about his upcoming speech to the graduating class. In 2011, he was a panelist for the Spring Convocation that focused on changes in American society. He also served on the panel of spiritual leaders at Spring Convocation in 2013. Fuller said Patel has been a model for interfaith dialogue in his past appearances and thinks he will offer encouragement this spring.

"It seems appropriate to have Dr. Patel [as the speaker] because of our long association with him, but also because he is one of the nation's primary figures who represents the importance of interfaith and multi-faith engagement and its impacts on campus and the world," Fuller said.

Preparing students to be global citizens embraces the Elon Commitment, the university's strategic plan to cultivate engaged minds, inspired leaders and global citizens. Patel said the interfaith education that takes

place in Elon's Numen Lumen Center puts it at the forefront of universities promoting interfaith cooperation.

"Broadly speaking, I hope that what I say adds to a process that's already taking place," Patel said. "I think having an appreciative understanding of other faiths is an essential part of global citizenship."

In addition to Patel's efforts to encourage interfaith collaboration among young people through speeches, he is an author and journalist who has written two books. He also served on President Barack Obama's inaugural Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and was named one of the top 10 Young Muslim Visionaries Shaping Islam in America by *Islamica Magazine*.

While Patel said he hasn't crafted his speech yet, Fuller suspected he will draw inspiration from his own religious traditions as well as others.

"What I love about Eboo is that he is refreshingly non-defensive and yet passionate about his own religion and practice," Fuller said. "That is the picture of what I want our

students to be, of what we want to promote at Elon — the opportunity to be most fully who you are, and at the same time to be in deep and honest relationship with others."

Senior Taylor Reneau said she hopes students will take advantage of the opportunity to gather as a class and hear Patel's message. She said the speech will contribute to the understanding that was cultivated in her Elon religion classes.

"It helped me to meet a lot of people from other religions," Reneau said. "Elon has helped me because it pushed me out of my comfort zone."

Senior Julie Hart said she thinks her class will be able to draw inspiration from Patel's speech.

"I don't know very much about him, so I am also curious to attend the ceremony and learn from his speech," Hart said. "I hope he can relate his experiences to our lives as students and graduates and give us advice on how to be leaders."

## News Briefs

### Virginia rules against same-sex marriage ban

For the first time, a southern district court has ruled that a state's laws against same-sex marriage are unconstitutional.

On Feb. 13, U.S. District Judge Arenda Wright Allen struck down Virginia's constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage, passed by voter referendum in 2006. In addition, Judge Allen said that Virginia must also recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. In her decision, Judge Allen said the ban violated the 14th Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection under the law.

### NC hospital exposes patients to brain disease

Patients in Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem may

have been exposed to a grim and incurable brain disease, according to hospital officials.

Eighteen neurosurgery patients were operated on with instruments that were not put through enhanced sterilization procedures after they were used on a patient suspected of carrying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

CJD is a progressive death of brain cells that usually leads to death after six months of initial symptoms. The symptoms tend to be increasing dementia, paranoia, psychosis, as well as loss-of-balance, speech impairment and other motor failures.

Both the hospital and the CDC said that the chance of infection from the surgical equipment is still very low, but they are still trying to contact those patients who were exposed.

### Elon professor performs final exhibit

Ken Hassell, associate professor of Art

and Art History, will give his last performance of "The Artist is Present" Feb. 19-20. In the performance, inspired by Marina Abramovic, Hassell sits across from participants in silence for 15-20 minutes. The performance is supposed to create a touching moment between the two, diminishing traditional boundaries of identity.

"Each participant should truly try to apply themselves and remain present during their time in the chair. What they bring to the performance and what they leave with should be an individual experience."

Last year, more than 100 people participated in Hassell's exhibit. Hassell will retire at the end of this year, and wants to perform the piece on last time before he leaves. The event is free and open to students, faculty and staff.

For more coverage of the Elon campus and community, visit [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com).

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# Parking pushed aside in pursuit of perfection



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elon must recognize the value of its parking spaces as it races to expand its campus. Because of confusing parking policies, students, faculty and staff are confined to inconvenient parking locations.

On Oct. 18 of last year, Elon University broke ground on its new admissions center that is slated for completion in early 2015. It was an exciting time for the university for it, yet again, proved that Elon is committed to keeping its campus relevant. In doing so, the school lost a valuable resource that day—parking spaces.

Parking is an invaluable asset for Elon. Seeing as the university's campus is a closed campus (cars cannot drive directly through the quad) parking lots and spaces become a top priority for the university. Parking is more than just having a certain number of spaces. It's about accessibility, not only for the university's students, faculty and staff but also for prospective students, friends and family of current students.

Elon has had great success courting some of the best and brightest students in the nation. Our campus is nationally recognized as one of the most beautiful in the country. When students come to visit

our campus the first thing they focus on is where to park. With more than 11,000 prospective students visiting during the 2012 calendar year, it is obvious that Elon's parking lots become saturated during admissions events.

With that being said, Elon also must serve its current students. Other than donors, students' tuition money fuels Elon's drive to success. Although the campus currently has 4,320 parking spaces available on campus, which is an almost 300 parking space improvement from 2012, the locations and layout of the parking lots are confusing and inconvenient.

This is evident in the alarming lack of "20-minute" parking spaces. These spaces allow students to pull up to buildings such as the Moseley Center to get their mail. Ever since construction began on the new admission center, these spaces have been decimated and students have paid the price—in parking tickets.

The lack of "20-minute" parking spaces

combined with over-zealous campus security officers handing out tickets as fast as they can write them add up to be a costly price for students to pay. For more than \$40,000 a year, students should be able to have access to their student center to pick up a package without having to park a mile away from Mail Services. Additionally, they should not have to fear getting a ticket from the very security force that claims it strives to create partnerships with the Elon community.

Current students are not the only group struggling with the lack of convenient parking on the campus. Elon's faculty and the hard working staff that keeps the school running on a day-to-day basis are also suffering from the lack of convenient parking on campus. The awkward locations of some parking lots leave faculty and staff competing with the very students they work with for parking spaces.

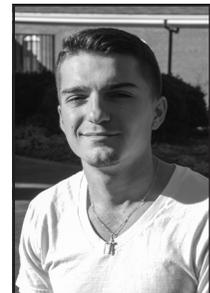
The central weakness of Elon's parking plan is the system itself. With more than

17 different permits for their parking lots, the university sets itself up for some very unusual parking regulations. Certain permits, such as the common Danieley Center parking permit, only allow students to park anywhere on campus during the week after 4 p.m. and on weekends. With Mail Services closing at 4 p.m. and most classes starting before that time, this is hardly fair for the hundreds of students that reside in that neighborhood.

Elon is not afraid of expanding its campus in order to meet the needs of a modern world. It is truly impressive to see how well the university is able to fundraise, build and continue to push the envelope. While pursuing a more perfect campus, Elon must not forget about its day-to-day role. Parking plays an integral role in the success of the university. The worth of a new admissions building is equal to that of a parking lot. Parking must not be sacrificed in order to build and expand the campus.

# Michael Sam is exactly what the NFL needs

Michael Sam is the kind of role model I wish I'd had growing up. The South Eastern Conference (SEC) defensive player of the year from the University of Missouri recently came out as gay ahead of the 2014 NFL draft, a bold move that will likely make him the first openly gay player in NFL history. While some have claimed it to be a publicity stunt, it's important to remember that he



Chris Mench  
Columnist

did this in the face of considerable risk to his draft position, endorsement deals and relationships with future teammates, all because he didn't want to spend his career hiding who he really was.

The courage he demonstrated is admirable. Growing up as a gay guy, I quickly noticed the lack of masculine role models in the gay community. While I can't say I have personally experienced much in the

way of overt discrimination, I can say that certain activities by nature never seemed to be welcoming to people like me with sports being among them. The hyper-masculine environment was the opposite of what society told me gay men were supposed to be, and so as a kid I stuck with extracurricular activities that were more in line with my concept of a "gay lifestyle."

Of course, I now realize this is all nonsense, but it's not hard to see how common these views have become in our society. One needs to look no further than a Sports Illustrated article that was published just last week. It quoted an anonymous NFL source saying: "I don't think football is ready for [an openly gay player] just yet. In the coming decade or two, it's going to be acceptable, but at this point in time it's still a man's-man game."

Putting aside the hilariously homoerotic connotation of the phrase "man's-man," this quote showcases the troubling views many have on gay men and masculinity. Sam was the SEC leader in sacks and tackles for loss last season, but because he's

attracted to men instead of women, he's suddenly not masculine enough to play football. Furthermore, his mere presence is a "distraction," never mind the constant parade of NFL players who are charged with everything from DUI to rape and even homicide. These things are fine, but having a gay guy on your team would "chemically imbalance an NFL locker room," according to the same anonymous source. It would seem silly if this wasn't what many people truly believed.

I'm sure in Sam's ideal world, an announcement like this wouldn't even be necessary, let alone be the focus of endless media coverage. That isn't the reality of the world we live in, and him having the courage to stand up for who he is in the face of such hostility is truly brave. He isn't looking for special treatment, and he isn't "flaunting his sexuality" at least not any more than you do when you talk about your girlfriend at work or put a picture of your husband on your desk. He's simply trying to live his life openly and honestly.

I hope his announcement won't lead to

him being treated any differently than any other player in the draft, and his hopefully long and illustrious NFL career can serve as an inspiration to the many kids like me who don't believe being gay means forfeiting your manhood.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
Michael Sam was the SEC leader in sacks and tackles for loss last season.

# Western media drops ball on Olympic coverage

As Western Journalists arrived in Sochi days before the Olympic Games were set to start, they took to social media to com-



Alex Francis  
Columnist

plain about some of the problems present, namely their lack of hotel accommodations. Pictures and tales of dirty water, plumbing problems, construction debris in their rooms and a variety of improperly translated signs went viral across the Internet almost instantly. These images cast a negative light on the games before the athletes had even started to compete.

It is no secret that this year's Olympic Games has faced more than its fair share of problems. Sochi, a small resort town in the Caucasus region of Russia, has seemed ill

prepared to handle such a large endeavor. Stray dogs roam the areas surrounding the stadiums, debris litter the main streets to the Olympic village and yes, hotel rooms were not always fully completed.

But beyond all the sarcastic tweets and snarky Facebook posts are real problems that people in Sochi, and elsewhere in Russia, live with every single day of their lives. I am appalled that Western journalists could be so utterly insensitive and fail to realize the real-world implications that these situations have.

I'm sorry, Western journalists, that your hotel room did not come with plush towels, luxury couches, excessive decorative pillows, or fully functioning WiFi. Unlike more than 5 million people in Russia, you will have the luxury of having a roof over your head tonight. You will have access to bottled water that you can surely afford, unlike the more than 3 billion people worldwide who

live with water scarcity. You will wake up tomorrow and get to be a part of the Olympics, something that will never be a reality for the overwhelming majority of the world.

The fact that dirty hotel water has somehow become a running joke reflects poorly on ethnocentric American journalists. Instead of focusing on some hard-hitting journalism, U.S. "journalists" grabbed at the low hanging fruit and turned a proud country with centuries of history on the eve of the Olympic games into an Internet joke.

#Sochiproblems does not represent something that U.S. journalists should be lauding over the Internet.

#Sochiproblems are real issues that will continue once the Olympic torch has moved on. How can the media be so shallow as to berate a country for essentially being different from their standard of living?

The journalists in Sochi seem to be too busy tweeting their complaints to step back

and understand the root of the infrastructure problems. Massive pressure to build a magnificent Olympic Village, essentially from a patch of mud, caused Russian corporations to deny tens of thousands of workers wages, basic accommodations and also robbed them of basic human rights. Forgive these workers if they forgot to put a coat rack on properly in your closet.

Taking a picture of an unfinished hotel room and uploading it with a negative caption is easy, but its also lazy journalism that does not belong at one of the worlds premier athletic competitions. This is the Olympic Games, bringing together people from all over the world. To all of you journalists who are complaining about your hotel accommodations get out of the hotel, and go meet people from around the world. Maybe you can actually develop a sense of understanding that spans beyond cold hotel rooms or a poorly translated signs.

**Correspondent's  
corner:**

# Boston girl falls in love with beauty, history of Kyoto

**Vee Bland**  
International Correspondent

KYOTO, Japan — When I left Boston for Japan for a semester, I was originally sad to leave my favorite city in the world, but recently I learned that Boston has a sister city and it is a thirty minute train ride away from my new home in Osaka.

Kyoto, the formal imperial capital of Japan for a thousand years, was much more than I expected it to be. It reminds me of a bigger, better Boston. The culture of Kyoto is beautiful. It's almost magical how well it balances the historical with the modern. It is my goal in the next four months to see all of Kyoto.

My first time there I visited the Geisha District: Gion and Fushimi Inari-taisha, the most famous Shinto shrine in Kyoto. According to my speaking partner, Yo-

shimi, who is from Kyoto, Gion was built originally for travelers and visitors to the Yasaka Shrine. It rapidly became the most well known Geisha District in the world. Interestingly, the “geishas” of Kyoto and the Gion district do not call themselves this. Instead, they call themselves geiko, which means “child of the arts.”

The area itself is beautiful, mainly because the majority of its buildings are old-style Japanese architecture, and the center of the area is the Yasaka Shrine. The Yasaka Shrine is a Shinto shrine, but there is a stage for performance, and it has a very artsy, farmers-market feel. My favorite aspect of the Yasaka Shrine was the lanterns that were hung everywhere that added an entirely new element to the shrine.

While Yasaka Shrine was gorgeous, Fushimi Inari-taisha was breathtaking. It exists for the worship of Inara, most of-

ten known as the God of Rice. His messengers and guardians are foxes, so as we walked through the shrine, we saw several fox statues with keys in their mouths. One of the locals explained to me that the key unlocked rice granary.

It is a Japanese custom to wash your hands before entering the shrine. Washing your hands is a purification act and was an interesting experience.

Prayer then follows purification. The specific order to pray at the shrine is to throw a coin into the offertory box, then ring a bell, take two deep bows, make a wish, clap twice and end with another deep bow. The purpose of the bell is to call the god to the shrine so he can hear your wish. I loved this ritual. I have never experienced something like this before, and the fact that Japanese people come and do this every day surprised me. While Fushimi Inari seems like a touristy spot, it is a functioning Shinto shrine.

After we all prayed, we headed up to what I think is the most amazing part of Fushimi-Inari. A little further from the main temple are thousands of Torri (Japanese gates) which create a path to the more sacred area of the temple. Fushimi-Inari's main temple and gate are at the bottom of a mountain, and in the middle of the mountain is the inner shrine, which is the most sacred area of the temple. Because the entire journey takes two hours, we did not go all the way up, but the amount of Torri in the inner shrine was amazing.

We ended our night in Kyoto eating a traditional Japanese food called okonomiyaki, which is like a huge pancake filled with all kinds of ingredients such as meats, vegetables and sauce. When you eat okonomiyaki, you eat it right off the stove. The chef gets all the ingredients together, cooks it in front of you and then hands you a small spatula to cut it up and eat it. Okonomiyaki is very filling and delicious. It was the perfect way to end my first night in Kyoto.

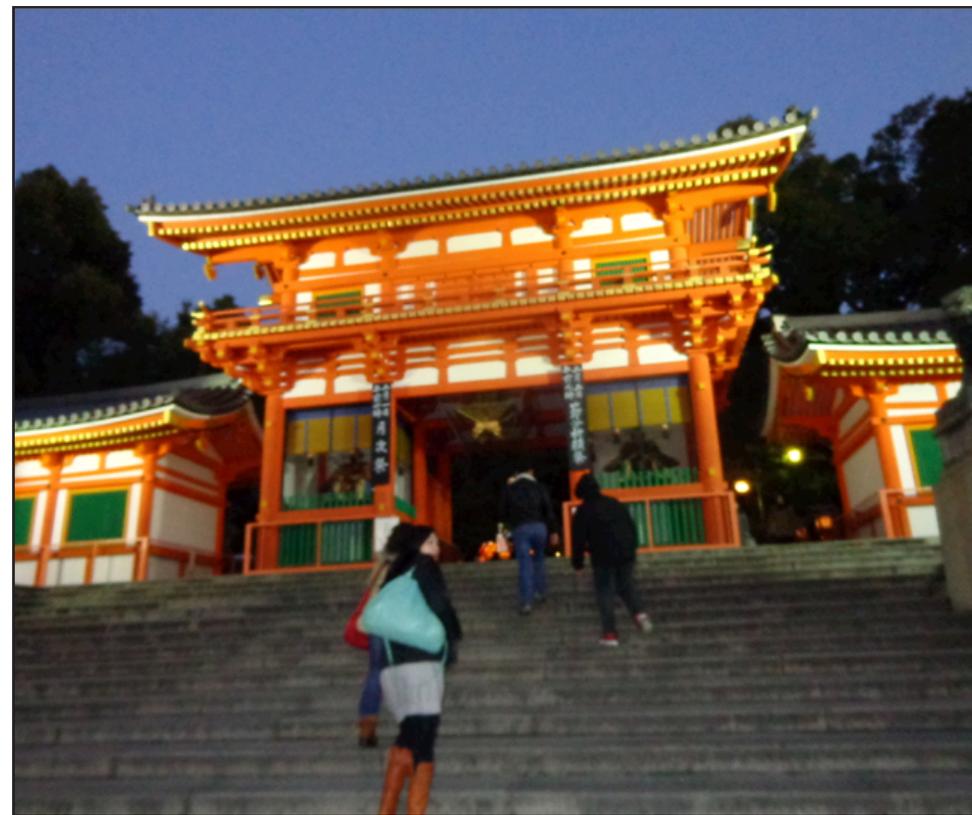


PHOTO COURTESY OF VEE BLAND

Yasaka Shrine is a famous Shinto shrine in Kyoto that is also used for performances.

## International Briefs

### Panda dies amid abuse claims at Chinese zoo

HENAN, China — After the Zhengzhou Zoo in Henan province, China announced a panda named Jin Li, had been transferred, the zoo announced the panda died more than a week ago on Feb. 9.

The suspicious coverup raises questions about whether the panda died of natural causes or was being abused by the zoo.

Reporters claim the habitat was filled with feces, Jin Yi was whipped for not posing for photos with guests, and she was not fed a proper diet.

The zoo has denied all abuse allegations.

### Ugandan president pledges support for anti-gay bill

UGANDA — Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni told members of his party Feb. 14 that he would sign a bill criminalizing homosexuality just weeks after Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan agreed to sign a similar bill.

While homosexuality is already illegal in Uganda, the controversial new law expands the illegality, including making same sex acts such as touching in public punishable by life in prison. The bill also makes it a crime not to report homosexual behavior to the proper authorities and bans the promotion of homosexuality.

### At least nine people killed, 150 injured in protests in Ukraine

KIEV — A fresh round of fighting broke out between the Ukrainian government and demonstrators who disagree with President Viktor Yanukovich's plan to strengthen relations with Russia. At least nine people were killed and nearly 200 were injured including civilians and policemen.

Over 20,000 protestors were in the streets of Kiev on Tuesday, just one day after protestors had evacuated City Hall, complying with the government's agreement to release prisoners from the past two months of clashes.

The government gave protestors a deadline of 6 P.M. Tuesday before they began using force.

# 'Vagina Monologues' helps fight abuse against women

**Kelsey Higgins**  
Senior Reporter

Every year on Valentine's Day, people around the world perform "The Vagina Monologues" as part of an international movement called the V-Day Campaign.

Friday evening, EFFECT and Women's/Gender Studies presented Elon University's own version of the show in Whitley Auditorium.

The campaign fights against and helps raise awareness about violence against women.

"I think 'The Vagina Monologues,' because of its theatrical nature, provides a unique way for Elon students of all genders to really think about what it means to be a woman in the world today," said director Jessie Bond, a junior theater studies major.

Cost of entry was \$5, and all proceeds went to Family Abuse Services in Burlington.

"One goal is to raise money to stop violence against women," Bond said. "But on a more abstract level, the goal of the show

is to get people to think and talk more about vaginas and womanhood. Even the word 'vagina' is so taboo in our culture, and that silence can be really harmful. This show gives people a chance to break the silence."

Bond wore a bright red dress as she greeted people at the door before the show, a color that she said was the unofficial color of "The Vagina Monologues."

Many of the girls were also sporting red accents, and their apparel personified the characters they were emulating on stage.

"We always get such a mix of people, from those who are studying acting here to those who did theater in high school to those who just love the show and want to be involved," Bond said.

Freshman Monica Poston was one of the highlight performances with her rendition of "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy."

"I would totally do this again," Poston said. "I met all of these people that I feel like I never would have met otherwise, and I like the message the show sends."

Other standouts included Autumn

Spriggs' elderly woman impression and cackle, and Sarah Holland's comedic timing in "My Angry Vagina."

As each woman walked onstage to tell her story, everyone seated behind her listened and empathized intently, so the more difficult subject matter was immensely powerful to the audience.

"I went to the EFFECT meeting where they brought it up and sold pre-tickets, and I was intrigued. I enjoy theater, espe-

cially theater that is a little out there and could be considered controversial," said freshman Christopher Greene.

Topics covered included everything from sex therapy and orgasms to rape and abuse.

"There is a message here that needs to be gotten across: that a woman's body is her body and no one else's," Greene said. "The more we bring that to attention, the better we will all be for it."



Freshman Monica Poston performs at Elon's "The Vagina Monologues" Feb. 14 in Whitley Auditorium. JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

# '1776' brings humor and humanity to 'demigods' of American history

**Casey Brown**  
Senior Reporter

In terms of historical events to portray on the stage, the meeting of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1776 seems like an unlikely first choice. A bunch of respectable, rich white men sat in a hot, dank room and decided whether to rebel or remain a colony of Britain.

The cast and crew of Elon University's winter musical "1776" have proven that the days leading up to the signing of one of the country's most famous documents, the Declaration of Independence, were more exciting than one would think.

"1776" focuses on John Adams, the Massachusetts delegate for the Second Continental Congress who has been failing in his attempts to get Congress to discuss the possibility of declaring independence from England.

With a play so deep-seated in the historical fabric of our country, accuracy is very important. That's why "1776" has a dramaturge — a researcher who makes sure details of the show match historical fact. The dramaturge for "1776" at Elon is assistant director and junior Cody Schmidt, who said knowing the facts influenced the way he and director Linda Sabo made decisions.

"I think that having a dramaturge role is very important for the show, specifically for the actors. Having someone that knows the history of the show and can give them information for that can be very useful," Schmidt said. "I need to know the show entirely so that I could properly make choices for an audience to understand and to make sure that I am creating choices that make sense to show."

Schmidt was not the only person doing his homework. The stage manager, junior Danielle Basirico, said all the cast and crew members did their part to know the history

behind the three months they were portraying on the stage.

"I made a joke to [Cody Schmidt] that I should have gotten a civilization credit for this show," Basirico said. "This rehearsal process has been just as much a history lesson as a theatrical production."

As senior Ryan Burch, who portrays protagonist John Adams, pointed out, it is not the historical accuracy that makes a connection with the audience, it is the hilarious yet emotional tale of a group of men trying to do what's best for their country that resonates the most.

"Yes, audiences will learn a little about history since it's a historical musical, [but] I love that the show isn't about just the 'history,'" Burch said.

The cast really pushed the comedy angle throughout opening night, Feb. 14, milking the sexual innuendos and witty punch lines that drew in the audience.

Junior Sarah Gordon, who plays Adams' faithful and sharp-witted wife Abigail, hopes audiences have looked beyond the heroes the history books have glorified and simply seen men trying to make a difference for their country.

"I hope that Elon audiences get a feel for who these men were as people, as opposed to the 'demigods' we tend to see them as," Gordon said. "Benjamin Franklin talks about it in the show, that they were just men trying to do what was best in their given circumstances. I also think that audiences will walk away with a new sense of patriotism and pride in what it truly means to be American. I know I certainly have."

While no one can say for sure, Friday night's audience's reaction showed that the cast and crew's diligent research and desire to show the depth of these patriots paid off. The show's opening night was met with a standing ovation.

## When school is out, snowballs fly on Young Commons



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

As the massive snowball fight began Feb. 13, students split into two teams and ran down the hills to the center of the lawn on Young Commons. They pummeled one another with snowballs for an hour.

**Courtney Campbell and Kaitlin Dunn**  
Senior Reporter and International Editor

Classes were canceled, and Elon University's Young Commons was blanketed in snow. Within a matter of seconds, what was once a quiet scene of fresh snowfall became a full-fledged battlefield, and white balls of fluff were flying in every direction. Students approached both ends of the commons armed with snowballs.

Before the fight broke out at 3 p.m. on Feb. 13, a list of rules was established. The main rule was to avoid any injury. Instigators instructed participants specifically not to hit people above the shoulder or above the waist and to avoid the face at all costs.

The students split up into two teams, one on each hill. After a countdown, each side rushed toward the other, snowballs in hand.

Phrases like "long live Elon," "head into the fire," "turn down for what?" and "snowball so hard" rung out across the commons.

Strategic participants constructed forts in the snow and barricaded themselves from the crossfire.

"Our strategy is to duck and cover and try not to get hit," said senior Stephanie Driscoll. "I was stuck inside on a snow day, and it was time to get out and have fun in the snow."

Senior Greg Zitelli organized the snowy fight through a Facebook event labeled "EPIC SNOWBALL FIGHT ON THE BOOBS!"

"I was really pumped when I first heard we didn't have school. I stayed in on Wednesday and watched a bunch of movies, but by Thursday I was really ready to get out of the house," Zitelli said. "I thought it would be cool to have a snowball fight and

get a ton of people to come. A couple of my friends thought it sounded awesome, and so we created an event on Facebook."

More than 1,000 people were invited to the event on Facebook, though Zitelli himself only invited 150. He also posted in several Facebook groups, which helped spread the word quickly.

"I love the Elon community and really wanted to get everyone involved," he said.

Zitelli estimated that more than 200 students participated in the battle. Some of them were Zitelli's friends, but many more were freshmen who lived nearby or other students who heard about the event by word of mouth.

Senior Carrie Shropshire came to the fight to have some fun and make the most of the snowy weather.

"It is my senior year, and I wanted to make the best of it," Shropshire said. "Plus

no one would go sledding with me, so this is the next best thing."

Seniors took this opportunity to make for up lost time. Some even chose to put off their schoolwork for this opportunity to get outside and play.

"When I got there, I was shocked at how many people were already there," Zitelli said. "There were definitely over 200, maybe even 300, and people came and went all afternoon."

In the midst of all the chaos, some students chose to partake in other, less violent activities. A few students were seen making snow angels, and a makeshift sled made of a storage box was dragged across the field.

The fight lasted for about an hour. Some students turned in from the cold, while others stuck around longer, building snowmen, having mini snowball fights with each other and frolicking in the snow.

# Students spread love with Flower Project



**Leena Dahal**  
Senior Reporter

Whether you spent this Valentine's Day showering your loved one with chocolate and flowers, gathering the courage to ask someone on a first date or lounging around in your pajamas and preaching singles awareness, one thing is certain: Valentine's Day is what you make of it.

This year, a group of Elon University students decided that, rather than channeling their love towards their significant others, they would share the love with hundreds across the community with the Flower Project.

In the spirit of sharing love, the Flower Project is an initiative that strives to give women in difficult circumstances in Alamance County a reason to smile by providing them with flowers this Valentine's season.

Freshman Chloe Allen, project pioneer, said a guest-speaker who visited her Winter Term human services class inspired the idea.

"A woman with a background in family abuse services came to talk to us about her experience working at the battered women's shelter," Allen said. "She really inspired us to make a difference, and so a few of us in the class knew we wanted to get involved."

Allen and her classmate Natalie Betts left class that day with a growing idea.

"When we first thought about the Flower Project, we realized we weren't going to be able to change lives and situations," Betts said. "The idea behind it is that we hope the mere action of giving somebody a flower would plant a seed of happiness in somebody's mind. And most importantly, the idea is that the seed will grow."

Determined to brighten people's lives, they decided to nourish their idea by taking immediate action.

"We went to the Kernodle Center with our idea, and we were told that we weren't allowed to fundraise without be-

ing affiliated to a campus-approved organization," Allen said. "So we realized we had to start it up on our own and got in touch with somebody who works for the Allied Churches (ACAC) and told them about our idea to provide flowers for all the amazing people in their care."

Sara Werbowksi, an Elon alumna who is directly involved with ACAC said the organization helps a variety of people in a plethora of circumstances.

ACAC offers shelter and meals to those in need in an attempt to improve their quality of life.

"Some are certainly victims of an oppressive society, which some folks may be hesitant to consider, but everything is intertwined — from the bad relationships, substance abuse, mental illness, lack of coping skills, upbringing as a child, lack of job opportunity, lack of education," Werbowksi said. These underlying systemic issues are being confronted by a dozen or so ACAC employees working to support

50 to 100 homeless community members per night."

After they were given approval, Allen and Betts worked with a team of Elon students to create an online campaign on the website Fundly, gather donations, create hand-made cards and order flowers.

"I think what was really amazing about the whole experience was that everybody was so willing to get involved," Allen said. "People in my hall would stop by and just ask me if they could do anything. We would all sit together and make the most intricate and personalized cards. It was a real group effort."

Within a few days, people across the nation were donating to the cause. Only weeks after the campaign was launched, they exceeded their goal of raising \$600 and ended up raising \$718.

"Seeing how many people were willing to help just reminded us that every idea is supported by the community," Betts said.

In order to make every bouquet and

card personalized, each was custom-designed.

"We didn't want to use ready-made cards or templates," Betts said. "We decided to make the bouquets and individual cards so that every person will receive something that was made especially for them."

According to Allen, the group went out of their way to do little things that would make people feel special.

"I think people are really focused on big projects and big organizations and changing the world, but there are definitely little things you can do," she said. "As a student, I probably won't be able to change one woman's entire life. But on this day, I can definitely make her smile."

Werbowksi believes smiles aren't the only thing the Flower Project will create.

"Chloe and her friends each gave a part of themselves to remind others how awesome they are, how loved they are," she said. "When we are given the opportunity to be seen for what we are as members of a community, to be seen for our gifts, our talents, our strengths and contributions... sometimes it is that act of faith from others that gives us the confidence to become who we want to be."

Allen says she believes it is significant to "share the love" through acts of kindness on Valentine's Day.

"I think people focus a lot on Christmas and Thanksgiving. During those times, everyone is in the spirit of giving. Then, from February to September, it's just like, 'what now?'" she said. "Valentine's Day is a day all about love, so why not share that with more than just your boyfriend?"

Allen said she believes every idea that could possibly make some sort of impact is definitely worth chasing.

"If you're doing small simple things like the Flower Project, those small things might grow into bigger things, or they might stay smaller things," she said. "Either way, you're still making a difference in the world — in someone's world."



Allen, Betts and others helping with the Flower Project took extra time to make each bouquet and card personalized, so each woman who received one would have something unique.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE BETTS

# 2 months in, Skrosky focuses on

## *Elon's new head football coach faces a whirlwind*

Matt Krause  
Assistant Sports Editor

Elon University head football coach Rich Skrosky uttered the phrase “Embrace the Grind” at his first press conference on the job.

Since taking over in December, Skrosky has faced a grind of his own to begin the overhaul of the Phoenix program, which now uses that same phrase as its mantra.

Having spent a little more than two months at the helm, Skrosky has worked his way through three major tasks that awaited him upon his arrival.

First, with Elon being his first head coaching job in more than 20 years, Skrosky assembled a staff of assistant coaches. Second, he and the staff evaluated the roster as it was at the conclusion of the 2013 season. That roster management led Skrosky straight into arguably the most important task of being a new head coach: recruiting.

### Finding his sidekicks

Skrosky called the progression of these tasks a natural one, partially due to the calendar.

“The timing really worked out well,” Skrosky said. “[Athletic Director] Dave Blank did a really nice job. The first order of business was to hire a staff. During that time it was pretty easy because I didn’t have players on campus, and it wasn’t what they call an active contact period in recruiting, so it was a whole 10 days dedicated to that.”

Skrosky recalled that he worked 18-hour days during that period and spent 17 of those hours on the phone talking with his future assistants and evaluating their merits. This period also included live job interviews with potential coaches.

“I was really fortunate because, with one exception, everybody was here before the new year,” Skrosky said.

From there, it was on to evaluating the existing talent.



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

The Elon football team struggled to a 2-10 mark under previous head coach Jason Swepson in 2013.

### Who's still here?

Using a three-pronged approach, Skrosky examined the nearly 70 players on the roster, some of whom were recruited by him during his stint as an Elon assistant coach from 2006-2010. Skrosky met with the athletic strength staff and the academic staff, as well as assistant coach Scott Browne, who was retained from the previous staff, and director of football operations Jonathan Small.

“I wanted to hear different people’s opinions just to paint a picture of the kid,” Skrosky said. “Are they leaders? Are they followers? How are they academically? How hard do they work in the weight room?”

Upon returning from winter break, each player sat down individually with Skrosky.

“The meeting evaluated what we thought were the strengths of the program and what we could do better,” said redshirt junior offensive lineman Thomas McGuire.

This evaluation was indirectly the first step of the recruiting process, as Skrosky and his staff were able to identify their points of need. Recruiting, the ultimate challenge of a coach, headed into overdrive.

“I’m not going to say it was an easy progression,” Skrosky said. “But because of the

way the calendar fell, it was a natural progression.”

### Finding future Phoenix

Once the calendar turned to 2014, National Signing Day on Feb. 5 was fast approaching.

Skrosky found that his team was composed of 39 offensive players and 31 defensive players, providing target numbers for recruiting.

“I want x-amount of offensive guys, I want x-amount of defensive guys, I want x-amount of D-linemen, I want x-amount of linebackers,” Skrosky said. “That’s something I’ve kept with me since the mid-90s. That’s something you do as a coach.”

Skrosky stressed the importance of Browne in the recruiting process. The returning recruiting coordinator was able to provide information regarding the players Elon was interested in and who the Phoenix had offered a scholarship to prior to the staff change. To add to Browne’s input, Skrosky collected information from each of his assistants. The new Elon staff consists of coaches with ties to a number of different areas, from South Carolina to Maryland and beyond to

the Midwest, so a wide variety of prospects were identified.

“Then it’s just collecting names, watching tape. As you watch their tape you’re saying, ‘oh, this kid in Atlanta can play, he’s a good player,’” Skrosky said. “So you call the coach, then you call the parents, then you go down to see him, then you get him on campus — you do your best to create a relationship in the six, seven weeks before Signing Day.”

Skrosky and his staff spent the next few weeks on the road visiting prospects. Skrosky was able to visit a majority of the recruits at their high schools and introduce himself. His assistants worked even harder, Skrosky said, by being out just about every available day by NCAA rule.

One particular day, Jan. 28, Skrosky and defensive backs coach Terry Lantz were inhibited by weather.

“There was one day my schedule called for me to be in Charlotte at 10 [a.m.], Spartanburg, S.C at 2 [p.m.] and then Atlanta at 7 [p.m.],” Skrosky said with a laugh. “Coach Lantz and I were together — we got out of the home visit in Spartanburg at about 4:30. He looked at me and said ‘Coach, I don’t know if getting to Atlanta is the smartest thing to do right now’ and we ended up making a good decision not to go down there because I might still be on the interstate in Atlanta.”

Despite the challenges, Skrosky was able to land a recruiting class of 13 on Signing Day. The group, which consists of nine defensive players and four offensive players, represents five states. All 13 of these players committed even after Skrosky informed them of the reality of college football.

“Some of the staff, they call me the anti-recruiter,” Skrosky said. “I’m really up front with [the recruits]. I tell them about the commitment it is going to take, about the work ethic they’re going to have. But I tell them, ‘it’s a job, but it will be the best job you’ll ever have.’ I almost try to scare them away. If they stay, they know what they’re in for.”

Overall, Skrosky said he was happy with

# process in changing Elon football

## *of tough tasks upon taking the helm of the Phoenix*

the results of his first recruiting class.

“I think we did well,” he said. “I was pleased with the class we signed. I think it addressed some initial needs. I don’t know if I went out and said ‘we’re going to get nine on defense and four on offense.’ It’s just at the end of the day that was the best combination for us.”

### Moving forward

When asked how this group could impact the Phoenix, Skrosky said he doesn’t like to put expectations, too high or too low, on any set of incoming freshmen.

“We obviously believe all these kids can play,” Skrosky said. “So to put unrealistic expectations on any one player or underselling another player, I would never do that at this point. Let’s get them on campus, let’s see how they acclimate both mentally and physically. Then, we’ll make those decisions come August or September.”

Once preseason camp is complete, Skrosky and his staff will identify first-year players who can help the team immediately. Others, he said, will be redshirted and return in 2015 with four years of eligibility remaining.

### Changing the culture and embracing the grind

With recruiting in the rear view mirror for now, Skrosky is continuing to work on the process of revamping the entire Elon football program.

“I don’t think that is something that happens in a day,” Skrosky said. “I don’t know if it happens in a year.”

He has laid out clear goals and expectations for his players both on and off the field, from the way the team practices to what they eat.

“Once you define it for them,” Skrosky said, “then you’ve got to push them to meet that expectation, and you can’t accept anything less.”

The changes have been clear to the players.

“My impression of Coach Skrosky was that he wants to do things the right way,” McGuire said. “He talks a lot about servant leadership, and so far I can tell that he wants to lead us by example by serving us and inspiring us to do the same for our teammates and the community.”

Realizing the team’s true potential is Skrosky’s top goal for the year ahead. He said the win-loss record will “take care of itself.”

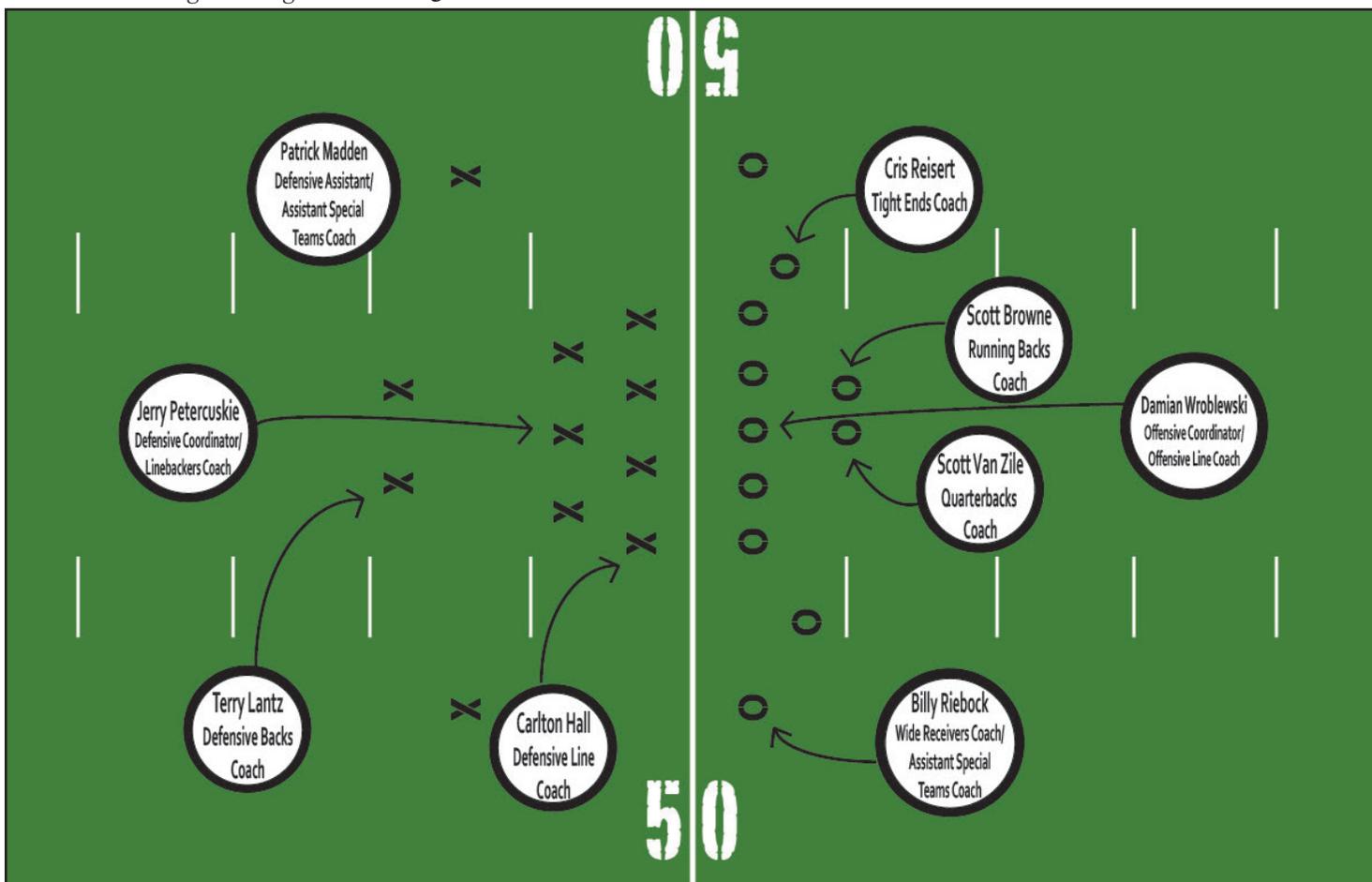
He said a football team will once again be a part of the campus culture, something that has been missing for the last three seasons.

“At the end of the day, I want this football program to be an integral part of this university and this community,” Skrosky said. “If we can do that, then we’ll be successful, and I think we’re moving in the right direction.” §



Photo Courtesy of ElonPhoenix.com

Rich Skrosky was introduced as the new head coach of Elon football on December 13th, 2013.



Eight of Skrosky’s nine assistants are new to the Elon football program for the 2014 season. They were hired in a 10-day span soon after Skrosky’s own hiring.

# Tennis scoring changes leave mixed results for Elon

Jordan Spritzer  
Senior Reporter

Even though the Elon University men's tennis team is coming off a Southern Conference regular season championship in 2013, the team had something new to adjust to at the start of this year — a new scoring system.

The NCAA and Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) decided both men's and women's teams would play an early portion of their schedules under a new experimental scoring system in an attempt to shorten the matches. Although the coaches could agree to not play under the new rules on a match-by-match basis, Elon coaches went through with the changes only to dislike what they saw.

"It's too much, too drastic," said Elon director of tennis and head men's tennis coach Michael Leonard. "You want part of tennis to be physical and [have] endurance."

With the new rules, singles matches are now played in a first-to-10 super tiebreaker instead

of a best-of-three sets format.

"I wouldn't want to play a super tiebreaker in the third because it takes away part of what the sport is, and that is who's in better shape," Leonard said. "If you're not playing a third set, you're not determining that at all."

Not only was an entire set taken away from singles matches, but the new rules also state a tiebreaker would be played at 5-all instead of 6-all. Also, advantage scoring was removed, meaning that after deuce (40-all), the next point would win. Under traditional scoring rules, a player must win two consecutive points to win the game if the score is deuce.

Doubles matches have also been shortened. Under the previous scoring system, doubles matches were an eight-game pro set, but the new rules shortened the match to a single six-game set.

"That's definitely the toughest part," said Elon senior Cameron Silverman. "Especially [when] you come out in doubles, and it's only six games as opposed to eight games. Now,

coming out flat is even more detrimental than how it was the old way because you don't have enough time to make up ground."

In a further attempt to shorten the matches, the break between the doubles and singles portion of the match has been shortened to just five minutes. Opponents are also unable to warm up together before their singles matches.

"You have to stay loose, stay warm, stay focused," Silverman said. "It's all something to get used to."

With average matches lasting around four hours, the NCAA said shortening the matches would make the sport more friendly toward players, fans and media. But match length didn't seem to be a major concern for the players.

"Most tennis players don't really think about it because that's what we're used to," Kowalski said. "[But] there are people, myself included, whose bodies break down, because we've played so much."

The NCAA is working toward giving college tennis more fan and media attention by

shortening matches. But these claims have given way to a variety of responses. Kowalski said shortened matches will make it "more interesting and more intense for spectators," but he is unsure if popularity would increase.

With the experiment over for Elon tennis and the old scoring reinstated for the rest of the year, it is still too early to judge the next step. With data being gathered from programs all over the country, the NCAA and ITA will look to see if any more changes need to be made.

"It's not an easy fix, but I think they went just a little too far," Leonard said.

For the players, it was something they inevitably became used to.

"I'm still not a huge fan of the rule changes, but I understand the reasoning behind them, so I'm starting to get used to them a little bit more," Silverman said.

Some, like Kowalski, even praised the changes.

"Now that I've actually played, I actually like the rules and I think they're beneficial," he said.



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# Snow storm throws Elon basketball schedule into frenzy

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

The recent snow storm didn't just cancel classes at Elon University.

The Phoenix men's basketball team was forced to reschedule its game at Furman University and rework its practice schedule due to the weather conditions. Elon will now travel to Furman Feb. 24, which means the Phoenix will play five games in 11 days to end the regular season.

"It's not ideal," said Elon head coach Matt Matheny. "But we wouldn't be in this situation if we didn't have to reschedule a game, so it is what it is."

The Phoenix sets off on a road trip begin-

ning with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Feb. 19. Elon then heads to Georgia Southern University Feb. 22 and Furman before wrapping up the regular season at home against Wofford College Feb. 27 and Davidson College March 1.

Senior forward Lucas Troutman emphasized the importance of taking things on a day-to-day basis during the brutal stretch.

"It's one step at a time, one move for the next," Troutman said. "The only thing we can do right now is look to what we have next, and look for tomorrow, getting better in practice and going from there."

With no classes from Feb. 12-14, the team took advantage of the free days by

spending more time in the gym. Assistant coach Monty Sanders and director of basketball operations Chris Long drove players from their apartments and dorms to practice each day.

"It was lovely," said senior guard Sebastian Koch. "It was awesome. I enjoyed it. We could focus on getting to the gym a lot and getting extra shots off. We had all the time in the world. We got to sleep in and rest up."

That extra rest resulted in an 86-69 victory over Samford University. It also gave Troutman some more time to recover from a bout of the flu that forced him to miss a game. He scored 16 points in the game against Samford but said he is not back to

full strength just yet.

"I was down for several days, and I wasn't moving," Troutman said. "That's something I'm working on. [Matheny] was just trying to ease me back in tonight."

Matheny sarcastically spoke about how thrilled the team was to return to class and a more conventional schedule for the upcoming week. He does like the thought of the players being in class, though.

"It's unusual for us to take this many days off, but it was a heck of a storm," Matheny said. "As a coach, I love practicing at 1 [p.m.] and thinking about nothing but basketball. But routine is also good. And knowing where they are on Monday in class. I like that too."

## Sports Briefs

### Walk-off win highlights softball tournament

Freshman left fielder Alaina Hall hit a game winning two RBI double to help Elon beat Bethune-Cookman University 8-7 in extra innings.

The Phoenix trailed 4-1 entering the seventh inning, but scored three runs to send the game into extra innings. Bethune-Cookman answered with three runs in the top of the eighth before senior second baseman Lauren Oldham doubled home two runs to cut the deficit to one. Then, Hall sealed the win with her double to give the Phoenix the victory on Feb. 14.

Elon went 2-2 overall at the Hatter Invitational in DeLand, Fla., and now sits at 5-2-1 on the season. The Phoenix beat Bethune-Cookman 5-0 to start the weekend before falling to Stetson University, 9-0. Elon also lost to Campbell University, 3-0.

The Phoenix will get a rematch with Campbell Feb. 19 in Buies Creek, N.C., before hosting the annual Phoenix

Opening Tournament Feb. 21-23. Teams paying visits to Hunt Softball Park will be Niagara University, St. Joseph's University, University of Maryland Baltimore County and Iona College.

### Women's basketball holds on to beat Western Carolina

The Elon University women's basketball team won its fourth straight game, beating Western Carolina University 65-61 on the road Feb. 15.

The Phoenix took a 13-point lead with 6:33 remaining, but the Cata-mounts responded with an 18-7 run to climb back into the game. Western Carolina drained a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 63-61 with 10 remaining, but Elon junior forward Sam Coffey sank two free throws to close out the victory.

Elon sits at 12-12 overall on the season and 8-5 in Southern Conference play. The Phoenix will host Wofford College Feb. 22 and Furman University Feb. 24. Elon lost close games to both of those teams in January. Currently, the Phoenix are third in the league and one-half of a game behind Davidson.

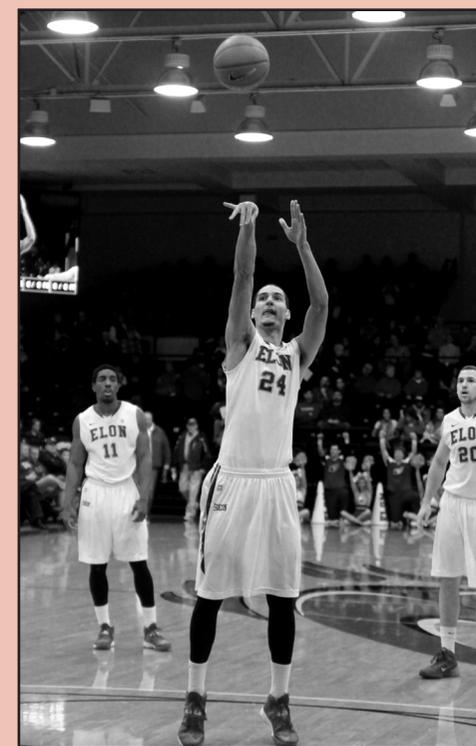
### Men's basketball earns fifth straight win

Behind 10 3-pointers and a few big runs, Elon University picked up another Southern Conference win, beating Samford University 86-69 Feb. 15 in Alumni Gym.

All five starters tallied double figures, led by senior guards Jack Isenbarger and Sebastian Koch with 17 points each. Senior forward Lucas Troutman had 16 points, senior forward Ryley Beaumont posted 14 and junior guard Kevin Blake finished with 10 points.

Elon moved to 15-11 overall and 8-3 in SoCon play.

The Phoenix begins a stretch of five games in 11 days with trips to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Feb. 19 and Georgia Southern University Feb. 22. Both games will be rematches, as Elon beat UNCG 72-66 Feb. 6 and Georgia Southern 60-59 Feb. 8. Both games will be pivotal as the Phoenix looks to secure a first-round bye in the SoCon Tournament. As of Feb. 17, Davidson College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga have both secured those byes, while Wofford Col-



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Sebastian Koch made four 3-pointers against Samford and is averaging 12.8 points per game.

lege, Western Carolina and Elon are all in position for the last three.

For full recaps of all Elon athletic events, please visit [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com)

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