



A humbling defeat

But can Elon still make the playoffs? **PAGE 22**

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THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008 | VOLUME 34, EDITION 28

www.elon.edu/pendulum

Elon students prefer Obama, more engaged than ever poll says

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

Sen. Barack Obama is the preferred presidential candidate among Elon students by nearly two to one, according to a CBS News, UWIRE and Chronicle of Higher Education survey released Monday. Sixty-four percent of Elon students plan to vote for Obama, while 34 percent say they'll vote for Sen. John McCain.

The survey was completed at 49 colleges in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Colorado and North Carolina between Oct. 6 and Oct. 19. Elon University returned the most number of surveys than any school with 1,149 students

participating.

The results are in line with polls at North Carolina public universities, most of which attract in-state students. Elon, a private school with 60 percent out-of-state students, is voting in the same way as in-state students at public universities, challenging some traditional questions about voter demographics. Geographic home and income is having little impact on how students are voting.

"The amount of interest all across the board has really surprised me," said George Taylor, professor of political science. "The interest, the enthusiasm, the depth of the interest — it's a phenomenon."

Of the 13 schools surveyed in North Carolina, Elon had the third highest support for Obama.

The survey also found that more than one-third of Elon students will vote for a different candidate than at least one of their parents, a striking statistic that could signal a generational disparity in how the votes will fall this November.

"It's not a situation where they feel like I'm negating their vote if I'm voting for someone else," said Kim Duggins, a psychology major who took part in the poll and plans to vote for a different candidate than her parents. "My parents are pretty open and understanding."

The results are increasingly important in a state that could play a large role in the 2008 Presidential election. North Carolina's 15 electoral votes, which have long been a stronghold of the Republican Party are up for grabs as campaigns close in on the final week before the election. Forty-five percent of Elon students are registered to vote in North Carolina and half of those will vote in Alamance County.

For most college students, this November will be the first time they will cast a ballot in a presidential election. Like most adults in the

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BLOODY BRILLIANT



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Juniors Christopher Wood and Emily Rice lead the Elon theatre department in its rendition of Stephen Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.' Wood plays the role of Sweeney Todd, the insane barber who seeks revenge in his town. Rice plays Mrs. Lovett, Sweeney Todd's partner in crime. The show opens at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 30 and shows through Nov. 1, and again Nov. 7-9 in McCrory Theatre.

SGA finalizes legislation for \$7,500 Fun Fund

Shelley Russell
Special Projects Editor

The Student Government Association voted on Thursday to further develop a fund that will benefit student entertainment on campus to the tune of \$7,500 each year. Students would be able to use the money in the fund for anything from a slip n' slide in front of Moseley, to a trip to the local bowling alley.

The idea was passed with the expectation that the fund will be open to students during spring 2009. Jeff Casullo, SGA's executive treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee, began planning the Fun Fund this summer. He became interested in the idea after learning Wofford College held about 35 programs last year through a similar fund.

"The hardest part about developing the idea was figuring out where the money would come from," Casullo said. "We didn't want to take away money that we already allot to other student organizations."

Each semester, Elon students pay an activities fee of \$215 to help SGA fund events and give money to other student organizations. Money for the Fun Fund will come from SGA's contingency, in which money is set aside in the event of a low enrollment. Due to Elon's high enrollment, SGA has accumulated money over the past few years.

"Since money from the fund is coming from the activity fee, it's almost like every student in the university is endowing this program," Casullo said.

The \$150,000 endowed fund will leave SGA with \$7,500 each year to give to students for the sole purpose of having fun. The program is geared toward individual students who may not have the means to get funding through student organizations. Casullo said he could see the fund benefiting freshmen that may not be as involved in student organizations.

But the fund is not restricted to individuals. It's open to all student organizations as well. Through an application process that will include required itemized budgets from all applicants, the fund can help cover anything from advertising, security, bands and food for an event.

See FUN FUND | Page 8

McCullough returns to Elon for Baird Lecture

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

As the country approaches the end of a historic election, Elon welcomes back a highly esteemed historian. David McCullough addressed the Elon community as part of the university's Baird Pulitzer Prize Lecture Series, but his lecture also marked a special return. McCullough gave the inaugural Baird Lecture in the fall of 2001, just days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

History Professor Charles Irons introduced McCullough, praising him for his "exercise of moral courage, [which] brings out the best in those around him."

This accolade fittingly introduced McCullough's speech, "Leadership and the History You Don't Know."

Highlighting Elon's efforts to

enhance faculty scholarship and continuing education, McCullough discussed the great importance of education.

McCullough credited 19th century scientist and professor Louis Agassiz for finding "the finest lessons in scholarship and learning."

He said Agassiz brought "a gust of fresh air to Harvard," with his teaching methods and in order to understand what one is studying, they must go beyond the image in front of them and really study all the parts that make up the whole image.

McCullough carried this lesson throughout his life.

"It's not just what you find," McCullough said. "It's how you look at what you find, and what you do with it."

See BAIRD | Page 8



MY NGUYEN | Photographer

Historian David McCullough offers insight into the importance of education.



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The Elon community showed its support of a McCain-Palin administration in a variety of ways, including T-shirts, buttons, posters, hats and, for some students, painted faces and chests.



Palin stressed why she was at Latham Park: "I'm here to ask you, are you ready to help us carry this state to victory?"

PALIN paints campus RED



Palin donned heels that matched her Republican flair.

PHOTOS BY DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

THE SPEECH: Palin rallies McCain supporters

Andie Diemer
News Editor

More than 10,000 people crowded Latham Park decked out and toting election apparel Oct. 16 for a chance to see Republican vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin stump for Sen. John McCain.

"I hope you all got to watch last night's debate because the man from Phoenix proved once again that he is our

best choice to be our next president," Palin said.

This choice, she said, is between a politician in government and a true leader who puts his faith in the American people.

"It's a choice between a candidate that will raise your taxes and the other choice is a true leader," she said. "John McCain is going to Washington to work for Joe the Plumber and so many of you that own small businesses."

She said these people are the backbone of the American economy and that is why a McCain-Palin administration would be the best choice for America.

"Our opponent wants to raise taxes because he thinks like that other Joe," she said, referring to Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden. "They think government is the solution. I disagree with

that. Government too often is the problem and we need government put back on your side."

Only then, she said, will businesses and families be able to keep more of what they produce and earn.

"That's how jobs are created and our economy [gets] moving again," Palin said.

The election is a race between two tickets, one of inspiring words and another of trust-worthy deeds that come from McCain, she said.

To Palin, the deeds are greater than empty words and promises.

"Now, North Carolina, the choice is yours to make," Palin said.

Palin also mentioned each candidate's track records, the Iraq War, college tuition, national debt, energy and assisting special needs in her speech.

TURNING A BUCK: Vendors sell election gear for different reasons

Miriam Williamson
Design Editor

Everyone has seen them. Some people are annoyed by them, some people are appreciative of what they have to offer. They are the vendors selling paraphernalia at large events.

In this case, they are the vendors at political rallies. They are the ones who call out to rally-goers, trying to sell buttons and T-shirts.

The lifestyle is unlike anything someone with a stereotypical source of income could imagine.

"We have put more than 10,000 miles on the van in the past two weeks," said Chris Foran, a vendor from Florida who works for Campaign Curt.

Foran and his partner Phil Phunn have been following Sarah Palin's campaign since August. They have driven through nearly every state, stopping in various cities where political rallies and events are held.

The McCain-Palin campaign is not Phunn's or Foran's sole source of income. They go to events for both political parties, selling memorabilia to supporters from both sides.

"I'm actually undecided for which one I'm voting for," Phunn said. "I really don't know. It's the first time in my life I haven't known who I am voting for this close to Election Day."

Phunn has been working as a campaign paraphernalia vendor since 1996, following different campaigns.

"Everyone wants to talk to me about politics," he said. "But I really walk the middle aisle. I sell stuff for both campaigns, so that's just more incentive not to really openly choose a side."

This is a common quality among vendors — just because they are selling the goods, doesn't mean they support the candidate.

Josh Reyes, a vendor from California, is actually strongly opposed to the McCain-Palin campaign.

"I hooked up with my boss and we sell stuff for both parties," he said. "I'm really just doing this to get money."

According to Reyes, business is booming. He and his boss get 50 percent of the cut while the other 50 percent goes to the campaign.

"You can literally make about 1,000 T-shirts for \$200," he said. "It's a great profit."

Reyes sells his T-shirts for \$20, and said he usually has days like the one he had at Elon — he can sell about 40 shirts.

Toward the end of the rally though, Reyes usually lowers his price to \$10, and has a strategy that he claims usually works.

"Once I started pouting, asking people to help me out, it really worked," he said.

Phunn agrees that the job has nothing to do with supporting a specific candidate.

"It is a job," Phunn said. "Everybody's doing it for the money. Anyone who tells you different is lying."

Phunn and his company don't give any of their profit to specific candidates.

Instead, they donate money to both the Republican and Democratic National Committees so that they will be allowed to go to the events.

Phunn agreed that his day at Elon was a good day for business.

"And hey, [today] I got to see Hank Williams Jr.," he said.

THE OTHER SIDE: Protester shows up, gets arrested

Margeaux Corby
Opinions Editor

Instead of landing in LaGuardia Airport to begin a relaxing fall break at home, one Elon student spent that Thursday afternoon sitting in the Alamance County jail in Graham, waiting for a \$500 bail.

Sophomore Andy Milne was arrested for disturbing the peace at Gov. Sarah Palin's campaign stop at Latham Park Oct. 16.

According to Milne, he went into the rally carrying Obama signs and began to hand them out to fellow Obama fans. He claims the Republican supporters working the event immediately swarmed him and attempted to forcefully take the signs.

It was when Milne also

began shouting, "No blood for oil," "Obama" and "Don't shoot wolves from planes" that a police officer grabbed his hands and put them behind his back.

Palin responded to the event by calling on police officers to keep Milne in the rally, claiming it would do him some good to stay at the speech.

Milne was patted down, arrested and kept in the back of a police car for 30 minutes before being taken to jail, where he was fingerprinted and assigned a \$500 bail.

"I did go to the rally with the intention of supporting Barack Obama," Milne said. "I did not go to the rally with the intention of being arrested."

President of College Republicans Nick Ochsner was disappointed with Milne's

disruption of the rally.

"I was hopeful our Democratic peers at Elon could have an orderly exchange of ideas that would allow everyone to have their voices heard," Ochsner said. "When we have people like him, acting the way he acted, it distorts any discussion we can have."

The rally had a free speech zone set up where protesters gathered to hold signs supporting Obama.

"The rally was not a protest event," Ochsner said. "Everyone was invited if they acted respectfully, and he couldn't."

Milne was not paid by Obama for the stunt and claims his outbursts were justified and protected by the First Amendment.



Visit www.elon.edu/pendulum for full articles, slideshows and videos of Palin's visit to Elon.

Irazú Coffee looking for a jolt to stay in business

Sophie Duensing
Reporter

Another charming, local coffee shop is in danger of closing. Irazú Coffee, located in the Correct Time Plaza off Church Street next to Mike's Deli, is owned and operated by a Costa Rican family that moved to Burlington in 1988.

If business does not improve by winter, the Salazar family will be forced to shut down the shop.

Ron Salazar and his mother, Rosie, opened Irazú Coffee together three years ago in 2005, triumphantly carrying out their dream of running a family business.

After a rocky start, Irazú Coffee developed a loyal clientele, composed of mostly local Burlington residents.

"People come in and try our coffee and taste the difference, then they keep coming back," Ron said.

After a successful second year, Irazú Coffee is now fighting to stay afloat.

"Business is always slow the first year, but things really picked up the second. Now it is no good, especially with the economy failing," Rosie said.

Ron and Rosie are hoping more Elon students will discover Irazú Coffee, and the increased clientele number will save their business.

"We just have to find a way to get more people in," Rosie said. "We hope that students will come in and try our coffee, then tell their friends and spread the word."

While small businesses all across America are suffering from the economic crisis, Elon junior Kellie Barth believes Irazú Coffee is one truly worth saving.

"Irazú is not only cheaper than Starbucks, but the coffee is far more delicious," Barth said. "I get their vanilla latte and it is by far the best vanilla latte I've ever had, chains

can't even compare. I also love the atmosphere. I always feel so warm and welcome at Irazú. I can just bring my computer, do work, hang out and it's a great escape."

Barth did a project on Irazú for her marketing class and created their Facebook group, which is open for anyone to join.

From icy cold mochaccinos topped with whipped cream and drizzled with chocolate to steaming hot chai tea lattes, and bold cups of espresso for the hard core coffee-drinkers, the diverse menu offers something for every taste.

For those who don't drink coffee, Irazú even carries fresh fruit smoothies and homemade muffins and pastries.

The coffee shop is named after a volcano in Costa Rica. The ash from the Irazú Volcano makes the surrounding land extremely fertile, an ideal environment to grow coffee beans.

The Salazar's Costa Rican roots are expressed in the warm, colorful murals decorating the walls and in their passion for brewing their coffee.

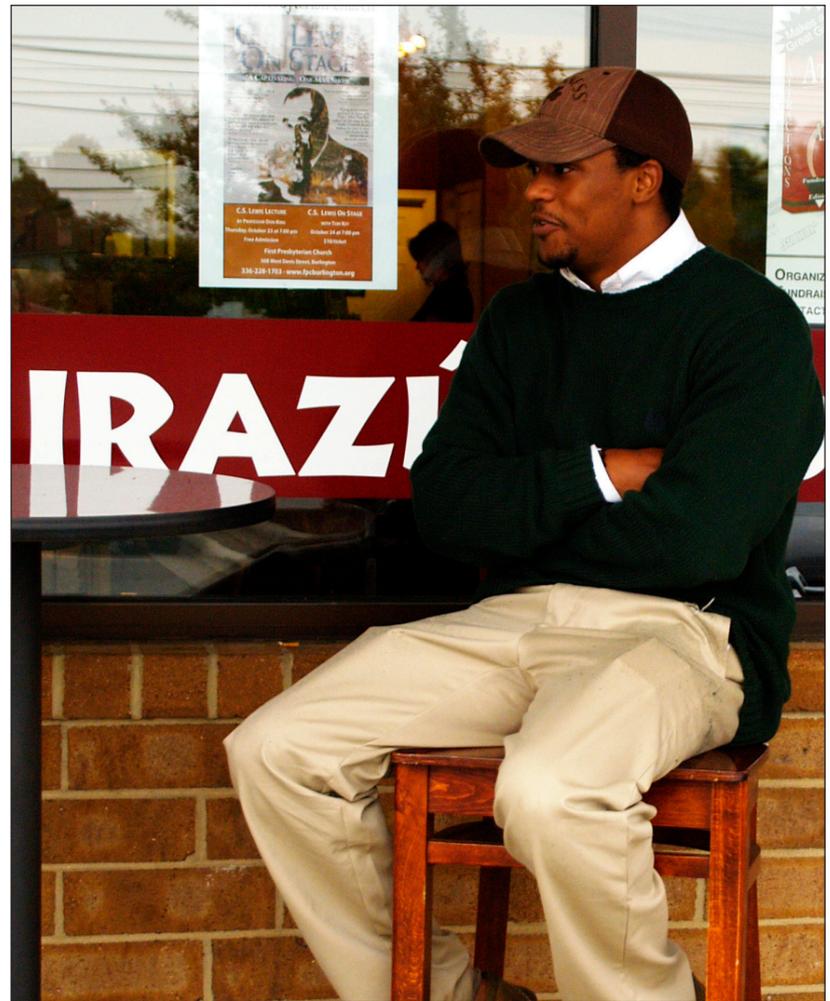
"I think I had my first cup of coffee when I was two," Ron said. "In Costa Rica it isn't like in America where parents are worried about their children drinking coffee and having too much caffeine. It is such a large part of our culture that children are raised drinking it."

Ron studied funeral services in college, but always dreamed of starting his own business.

When he decided to give up his work at a funeral home, his inherent joy for coffee made opening a coffee shop the natural choice.

Coffee is not the only thing enjoyed at Irazú. Local bands delight customers with live music every Friday and Saturday night.

Handmade Costa Rican jewelry, wind chimes and decorative wood



LINDSAY FENDT | Asst. Photo Editor

Senior Darius Cohn is a regular at Irazú coffee. Cohn said he goes to the coffee shop almost every day and is not pleased at the prospect of finding a new favorite.

pieces are also sold.

By deciding to buy your coffee from Irazú rather than a large chain, you get your caffeine fix for less money, and

support a small local business.

A music schedule can be found on their Web site at www.irazucoffeenc.com.

College students can take medical leave, keep insurance

Michelle's Law prevents insurance companies from dropping coverage of college students who are forced to leave school for medical reasons

Whitney Bossie
News Editor

Michelle Morse had to choose between her health and her education. On Oct. 9, President George W. Bush signed off on Michelle's Law (HR.2851) so that other college students would never have to make that choice.

Michelle was diagnosed with colon cancer while she was a full-time student at Plymouth State University. When it became apparent that chemotherapy was necessary, her doctors told her to cut back her course load.

If she followed this advice, she would lose her status as a full-time student and consequently her coverage under her family's health insurance plan. Without insurance, the Morse family couldn't afford treatment. They would have to pay almost \$1,100 more each month to keep Michelle's insurance because the policy required adult children to attend college full-time to receive coverage.

"No one should have to go through what Michelle Morse did during her battle with cancer," said Trista Hargrove of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

Michelle and her mother AnnMarie believed the same thing. They thought students should be allowed a brief medical leave, during which they could cut back on courses or leave college to concentrate on health issues, without jeopardizing their health insurance coverage.

They took the issue to the New Hampshire state legislature and in June 2006, Gov. John Lynch signed

Michelle's Law. Similar laws were then passed in Colorado, Utah, New Jersey, New Mexico, Maine, Vermont, New York and Wisconsin.

The law allows full-time college students to take up to 12 months medical leave without risk of losing their health insurance. It applies to all students who are dependents covered under their parents' health insurance and requires students to provide written documentation from a medical professional explaining the need for the temporary leave. It doesn't require insurance companies to cover any new procedures or individuals — it just prevents the companies from dropping coverage for a specific class of recipients.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill in July of this year, followed by the Senate's passage of the bill in September. It received unanimous support. The bill then made its way to President Bush, who signed it into law.

"The new law will be a great relief to full-time college students facing a serious medical condition such as cancer, as well as their families," Hargrove said. "It will enable them to focus on treatment without worrying about being dropped from their parents' insurance plan."

According to Hargrove, Michelle's Law has the full support of America's Health Insurance Plans, which is a national association representing nearly 1,300 member companies that provide health insurance coverage to more than 200 million Americans.

Many organizations offered support for the bill prior to its passage. Colleges Against Cancer,

the National Education Association, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society have all pledged their support.

"The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is thrilled in addition to the students who will be diagnosed with other serious medical conditions."

Michelle had to retain her course load during her treatment in order to prevent bankrupting her family.

Michelle planned to become an elementary school teacher and, as part of her degree requirement, completed five months of student-teaching at Bakersville Elementary School in Manchester, N.H.

While working there, she wore a chemotherapy pump attached to her hip.

Michelle graduated cum laude from Plymouth State University in May 2005.

In November 2005, after a 23-month battle with cancer, she passed away just days before New Hampshire state legislators passed her namesake law. AnnMarie continued to lobby legislators to get the bill passed into federal law.

While Michelle was unable to benefit from the new law, countless other college students will.

"Michelle's Law will be a help to all full-time college students facing a serious medical condition," Hargrove said.

MICHELLE'S LAW:

- Allows full-time college students to take up to 12 months medical leave without losing health insurance
- Applies to students who are dependents covered under their parents' health insurance plan
- Requires written documentation from a medical professional explaining the leave

MICHELLE'S STORY:

- Full-time student at Plymouth State University
- Diagnosed with colon cancer during her junior year
- Planned to become an elementary school teacher
- Continued to take a full course load while undergoing chemotherapy
- Graduated cum laude in May 2005
- Died Nov. 10, 2005

No permission needed to create change

Kristin Schulz
Reporter

Although the 2008 Periclean Scholars have all graduated and gone their separate ways, the impact they created is still rippling through Elon and abroad. On Saturday night the group unveiled its documentary, "Painting Without Permission," which follows the scholars' partnership with a school in Chiapas, Mexico.

The scholars, who chose to focus on poverty and education in Chiapas during their time at Elon, pushed their cause by pairing with a unique organization, Schools for Chiapas. The film follows a small group of the 2008 scholars when they visited a school being built in Chiapas last winter. They helped transform the two-room school building into a work of art, meeting many community members and hearing their stories along the way.

The documentary, which was created by 2008 scholar Tesla Melage, Project Pericles Director Tom Arcaro and 2011 scholar Josh Chagani, is one of the 2008 scholars' final projects.

Alli Van Kanegan, a scholar who traveled to Chiapas in January, said she hopes the production of the film will be just one example of how her class will continue to spread awareness of the Zapatista, or rebel, movement even though the group has left Elon.

"Learning [about their struggles] first-hand was an invaluable, life-changing experience," Van Kanegan said. "I hope the documentary will encourage others to get involved with the cause."

Schools for Chiapas was created for the Zapatistas to support autonomous education in the indigenous region in hopes of maintaining the Mayan culture. There are many different ethnic groups within Mexico, and the Mayans are perhaps the most oppressed group, Arcaro said.

Arcaro said the documentary's title is completely appropriate, since the group painted a building that didn't have approval to exist. The school, which is not recognized by the Mexican government,

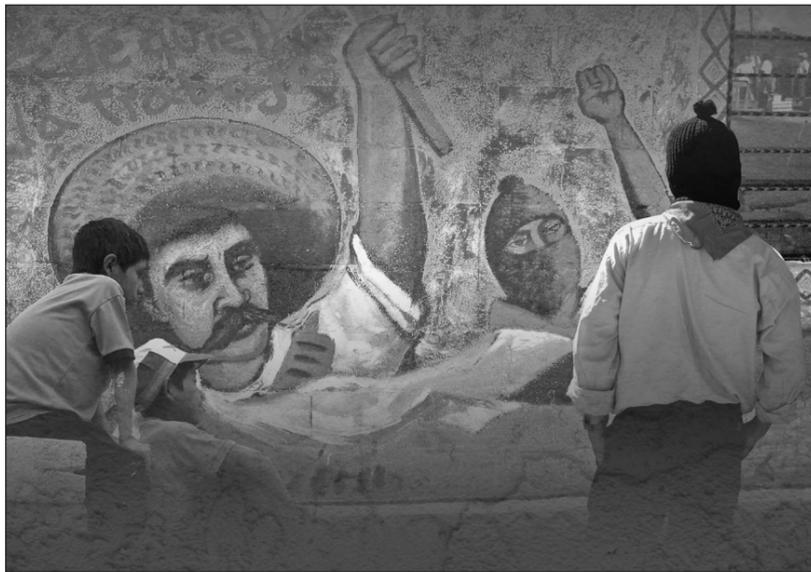


PHOTO SUBMITTED

The 2008 Periclean Scholars partnered with Schools for Chiapas and the Zapatista rebels to paint images of peace and hope on a school in Chiapas, Mexico last winter. The group documented the experience and created a film, which premiered at Elon on Saturday.

was not given permission to be built.

They are continuing with their plans to preserve the people and culture, Arcaro said.

He said the Mexican government does not support the Zapatistas' way of life, and instead chooses to exploit and abuse the people in an effort to assimilate them into modern Mexican culture.

The movie will continue its final stages of production until the final product is sent to Schools for Chiapas in two weeks. Then Schools for Chiapas will have the rights to use the documentary to spread awareness, promote the organization and raise funds for the cause.

After the film was screened, Erin Eldred-Brown, a representative from the Schools for Chiapas, spoke to the audience about current events on the ground in southern Mexico concerning the Zapatista movement.

"This documentary represents the commitment of the Periclean Scholars Class

of 2008 to continue to tell the story of the struggles in Chiapas and to continue their strong partnership with Schools for Chiapas beyond graduation," Arcaro said.

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Who are the Zapatistas?

The indigenous people of Mexico are falling victim to the darker aspects of globalization, Project Pericles Director Tom Arcaro said.

The government-run schools aim to eliminate connection with the more popular Mayan way of life, but educating children to be ashamed of their background puts the culture at risk of being lost altogether.

Arcaro said this is why the Zapatistas are taking a stand and fighting back so that indigenous groups will be

given the basic rights they deserve.

They stem from the ideas of Emiliano Zapata, a leader of the Mexican Revolution who believed in land, liberty and dignity for all.

Arcaro said educating future generations is key, and that with an autonomous school system in Chiapas, classes can be taught in the native indigenous language instead of Spanish.

Student exchange program to being spring 2009

Rebecca Dotson
Reporter

Students who want the opportunity to study at a different university but don't want the hassle of studying abroad have the chance to study in the United States through the Association of New American Colleges.

Composed of 13 colleges and universities nationwide, ANAC is dedicated to the integration of liberal education, professional studies and civic engagement.

"Learning at ANAC extends beyond traditional boundaries of instruction," Lynette Robinson, executive director of ANAC, said in a statement.

"Your education is enriched through service learning, extra-curricular activities, residential life and community projects. Students at our campuses usually spend time away from their home institution, exploring different geographical, cultural and educational climates."

Students enroll with their home universities and pay only room and board to the institution at which they're studying at for the semester.

Mary Wise, assistant vice president of academic affairs, said the national program has much to offer.

"There's not just one way to do anything," Wise said. "Students will experience our country's history first-hand and gain a richer, broader perspective."

Students will be able to choose from schools offering a semester spent studying political science, with Ithaca College's D.C. semester program, studying politics of globalization with Drury University or even studying American music with Belmont University.

Elon is offering a semester of service learning to help hone its skills in leadership, political engagement and social entrepreneurship.

According to admissions materials, Elon's focus on experiential learning provides a rich backdrop for learning through active participation in social justice projects.

Junior Sara Kwolyk said the idea of this type of program is one that will offer students more experiences than just staying at school would normally supply.

"Studying through the ANAC student exchange program affords students opportunities they might not have at their own school," Kwolyk said. "It's a great opportunity to take interesting courses and immerse oneself into a new environment to gain real world experience."

To learn more visit org.elon.edu/anac.

"Studying through the ANAC student exchange program affords students opportunities they might not have at their own school," Kwolyk said. "It's a great opportunity to take interesting courses and immerse oneself into a new environment to gain real world experience."

Associated New American Colleges

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Valparaiso University
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Study Abroad Forum set for Nov. 11

A Study Abroad Forum will be held on Nov. 11 to celebrate academic achievements of students, alumni, faculty and staff resulting from study abroad experiences. It will run from 4:15 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

The goals of the forum are to help integrate study abroad opportunities into the academic environment at Elon, to serve as preparation for students who will study abroad in the future and to provide a forum for significant reflection and analysis for those students who have returned from study abroad programs.

"Sweeney Todd" begins tomorrow

The Department of Performing Arts is presenting "Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" tomorrow through Nov. 1 and Nov. 7 through Nov. 9.

Stephen Sondheim's story tells the infamous tale of the exiled barber who returns to 19th century London seeking revenge.

The play will be in McCrary Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$12 or free with Elon ID. Tickets are now available at the box office.

Invisible Children documentary screening tomorrow

Elon's chapter of Invisible Children will host a documentary screening tomorrow of "Invisible Children: Rough Cut." The documentary focuses on the ongoing war in Northern Uganda and the global issues of child soldiers and displaced people. The screening is at 7:30 p.m. in LaRose Digital Theatre.

Joe Garden from The Onion to speak tonight

Joe Garden, a senior writer at The Onion, will speak tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. He will focus on satire and parody in news coverage and its impact on the 2008 presidential election.

Neuroscience workshop held on campus

The first Neuroscience Workshop at Elon University was held on Oct. 24. Students and faculty took part in five presentations about the field.

The daylong program, supported by a Fund for Excellence in the Arts and Sciences grant, brought guest speakers from Wake Forest University and the Stark Neurosciences Institute.

Bacot quoted in New York Times

Hunter Bacot, associate professor of political science and director of the Elon University Poll, was quoted in a New York Times article about the presidential race in North Carolina.

"In Bush Stronghold, Obama Pulls Even With McCain," printed in the Oct. 21 edition, outlines the dynamics of the state, which has been classified as a swing state in this election.

RTNDAC honors students

Several Elon students were honored at the annual Radio-Television News Directors Association of the Carolinas (RTNDAC) fall banquet.

Kevin Kline received the Dr. John R. Bittner Scholarship. He is the first Elon student to do so. Meredith Gulley won first place for Best Radio Newscast, while Mitch Pittman and Sam Gyllenhaal won first place for Best Student Sportscast. The entire Phoenix14 News staff received a silver award for Best Student Newscast.

Carnival provides Halloween fun for all ages



ANDREW DODD | Photographer

Superheroes, werewolves and vampires gathered at Beth Schmidt Park Oct. 24 for the Town's Halloween Carnival. The event featured carnival games, crafts, candy and a costume contest. It was sponsored by the Town of Elon, the Recreation and Parks Committee, Elon University's Fine Arts Living Community and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Iraqi journalist bridges communication barriers

Andie Diemer
News Editor

"Have you ever seen a man die in front of you? Are there bad memories you still have in your mind that you remember just like yesterday?"

Iraqi artist and American public-radio journalist Ahmed Fadaam asked the students in a reporting class if they have ever had a bad experience. No student in the 18-person class was able to say, "Yes," because each was unable to compare any experience they had ever encountered to the horrific events Fadaam had been describing earlier that day to their class.

Just because there are differences in each society doesn't mean there can't be a partnership between them, he said.

But, he added, the chances of this happening soon are minimal, as governmental hurdles and ignorant attitudes make it seem impossible to have honest, equal communication. Because of the conflict in Iraq, it is difficult for outside information to trickle into the country.

Fadaam said when Saddam Hussein was in power there were three TV stations and two newspapers, all government-controlled. In the past few years, there's been a surge to around 70 TV stations and more than 150 papers.

But each media outlet is tied to one tiny slice of the political spectrum, making it difficult for the public to decipher which information is correct. This has caused confusion for the Iraqi population, he said.

"There is no objective, neutral reporting," he said.

He said most Iraqis' exposure to Americans is limited to experiences with American soldiers, so they believe all Americans are aggressive and want to be involved in the war.

"We need to tell the Iraqis there's a difference between the American administration and the Americans," he said. "It's not an easy job to be a journalist in Iraq."

He said the American media take a "negative-news" approach, highlighting deaths and destruction to sell stories. They neglect the other side of Iraqi society, which is smart and capable of building. Since the war in Iraq has continued for more than five years now, reporters are no longer paying attention to the details, he said.

In early 2003, a story involving a car bomb would be covered thoroughly. Now these occurrences have become so routine some editors won't even publish a story unless at least five deaths have been racked up.

Fadaam is best known for his award-winning radio stories on "Ahmed's Diary," which depict his experiences in Baghdad on NPR. He credits his background in fine arts, including curiosity and attention to detail, for giving him the tools to become a successful journalist.

"The more you work, the more details you create," he said. "I think it's relatively the same."

Fadaam was a professor at Baghdad University for several years and a sculptor.

"Art was my life at that time," Fadaam said. "I couldn't imagine chasing stories. I was locked into my own paradise of imagination."

But war changed his circumstances when a bomb destroyed a school where he was teaching.

He then became involved with journalism.

He has been accused by some Iraqis of being a "blood traitor," or someone who reports on the news to sell it for a paycheck. But he said he can't let these accusations bother him because there is so much at stake and more than just people lost within the conflict.

His family received death threats because he worked in the media. His wife and two children moved to Syria where they would be safer.

He shortly worked at the New York Times earlier this year, and is now spending time in North Carolina to work and visit universities to talk to journalism and art students.

He is spending several weeks at Elon, where he is creating a sculpture to thank the university for hosting him and allowing him to speak to classes.

Sociology professor Tom Arcaro arranged Fadaam's visit and found a nearby space for him to work. The sculpture represents the plight of most women in the Middle East as they struggle to escape the tyranny expressed against them by their culture. Fadaam said he has enjoyed getting his hands into clay and

FADAAM'S BACKGROUND

- Received a Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Fine Arts and Doctorate in Fine Arts from Baghdad University
- Became a professor at the university
- Worked as an interpreter and fixer for NPR's "The Connection"
- Secured a temporary visa to work as a newsroom supervisor at the New York Times

creating again, but his mind is never far removed from thoughts of his family in Syria and his people in Iraq.

He said the war has "destroyed" Iraq. Access to basic human needs such as power and water are far worse than at when Hussein ruled. The Iraqi Museum, which contained important relics reflecting more than 5,000 years of human history, was decimated.

"It's a loss for all humanity," he said. "Not just Iraq."

He blames a lack of direct contact between Americans and Iraqis as why the wounds can't be healed.

Fadaam pushes for an open channel to establish a forum for each society to talk to each other — away from government interferences. But this would require Americans taking the time to get to know Iraqi culture first-hand and Iraqis taking the time to get to know the true American culture first-hand.

He urged the students to learn more about how Iraqis think, live life and face their current problems.

"If you feel the pain you can talk about the wound," Fadaam said. "Break this bond. We're all human, we just speak different languages, that's all."

Nourish International works to end global poverty

Ashley Dischinger
Reporter

For those who have a passion for eliminating poverty through student engagement, look no further than Elon's new chapter of Nourish International.

Nourish International is a student-run organization that champions social change and searches for a solution to global poverty. It encourages social entrepreneurship through participation in long-term projects.

The Elon chapter was born when senior Erika Lamanna was selected by Nourish International to open a chapter to Elon students. After attending an intensive training retreat with chapter leaders from across the country, planning meetings and setting long-term goals, Lamanna enabled Nourish International to receive official approval as an on-campus group.

They are currently working to achieve official active status, but in the meantime plan to function as they otherwise would.

"Elon students are well-informed about the issues in the world, including poverty, and I think they'll view this as an opportunity to take action on what they've learned," Lamanna said.

Elon's Nourish International chapter will select a local non-governmental organization and a country on which to focus their efforts. Students will work to raise funds for the project and to send select students to the site to volunteer on the ground.

Nourish International will campaign on campus for the advocacy of social issues and will work to develop sustainable ventures that students can continue in subsequent years. These ventures will use a specific business-model to ensure the buyer will receive a form of compensation in exchange for their donations.

Junior Avra Stackpole is enthusiastic about the uniqueness of Elon's newest organization and anticipates a positive response from students.

"Although there are a ton of great groups on campus, none are quite like Nourish International," Stackpole said. "There's a place for everyone: people who like to volunteer, people interested in business, people interested in international issues, people interested in people. Everyone has a place because global poverty is an issue that impacts all of us as global citizens."

Students can also team up with other campus organizations in a more localized effort to point to similarities between our nation's problems and the similar problems faced by millions worldwide.

"Nourish International is going to be a great thing for Elon's campus," Stackpole said. "It combines all of Elon's ideals with global necessity and student interest. It's the perfect way to do something for our world while expanding our knowledge and creativity."

Nourish International was founded in 2003 by a UNC-Chapel Hill student group and quickly developed into a network of organizations on university campuses across the country. Students have continued their efforts abroad in countries such as Peru, Honduras, Mexico, Brazil and Uganda. Nourish received the North Carolina Peace Prize in 2008 for excellence in cross-cultural solutions and sustainable development.

Interested in learning more?
The first general meeting for students will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 3 in Moseley 215.

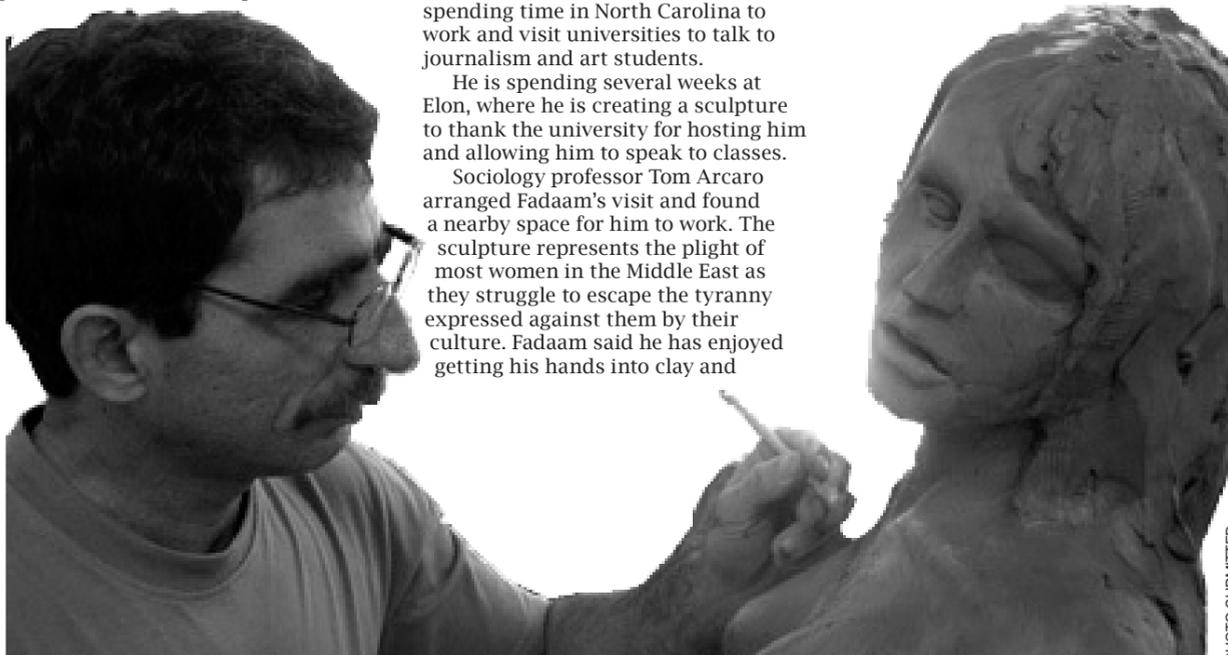


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Students participate in IBM's 'Battle of the Brains' computer programming contest

Whitney Bossie
News Editor

Two teams of Elon students competed in the first regional phase of the world's most prestigious computer programming competitions this weekend.

Computing sciences faculty member Joel Hollingsworth led Brad Nock, Vic McGlaughlin, Kyle Schutt, Evan Morris, Tess Stamper and Tyler Anderson in the 33rd annual IBM-sponsored Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest, held at Duke University.

About 22,000 students from more than 2,000 universities worldwide participate in the contest.

During the competition, teams were challenged to use their programming skills to solve complex, real world problems in five hours or less.

Doug Heintzman, director of strategy for IBM Software Group, said the contest is designed to recognize excellence in problem solving.

"It's quite a test," he said. "The problems are formed by some of the world's top computer scientists and mathematicians."

McGlaughlin, a senior computer science major, has participated in the contest since he was a sophomore.

He said it offers several advantages to students, including sharpening transferable job skills and networking with others in the computer science field.

The contest also allows participants to gain a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.

"These people participating are the best and the brightest. They are the future not only of our business, but of our industry."

— Doug Heintzman,
director of strategy for IBM Software Group

"It's cool to see how you stack up against other teams," McGlaughlin said.

This year, Elon's teams didn't make the cut. They will not advance to the next round of the competition.

McGlaughlin said the teams experienced several technical difficulties.

"Our team was the problem child this year," he said. "That cost us a lot of time. I'm positive we would have been able to get three or four problems done if we hadn't had so many technology issues."

Schutt, a senior double major in computer science and mathematics, said Elon was at an inherent disadvantage coming in to the competition.

"It's difficult because Elon is a liberal arts school, and some of the schools competing are purely technical schools," he said.

McGlaughlin agreed, noting that the team was well aware of the disadvantage.

"We knew that going in, so we just dealt with it the best we could," he said.

Other schools that participated in the regional competition included Duke University, NC State University, Wake Forest University, UNC- Chapel Hill, UNC- Greensboro and UNC- Charlotte.

The top 100 teams from around the world will eventually advance to the world championship. The championship is held in a different international location each year. This year's will be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

Heintzman said the difficulty of the problems increases along with the level of the competition.

"There are only a few people on the planet who can solve the problems [used at the world championship]," he said.

He added that the contests serve as a great recruiting ground for IBM.

"These people participating are the best and the brightest," he said. "They are the future not only of our business, but of our industry. They are exactly the kinds of people we want to hire."

McGlaughlin said several IBM representatives were present at the contest to accept resumes.

Both McGlaughlin and Schutt plan to participate in a similar contest that will be held at NC A&T University in the spring.

"It's always an enjoyable experience," McGlaughlin said. "It's definitely enjoyable when you get the problems right, but it can be miserable when things aren't working out."

Many students voting differently than parents

POLL from page 1

country the economy was a top concern, followed by the cost of higher education, the war in Iraq and energy issues.

At Elon, 84 percent of students say they 'definitely will vote' — a huge percentage considering that a Census Bureau study in 2004 found that 44 percent of college students chose not to register because they were disinterested. Elon students are also paying more attention to this year's campaign than in the past with 93 percent saying they have paid "a lot" or "some" attention to the campaign.

"It's pretty exciting to hear that fact," said Daniel Harwell, president of the National Campaign. "I think we all knew that Elon students tend to be more engaged, that's just the type of student that Elon recruits."

Taylor expects this boom in enthusiasm will taper off some in the future, but he expects higher levels of participation for some time to come.

"What you're seeing with this generation is that they believe the government is important in their life," he said.

Other results from the poll:

Sixty percent of students say they'll vote absentee. Thirty-six percent will vote in person.

Sixty percent say the government cares "a lot" or "some" about young people. Thirty-nine percent say "not much" or "not at all."

Seventy-five percent say the U.S. is ready for a black president, but only 52 percent say the same about a woman.

See more results of the CBS News, UWIRE and Chronicle of Higher Education poll online at www.elon.edu/pendulum.

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SGA

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Coble sticks to tried-and-true campaign methods

Ansley LaBarre
Reporter

Republican Congressman Howard Coble considers himself "old school." When he stopped by Elon University on Oct. 22 to speak to professor Anthony Hatcher's capstone communications class, the 77-year-old admitted to the young group of undergrads that he is not up to date with electronic campaigning, but has still managed to serve 12 terms representing the 6th district of North Carolina.

Coble focused his conversation with the communications students on his media strategies, offering stories from his years of experience.

Coble's favorite means of advertising are through yard signs and bumper stickers.

"The best part about bumper stickers is that they're mobile, from Guilford to Greensboro," Coble said.

His campaign focuses on cost-effectiveness in order to prevent excessive spending of taxpayers' money.

Coble doesn't pay for television advertising either. But if the offer presents itself, like his live interview with FOXNews last Saturday, he won't turn down free media.

But even without all the advertisements, Coble is confident about another re-election.

"I think I've done a pretty good job," he said. "That's why I'm running again."

Coble also spoke to students about his perspective on the recent economic bailout. He voted against the initial bill proposed to the House, but changed his vote after receiving phone calls from citizens, including Elon University's President Leo Lambert.

"It was still a bad bill to pass," Coble said. "But to do nothing was worse."

Fund aims to expand student diversity, creativity

FUN FUND from page 1

Events covered by the fund are subject to some requirements: they must be open to all students, cater to a variety of student groups and interests and students must submit applications at least two weeks before the proposed event. In addition, Fun Fund events must comply with university alcohol policy.

All events must occur on Elon's campus, unless the campus doesn't meet the physical requirements for the activity (a trip to an ice skating rink, for example).

"The main idea of the fund is to provide students with a sense of entrepreneurship in events," Parker McAllister, senior and member of the Finance Committee, said. "This allows for students to create new ideas."

Casullo said SGA is striving to add diversity to student

programs. To enhance this, a committee representative of the student body will be instated to review applications for the Fun Fund. The nine-person committee will include representatives from Greek Life, Student Union Board, Resident Student Association, Academic Council, At Large Council, Multicultural Center and Campus Recreation. Two faculty members will also be a part of the voting committee. "We don't want to overlap events that are already happening and successful," Casullo said. "That is why we have a lot of diversity in voting members. This fund isn't just for programming, this is for fun."

SGA's initial investment in the fund is \$150,000. Over time, Casullo hopes that SGA will earn more interest on the money, and the \$7,500 annual amount will increase.

McCullough credits books, teachers for best education

BAIRD from page 1

McCullough describes his introduction to historical research as almost accidental.

After seeing a photo exhibition on the Johnstown Flood of 1889, he decided he needed to know more about the event. Unfortunately, or fortunately for him, McCullough couldn't find an adequate history of the flood. So he decided to take the advice of the great writer Thornton Wilder, who worked under the concept of, "I write the book I would like to read."

"I was an English major in college," McCullough said. "I knew nothing about historical research. But I thought, 'I'll try.'"

As a result of simply trying, he wrote his first historical account. This book, "The Johnstown Flood," offered him many more opportunities.

Since his first publication, McCullough has written seven more historical narrative and has twice received the Pulitzer Prize for his biographies of Harry S. Truman and John Adams.

In addition, he has received two National Books Awards and in 2006 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a civilian can receive.

McCullough credits part of his success to writing topics that he doesn't already know about.

"Every book I've ever written I've undertook based on what I could learn," McCullough said.

That thirst for knowledge, McCullough explains, is vital for our future. In a moving tribute to those that built the Brooklyn Bridge, McCullough explains the possibility of people using their learning to create lasting impressions.

"[The Brooklyn Bridge] was a magnificent achievement built by people, many of which imperfect," McCullough said. "It was meant to last forever...and was the moon shot of the 19th century."

McCullough believes that type of achievement can happen again.

"We can do that in this generation," McCullough said. "But it won't happen without well educated

people."

Toward the end of his speech McCullough mapped out the three necessities of education: books, teachers and midnight oil. To become an educated person, one must read a lot, work hard and study under knowledgeable instructors.

McCullough also pointed out the significant differences between information and learning.

Acknowledging the amazing amount of knowledge available today, he warns students not to become lazy because of readily available information.

"Information is not learning," McCullough said. "If it were learning you could memorize the world almanac and be educated. But if you memorized the world almanac you wouldn't be educated, you'd be weird."

All joking aside, McCullough demonstrated how education has been a vital part of history and will remain essential throughout the future. As such, he urged everyone to "read, read, read."

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HBO's 'The Wire' stumps at Elon, across North Carolina for Obama

Whitney Bossie
News Editor

When they visited Elon's campus Monday, Jamie Hector, Chad Coleman and DeDe Lovejoy from HBO's hit show "The Wire" became the latest in a long line of celebrities to urge young people to vote for Barack Obama.

The three actors encouraged students to vote, and to vote early. "As important as voting is, early voting is almost more important," Lovejoy said. "There are only a certain amount of hours in the day, and when the polls close on November 4, that's it. Early voting ensures that you vote."

The group visited several different locations in the state, including Raleigh, Charlotte and Duke University. Lovejoy said they chose N.C. because it's expected to have close results.

"This state is especially important," she said. "It has to be about everyone showing up and voting."

Coleman explained his reasons for supporting Obama, noting he's concerned about the current state of the country and believes the Democratic candidate will effect change if elected.

"We all know the mess we're in right now," he said. "Obama will do great things to change the perceptions of Americans."

Coleman said that change depends on the public's participation in the political process. He urged students to vote, tell their friends to vote and dispel misinformation about the voting process.

Hector agreed and told the audience that it was important to not only vote, but encourage others to do so, as well.

"It's great if you vote, but you should be concerned if someone you know isn't voting, too," Hector said. "Early voting is a great opportunity and I hope that everyone is taking advantage of it."

College Democrats sponsored the actors' visit in conjunction with the Obama campaign.

"I think a lot of times, celebrity endorsements are overblown," Daniel Shutt, president of College Democrats, said. "But in this case, they are really trying to use their influence to try and encourage people to take part in the process."

Shutt said some students in the audience might have come to the event only because they like "The Wire," but were encouraged to vote early and volunteer during the final days of Obama's campaign.

Coleman pointed to the close results of recent presidential elections as prime examples of reasons to vote.

"We can't take this for granted," he said. "We saw what happened four years ago. We need every vote."

Lovejoy said she believes early voting is the best way to ensure that each voter's voice is heard. She chose to vote early, using a "paper ballot and ink," because of the contested results of the past two presidential elections.

Lovejoy said the youth vote is more important than ever in this election.

Obama's campaign has made a concerted effort to draw young people to the polls by emphasizing a grassroots approach and making full use of technologies such as text messaging and the Internet.

"I think the young people are going to make this election," Lovejoy said. "They've been so inspired, because they finally see change."

A good-deed day in Burlington



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hundreds of students and community members set out on Saturday for a full day of service throughout the Burlington area. "I think this is a really cool experience," sophomore Carolyn Whittier said. "It feels good to know that we helped make a difference for so many people on just one day." In the photo above, from left to right, sophomore Rebecca Salazar, shophomore Eryn Grewe and junior Sarah Toelkes put Brunswick stew into containers to sell at the Allied Churches Yard Sale.



LAURA BRADFORD | Photographer

On Saturday, Belk Library, along with several other groups on campus, participated in Make a Difference Day, part of a national campaign sponsored by USA WEEKEND Magazine. Make A Difference Day takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October and is the nation's largest national day of helping others. Sophomore Paulina Marchese creates construction paper decorations to donate to the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington. Other students collected boxed and canned foods and delivered them to local food banks.

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

Editorial

Uncovered to be covered: women and football

The Lingerie Football Bowl has been around for three years as an alternative to the usual half-time show during the Superbowl. For \$20, television sets can tune to a pay-per-view channel to watch women in mesh, see-through bras and panties prance around the football field trying not to break a nail.

As bad as that was, it was only once-a-year and was not available on cable television making it quite easy to tune out.

But now, Mitchell Mortaza, the founder of the Lingerie Football League, has decided to turn the publicity stunt into a fully-functional league set to launch in September 2009. The Lingerie Football League will comprise 10 teams from 10 cities willing to host the venue. Tryouts were held two weeks ago in each city to finalize the rosters.

Mortaza told the Seattle Times the reason the games won't begin for another year is because the first try out was based purely on physical appearance and how good each woman looked in see-through apparel. The next step, he said, will be to try to instill some actual football knowledge and skill into the minds of the chosen beauties.

Basically, what he is saying is that football skills are not a requirement in the Lingerie Football League. How surprising. And who decides who is beautiful enough to play football? If no physical skills are to be displayed, what are the requirements for being beautiful? Skinny, tan, blonde hair, blue eyes?

Ten teams that will each play eight games in a regular season set to air on Spike TV. They will have names such as the L.A. Temptations, New York Euphoria, Dallas Desire, San Diego Seduction, Chicago Bliss, Atlanta Steam, Seattle Mist, Miami

Caliente, Tampa Breeze and Phoenix Scorch.

What is the "Seduction" mascot going to look like? Can anyone really take this league seriously with names like that?

In past years, after a touchdown was scored, instead of doing a celebratory dance or even giving the ball CPR, members of the opposing teams in the LFL were asked to make out for the camera instead. As they willingly obliged, flashbulbs went off everywhere.

By calling this charade a professional football league, we put it on par with the NFL, whose logos and colors the LFL has stolen and made their own.

Would a cameraman really ask Brett Favre and Tom Brady to make out after a touchdown? Of course not, and as a society we would condone such a thing. But, because they are women "playing" football it is okay, even attractive, for them to partake in such actions.

It is this double standard that leads to the further objectification and stereotype of the female body, Ocek Eke, communications professor and media coverage specialist, said.

The Women's Professional Football League was established in 1999. Few people knew about it then and few people know about it now. ESPN never covers it, nor can the league secure a contract with any cable provider to televise the games. Conversely, Spike TV is televising every LFL game, and it has been all over the mainstream media since the idea sprouted.

The participants of the WPFL are women who actually love the game of football, train hard and understand the privilege and courage it takes to be a woman and step out of a social norm society has created. These fully-clothed women hit, run and

tackle as hard as most players in the NFL.

The LFL needs to stop pretending that it is an actual professional football league and own up to what it really is — a media ploy used to further objectify a woman's body and lessen her place in society.

"History repeats itself where men use all kinds of media to put down the female form," Eke said. "It goes back to our fascination as a society with sex. Sex is used to sell products. Here, they are selling products."

The products being sold are not athletic, skilled and talented women. Instead, the product is the half-naked woman herself running around in a pathetic attempt to please their male-dominated audience.

It is important for people to be able to distinguish positive female role models from women who are mere sex objects.

For example, we can turn on the television and see vice presidential hopeful Sarah Palin or we can change the channel and witness the antics of the LFL participants.

The fact that our society can even allow something like the LFL to get started goes against all historical progress. American culture has advanced so much that we may see the first female vice president of the United States, and yet there are times when we revert to allowing something as despicable as the LFL to define our society.

The league may be entertainment and fantasy for men, but there are serious social consequences and implications for women that work to erase the many decades of civil rights progress they have strived to accomplish.

Political views are no justification for physical mistreatment and abuse

Although the political rally at Latham Park was for Sarah Palin, her speech was not the topic of conversation after the event.

It was a routine stump, with Palin giving a canned and generic speech to solidify the support of Republicans crowding the stage. It was not meant to change the minds of the protesting Obama

supporters or even sway the votes of the lingering undecided. It was a photo-op and a convenient pit stop for a vice presidential candidate to make a standard appearance and rally the votes already guaranteed, similar to Joe Biden's presence in Raleigh last week.

It was the side events, the little rustlings in the crowd and

walk back after the rally that revealed a disturbing story.

Those who passed Chandler residence hall were greeted by the sounds of a pro-Obama rap from one of the windows. McCain supporters crowded around the outside of the dorm screaming "U.S.A." and cursing. Times-News reporter Joe Killian, who was covering the scene, chuckled at the behavior of both parties. A McCain supporter noticed Killian's grin and proceeded to kick him in the leg.

When McCain supporters spotted Elon junior Andrew Milne carrying Obama signs, he was surrounded by a group of event organizers who attempted to tear the signs from his hands.

Yes, the Palin rally was a ticketed event, and it was made very clear before the event that a "free-speech" zone would be provided for protestors, and that sign usage was prohibited. That's not the issue. Using physical violence or violating personal space with inappropriate physical contact is inexcusable in any situation, no matter who is legally "right" in the situation.

People cannot let their political beliefs justify such despicable and hostile actions. Just because someone disagrees with their neighbor over foreign and economic policy doesn't mean they need to start a shoving match.

This is the dangerous conduct that leads to atrocities such as domestic terrorism and murder. Environmental activists who burn down chemical plants and pro-life groups who assassinate doctors who perform abortions are the extreme manifestations of this behavior, but those appalling actions start with a kick in the leg and the grabbing of wrists.

Although these examples were at the hands of McCain supporters, both parties are guilty of such trespasses. A group of Obama supporters in Grand Junction, Colo. tried to block Palin's motorcade by running into the middle of the street with a net, putting the officers trying to stop them and other drivers' lives at risk.

Obama didn't kick McCain during the town hall debate and Palin never started waving her arms in front of Biden's face when he said something with which she disagreed.

Supporters of any party should follow their chosen candidates' lead and act civilly and respectfully toward those with dissenting opinions. Under no circumstances should a person physically abuse or mistreat another to prove a political point.

ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES



LARS '08

Cartoon by Lars Bredahl

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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Opinions

Race and religion: a conversation worth having



Amanda Duberman
Columnist

On Oct. 11, the politically aware met Gayle Quinnell.

Quinnell has white hair, far-right ideology and apparently a library card.

At a McCain-Palin rally in Minnesota, Quinnell shared that she had done some reading — presumably very light reading — on Sen. Barack Obama, that brought her to the conclusion that he was an “Arab.” No sooner did the word “Arab” come out of her mouth than did Sen. John McCain reassure her, seemingly

to the relief of the entire crowd, that the Democratic presidential candidate was most assuredly not of Arab ancestry.

“No ma’am,” he said. “He’s a decent, family man.”

McCain’s knee-jerk reaction to Quinnell’s comment is hurtful and insulting to the 7.5 million Arab-Americans living in the United States today. With his strong reaction to the statement, McCain suggested that “Arab” and “decent” are somehow mutually exclusive.

McCain should have reprimanded the woman right there for practically labeling Obama an Arab, as if the term was some sort of epithet. He should have taken the opportunity to encourage voters to remove race or ethnicity from their voting criteria.

McCain should have told the woman she was incorrect in her assumption that “Arab” implicitly means “Muslim,” since Arabs are certainly not a monolith and there are millions of Christian, Jewish and Hindi Arabs worldwide and in the United States.

McCain should have disassociated himself completely from radical groups who misled voters about Obama’s background. He should have lived up to his “maverick” distinction. On that day, he most assuredly did not.

McCain’s running mate, Sarah Palin, appears to have no problem with supporters fulminating with death threats against Obama at rallies in “pro-America” states, in her words. She has allowed these insidious and bigoted comments to persist, thereby dignifying the behavior of the zealots who shout them. Palin insinuates that Obama “pals around with terrorists,” and inoculates supporters with the idea that Obama is someone who should be feared.

Barack Obama is not an “Arab.” But all of this begs the question, “So what if he were?”

In 2000, had a George Bush supporter asked at a rally if vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Lieberman was a Jew and of what consequence that would have been to the campaign, people would have made some noise.

If a McCain or Hillary Clinton supporter had asked a question regarding Obama’s race and its connection to his capacity to govern, we can rest assured there would have been an uproar. Why

is it that Americans are more sensitive to some prejudices than others? Why have accusations and indirect remarks about Obama’s faith and connection to Islam been tolerated to such a degree?

Since Sept. 11, concerns regarding a public official’s connection to the Arab world are seemingly justified.

It would be unfair to imply that Obama has completely evaded discussing the issue, because any connections to Islam are at best ancillary to the campaign. Furthermore, there has never been more than scant evidence that the Illinois senator is or has ever been “Arab” or “Muslim.”

Obama has made speeches on race and his affiliation with the controversial Rev. Jeremiah Wright, but has neglected to publicly address, in a formal setting, whether or not he has connections to the Arab world and of what consequence that would or would not be in his administration. Obama could have used this as an opportunity to expound upon what progress we have made since Sept. 11 in regards to the Patriot Act and race relations at large.

Obama missed that opportunity to have this conversation with the American people.

It would be a difficult thing for Obama, or any public official, to tell the American people he or she is not a practicing Muslim without suggesting that would be an altogether negative thing. It would take a very careful, nuanced approach. Still, it’s a conversation worth having.

Fall Break dining options and hours disappoint students

Many Elon students were able to travel or go home over Fall Break, but there was a portion of the student body that remained on campus. While residence halls remained opened, Elon severely limited or closed many of the facilities that students use on a daily basis. These limitations most drastically affected students when it came to the food services.

Adjusting services to make them more efficient while a large portion of the student body is absent makes sense, but the hours of operation of dining halls and the food served forced many into uncomfortable diet options for four days.

Open dining facilities were reduced to Brown & Co. and Colonnades, both with restricted hours. This created a series of dilemmas. Even with meal dollars, constantly eating at Brown & Co. is not a logical financial choice for students. Colonnades’ limited hours, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m., forced many students to eat two meals within a short period of time if they wanted to eat more than one meal on campus on a given day during break.

While Elon normally provides a great array of options for the many diets that can be found throughout a college campus, students on campus during Fall Break were only provided with two or three choices. The number of options was significantly decreased if students do not include gluten or meat in their diet. This left those with special diets resorting to pizza and meager salads. By no means does this consist of a nutritious diet, which Elon continually promotes for its student body.

Reducing food waste is the obvious reason for the restricted dining services, but it could have been handled more efficiently and remained fair for the students who stayed on campus. With plenty of preparation time, smaller portions of food of a wider variety could have been prepared. A survey could have been e-mailed to students requesting information regarding Fall Break plans and diet inquiries. While many students may not have replied, those for whom it was pertinent would have responded.

Condensed hours were not logical for college

students on their first break of the year. Many were undoubtedly taking advantage of the opportunity to sleep in and stay up late. Many students ended up eating meals while not even hungry and experiencing hunger pangs in the evening. The narrowed hours also affected those working in the dining halls. While many employees had reduced hours for the

week, others were forced to not even work at all. With the current economic state of the country, this must be a burden to those involved.

Elon takes pride in its students and normally takes excellent care of them. Fall Break left many remaining students on campus eating unhealthy, when they were able to eat at all. If campus is going to remain open, it must be able to properly provide for those who are here.



Maggie Castor
Columnist

Election coverage and campaign tactics disenchant young voters



Margeaux Corby
Opinions Editor

The significance of youth voter turnout in this upcoming election has become legendary. Once flippantly ignored in past presidential races, the 18-29-year-old vote is now considered a potent force, the magnitude of has the potential to determine the next president of the United States.

I am 20 years old, about to vote for the first time, and have reached a point of total indifference. I just want the ordeal to come to an end.

After hearing too much about the candidates’ personal lives and inexcusably too little about what actions they are actually planning to take to fix the economy and make sure my generation has Social Security, it’s hard to care who wins.

Barack Obama and John McCain, two completely physically and ideologically different candidates, have become hybridized in my mind as just another product of a corrupt and broken political machine.

In January 2008, the Democratic primaries had news stations talking about a surge that didn’t involve troops and tanks, but voter registration cards and ballots. Many attributed the youth turnout in the primaries, which attracted three times the voters than the 2000 primary, to efforts of youth organizers.

In truth, young people are a generation of voters. We have voted for the next American Idol since we were in middle school. We have seen the product of our call-ins and text messages aired on MTV’s Total Request Live for the last decade. We have come of legal age and are voting because we have always voted, even

if our former choices were between Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini.

P. Diddy shouted at us to “Vote or Die” in 2004 and those of us who were too young to cast a ballot during the Bush/Kerry duel felt excitement at the approach of 2008. Our first vote is going to come at a time of revolutionary change — we can elect a black man or we can put a woman one office away from the presidency.

Now, after almost 23 months of both candidates campaigning, hearing the juvenile name-calling, concisely listed by Bob Schieffer in the second debate, and lackluster plans for the future, my excitement has turned to exhaustion.

What is the cause of this disillusionment? The right to vote is sacred and I will exercise it fully, but I feel any ballot I cast will go to maintaining a faulty status quo of half-truths, playground heckling and shoddy solutions. A bandage will be put over the gushing economic wound and the national debt will continue to rise to new, phony-sounding numbers like quadrillions and quintillions.

In 2004, Jon Stewart went on Crossfire and told Tucker Carlson, “What you do is partisan hackery. You have a responsibility to the public discourse, and you fail miserably.”

A study conducted by two East Carolina University professors in 2006, which used this same Jon Stewart quote, concluded that “The Daily Show’s” distinct type of political humor “influenced young Americans by lowering support for both presidential candidates and increasing cynicism.”

Is my disillusionment with democratic discourse simply due to watching “Saturday Night Live” and the occasional high-fire debate show like “Hannity and Combs?”

Mileah Kromer, assistant professor of political science and assistant director of the Elon University Poll, claims this campaign has been no less negative than past campaigns.

“Negative advertising is not to sway voters but to try to suppress votes,” Kromer said. “It makes people disenfranchised in general and they don’t vote.”

Apparently my apathy is playing into the strategies of both political campaigns. But after ridiculous talk of McCain’s post-traumatic stress syndrome coming to a pinnacle with his hand above the proverbial “red button” and Obama’s real terrorist identity, cleverly revealed by his middle name, can you blame my frustration?

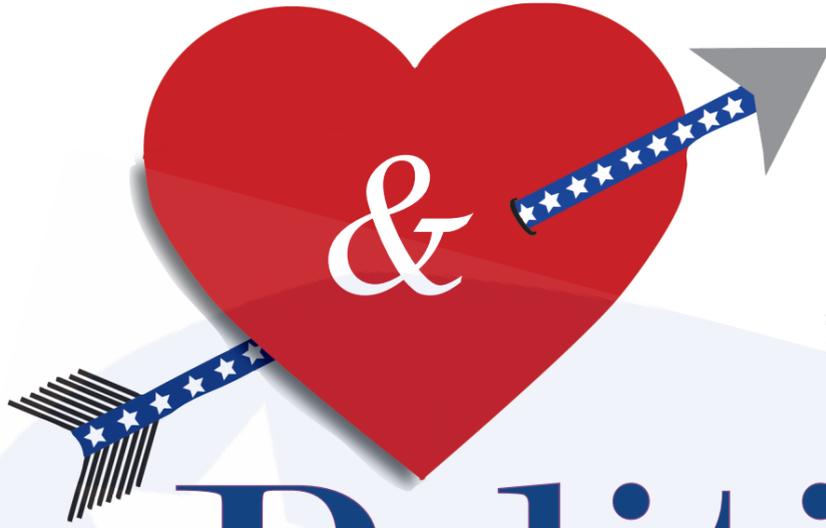
The absurd length of presidential campaigning in the United States facilitates political blasé. This campaign is the longest in U.S. history and in any Western democracy. Candidates began announcing their plans to run in 2006, two years before any actual voting would take place. Obama and McCain have become more familiar than some family members. We’ve been satiated by this charade for too long.

My disenchantment with high-profile elections, destroyed expectations that our political leaders can rise to an adult-level of mature conversation and disheartening outlook on the next four years is not a source of pride.

My heart bleeds for the hopeful and politically active and intrigued girl I used to be, a girl who was excited to vote and become a part of the political process. My democratic spirit has been broken by the pundits, campaigns and media that are supposed to revive it.

I am part of the hopeful and sprightly youth generation, and I’ve never felt so old and weary.

Love



Shelley Russell
Special Projects Editor

Caroline Fox
Graphics Editor

All photos submitted

Politics

Whether you're Democrat, Republican or Independent, there's no question about the media's extensive political coverage as Election Day nears. It's almost impossible not to be informed. Political discussions among Elon faculty and staff can be heard around campus as new developments unfold and more students vote in North Carolina or send in their absentee ballots. While many people discuss or argue about politics as a casual pastime, not everyone can avoid the issue so easily. Family members, roommates and couples with differing political views are faced with the challenge of understanding people who they are close to, and coping with obvious differences in the way that they view the world. The individuals on these pages have all learned to enjoy and embrace their political opinions, even if they can't always see eye to eye.

Roommates

Tyler West - Republican
Chris Ford - Democrat

"I would consider us to be very intelligent and well-read people, so we can consider each other's ideas... I feel like a lot of people pick their side and refuse to hear anything else."

- Chris Ford



Living with another student can be a challenge, especially if different habits and personalities are factored into the mix. But what about extreme political differences between roommates? It hasn't fazed seniors Chris Ford and Tyler West, who remain good friends despite their political affiliations.

"I realize there's no way I'm going to change his mind," Ford said. "Who am I to say that someone is wrong? We can discuss things without becoming frustrated or condescending."

Ford's views are liberal and West's are conservative, with little overlap. But Ford is able to agree with his roommate on the idea of unlimited government, traditionally a more conservative ideal.

"Fiscally, I tend to be a little more conservative," Ford said. "Socially, I am very liberal, and on those issues [West] and I completely disagree."

With West and Ford living in close proximity, politics comes up in discussion a lot — especially because of the extensive election coverage in the news. But there's no uncomfortable tension with political debate.

"Our debates are not usually filled with anger," West said. "We are both passionate about our positions but we are able to discuss matters in a civil tone."

When vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin recently visited Elon's campus, the roommates did not go to the rally together — instead West attended the rally with his father.

"I wouldn't have wanted to go with Tyler to the Palin rally," Ford said. "He's there to watch his candidate and I don't think he would want me to be there

making comments."

Ford's respect for his roommate's beliefs is entirely reciprocated.

"Our political differences come from the fact that we have differing worldviews," West said. "While I believe [Ford's] worldview is wrong, it does not change my view of him as a person."

West said that his current political affiliations come primarily from his Christian beliefs, while Ford said that his parents have also influenced his way of thinking. Both roommates have done their own research about political parties and the current presidential and vice presidential candidates. Ford said he visits CNN.com's Fact Check once or twice a day for the latest political updates.

"I would consider us to be very intelligent and well-read people, so we can consider each other's ideas," Ford said. "At the end of the day, it's important to be able to consider the opposite view. I feel like a lot of people pick their side and refuse to hear anything else."

Ford said that he has become more liberal over the past few years, and West said he had a more liberal outlook on certain issues when he was younger.

Ford said he thinks the candidates in this election are polarizing supporters more now than in past elections.

"As left as I can be, this county needs unity," Ford said. "I know it's kind of contradictory to say because I did vote for one of the most liberal-voting senators, but regardless of which candidate we vote for, I think we all need to work together."

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Families

Earl Danieleley - Republican
Daniel Shutt - Democrat

"He's like my idol. There's no person who I would rather spend time with. People often can't understand how we can even talk to each other, but it's never been an issue." – Daniel Shutt

Daniel Shutt grew up in North Carolina with a close-knit, conservative family, including his grandfather, Dr. Earl Danieleley. From the start of Shutt's childhood, he had a very close relationship with Danieleley, who Shutt says is one of his favorite people. But ever since he began developing his political views at the age of 13 when George W. Bush took office, Shutt and Danieleley have never been on the same page when it comes to politics.

Shutt is currently the president of College Democrats at Elon, and Danieleley said he has never considered himself a Republican. Danieleley refers to himself as a "political junkie," and in 1936 when he wore a sunflower, the flower of the Republican Party, on his coat each day to campaign for Alf Landon.

Despite his grandson's differing political views, Danieleley said he is proud of Shutt. "Political differences don't bother me at all," Danieleley said. "The important thing is that we can talk to each other even if we think differently. So many people are so lackadaisically involved in politics that they don't even try to understand the other side."

Shutt agrees, saying that while they differ on many specific issues, he views politics as a spectator sport. "It's more enjoyable to watch than to participate. It's more creative for people to get involved in the process," Shutt said. "In terms of the end goal, we both have an intense love for this country and our community."

There are many discrepancies in their political philosophies, Danieleley and Shutt agree on the topic at all. "We talk about politics every time we see each other," Shutt said. "It's one of our favorite topics to discuss."

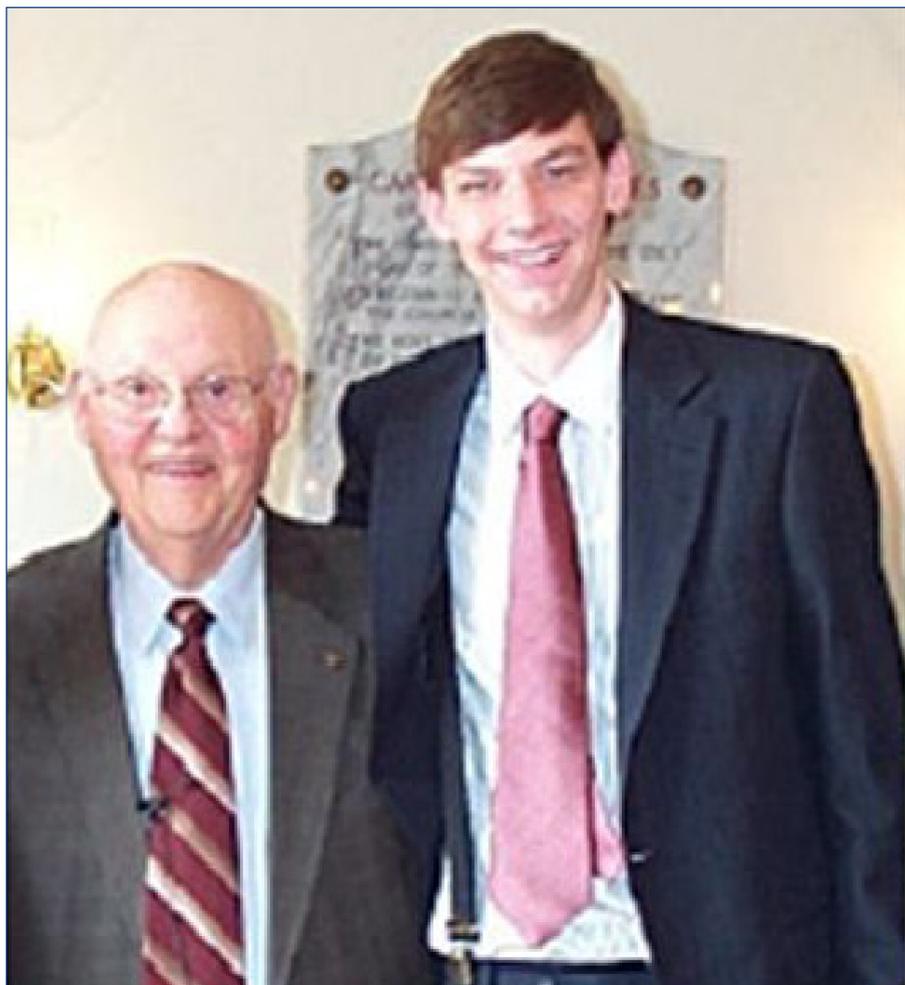
It's not just about the discussion. Shutt said he thinks political conversations with Danieleley have enhanced their relationship. "The ability to empathize with each other, I think, lends itself to a stronger relationship," Shutt said. "I've become closer to [my grandfather] by trying to understand his perspective on the world."

Politics of involvement runs in the Danieleley family. Danieleley served on the Board of Commissioners for Alamance County, and his brother and father were both chairs of the Republican Party in Alamance County. "I'm proud of his interest in politics, no matter what his affiliation. He's been in the same place when Shutt was younger and they visited the North Carolina state offices, including the governor's office."

Shutt said he might have scribbled a little pad and was scribbling the whole time," said Danieleley of his grandson. "He was so interested even at that stage."

Shutt said that while their political views are very different, he and Danieleley have a lot in common. "We both have a strong sense of community and a love for our country."

During his time on the Board of Commissioners, the board had to decide if the Health Department should use public funds to provide abortions to women who wanted, but



couldn't afford it. Danieleley, who is pro-life, came to the conclusion that if wealthy women could afford it, it wasn't fair for poor women to be deprived of the service.

Shutt admired Danieleley's ability to see the discrepancy in the law, despite his beliefs. Danieleley also recalled that he agrees with his grandson about energy and the environment, although he describes himself as being more "pro-nuclear" than Shutt.

"I completely understand my granddaddy's beliefs," Shutt said. "He's not ignorant, he's not misguided and he's very sincere in his beliefs."

Shutt's mother, Danieleley's daughter, was conservative in her political beliefs until May, when she registered as a Democrat to vote for Obama in the North Carolina primaries. Shutt's father, who he describes as a "conservative Democrat," is also voting for Obama.

According to Shutt, his parents have influenced his beliefs in terms of basic values such as looking after other people and being respectful toward valuable resources. These values have stayed with Shutt in terms of his own political beliefs, but he said he will always love talking to his grandfather and learning to understand their differences.

"He's like my idol," Shutt said of Danieleley. "There's no person who I would rather spend time with. People often can't understand how we can even talk to each other, but it's never been an issue."

Relationships

Mitch Plummer - Republican
Anna Cornacchio - Democrat

"Our political differences present a funny quirk in our relationship. It's not something that we have to avoid or dwell on. Our differences contribute to the chemistry of the relationship." – Mitch Plummer

Political differences can cause major rifts in relationships, leaving many couples to seek partners with similar preferences. But this isn't true for junior Mitch Plummer and his girlfriend, sophomore Anna Cornacchio, whose beliefs lie on opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Plummer and Cornacchio are both participants in Model U.N., and they each have different but informed views about politics. The couple placed particular importance on foreign diplomacy, a topic that they have discussed frequently.

"We have different ideas about diplomacy," Plummer said. "But we both agree that it's a necessity."

Plummer, a Republican, is not opposed to the use of armed response for national security issues, but Cornacchio's beliefs lean towards a more humanitarian approach.

"I don't believe that war is always inevitable," Cornacchio said. "I think in certain situations it can definitely be avoidable."

Cornacchio attributed her political viewpoints to her upbringing. She was raised Catholic, but was exposed to the Protestant faith following her parents' divorce. Cornacchio became familiar with the different morals associated with the religious faiths of her parents, which she says contributed to her current political stance.

Plummer also mentioned his religious upbringing as being a major influence on his beliefs.

"Religion used to be more important to me than politics," Plummer said. "Now that politics have taken priority, my views have shifted, but have stayed in the conservative realm."

And while some couples let small differences in beliefs lead to bickering and arguments, Plummer and Cornacchio have learned to accommodate a much larger disparity as Election Day nears.

"We definitely respect each other when it comes to politics," Cornacchio said. "It's interesting to hear our different opinions, but I never feel like I need to have my beliefs heard over [Plummer's] beliefs."

Plummer, who described the couple's political debates as "agree to disagree situations," said he always respected Cornacchio's views even if he couldn't understand them.

"Our political differences present a funny quirk in the relationship," Plummer said. "It's not something that we have to re-visit or dwell on. Our differences contribute to the chemistry of the relationship."

While the couple does respectfully disagree on many fundamental issues addressed by each party, Cornacchio and Plummer remain pro-choice, and in support of foreign diplomacy by use of different implementation methods).

According to the pair, Cornacchio's Boston upbringing and Plummer's childhood in Raleigh have heavily influenced their political persuasions. Cornacchio said a lot of her political outlook comes from her experience with the state politics of Massachusetts. Plummer's upbringing in Raleigh led him to an internship with a government contractor where he works with former military personnel.

With hopes of pursuing politics in the future, the couple knows their views will only continue to develop.

"We talk about politics when it comes up," Cornacchio said. "But it's not something we would purposely bring up just for the sake of arguing about something. I think our political differences are a complementary thing. If we were exactly the same, it would be boring."



Style

Demon barber takes the stage Thursday night

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

Tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m., Elon's Department of Performing Arts begins its production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

After spending years in a penal colony, the once happy, successful Sweeney Todd returns to England jaded and hell-bent on revenge. Years before, a jealous judge arrested him on false charges, caused his wife to poison herself and then raised his daughter. Redefining his craft, Sweeney puts his skills with a straight razor to good use. Sweeney lures those involved with his imprisonment into his barber's chair. Expecting a smooth face, these men receive a slashed throat.

Junior Chris Wood plays the troubled barber, but channeling such an angry, murderous man doesn't exactly come naturally.

"[I try to consider] what the script says about me, my background, what a penal colony is like, imagining what it would be like to have your whole life ripped out from under you, and your wife and child stolen away," Wood said. "Clearly I don't have that experience in my life, so it took me awhile to find a parallel that I could relate to so that I could understand it. Now that I've found that, I just put myself in the situation of Sweeney and feel the things that he feels in each moment."

In order to fulfill his vindication Sweeney reluctantly accepts the help of Mrs. Lovett, a struggling pie maker.

Want to go?

What: "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

When: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30-31, Nov. 1 and Nov. 7-8, 2 p.m. Nov. 9

Where: McCrary Theatre

Admission: \$12 or free with Elon ID

The two strike up a deal. All the dead bodies have to go somewhere, and Mrs. Lovett figures out a delicious solution.

Although it doesn't seem so from the plotline, "Sweeney Todd" does have a lot of humor. The comedic elements provide the actors with great material. Junior Emily Rice brings the hard talking, no nonsense Mrs. Lovett to life.

"Playing Mrs. Lovett is like getting to be Lucille Ball every night from 6-10 p.m.," Rice said. "I get to do everything from pounding piecrust dough on the counter to joking with Chris Wood about British seagulls. It's an absolute joy."

"Sweeney Todd" has become one of the most well known musicals. It's always a challenge to reinterpret a show to make it unique, but Elon's cast and crew have developed a unique vision.



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

The cast surrounds Christopher Wood as Sweeney Todd in the musical's opening act.

"I always challenge myself to look with a fresh eye," director Cathy McNeela said. "I get back to the basic roots of the show and take it from there. I like all the work I have to do."

McNeela's vision stems largely from 19th century England's Industrial Revolution. She explains that during this period, there were constant struggles: between the rich and poor, the weak and strong, agriculture and industry. Men became slaves to the industry and lost themselves. Sweeney Todd reflects this social dilemma.

"Sweeney becomes a cog," McNeela said. "He becomes a heartless machine himself."

Audiences are in for a new type

of viewing experience, with this machine-inspired tragedy.

"The neat thing about Sweeney is that the things that might traditionally happen out of the audience's sight are in fact part of the performance," junior Chris Staskel, who plays Mrs. Lovett's young helper Toby said. "You can expect to see ensemble members turning and revealing parts of the set and then walking downstage to sing their solo."

"Sweeney Todd" is a musical thriller, but despite all the thrills and blood, at its core "Sweeney Todd" is a story about a man trying desperately to deal with the death of his wife and rescue his daughter.

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Turkish tailor is a Burlington staple

Rebecca Wetherbee
Reporter

Jul Balyoz sits at a desk with an archaic metal sewing machine. "Old, but better than a new one," he said. He might as well be referring to himself. Like his trusty sewing machine, the 63-year-old tailor has a work ethic and old-fashioned charm not found among many of his younger peers.

Balyoz knows how to work with his hands — for nearly all his life, he has worked as either a tailor or an auto mechanic. He grew up in Ankara, the bustling capital of Turkey, and though he's spoken English for almost 20 years now, the Turkish language still curls his tongue.

As a child, Balyoz lived in an apartment above his father's alterations shop. While other kids played, Balyoz was busy learning his father's craft. He spent his time putting his young, nimble fingers to work to perfect the techniques and styles of tailoring.

"Other kids were playing outside, I was playing in my father's shop," he said. "It is history, you know, I grew up that way."

But time, religion and politics took their toll on Balyoz's life in Turkey. It is a tale that Balyoz is hesitant to tell.

"It's a long story," he warned, the way he does before most of his explanations.

Balyoz is a Christian, and Turkey is dominated by Muslims.

"We didn't get along," he explained. "[The Muslim majority] pressured us to move. You could not get a government job or anything."

Balyoz wasn't the first in his family to emigrate — his sister and brother-in-law came to Burlington in 1977. In July of 1981, when he was 36 years old, Balyoz crossed the Atlantic and moved to North Carolina to live with his sister and brother-in-law.

His brother-in-law owned the shop that Jul now owns — Miran's Alterations at 127 East Front St. in downtown Burlington. Balyoz worked in the shop until 2000, when his brother-in-law passed away. In 2002, his sister was diagnosed with cancer, and she put the shop in Balyoz's hands.

"She asked me, 'Can you handle?'" Balyoz remembered. "I said, 'I'll try.'" Balyoz has been the shop's sole proprietor for the past six years, and though the summer months are slow, the shop has been a success.

The shop is small and Balyoz's work table is by the front door next to a huge picture window. Clothes form huge piles behind his desk, bins of giant spools decorate every spare surface. The pin cushions scattered across his desk explode with needles. It is a colorful, cluttered place to work, but it is comfortable for Balyoz, who spends most of his time in the shop alone.

He has a number of regular customers, including some who live out-of-state. They bring their long, loose or torn clothes with them whenever they return to Burlington. Busy or not, he always accepts their business.

"I cannot say no," he said. "We don't have that 'no' word in our dictionary."

It's one of many lessons he learned from Miran.

"My brother-in-law, his advice was good," Balyoz says. "When he was working, his eyes were connected to the needle of the machine. He was telling me, 'Look at whatever you are doing. Don't talk, work.'"

And Balyoz does work. He puts in long hours to finish his projects and satisfy his customers. But he talks, too. He has a lot to say.

He has stories to tell. Smoking a Pall Mall cigarette on the stoop of his building, Balyoz will talk for as long as he has a listener.



REBECCA WETHERBEE | Photographer
Burlington tailor Jul Balyoz emigrated from Turkey more than 30 years ago, but continues to entertain visitors in his shop with stories from his childhood.



REBECCA WETHERBEE | Photographer
Balyoz's shop at 127 East Front St. in downtown Burlington remains one of the small individually owned businesses that still exist. His dedication to the business and desire to carry on the tradition of his family makes even the slow times survivable. Balyoz's steady flow of customers from near and far allows him to keep his family's shop up and running.

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- 1

Microwave two tablespoons of butter in a microwave safe dish until melted (about 30 seconds).
- 2

Wipe off pumpkin seeds with a damp paper towel. Mix seeds with melted butter. Arrange seeds so that they form a single layer in bottom of dish.
- 3

Mix in any seasonings. Use salt, cayenne pepper or Worcestershire sauce for savory seeds or sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg or maple syrup for a sweeter treat.
- 4

Microwave seeds for eight minutes and stir at two-minute intervals. After microwaving the seeds for six minutes, stir every minute until they become golden brown.
- 5

Let cool and enjoy! Store them in an air-tight container and they will remain fresh for up to ten days.

Carpooling for a cause: Elon sophomore offers shuttle service for charitable contributions

Elizabeth Roberts
Reporter

Taylor Blackburn is driven to make a difference. The Elon sophomore used E-net and a car to make a difference to children halfway across the world.

The Ashland, Va., native is a major proponent for Hope for Families Worldwide, an organization that runs summer camps for orphaned and abused children in Latvia. For the past four years, a missionary group from Blackburn's church, New Hanover Presbyterian, has gone to Riga, Latvia, and has organized the program for the children.

Blackburn wanted to make a contribution to the camp, so the enterprising sophomore used his resources. With a car and ambition, Blackburn started a shuttle service for Elon students.

Starting last year, Blackburn posted an ad on E-net advertising his services. He caters to students heading home for vacation, charging a \$40-\$45 donation for a ride to Raleigh/Durham International Airport (RDU) and \$35 to Greensboro Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO).

The amount Blackburn charges is equal to what the Elon shuttle service charges: \$35 to GSO and \$45 to RDU. Blackburn plans to offer his services for Thanksgiving break, winter vacation and spring break as well as any weekend that there is a demand and he is available.

These fares cover his gas money, but everything else goes directly to HFFW.

Latvia is a former Soviet country and remains one of the poorest countries in Europe. Although there have been many progressive movements to improve the

“It has been amazing to see the changes in the hearts of the kids.”

– Taylor Blackburn

political and social situations, there is still a large percentage of people who continue to live in extreme poverty.

HFFW rents out a boarding school and runs Camp Hope for children ages 5 to 18. Founded in 2004, the organization started out with about 60 students. In 2008, the number has grown to 200.

“It has been amazing to see the changes in the hearts of these kids,” Blackburn said. “It’s been moving for me to see how even in the worst family conditions of abuse and rape, they still find a way to love unconditionally and find hope.”

Freshman Chris Fry used Blackburn's service for fall break.

“The ride was actually a lot of fun,” he said. “I really liked the idea and service. College students leave everything to the last minute, which doesn’t work out if you want a shuttle. I e-mailed Taylor the day of my flight, and he was quite cooperative with my needs.”

Despite Blackburn's best intentions, he did experience some problems with planning. On fall break, Blackburn had three people scheduled for rides to Greensboro. Somehow, there was a miscommunication about where the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sophomore Taylor Blackburn has gone to Latvia to work with orphaned and abused children. After four years, he feels that he has made a personal connection with many of the kids.

students needed to go, and some did not receive the ride.

Elon freshman Greta Spangenberg was one of two students who did not get her ride to the airport.

“As a consequence, I missed my flight back home,” she said. “I support [Blackburn's] cause but I would encourage others to make sure they get all of the times and facts straight.”

Blackburn offered Spangenberg and another student cab money to the airport and offered to give them free rides to the correct airport for the rest of the year.

“Being organized and punctual is something I pride myself on and I feel horrible for letting them down,” he said. “It is something that I can promise will never happen again.”

Last year, Blackburn donated more than \$1,500 of his proceeds to charity, and so far this year, he has raised \$235. He hopes to pass last year's total donation.

“These kids in Latvia have moved me to realize that I am meant for the ministry and it is because of them that I understand my purpose,” Blackburn said.

The hidden lives of RAs and why they love their job

Julie Halm
Reporter

They are well known around campus, familiar to anyone living in a residence hall. They're loved by many and feared by some. They are resident assistants. Far more than just a watchful eye or a fast track to judicial affairs, they are mentors, authority figures, and above all, students.

RAs are present in every on-campus residence hall, and housing assistants monitor Elon-owned apartments including those in Danieley and The Oaks. Each RA or HA is assigned a building or floor where they live and work and where they are responsible for the well being of the students. These student staffers ensure that all residents are following Elon rules but also plan social programs, solve roommate conflicts, help first-year students adjust to college life and act as liaisons between residents and the Physical Plant.

An RA position is more than a

“It feels good that people can come to you and ask you questions and you are able to help them out.”

– Pam Richter

mere résumé-builder. In addition to developing leadership skills, RAs also receive a discount on room and board.

Senior Whitney Chambers said that being an RA has offered her much more.

“It is very rewarding,” said Chambers. “When you take time to invest in residents and you're checking in on them, they feel that.”

This is Chambers' second year working with Residence Life and said

that she has really enjoyed working with the upperclassmen that live in the Hook suites. Last year, Chambers worked mostly with freshmen, but feels that she has more in common with her older residents.

“You can really see a difference in the response from upperclassmen,” she said.

Pam Richter is a sophomore and the RA on the first floor of Sloan, which houses the Communications Learning Community. Learning communities connect students who share similar academic interests and offer members the chance to interact more closely with faculty and participate in field trips. Richter, a journalism major, helps to plan events for her hall.

“I enjoy helping them build a strong community,” she said, but adds that she also helps many of her residents on a more personal level.

“It feels good that people can come to you and ask you questions and you are able to help them out,” she said.

Both Chambers and Richter admit

Want to be an RA?

Residence Life is currently accepting applications for students who wish to be a Resident Assistant this spring. Stop by Moseley 213 to pick up an application.

that they struggle with certain aspects of their jobs. Because they act as authority figures to their peers, RAs are often faced with resistance and anger from their residents.

“People view you in a negative light,” said Richter. “They think that all you are there for is to bust them for drinking. We do so much more that people really don't see.”

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As colorful as the clothes he makes

Jack Smith takes theater and dance programs to the next level

Rachel Cieri
Reporter

Standing amid a periwinkle and lavender fabric utopia, Jack Smith moves his hands deftly across a vast expanse of black and white taffeta silk that will eventually grace the stage of McCrary Theatre.

Sewing machines whirl from the corners of the little room while morning sunlight streams in through the six windows Smith calls the "six reasons it's a good costume shop," highlighting the virtual kaleidoscope of color.

For more than six years, the associate professor of performing arts has been designing costumes for Elon's theater and dance programs and passing on his expertise to students.

When Smith arrived, the program was just beginning. Stuffed in a tiny space in the depths of what is now the Center for the Arts, Smith and his students had one sewing machine and one surger to work with, and no one knew how to sew.

As fate would have it, his first Elon production was "Anything Goes," a high-glamour 1930s musical that required the alluring clothes of old Hollywood.

"It was rough getting out of the starting blocks," Smith said.

Since then, the costume shop has come a long way. The miniscule, dark room that housed the original shop is now the laundry room, and the new one has produced the attire for dozens of shows, including three identical costumes for Christine and the Phantom in last spring's "The Phantom of the Opera."

Smith says he did not always know that he wanted to be a costume designer, or a teacher for that matter. As a child, he moved across the country several times because his father was in the Air Force. His family finally settled in rural Illinois, where they owned a farm. Smith grew up thinking that he wanted to be a graphic artist.

At Eastern Illinois University, a graphic design program did not exist. When his adviser suggested that he become a journalism major and an art



RACHEL CIERI | Photographer

Jack Smith is Elon's first costume designer. He developed the program from nothing into what it is today and produces the outfits for each production.

minor, Smith, like any directionless undergrad, took the advice.

By his sophomore year, he knew that journalism was not what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

"I found myself arguing with my teacher — a full-out argument in the middle of class — about whether it was appropriate to put a glass to the door of a hotel room to hear what was going on inside," Smith said. "My teacher thought it was fine. To me, that was just ethically bereft. She said, 'You need to find a new career.'"

So he did. Smith took an introduction to theater class that required 30 hours in one of the production shops. Since he was the only one who knew how to sew, he was put in the costume shop. From that day on, he was in love.

"To this day, I remember exactly how it smelled, the music playing on the radio, and I had the weirdest feeling that this is where I belong," Smith said.

Smith went on to attend graduate school at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and he went right into teaching from there. After five years, he realized he needed some professional experience.

"I felt like I was teaching a lie because I'd never worked professionally," he said.

Smith then spent another five years as a free-lance costume designer working at a Shakespeare festival in Orlando, Fla. He enjoyed his work, but he missed teaching and "impacting generations." He made a list of what he was looking for in a teaching job, including a costume shop, an established program, a graduate school

and a shop foreman. Elon had none of this. Still, he took the job because Elon had the intangible qualities he needed.

"The faculty is so focused on what the student needs, and that was exactly what I wanted," Smith said.

Smith was the university's first costume designer, and he developed the program from scratch. He works with each of his students to meet their individual needs and interests, tailoring his teaching and assignments to their personalities.

Senior Elizabeth Easterly is a dance major interested in designing costumes for dance performances, but Elon does not offer that sort of coursework.

"He actually did an independent study for me that was about dance costuming last year, just because I was so interested in the subject and I had nowhere else to turn," Easterly said.

Junior music theatre major Johnny Stellard is now working with Smith on his fifth musical, "Sweeney Todd."

"He helps advance the story with his costume designs. It adds a richness to the show, and he'll tell you about the meanings behind the colors," Stellard said. "You can come to him with character ideas, and he's willing to work with you and collaborate. The bottom line is that he cares."



NaNoWriMo creates tough deadlines

For the 10th year in the row, National Novel Writing Month participants create an entire novel in just the month of November

Mary Nease
Reporter

National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo, takes place over the course of November and presents writers with a challenge. During the month, participants aim to write a novel of at least 50,000 words.



NATIONAL NOVEL
WRITING MONTH

It all began with a man named Chris Baty, a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, who decided with 20 friends to write a novel over the course of July in 1999. The next year, they decided to move this event to November, and upon creating a Web site, www.nanowrimo.org, had 140 people noveling.

This year is NaNoWriMo's 10th anniversary, and the Web site has already registered close to 60,000 authors worldwide. The event is open to people outside the United States, but InNoWriMo, International Novel Writing Month, doesn't offer the same alliteration.

One might wonder why people would want to give up so much of their time to write so much for nothing.

"It seems like the perfect motivation for me to finally produce something for the sheer pleasure of it, and not for a class or a grade or for anyone else," junior Paul Mirek said. He will be participating in NaNoWriMo for the first time this year, after learning about it from his roommate.

His reason seems to be why most people participate in NaNoWriMo. Whether writing something for the

fun of it or to get something written, motivation is key.

"NaNoWriMo is all about the magical power of deadlines," Baty said on the Web site. "Give someone a goal and a goal-minded community and miracles are bound to happen. Pies will be eaten at amazing rates. Alfalfa will be harvested like never before. And novels will be written in a month."

The Web site has a huge forum, filled with authors worldwide helping each other out with everything from story research, plot development or simply a virtual shoulder to cry on when you realize that 50,000 words is a lot more than you thought. Whatever your reason for visiting the NaNoWriMo forums, you'll find the motivation you need from the huge community of writers out there, all trying to reach the same goal.

To sign up to participate, visit www.nanowrimo.org and click on the sign up button at the top of the screen. Fill out a few blanks, and you're on your way to writing a novel, frying your brain or both.

Halloween treats and eats



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.CAYMANDESIGNS.COM

Cooking easy: Popcorn Balls

Chelsea Bozone
Reporter

Making popcorn balls in a dorm room has never been easier. With a few simple ingredients and the company of friends, you are well on your way to making an easy and delicious Halloween treat.

The first ingredient to popcorn balls is, of course, the popcorn. Make sure that you use only plain popcorn. Certain flavors may alter the delicious end result.

The second ingredient is the delicious addition of marshmallows. It does not matter if you use mini marshmallows or large marshmallows, but Elon microfridge microwaves tend to run on the small side so the small ones are recommended.

A word of caution: If you enjoy a nice clean microwave be careful not to overfill the bowl and make sure you stop and stir. Otherwise, you might find yourself facing a scary mess to clean up this Halloween. You can let your inner creativity come out in this phase of popcorn ball making. Why use plain old white marshmallows when there are so many more possibilities, like colored or chocolate?

The third ingredient is optional, but for personalized popcorn balls the addition of mix-ins is a fun one. If you and some friends are bonding over making popcorn balls, have each person bring over their favorite candy and let the good times roll. Be fun and creative.

Get your suitemates together and take a break from the hustle and bustle of life. Invite some friends over to celebrate the beginning of a new class or the ending of an old one. Whatever the event or reason, remember to have fun and enjoy.

Ingredients:

- 1 bag of popped popcorn (no flavorings)
- One 16-ounce bag of marshmallows (big or small)
- 1/2 stick of butter
- Mix-ins (sprinkles, candy corn, chocolate chips, etc.)

Directions:

1. Add the cooled, popped popcorn to a gallon-sized zip-top plastic bag.
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the butter and marshmallows. Cover and microwave for 30 seconds and then stir. Repeat four times (depending on your microwave and how big your bowl is, you may need to adjust). The marshmallow mixture will be ready when the butter and marshmallows are all melted.
3. Important: Let the marshmallow mixture cool for a minute before proceeding to the next step.
4. Pour the marshmallow blend into the bag with the popcorn.
5. Mix the mixture and popcorn together.
6. Add whatever mix-ins you want and shake until everything is evenly distributed.
7. Form into balls (or just eat it out of the bag) and enjoy.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sophomore Anna Powell has been competing in water ski competitions since she was in sixth grade. When she joined Elon's Water Ski Club, her family allowed the club to use their boat and helped them gain access to Burlington's Lake Cammack.

Water Ski Club takes off

Christina Edwards
Reporter

Elon may be hours from the coast but the water sports scene has still found its way to campus.

The 21 members of Elon's month-old Water Ski Club take advantage of Burlington's Lake Cammack, located only 11 miles from campus.

The club became official Sept. 22, after two years of effort from president Brice McHale.

"It was a slow process, but I think the school wanted to make sure it was done right," McHale said.

McHale has been an avid water skier since the age of 6, but hadn't thought about bringing the sport to Elon until chemistry professor Eugene Grimley approached him.

"The first thing you have to do [to start a campus organization] is get an adviser," McHale said. "Dr. Grimley actually contacted me a week or two into freshman year and asked if I would be interested."

Nearly a year had gone by when Anna Powell, a sophomore from Fuquay-Varina, N.C., joined the club and everything began to fall into place.

Powell's parents allowed the club to use their boat and helped them gain access to Lake Cammack.

Before they could become an officially recognized Elon organization, both McHale and Grimley had to go through extensive safety coordinator training.

"Elon was very meticulous in making sure everything was done right," McHale said. "I think they just wanted to make sure we did everything safely."

The club has already participated in competitions, including a South Atlantic Conference Regional competition.

The club is ranked 45th out of the 74 east coast teams.

"We have a wide variety of experience," McHale said. "We have people who have been doing competitions, and we have people who



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Joe Patterson trains for competitions at Lake Cammack in Burlington. "We have people who have been doing competitions, and we have people who have just started," said club president Brice McHale.

have just started. We have the full spectrum."

He has been water skiing since he was 6 years old, and began skiing competitively when he was just seven. However, unlike McHale, some club members are new to competing.

"Before this club, I had [water] skied one time," freshman Erik Higbee said. "I just heard about it, and wanted to give it a chance. I think after five practices I was doing the slalom mini course."

Club members practice at Lake Cammack on Thursdays when the lake is closed to the general public.

"We have one of the best collegiate water ski setups," McHale said. "We have the slalom course, and it's regularly available to us."

The next Water Ski Club meeting will be Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. in McMichael 115. The club is open to new members. For more information, visit the club's Web site at www.elonwaterski.synthasite.com.

Pink for a purpose

The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha receive pink highlights to support their national breast cancer philanthropy

Anna Zavala
Reporter

What started out as an eye-catching way to raise breast cancer awareness around Elon's campus became a notably successful fundraiser.

On Oct. 6, all members of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority got pink hair extensions to support their national philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness. All members have pledged to keep their extensions in throughout the month of October. The idea was to draw attention to their new strands as a way to talk to others about their cause.

"When people ask, it creates a great opportunity to talk to them about breast cancer awareness and the actions that Zeta is taking on campus," sophomore Kristen Lueck said. "People [don't always stop at] the Moseley tables, so this was a new and creative way to get people's attention."

Getting people's attention has so far been highly successful. Even people outside of Elon's campus have been taking note.

Interest was so great that Design Forum Salon, which originally styled each member's hair, had to order more pink extensions. It held another event on Oct. 16, and now regularly offer pink hair extensions to the public so people outside of the sorority can support cause as well. All proceeds go to ZTA's philanthropy.

"I actually saw a nurse at the

health center with the extensions," ZTA president Kaitlan Spedden said.

After a local news station covered the sorority's trip to the salon, the American Cancer Society called Design Forum and asked if they would be willing to visit a hospital to style people's hair with extensions. Stylists from Design Forum then visited Alamance Community Hospital.

"We had no idea how much publicity this was going to get," Spedden said.

Not everyone easily accepts the idea of having pink hair.

"One of my [sorority] sister's grandmothers didn't really understand the concept of a hair extension and was pretty mad when she thought she had dyed her hair pink," Lueck said.

Spedden added that another girl's mother "almost threw a hissy fit" when she realized her daughter would have to attend a formal fundraising event over fall break with pink hair.

"A lot of people asked her about it and she got to explain to them what we're doing here," Spedden said, adding that the mother has since accepted the girl's pink hair.

Another member of Elon's campus will soon have pink hair. Zeta's sweetheart, Andrew Molnar, signed a contract agreeing to dye his hair pink if the sorority reaches their fundraising goal by the end of October. He plans to go pink on Oct. 28.

"I hope that they'll continue this next year," Spedden said.

OVERHEARD AT ELON U

"Ever walked in on a conversation and wish you hadn't? Overhear a comment that made you wonder just how rigorous Elon's admission process is? Here's the place to share."

Junior Nick Massa created "Overheard at Elon U," a Facebook group that highlights ridiculous comments made by Elon students.

The group features daily posts and hosts more than 850 members.

"Boy: Dude, are you going to the Palin thing today?"

Friend: Yeah, man! You want to pre-game?"

—overheard by Kaitlin Perry

"Girl 1: I keep on hearing people talk about mavericks. What's that?"

Girl 2: I think it's a horse or something.

Girl 1: That makes sense. Palin is pretty like horses and McCain is strong like horses. They are mavericks!"

—overheard by Aaron Richards

"My freshman year, I always heard people saying they were going to Club Belk so one night I got all dressed up and told them 'I'm going with you to Club Belk.' They didn't stop laughing for a half hour."

—overheard by Taylor Jones

"Girl 1: Oh my God, do you have pink eye?"

Girl 2: No, I don't think so.

Girl 1: It looks like you do.

Girl 2: Yeah, I thought I did at first, but it doesn't really look pink. Maybe red, but not pink. I should be fine."

—overheard by Michael Richards

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'Go' brings attention to 'invisible' issues

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

In 2003, three young men in their early 20s made a film that inspired a movement.

Southern California natives Jason Russell, Bobby Bailey and Laren Poole went to Africa to find a story to document on film. What they found was a long-lasting war in Northern Uganda involving displaced night commuters and child soldiers. Their footage became "Invisible Children: Rough Cut," which Russell, Bailey and Poole used to educate people about a little-known international crisis. And the non-profit organization Invisible Children Inc. continues to spread their message.

"It literally was an invisible issue until college students made this movie," said junior Katie Meyer, who started Elon's Invisible Children chapter, said.

"Invisible Children: Rough Cut" has been screened at Elon several times. On Thursday, the LaRose Digital Theatre in Koury Business Center will host a screening of "Go," a new documentary from Invisible Children Inc. featuring updated information about the war. The new film also follows a group of students who traveled to Uganda after Invisible Children's Schools for Schools campaign, in which U.S. schools raised

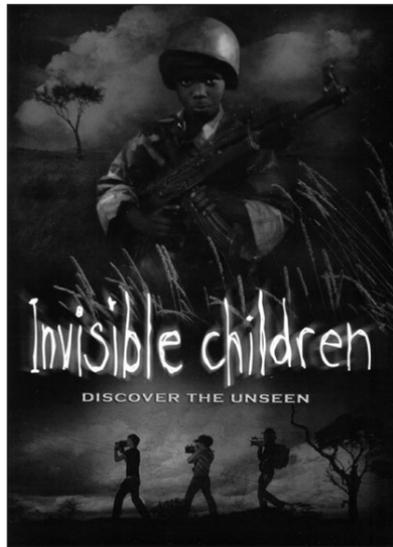


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MOVEFORUGANDA.COM

money to rebuild Ugandan schools destroyed by the war.

"The cool thing about Invisible Children is they really are recruiting the youth of America," Meyer said. "It's cool that they think our generation could stop a war."

The documentaries follow Ugandan citizens suffering from the 23-year-long conflict between the Ugandan

government and the Lord's Resistance Army. The LRA began abducting children, turning them into soldiers and attacking villages. As a way to protect its citizens, the Ugandan government forced the villagers into displacement camps.

But according to Invisible Children's Web site, about 1 million people still live in these overcrowded, poverty-stricken camps. Peace talks began in June 2006, but fell through in April 2008.

"It's easy to be hopeless because the peace talks fell apart, but that's what conflict wants you to do," Meyer said.

Meyer said Invisible Children's edgy and honest approach to filmmaking continues to incite strong reactions from viewers, which in turn motivates them to get involved with the cause.

"Some people are crying, some people are angry, some are in shock," Meyer said. "But everyone is affected by it."

Meyer found out about Invisible Children her senior year in high school when her sister held a screening of the film. Meyer said she couldn't help but be changed by it, and when she found out Elon didn't have an Invisible Children chapter, she decided to start one. Elon's first Invisible Children screening was held in spring 2007, and the organization has had a presence on

campus ever since.

"Now it's harder and harder to find people who don't know about Invisible Children," Meyer said.

The screening of "Go" is expected to last about an hour, followed by a short presentation and question-and-answer session with roadies from the Invisible Children organization. After the screening, people can purchase the film, T-shirts and other merchandise. Half of the money will go to Elon's Invisible Children chapter.

According to Invisible Children's Web site, the final cut of the Invisible Children documentary is coming to movie theaters soon.

Want to go?

What: Invisible Children "Go" documentary screening

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Where: LaRose Digital Theatre in Koury Business Center

Admission: Free

Student choreographers present work, receive audience feedback

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

Dance students in the choreography I and II classes got the chance to showcase their work to the Elon community when they participated in the Choreography Salon Oct. 22 and 23.

Unlike more traditional dance concerts, the audience played a more participatory role in the salon. The dance students performed works-in-progress and the audience gave them feedback about what worked in their dances and what could be improved.

The salon featured four different concert showings over two days. Thirty-one dances were presented by 20 choreography I students and 11 choreography II students. The choreography I class focused mainly on solos and duets, lasting about three minutes, while the choreography II students choreographed dances for small groups, lasting about eight minutes.

"I've always found this kind of experience helpful as a choreographer and I wanted it to be helpful for students," Lauren Kearns, assistant professor of dance, said.

Kearns teaches the choreography II class and started the Choreography Salon last year when Elon's dance program went from a Bachelor of Arts program to a Bachelor of Fine Arts program. Kearns said she felt students needed a way to get feedback from people besides their peers or teachers.

"Dance is not an isolated artistic activity," Kearns said. "Dance is a living, breathing organism. There's a lot of research that goes into choreography, so this is as much for the dancers as the public."

Kearns said she hopes the Choreography Salon gave the public insight into how much creative research choreography involves. She said the intimate setting of the concert let the audience see the work in an up-close and personal way. The salon was held in Studio A in the Center for the Arts, which allowed for about 100 people per show.

"There is a heightened sense of performance value because the audience is right there," Kearns said.

Kearns served as a moderator at the



LINDSAY FENDT | Asst. Photo Editor

Dancers Emily Falconer, Kassi Mattered, Lauren Sharp and Elizabeth Federowicz illustrate the effect of a loved one's disability on a family in Zibby McBride's "Scrape the Surface."

salon along with Cherie Bower, assistant professor of dance and choreography I teacher. It was their job to facilitate the discussion between the dancers and the audience and keep it on track. The audience was supposed to focus its feedback on tangible evidence that was visible in the dances.

"Audience feedback offers fresh perspectives," Bower said. "The audience's views and feedback can help strengthen the choreographer's choices of edits and revisions as they progress toward the project's completion."

The students have been working on their dances since the beginning of the semester, researching and crafting the choreography itself.

"During the first two weeks, the students work on short assignment studies to help strengthen their understanding and use of space, time, energy, force and inventive movement and shape design," Bower said. "By the third week, they begin working on their choreographic ideas."

Now that the students have received feedback on their work at the salon, they will continue working on their dances for the rest of the semester. The students must complete their dances for their final exam, but a few will get to continue further. Two pieces will be selected for the American College Dance Festival and a few will be picked for the fall dance concert.

"Those students will have the opportunity to have their dances fully realized with all the technical elements," Kearns said.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

Strong cast leads action packed 'Pride and Glory'



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM

Adam Constantine
Film Critic

In "Pride and Glory," the Tierney family has had a line of decorated and respected police officers for several generations. For Francis Tierney Sr. (Jon Voight) and his two sons Francis Jr. (Noah Emmerich) and Ray (Edward Norton), being cops was the only thing they had ever looked forward to in life.

But a couple of long decades later, Francis Jr., who goes by Fran, and Ray realize this is nothing like they imagined when they were kids. As the commanding officer for one of the Washington Heights precincts, Fran has a lot of responsibility watching over several cops in a dangerous area. But the criminals in the area are the least of his worries.

Jimmy Egan (Colin Farrell) has been like a brother to the Tierney family. Also a member of the Washington Heights precinct, he serves alongside Ray against the criminals in New York City. But when four cops under Jimmy's command are killed, all fingers start pointing at someone on the inside.

To solve the problem, Ray is put on the task force in charge of finding the killers. But when all the evidence starts pointing closer and closer to home, it becomes clear that the last thing he wants to find out is the truth.

This film has a great storyline with a brilliant cast,

but an awfully slow start as it is similar to a documentary for the first 30 minutes. But just as it starts to get to a point where you want to exhale quite loudly in the theater, it takes a turn that blows your mind.

"Pride and Glory" takes a dark and twisted ride through the eyes of corrupt cops. Inhumane and brutal treatment takes place in order for the "boys in blue" to cover their tracks and get their other forms of payment. While the plot is a good one that keeps you on edge, it is very tough to watch at some points. This is not necessarily because of the brutality and gore, but because of certain elements that are placed in awful situations.

The star-studded cast does an excellent job of taking the movie down a road that few successfully travel. The greatest thing this film has to offer is the reality of the movie. In real life there are rarely happy endings. There is only atoning for the sins that have been committed against society. In this movie, these decisions all fall into the hands of Ray Tierney.

If you're not a "Saw" movie buff and "High School Musical" just won't cut it, this is a happy medium that will bring the action you need without being over obsessed with either gore or singing. Catch "Pride and Glory" at Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossing.

Men's soccer holds auction for cancer research

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Less than a week before clinching the Southern Conference championship, the men's soccer team had something else to celebrate last Tuesday night.

Elon faced the visiting Duke Blue Devils in the annual match hosted by the Phoenix to help raise funds for The V Foundation for Cancer Research, named for the late Jim Valvano. A silent auction was organized for the game and Elon came away with more than \$1,500 in donations.

"It is something we like to do to raise awareness and money for cancer research," head coach Darren Powell said. "We like to do it as a team and the foundation is a community we like to represent. [Valvano] was a high profile role model for athletes and something they can relate to."

Some of the items auctioned included: a 2007 autographed 50th anniversary Green Bay Packers football, two tickets to a 2008-09 Carolina Hurricanes game, an autographed basketball by Virginia Tech head coach Seth Greenberg, autographed soccer ball and team poster by the 2007 National Champion Wake Forest men's soccer team, an autographed 2007 team poster by the Duke men's basketball squad, an autographed basketball by University of Miami head coach Frank Haith, two autographed Arnold Palmer books and two tickets to a Wake Forest football game.

"The coaching staff and support staff organize the event and use the contacts we have to get a lot of donations," Powell said. "The planning starts in the summer of each year by first picking a game we know will be played in Rhodes Stadium and an opposition that will fuel imagination and excitement in the local community."

The benefit game has been played for five years. Former Elon assistant coach Dustin Fonder, now head coach at High Point University, came up with the initial idea.

"I was intrigued by the V Foundation and what it stood for," Fonder said. "[Valvano's] dying days were about leaving a legacy to help people defeat cancer. There were all types of tournaments, but no V Foundation tournament in regards to soccer. I thought it would be unique if Elon, then trying to become a national name, was the only soccer school in the nation to do The V Foundation."

After contacting the foundation and expressing interest in doing a benefit game, Fonder started the process of securing items for the silent auction. He wrote letters to everyone and anyone he could think of who would have the best auction items, including most professional leagues such as the MLB, NBA and NFL.

"After the first year, I made a list of all the mistakes and things we need to improve to make it better year after year," Fonder said.

Fonder kept the program running for three years before his departure to High Point. Before he left he passed it on to the current coaching staff.

Getting it started is what Fonder said he is most proud of.

"I left some part of me at Elon," Fonder said. "As a coach you always want to leave something good at a place you left. I was fortunate enough to start something that stuck. I am proud it is still going year after year."

Over the course of five years, Elon has raised

Soccer team wins on Senior Day



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Junior midfielder Alix Heinicke dribbles down the field for the first goal of the game, her second on the season as the Elon Phoenix cruised to a 3-0 Southern Conference victory against Georgia Southern on Senior Day from Rudd Field Sunday afternoon. The shut out was the seventh of the year for the Phoenix, who improved to 8-7-2 overall and 4-5-1 in conference play. The women's next game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday night at Rudd Field, as they take on the league-leading and defending conference champions, UNC Greensboro. Elon is currently ranked seventh in the SoCon behind, UNC G, Western Carolina, Samford, Davidson, Furman and College of Charleston.

more than \$5,000 to donate to The V Foundation.

The foundation was established 15 years ago by ESPN and the late Valvano. It started with Valvano's dream, the passionate and committed former N.C. State basketball coach and ESPN broadcaster, as he battled cancer. What started out as Valvano recruiting a small group of friends and family to lead the foundation has turned into a national foundation that has raised more than \$80 million and awarded cancer research grants in 38 states.

"Cancer affects so many people," Fonder said. "It is a great charity because it can happen to someone in any family. It's not one of those rare diseases. Everyone knows someone affected by cancer."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN DONALD | Sports Information Desk

The men's soccer team auctioned items, such as jerseys autographed by different teams. They made about \$1,500.

Triathlon Club members earn top awards at Emerald Isle sprint

Alyse Knorr
Design Editor

Fourteen Elon Triathlon Club members competed in the Emerald Isle sprint triathlon on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The event consisted of a 750-meter ocean swim, a 12-mile bike race and a 5-K run.

Junior Robby Knelson, the club's president, placed third for his age group in the sprint, which gave him a first place position for his age group for the series overall.

Anna Mae Flynn placed second for females overall with a total time of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

"It was a wonderful experience," Flynn said. "We each found something within ourselves to motivate us to stay strong for as much as we could endure."

In the men's division, Stephen Rusterholz placed first for his age group, 17-19-year-olds, and Emery Nelson placed fifth for his age group, 20-24-year-olds.

In the women's 17-19-year-old group, Leah Darkes placed first, Laura Brentrup second and Annie Huth third.

In the women's 20-24-year-old group, Chelsie Wagner placed first, Alison Smith third, Megan Carter fourth, Larissa Ferretti fifth, Whitney Waters sixth and Lindsey Altwater 12th.

"For some, this race was a learning experience allowing them to change some training or racing techniques, and for others it was a glorifying moment that initiated a newfound or accelerated passion," Flynn said. "For all of us, it was a test of pain, strength and endurance."

In the swim segment of the race, Flynn said many of the Elon students experienced contact with other participants that forced them to fight for leading positions.

"It was an out and back course," Flynn said of the running segment. "There were elements of elevation which added an additional component to the race."

The Triathlon Club swims, bikes and runs together each week. Triathlon season is over for the rest of the winter, but in the spring, the team will compete in another race together.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Elon Triathlon Club traveled to Emerald Isle to compete in a sprint triathlon. Eight of the members placed in the top three of their age groups.

Elon stumbles in critical game, drops in national rankings

Pam Richter
Reporter

The Elon Phoenix's seven-game winning streak was the program's best since 1981. Saturday afternoon's historic Southern Conference matchup between then-No. 3 Elon and then-No. 4 Wofford had the fixings for another unprecedented win, but fell short.

The Phoenix was pounded 55-20 and out-played in all facets of the game. The Terriers were perfect from the red zone, converting on all seven opportunities, and had 473 yards of total offense compared to Elon's 338 yards.

"[Wofford] was really impressive today," Elon head coach Pete Lembo said. "Their game plan offensively, with new shifts and formations, kept us off balance in the first half and forced us to make some adjustments."

The Phoenix fell to 7-2 in the season and 5-1 in the SoCon. The team dropped in the national polls, to No. 9, but more importantly, in the conference standings, in which it had possession of first place since Sept. 20. Now, the Phoenix stands third in the conference behind undefeated Appalachian State and Wofford.

"We were confident that if we came in and executed and played hard that we'd have a chance to win the game," Wofford head coach Mike Ayers said. "Did I think we were going to score 55 on them? No."

Wofford led in the first quarter 14-0 and never looked back. At halftime, Wofford was leading Elon 34-13 and continued to control the



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Joshua Jones takes down Wofford's senior fullback, Dane Romero, on a running play. The Terriers tallied 330 total rushing yards in Saturday's defeat over Elon 55-20. Wofford is now second in the SoCon standings.

tempo by running the ball. The Terriers finished with 330 rushing yards and 7 rushing touchdowns on the day.

The Elon defense had difficulty picking up on the offensive schemes Wofford was using as they seemed to run the ball with ease.

"They had a lot of deception and motion," Joshua Jones, defensive linebacker, said. "Things going one way just to throw your eyes the wrong way. You have to have perfect eyes. There was a couple times it was hard for me, being the first time seeing that kind of

offense."

Before Saturday's game, the Phoenix was fighting for the SoCon title and a national No. 1 ranking. Now, it is simply fighting for a playoff position and postseason bid.

"The team has handled adversity very well up until this point and I was disappointed we let our guard down," Lembo said.

Only 16 teams of more than 100 in the Football Championship Subdivision make the playoffs.

Most conferences are guaranteed one automatic bid, but not all of them. The

SoCon is guaranteed one spot, while there are opportunities for at-large bids. Last year, the Colonial Athletic Association sent five teams to the postseason while the SoCon sent Wofford, the SoCon champ, and Appalachian State as an at-large bid.

The SoCon is arguably the most competitive conference in the FCS. As of Oct. 20, there are three SoCon teams in the top-10 of The Sports Network poll.

Next week, Elon has a bye before going into its next game against the winless Western Carolina

Catamounts on Nov. 8, which is Homecoming Weekend. Rounding out conference play is a visit to Boone, N.C., to face the defending national champions, Appalachian State.

"I want our kids to be upset and disappointed," Lembo said. "But at the same time, this doesn't put us back to square one. We need to regroup. If there's ever a game that you just have to put behind you, it's this one."

Wofford, whom Elon is battling for second place and an automatic bid, faces Appalachian State Oct. 31 in Boone. One of the only two undefeated teams left in the SoCon will lose that distinction.

"We knew going in that a game like this [against Elon], quite frankly, is a Southern Conference championship game," Ayers said. "Just like the rest of them from here on out. [Appalachian State] will probably have 30,000 people there while we will have about 1,000 so it will be 30 to 1."

If the Terriers lose, they will be tied with the inactive Phoenix for second place. If Appalachian State loses, Wofford takes sole possession of first as the Mountaineers fall to second, with Elon.

At the end of the season, if the teams are tied, the higher standing goes to the team who won in head-to-head action.

"I didn't think we'd lose any more [games] after losing that first game," Corey Weaver, Elon senior linebacker and captain, said. "I guess this is a reality check and we need to step it up and get it turned around."

Despite loss, Phoenix wins with community kids

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Even with an unexpected loss, the Elon football team did not fail to inspire and excite at least some of its youngest fans.

On Saturday afternoon, a student-run program, Day with the Phoenix, brought youngsters from The Masonic Home for Children to Rhodes Stadium to experience the excitement of the then-No. 3 Elon Phoenix battling the No. 4 Wofford Terriers.

"It started as a project for a class to change the community in some way," junior founder Kyle Johnson said. "By no means did we have to carry it out, but I looked around and was like, 'I can really do this.'"

From that simple idea sprang the now successful second-year program.

Day with the Phoenix provides children with an opportunity for close contact with the players on all Elon's Division I sports teams.

"The whole spin is that I want the kids that come to get the message they can go to college too," Johnson said. "A lot of them are pretty young and they come from underprivileged areas. I really want to get the seed in their head that college is out there and they can go, especially while they are young."

Saturday, the itinerary for the kids of the Masonic Home started at 1 p.m.

About 15 children piled out

of a van and hurried to Rhodes Stadium for some pregame field access. At halftime, some members of Elon's cheerleading team visited the children in their seats.

After the game, the crew piled into Wood Center to listen to the postgame press conference followed by an autograph session from some of the biggest play makers.

"Make sure you get his autograph," one girl whispered to her friend, referring to Scott Riddle. "He's the really cute one."

Joshua Jones, Corey Weaver and head coach Pete Lembo also joined Riddle for the autograph session.

"Part of our football culture is to reach out and make the community feel a part of Elon football," Lembo said.

"It is always nice to welcome different groups, especially youth groups, as they experience game day."

Last year, in its trial year, Day with the Phoenix was hosted by the men's soccer, baseball, basketball and football teams.

All activities include tours of campus and facilities, autograph and information sessions and special privileges.

At a soccer game, students of the Boys and Girls Club got a chance to play on Rudd Field and be ball chasers for the Elon vs. East Tennessee State game.

At a baseball game, students were given T-shirts and student-athletes from all teams sponsored the group's meal at



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Day with the Phoenix offers children from the Masonic Home and Boys and Grils Club a chance to meet players and experience the excitement of an Elon football game day.

Colonnades Dining Hall.

"If they get to go to a college campus and hang out with some people, they are going to remember that and when it comes time for them to apply, they are going to think maybe I do want to go," Johnson said. "I want to make sure they know there are plenty of opportunities and ways for them to succeed."

Men's basketball star Adam

Constantine and manager Tyler Diamond played a 2-on-2 game with the kids during one of their visits, while members of the softball team and women's basketball team joined the children in the stands for the game.

Associate Athletics Director for Marketing, Promotions and Home Game Management, Trip Durham, helps Johnson and the athletes organize the

activities for the children each time they visit Elon.

"Personally, I am a non-profit guy," he said. "If there is a faction that wants to help a non-profit, I am all for that. If there is any opportunity for a young person to get a feel for a college campus, regardless of the program, is a benefit. If you can affect one life then you have done your job."

MONSTER GOLF

Campus Rec hosts tournament 'Under the Lights' at South Campus Fields

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Friday night at Elon's intramural fields, the only thing talked about was oversized balls. Oversized golf balls being whacked with plastic golf clubs in Elon's most recent sports phenomenon: monster golf.

Campus Rec hosted the first annual Monster Golf Tournament from 7 to 9 p.m. on the South Campus Fields.

"We had seen students play recreationally and it was something we wanted to make more formal," said Campus Rec director Peter Tulchinsky. "It is a lot like cornhole a number of years ago. It started out slow and then exploded. We wanted to give a formal recreational outlet."

The Campus Rec crew set up two four-hole courses for participants, including a separate long drive competition. About 45 participants showed up to play "under the

lights," complete with food, drinks, music and cornhole.

There were par-3, par-4 and par-5 equivalents set up to replicate a regular golf course. On par-3, participants had to hit a post, while par-4 was a risk reward hole that offered bonus points. Par-5 was a longer hole, rewarding accuracy.

"[Campus Rec's] whole theme is doing something like Friday Night Lights," South Campus team leader Thomas Barr said. "We wanted to do something that could bring a different crowd out."

The tournament was part of Campus Rec's newest program that offers a low-risk alternative on Friday nights.

All proceeds from the tournament were donated to Elonthon, a student-organized philanthropy event that raises money and awareness for the kids at the Duke Children's Hospital.

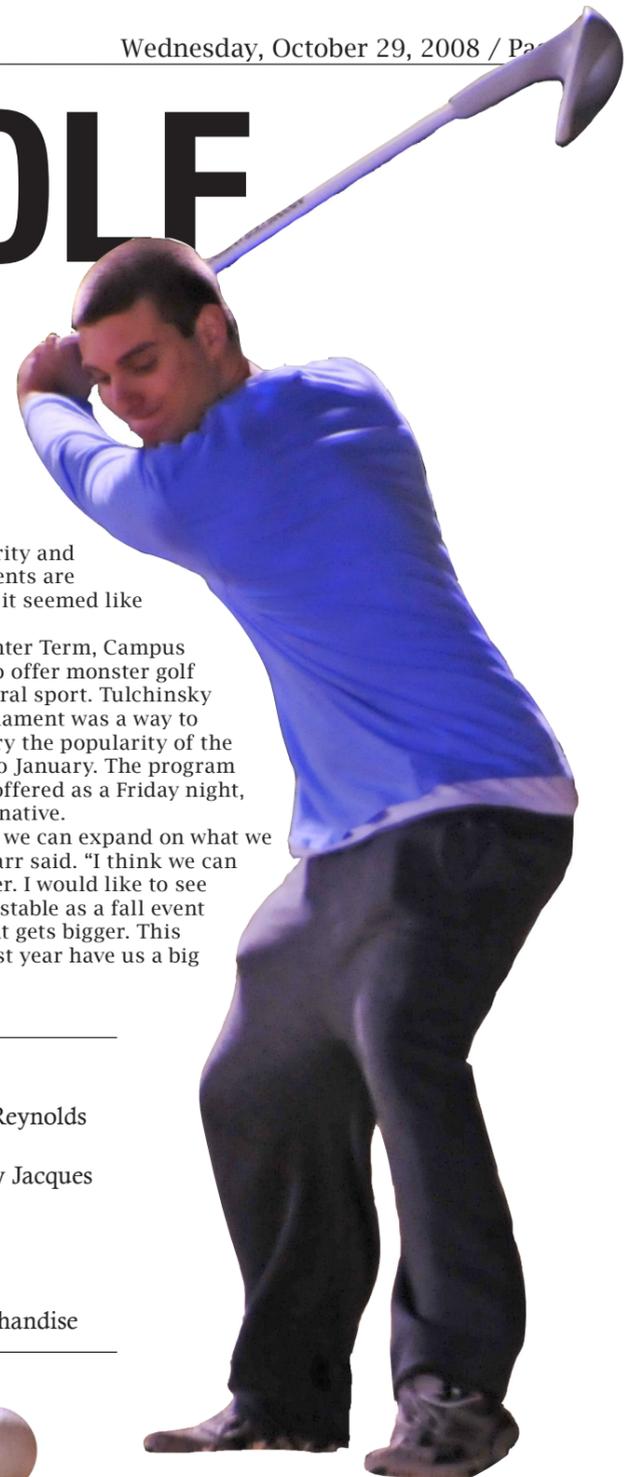
"We wanted to do something that would connect us to another organization

on campus," Barr said.

"Because Elonthon is a year-long charity and so many students are involved in it, it seemed like the best fit."

During Winter Term, Campus Rec is going to offer monster golf as an intramural sport. Tulchinsky said the tournament was a way to hopefully carry the popularity of the sport over into January. The program is also being offered as a Friday night, low-risk alternative.

"Hopefully we can expand on what we have done," Barr said. "I think we can be much bigger. I would like to see something as stable as a fall event every year that gets bigger. This successful first year have us a big opportunity."



LAURA BRADFORD | Photographer
Ali Bower celebrates after a good shot at the Monster Golf tournament held by Campus Rec on Friday at South Campus Fields.

WINNERS:

1. Michael Warren and Patrick Reynolds
2. Ryan Guthy and Matt Skelly
3. Samantha Widmer and Kenny Jacques

PRIZES:

1. Underarmour sweatshirts
2. Golf balls and golf towel
3. Campus rec blanket and merchandise

WANT TO PLAY?

- A monster golf set, produced by Sportcraft, sells for \$10 at Target or Wal-Mart
- Contents include an oversized plastic wedge, an oversized, inflatable, rubber golf ball, which measures about eight inches in diameter and a pump
- If struck hard enough, the ball can fly about 80 feet
- Rules, regulations and scoring typically follow those of a standard pro-golf game
- A course can be devised virtually anywhere, as long as boundaries are put in place and a common goal is agreed upon by all participants
- The game can be played as a team sport or on an individual basis

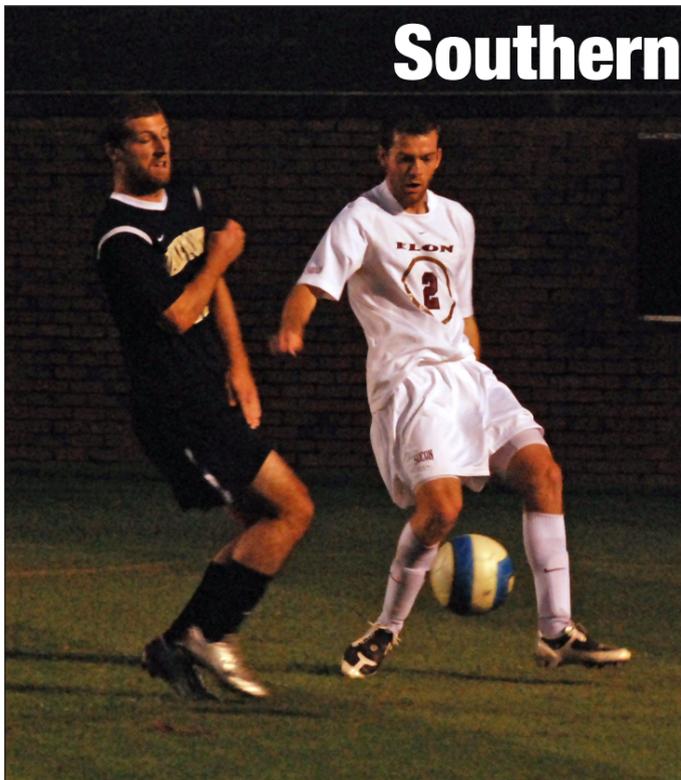


ANDREW DODD | Photographer
During the longest drive portion of the Monster Golf Tournament senior Kyle Schutt demonstrates his abilities. A fence was set up as a preliminary boundary but many balls eclipsed it.

Sports

Southern Conference 2008

CHAMPIONS



PHOTOS BY DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

ABOVE: Freshman midfielder Tony Pusateri crosses the ball in a regular season match against Southern Conference foe Appalachian State. RIGHT: Sophomore midfielder Brad Franks contributed to the win against the Spartans with his first goal of the season from a cross by teammate Stephen Dilger in the first half.



The Phoenix rises to dominate the Southern Conference standings

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

For the first time in program history, Elon's men's soccer team captured the Southern Conference regular season championship.

The men grabbed sole position of the 2008 crown with a 4-0 defeat of the UNC Greensboro Spartans last Saturday night to bring their record to an undefeated 6-0 record in conference play.

"It is extremely exciting for the team to capture the championship early," head coach Darren Powell said. "It was one of our goals we set and to achieve that kind of goal, it is very pleasing and everyone is excited."

Elon clinched the postseason birth with a losing overall record 7-8-1.

"Our team performance is so consistent," Powell said. "It is interesting to see that we won all the conference games but not the out-of-conference ones. [The team] is in a routine now and hopefully they will keep in the groove and continue to perform well."

The Phoenix will play the No. 8 team, the last playoff position, in the first round of the SoCon playoffs. Wofford College and Davidson College currently sit at the bottom of the standings with a

1-4 conference record, but are set to play each other tonight at 6 p.m. Both teams have an additional conference game before the season concludes.

In a preseason coaches poll, the Phoenix was picked to finish fourth, behind defending league champion Furman, UNC Greensboro and College of Charleston.

The Phoenix began the season on a rollercoaster, winning only one of its first five non-conference games.

After defeating Wofford in its first SoCon match-up, Elon went on a four-game losing skid in which it faced three nationally-ranked teams. After a 2-1 loss to William and Mary, Elon fell to No. 15 University of North Carolina, No. 27 UNC Charlotte and No. 1 Wake Forest.

"We believe playing a real tough schedule helps us prepare for our SoCon games," Powell said. "We have probably one of the hardest schedules in the South Region. After those games, we focused in on our foes and got all the rewards of winning the games so far."

The men rebounded nicely, just in time for the heart of the league schedule. Elon defeated Georgia Southern University, Appalachian State University, College of Charleston and Davidson College to maintain conference dominance.

"We played as a team," Powell said. "We defend and attack as a team and everyone works together to achieve that success. Our platform is a sound defense and an organized, creative offense."

Last season, the Phoenix finished fourth in league play, matching it up with No. 5 Appalachian State in the first round of the playoffs. After downing the Mountaineers 2-0, Elon found itself on the wrong end of a 2-1 decision against eventual tournament champion Furman.

"The players have had all sorts of experience over the last three seasons in big games against the No. 1 team in the country and even some postseason," Powell said. "Hopefully the experience they have will pay off and get the results we want."

This season, the Elon defense has not allowed more than three goals in a single game and has recorded five shutout wins. Senior goalkeeper Kyle Boerner leads the team with 39 saves.

Offensively, junior captain Justin Wyatt has started all 16 games for the Phoenix and leads the team with nine goals and three assists.

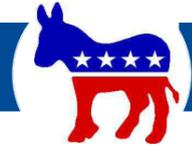
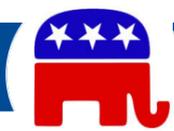
"To be part of a team that is the first ever is very, very exciting," Powell said. "Everyone contributed to the success of the team and it was great to see it all come together to win."



Senior forward Aaron Parker, No. 19, has played in all 16 games of the 2008 campaign. The Kentucky native is second on the team with four goals, five assists and 13 points. He has been a pivotal player in his four years with the Phoenix. Parker finishes his Elon career with one regular season SoCon title. Elon enters the conference tournament as the No. 1 seed on Nov. 8, the first step in securing a SoCon Tournament championship.

Elon defeated Southern Conference opponents...

- Wofford - 3-1
- Georgia Southern - 3-1
- Appalachian State - 2-1
- College of Charleston - 1-0
- Davidson - 2-0
- UNC Greensboro - 4-0



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ELON CHOICE 2008

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008 | WWW.ELON.EDU/PENDULUM

SECTION
B



WHY YOUR VOTE COUNTS

GETTING TO THE POLLS

If you are registered to vote in North Carolina and plan to vote on Election Day:

The National Campaign will drive students who live north of Haggard Avenue (Greek courts, Colonnades, North Area and Danieley) to their polling location at Peoples Memorial Christian Church every half hour, starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. The shuttle will depart from Boney Fountain.

Students who live south of Haggard Avenue can walk to their polling location at Elon Fire Station.

If you are not registered in North Carolina but want to vote here:

One-Stop Voting, where residents can register and vote at the same time, continues until Nov. 1 at May Memorial Library at 342 S. Spring St. in Burlington. Out-of-state students will need to print out a proof of residence from OnTrack or bring a current utility bill that includes their names and addresses.

Presidential and state races too close to call

Alyse Knorr
Design Editor

North Carolina: A southern state with a large military population, a state that's voted red in every presidential election since 1976, a state that Republicans have generally considered a given, is now either party's for the taking.

This election, North Carolina is a battleground state for the first time in more than 30 years. In the final week before the election, Republicans and Democrats are locked in a fierce battle for the state's 15 electoral votes.

The last Democratic presidential candidate to win North Carolina was Jimmy Carter in 1976, but recent polls have revealed consistently close margins between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain. According to a mid-October Public Policy Poll, Obama leads McCain 51 to 44 percent, his largest lead yet.

"If Obama wins, it's a huge upset," said Mike Cobb, associate professor of political science at North Carolina State University. "I don't think they're counting on it. I don't think they're expecting it. I think what in part is happening is that they are forcing McCain to spend time and resources in states where he otherwise wasn't

expecting to do so."

Obama operates 50 campaign offices in North Carolina, according to his campaign Web site. McCain's Web site says there are 35 campaign offices in the state. Obama is also spending more money in North Carolina than McCain, according to a University of Wisconsin study found that for the week spanning Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, Obama's campaign spent \$1.23 million on political ads in the state while McCain's campaign spent \$148,000.

North Carolina Republican Party spokesman Brent Woodcox said the party is not taking North Carolina for granted.

Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin visited North Carolina three times in three weeks, her most recent visit a trip to Asheville on Sunday and McCain held a rally in Fayetteville Tuesday. Outside groups have donated more than \$20 million to North Carolina campaigns, the Raleigh News & Observer reported.

At the Senate level, Democratic challenger Kay

ELECTIONS | PAGE 2

INSIDE & ONLINE

A last look at the candidates on the issues
PAGES B4,B5

For continuous coverage of Election 2008 visit:
www.elon.edu/pendulum

State and Local Elections: who's on the ballot
PAGE B7

Rules of Distraction: The issues-aside headlines
PAGE B6

PHOTOS BY MCT CAMPUS

Students turned away from the polls for insufficient documentation

New OnTrack print-out solves voting problem

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

For weeks the message has been clear: Get out and vote. Everyone from the presidential campaigns to Burger King is running ads encouraging voter turnout. But for some Elon students, voting has been more about overcoming obstacles than simply showing up at the polls.

Last week, a group of students went to downtown Burlington to take

part in One-Stop Voting at the May Memorial Library. National Campaign President Daniel Harwell had come to an agreement with the North Carolina Board of Elections that a housing assignment print-out from OnTrack would be accepted as proof of residence for students without a North Carolina driver's license. At first students weren't having any trouble at the One-Stop Voting location, but on Tuesday they were turned away.

"Essentially poll workers were making executive decisions," said Taylor Foshee who drove carloads of students to the polls last week. She says there was a breakdown in

communication between the Board of Elections and the poll workers.

Dean of Students Smith Jackson, called the Board of Elections Oct. 16 and learned that Elon's OnTrack print-out which included only the room assignment and date was considered too easy to replicate. The Board of Elections sent Jackson an example of the form that is accepted from UNC-Charlotte students.

"Our information-technology people revised what could be accessed from OnTrack. So now [when students print it out], it has the logo of Elon and it shows the person's name, room assignment, campus box and mailing

address," Jackson said.

But on Friday, students went to vote and were initially told that the new form wasn't going to work either. The decision was quickly reversed and students were able to cast their ballots.

Some students left the polling place before the issues were resolved, Foshee said.

"It's been very difficult for students who haven't registered to vote or taken the time to get an absentee ballot yet," Harwell said.

Harwell and Jackson say that everything should be straightened out now and student voting can continue as planned.

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Barack Obama
is crush party! on Friday



- [View Photos of Me \(405\)](#)
- [View Videos of Me \(2\)](#)
- [View My Friends \(985\)](#)
- [Edit My Profile](#)



Basic Information

Networks: [Elon](#)
Sex: [Male](#)
Birthday: [August 4, 1961](#)
Political Views: [Liberal](#)

Personal Information

Activities: [College Democrats](#), [Alpha Phi Alpha](#), [EVI](#), [SUB](#), [SGA](#), [Students for Peace and Justice](#), [Sierra Club](#), [International Relations Club](#), [DEEP](#), [Black Cultural Society](#), [Basketball](#)
Favorite Music: [Miles Davis](#), [John Coltrane](#), [Bob Dylan](#), [Stevie Wonder](#), [Johann Sebastian Bach \(cello suites\)](#), and [The Fugees](#)
Favorite TV Shows: [Sportscenter](#)
Favorite Movies: [Casablanca](#), [Godfather I & II](#), [Lawrence of Arabia](#), [One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#)
Favorite Books: [Song of Solomon \(Toni Morrison\)](#), [Moby Dick](#), [Shakespeare's Tragedies](#), [Parting the Waters](#), [Gilead \(Robinson\)](#), [Self-Reliance \(Emerson\)](#), [The Bible](#), [Lincoln's Collected Writings](#)
Favorite Quotations: ["The Arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."](#) (MLK)

Education and Work

Colleges: [Elon](#)
[Political Science](#), [Public Administration](#), [Professional Writing & Rhetoric](#)
[Harvard '91](#)
[Law](#)
[Columbia '83](#)
[Political Science](#), [International Relations concentration](#)
[Occidental '83](#)

Information is based off of an unscientific survey conducted Oct. 21 to 24 via Facebook. Results represent Elon students' opinions about how McCain and Obama would behave if they were Elon students. Content is hypothetical and not factual. Information compiled by Hannah Williams.

Friends Voted

- ★ **Most Likely to Succeed**
- ★ **Most Hours Dedicated to Community Service**
- ★ **Best Public Speaker**

[Check your own ranking](#)

Election results for N.C. are dependant of each party's voter turnout

ELECTION from page 1

Hagan is fighting Republican incumbent Elizabeth Dole for her Senate seat. While Andrew Taylor, associate professor of political science at NC State, said that Dole is still the clear favorite, Hagan is making a better-than-expected run. An Oct. 10 Rasmussen poll has Hagan with 49 percent of the vote and Dole with 44, similar to the previous week's results of 48 to 49 percent. Hagan may be picking up on

an anti-Republican sentiment sweeping the country, Cobb said. "There's a growing partisan self-identification balance that's helping Democrats," he said, noting that the trend is most clearly visible among people ages 28 and younger. "Fewer people are calling themselves Republicans, even in the South." A Dole campaign spokesman Hogan Gidley said Dole has supported the Republican agenda only when it directly benefited

North Carolinians and has criticized the administration's mistakes in Iraq and its attempted Medicaid cuts. Cobb said Democratic candidates in local elections, like Hagan, could benefit from Obama's campaign. "You typically have coattails where, as a new president takes over, members of his party tend to be advantaged at the congressional level and then trickling down to state races as well," Cobb said.

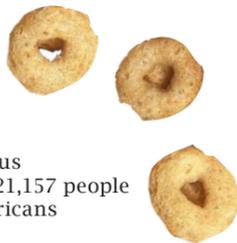
This effect is not about conversion but turnout, Cobb said. If voters head to the polls to vote for one party's presidential candidate, they may vote down the ticket for that party's state candidates as well. As of Oct. 21, of the 545,004 North Carolinians who voted early, 306,493 were registered Democrats and 147,276 were registered Republicans.

Age and experience: How the candidates measure up

Five things younger than McCain:

Born Aug. 29, 1936

1. **Cheerios:** The popular cereal by General Mills was created June 19, 1941. It was marketed as the first oat-based, ready-to-eat cold cereal.
2. **Ninety-one percent of Americans:** According to Census Department estimates for July 1, 2007, there were 301,621,157 people living in the United States. There were 274,485,639 Americans younger than 70.
3. **Use of penicillin:** Although its discovery is attributed to Alexander Fleming in 1928, it wasn't until 1942 that John Bumstead and Orvan Hess became the first people in the world to successfully treat a patient using penicillin.
4. **Photocopy machines:** The process of photocopying was first accomplished in 1937 by Bulgarian physicist Georgi Nadjakov. The first plain paper copier was introduced later in 1959. The technology gradually replaced copies made by carbon papers, mimeograph machines and other duplicating machines.
5. **Zip codes:** Non-mandatory zip codes were announced for the first time in U.S. history on July 1, 1963. Robert Moon, a post office employee, is considered the fahter of the zip code.



Five people with more political experience than Obama:

Began political career Jan. 8, 1997

1. **Bill Bradley:** Known in the sports world as the captain of the gold-medal-winning basketball team in 1964 and later a member of the New York Knicks, Bradley was elected to the Senate for New Jersey in 1978. He held the position until 1996.
2. **John Glenn:** Widely known as the first man to orbit the earth, Glenn also served as a Democratic senator from 1974 to 1997.
3. **Jim Bunning:** Hall of fame pitcher primarily for the Detroit Tigers, Bunning was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Kentucky's 4th District in 1987 and held it until 1998, when he challenged and won a position on the U.S. Senate.
4. **Wilbert Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel:** A popular radio personality in the 1920s and 1930s, he served as the 34th governor of Texas from 1939 to 1941, and later as a senator from 1941 to 1949.
5. **Shirley Temple Black:** One of the most popular child stars of all time, Temple was appointed as a delegate to the U.N. in 1969. She served as U.S. ambassador to Ghana from 1974 to 1976 and later U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992.



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John "The Maverick" McCain
is "Bomb Shelter" with the guys on Friday

Friends Voted

- ★ Most wanted as a date
- ★ Biggest player
- ★ Most Patriotic

Check your own ranking

Basic Information

Networks: Elon
Sex: Male
Birthday: August 29, 1936
Political Views: Conservative

Personal Information

Activities: College Republicans, Kappa Alpha, ROTC, SGA, Golf, Sailing, History Club, Club Baseball
Interests: Sports, Hiking, Fishing, Boxing, Basketball, Football, Baseball, History
Favorite TV Shows: 24, Seinfeld, The Hills
Favorite Movies: Viva Zapata, Letters From Iwo Jima, Some Like It Hot, Faith of my Fathers
Favorite Books: For Whom the Bell Tolls, Band of Brothers
Favorite Music: Hank Williams Jr., ABBA, Beach Boys, Neil Diamond, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong

Education and Work

Colleges: Elon
Mavericking (Independent Major)
Business Administration, International Studies
Political Science

National War College '73

United States Naval Academy '58

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Information is based off of an unscientific survey conducted Oct. 21 to 24 via Facebook. Results represent Elon students' opinions about how McCain and Obama would behave if they were Elon students. Content is hypothetical and not factual. Information compiled by Hannah Williams.

Elon Poll: Democrats advance, Republicans still hold slight edge among N.C. voters

Andie Diemer
News Editor

The Elon Poll has been working feverishly for more than a year to track closely voter's opinions for next week's election. Despite the ups and downs of campaigning, the Republican Party has been the favorite of North Carolina residents.

April 2008 Findings

In a poll conducted April 14-17 of 543 North Carolina residents, a majority said some factors heavily discussed in this presidential race, such as race, gender and age, had little impact on how they planned to vote.

Ninety-one percent said race does not make a difference in how they will vote, while 79 percent said gender makes no difference. Only 66 percent said they don't factor age into voting for a particular candidate.

After being asked if they knew someone who wouldn't vote for a candidate based on this set of criteria, the statistics began to fluctuate. Fifty-four percent said they knew someone who would not vote for a candidate who is black, and 63 percent said the same for a candidate who is a woman. Forty-four percent said the same for a candidate who is "too old."

"Across the board, these results illustrate just how close the races appear to be," Hunter Bacot, director of the Elon University Poll, said in a statement issued April 18. "With both Democrats and Republicans evaluated similarly, it appears there will be fierce battles for president and governor in this state."

September 2008 Findings

In another Elon Poll, conducted Sept. 15-18, a majority of the 411 North Carolinians questioned said the GOP held the edge in the presidential race. But more than half of the respondents said they were ready to have Dole replaced.

At this time, more than half of North Carolina residents polled had a favorable view of McCain. Forty-one percent planned

to support the Republican Party on Nov. 4, compared to 35 percent in favor of the Democratic Party. Twenty percent of the respondents remained undecided. Two-thirds of those surveyed said vice presidential running mates had some influence in their opinion of the candidates.

The governor's race also remained close, with 37 percent backing the Republican Party and 35 percent supporting the Democratic Party.

"At this time, it appears that the three major races in North Carolina are going to come down to the wire," Bacot said in September. "While the public has not made a final determination among the candidates, nearly everyone can agree that the economy is the major issue in these upcoming contests."

October 2008 Findings

The most recent poll conducted involving candidate preference took place Sept. 29-Oct. 2, where a majority of the 477 North Carolinians questioned said they blamed the GOP for the nation's economic woes.

This poll revealed that the race for the White House was still neck-and-neck, with 39 percent of residents surveyed supporting the Republican Party and 39 percent backing the Democratic Party.

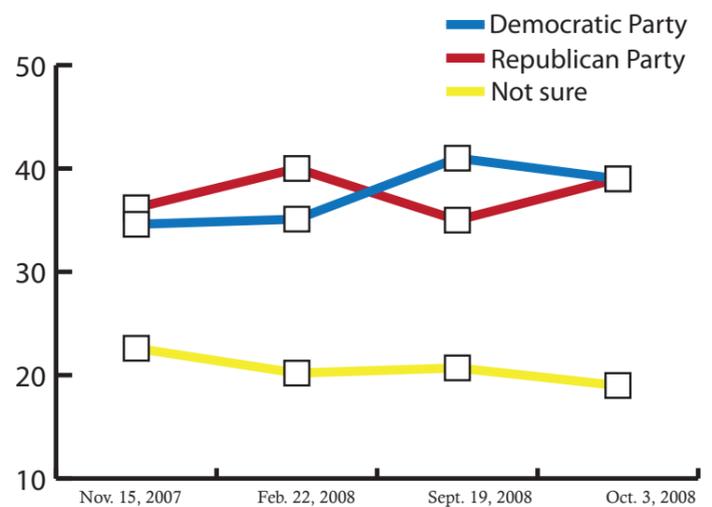
But differences became more apparent when respondents were asked who would manage the economy better: 44 percent favored Obama compared to 42 percent for McCain. Seven percent said neither candidate.

"North Carolina, following the national trend, is leaning Democrat for president," Bacot said. "Should this pattern prevail, the result would be a startling change in state presidential politics for more than one reason. Not only have the Democrats failed to win North Carolina in over thirty years, such a victory would mark a major milestone for the black community here and throughout the South."

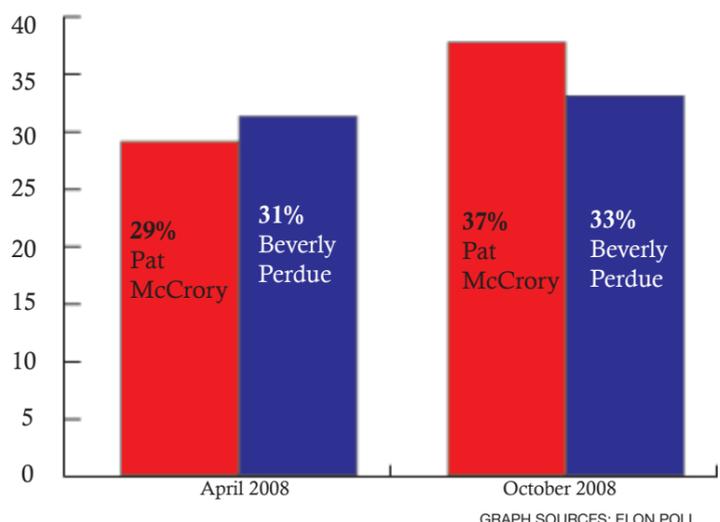
Perdue was supported by 33 percent for governor, while McCrory was supported by 37 percent.

For more information on these polls, visit: www.elon.edu/e-web/elonpoll.

Which party do you plan to support in the upcoming presidential election?



Which candidate for N.C. governor will you vote for in the upcoming election?



GRAPH SOURCES: ELON POLL

Policies and Platforms

An episode
reporter to
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candidate?

President



Barack Obama

U.S. Senator from Illinois

Economy: Obama's plan to repair the economy focuses on relief for the middle class, job creation and eliminating financial fraud. In addition, the government would provide a \$25 billion State Growth Fund to prevent cuts in health, education, housing and heating assistance. Obama wants to invest in green businesses, technology and the transportation infrastructure in order to create more jobs. In response to the economic conditions, Obama introduced the STOP FRAUD Act, which would provide the first federal definition of mortgage fraud, increase funding to enforce laws and create criminal penalties for those found guilty.

Energy/Environment: Obama plans to promote clean energy while simultaneously boosting the economy. Over the next 10 years, he would like to invest \$150 million in clean energy businesses, which he has said will create five million "green collar" jobs. He intends to double government funding for energy research and development. Obama would implement government regulations to ease the economy into clean energy.

Iraq: If elected, he intends to begin a phased withdrawal of troops shortly after taking office, guaranteeing that most troops would be out of Iraq by the summer of 2010. The plan allows for "residual" troops in Iraq, and the withdrawn troops would be re-deployed to Afghanistan to suppress resurgent al-Qaida.

Education: Obama wants to reform the No Child Left Behind Act by improving the assessments and has said he wants to help schools that are underperforming, rather than punishing them. He seeks to foster competition by closing down chronically underperforming schools and expanding high-quality schools. He plans to implement a tax credit for the first \$4,000 of tuition, and make the remaining amount tax deductible. He intends to add a question to tax returns that would replace the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Health Care: Obama plans to create a national health insurance program for those without employer-provided health care or who do not qualify for other government programs. Health care coverage would be mandatory for children, while adults would have the ability to choose if they wanted it. To help finance the estimated \$65 billion needed for the program, Obama would eliminate the current tax cuts for citizens with incomes over \$250,000.



John McCain

U.S. Senator from Arizona

Economy: McCain's plan for the economy revolves around creating more jobs, controlling government spending, increasing the value of the dollar and ending energy dependence on foreign oil. McCain has proposed the HOME Plan for Americans with subprime mortgages, intended to allow those citizens to change their mortgages to manageable loans. McCain has said the plan will prevent 200,000 to 400,000 families from losing their homes. He also wants to implement a five-star rating system so the benefits and drawbacks of credit cards are more readily disclosed. Bankruptcy laws would be reevaluated to protect the interests of workers and account for those filing because of medical expenses.

Energy/Environment: McCain's plan for energy solutions, called "The Lexington Project," seeks to address all sides of the issue. McCain wants to end American dependency on foreign oil, and to do that, he intends to expand exploration of oil and natural gas resources domestically. This will require lifting the ban on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf. McCain also wants to offer an incentive to green technology and has said he will offer a \$300 million prize for an improved battery for hybrid and electric cars. He also plans to invest in nuclear energy.

Iraq: McCain has been a leading advocate of the troop surge in Iraq, a counter-insurgency strategy led by Gen. David Petraeus. He believes it would be irresponsible to leave Iraq while it is insecure. Stabilizing the Iraqi government and ending sectarian violence are top goals in McCain's plans.

Education: McCain is an advocate of the No Child Left Behind Act. He wants to increase parents' ability to remove their children from schools that are not meeting national standards. McCain emphasizes teacher accountability and has said he would like to increase competition among them by offering rewards for good performances.

Health Care: McCain opposes federally mandated health care for all Americans on the basis that competition by independent providers improves the quality of care. His proposal would allow all Americans to purchase health care policies regardless of their jobs, and keep the policy when changing jobs. He plans to provide a tax credit to help finance the policies.

U.S.



Kay Hagan

State Senator from North Carolina

Economy: Hagan is focusing her economic concerns on America's middle class. Hagan wants to improve tax code and standardize the system to eliminate loopholes and confusion. Hagan supports more affordable homeownership through the allowance of more loan options for borrowers and an extension of first-time homebuyer tax credit.

Energy/Environment: Hagan has developed a policy to reduce human-induced effects on global climate change. Hagan supports offshore drilling in the United States because she believes it will lower energy costs and provide more jobs. Hagan supports renewable energy sources and wants to create higher fuel economy standards. Hagan wants to increase water conservation efforts and facilitate better cooperation between states and communities.

Iraq: Hagan thinks national security is a top priority. She supports a systematic withdrawal from the war, which she believes will allow the country to re-focus its national security efforts on al-Qaida, which has regained strength since the 9/11 tragedies. One of her goals is to improve the country's reputation by encouraging diplomacy with other countries worldwide.

Education: Hagan believes that the quality of America's education system has waned in recent years. Hagan wants to reform the education system, allowing more students to advance to college, graduate school or specified advanced training programs. Her ideas for reform include raising expectations of teachers, creating challenging curriculums and making higher education more accessible to all students.

Immigration: The number of illegal immigrants in the United States has increased significantly, while enforcement activity has decreased. Hagan thinks that "illegal immigration is a threat to national security and our economy." Hagan will work with the Senate to strengthen border protection and require stricter enforcement policies for employers who are deliberately hiring illegal workers.

Health Care: Through a reform of the state's health care system, Hagan has made health care insurance available to uninsured children and expanded health care opportunities for uninsured patients. By streamlining the system, Hagan wants to promote cutting costs in order to make health care available for more families and businesses.

ode of the Howard Stern Show on satellite radio this month sent a
ask Harlem voters who they were voting for and why. The reporter
lly attached Sen. John McCain's positions to Sen. Barack Obama's
when he asked voters' opinions, but they seemed to have no idea they
duped. Make sure you're not an uninformed voter during this important
ear. Don't fall victim to a lack of information. Double-check your
s stance before you hit the polls Tuesday.

Story by
Rachel Cieri
Reporter
Shelley Russell
Special Projects Editor
Bethany Swanson
Managing Editor

Photos by
Angie Lovelace
Photographer
MCT Campus

Senator



Elizabeth Dole

U.S. Senator from North Carolina

Economy: Dole believes that investing in community colleges, promoting information technology and reducing taxes will better North Carolina's economy. She also has an interest in promoting small businesses and helping local farmers. Dole wants to push for a trade environment and work to promote fair trade practices. Dole believes in line-item veto authority, which she became familiar with while working under President Reagan.

Energy/Environment: As gas prices escalate and energy resources become scarcer, Dole believes there is a need for an energy policy that will include conservation methods, the exploration of alternative energy and market fairness. Dole believes that an increase in supply via energy resources in Alaska, offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf and in the Gulf of Mexico, and in oil shale in the western part of the country will make the finite resource more affordable and available. While Dole supports continued petroleum drilling efforts, she believes that alternative energy sources like fuel cells, wind, solar and geothermal energy should not be ignored.

Iraq: Dole supports the country's current position in Iraq and believes it is necessary to facilitate stabilization of the Iraqi country and government. While Dole is not an advocate for the use of military at any cost, she supports military forces in Iraq. She thinks that the current military action is necessary to promote the country's values, aid the Iraqi people and ultimately protect global interests of the United States.

Education: Dole thinks more control should be placed in the hands of teachers and parents. She wants to increase teacher pay in order to keep quality instructors in schools. Dole also supports further funding for community colleges because she thinks the schools can teach adults appropriate skills for jobs in the health care and technology industries, as well as others. Dole promises to work for flexible federal grants so that higher education will be a possibility for more individuals.

Health Care: Dole promises to lower the cost of various health care plans. She has said the idea that doctors must practice defensive medicine to avoid lawsuits is "simply unacceptable." Dole also wants to allow senior citizens who rely on Medicare to receive insurance coverage for prescription drugs. Dole is an advocate for association health plans to allow companies to buy affordable insurance coverage.

Governor



Bev Perdue

Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina

Economy: Perdue has said that she will work to put a stop to the millions of dollars in financial incentives that have been used to attract businesses and jobs to the state. She has said that the incentives must be targeted, accountable and performance-based. She plans to enact the Rural Hope partnership that will enable rural hospitals to invest in new technologies so that they can become more efficient and provide better care for their communities.

Energy/Environment: She plans to continue to build a greener North Carolina. She said that North Carolina needs to embrace the goals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which include making alternative energy use and energy efficiency major components of public policy, growing one of the nation's leading green economies, pursuing regional cooperation and changing the paradigm of public utility power.

Education: Perdue plans to push for expansion and better coordination of the Smart Start and More-at-Four initiatives and to call for earlier, more strategic assessments of students' reading and math levels. Perdue would work to attract and retain the best teachers by making salaries more competitive. She will push to enhance all current initiatives for reducing high school drop-out rates and increasing the graduation rate. She has said that all students who graduate from high school and enter a community college full-time will be able to have their tuition waived.

Immigration: "We need to get folks out of the country who are here illegally, if they are accused of committing a crime," Perdue said in a debate with McCrory on ABC 11. She also said that she does not think illegal immigrants should attend community college. This view is in opposition to current Gov. Mike Easley's policy that calls for all 58 community colleges to admit illegal immigrants who are 18 years old and high school graduates.

Transportation: Perdue seeks to return North Carolina to its "good roads state" past by attempting to end the transfer of funds from the Highway Trust Fund. She will work to transform the Department of Transportation by decentralizing the organization, holding divisions accountable for results and allowing them to partner with cities, counties and regions to create better management and execution of projects.



Pat McCrory

Mayor of Charlotte

Economy: "It is the governor's job to not only recruit jobs to North Carolina, but also retain the ones already here," McCrory said in his policy statement. To do this, McCrory plans to lower income and corporate taxes; create infrastructure that will benefit growth, like putting roads in areas of future congestion; provide technical skills training to students so they can join the work force better prepared; work with other Southern governors to reduce incentives and increase cooperation rather than competition.

Energy/Environment: As governor, McCrory plans to enact a 10-point conservation and energy plan. It will: promote mass transit, encourage efficient land use planning, promote the construction of HOV lanes, require state-owned vehicles to use alternative energy, require higher energy-efficiency in state-owned facilities, provide tax incentives for private homeowners and businesses, support offshore drilling, promote the use of natural gas, use clean coal technology, expand the use of clean energy and increase energy research and development.

Education: As governor, McCrory would seek to decrease bureaucracy by limiting red-tape by "bringing decisions closer to the students." He believes that local administrators should have the ability to set wages as market conditions dictate. McCrory would also like to redefine means of assessment by reevaluating standardized testing.

Immigration: According to McCrory, there are certain steps that need to be taken to prevent North Carolina's systems from being undermined and to enforce America's laws. McCrory plans to implement 287(g), which will allow local law enforcement to detain, identify and prepare illegal immigrants who have broken laws to be deported. McCrory also intends to eliminate state benefits to illegal immigrants and deny state contracts to those companies that employ illegal immigrants.

Transportation: As governor, McCrory intends to freeze the gas tax, which is fourth highest in the nation. He also plans to reform the NCDOT by reducing the size of the Board of Transportation, appoint members based on professional expertise and establish new highway divisions based on current needs by creating separate rural and metropolitan divisions. McCrory will also limit transfers from the Highway Trust Fund, all money to be spent on roads must be raised and all previous transfers from the Fund must be investigated and repaid.



RULES OF DISTRACTION

The campaigns' top six attention-grabbers

Compiled by Dan Rickershauser

Illustrations by MCT Campus



On McCain's side:

1. Health Issues/Age

What: McCain's age (72) has been a recurring issue throughout the campaign.

Why: If elected, McCain will be the oldest president to take office. He has a history of health issues, including the removal of four malignant melanomas.

The response: McCain released 1,100 pages of his medical records to the press in an effort to dismiss concerns about his health status. His doctors have said there are no physical reasons McCain could not serve as president.

2. Sarah Palin

What: McCain shook up the political scene when he announced that Palin's name would appear on the Republican ticket.

Why: Palin, a newcomer to the national stage, grabbed the public's attention from the start. The issue of whether she is ready to take such a high-ranking position has been heavily debated. The spotlight grew brighter when news broke that Palin's teenage daughter was pregnant. Speculation increased when the details of an investigation into Palin's decision to fire Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan surfaced. The claim was that

Monegan was dismissed because he refused to fire Mike Wooten, a state trooper who is going through a messy divorce with Palin's sister. **The response:** McCain has defended his choice and credited Palin with energizing the base. The public has paid careful attention to her performance, with 70 million viewers tuning in to the Oct. 2 vice presidential debate.

3. "Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran"

What: At a campaign stop in Murrells Inlet, S.C., McCain sang his own rendition of the Beach Boys' classic "Barbara Ann," changing the lyrics to "bomb Iran" in response to an audience member's question about military action in Iran.

Why: Critics questioned McCain's judgment and called him insensitive.

The response: At the second presidential debate, Obama said: "Senator McCain, this is the guy who sang 'Bomb, Bomb, Bomb Iran,' who called for the annihilation of North Korea. That I don't think is an example of speaking softly." McCain's camp said he was kidding around, and McCain said his critics needed to "lighten up."

On Obama's side:

1. Rev. Jeremiah Wright

What: Obama's pastor took the limelight when clips of his fiery sermons were broadcast. Wright partially blamed the U.S. government for the 9/11 terrorist attacks and called the nation racist. In a September 2001 sermon, Wright said: "We have supported state terrorism against the Palestinians and black South Africans, and now we are indignant because the stuff we have done overseas is now brought right back to our own front yards. America's chickens are coming home to roost."

Why: The public questioned Obama's close relationship with Wright, who officiated his marriage and baptized both of his daughters.

The response: Obama addressed the issue in a speech titled "A More Perfect Union," in which he distanced himself from Wright and denounced his earlier remarks. Obama later disowned his former pastor and close friend after Wright continued to make inflammatory comments to the media. McCain vowed to leave the issue alone, but his running mate still makes occasional references.

2. Obama's religious affiliation

What: Rumors that Obama is a Muslim have run rampant. Fox News

falsely reported that, as a child, Obama attended a radical Muslim school called a Madrassa. An e-mail circulated that said Obama took his Senate oath on the Quran and refuses to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Why: Obama's non-traditional past has been a persistent issue. Blogs and e-mails have fueled the fire with false information.

The response: Obama refuted the claims by responding that he is and always has been a Christian.

3. William Ayers

What: Obama and Ayers were both members of the anti-poverty group between 1999 and 2002. Ayers is a former member of the Weather Underground Organization, a radical group that was involved in a series of bombings in the early 1970s. McCain has repeatedly questioned the extent of Obama's relationship with Ayers.

Why: In 2001, Ayers contributed \$200 to Obama's re-election to the Illinois State Senate.

The response: In the final presidential debate, Obama said: "Mr. Ayers is not involved in this campaign, he has never been involved in this campaign and he will not advise me in the White House."

On the issues: Where the potential VPs stand

Compiled by Rebecca Wetherbee

SARAH PALIN

JOE BIDEN

Background

- Born in Sandpoint, Idaho, on Feb. 11, 1964
- Graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1987
- Became first female governor of Alaska in 2006
- Started work on \$40 billion natural gas pipeline, which will become the largest private-sector infrastructure project in North American history
- Started Adoption Awareness month in November 2007

- Born in Scranton, Pa., on Nov. 20, 1942
- Graduated from the University of Delaware with degrees in history and political science in 1965 and from the Syracuse University College of Law in 1968
- Elected as U.S. senator from Delaware in 1972
- Passed College Affordability and Creating Chances for Educational Success for Students Act in 2007

Abortion/Stem Cell Research

- Is pro-life, even in instances of rape
- Believes upholding Roe v. Wade should be the responsibility of the states
- Opposes stem cell research

- Does not support overturning Roe v. Wade
- Does not support federal funding for abortion
- Does not support partial-birth abortion
- Supports federal funding for stem cell research

Economy

- Believes predatory lenders are responsible for the subprime lending meltdown
- Is skeptical of the efficacy of the \$700 billion bailout

- Emphasizes growing middle class
- Disagrees with widespread deregulation
- Believes funds should be redistributed from the military to other government programs such as education and health care

Education

- Prioritizes increased pay for teachers
- Does not oppose teaching evolution in science classes
- Supports increasing need-based aid by as much as \$20 million for Alaskan college students

- Prioritizes increased pay for teachers and smaller class sizes
- Supports increased tax credits for college students
- Believes in either eliminating or overhauling No Child Left Behind

Energy

- Supports drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Emphasizes accessing domestic reserves of oil and natural gas throughout the country

- Voted to ban drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Believes the standards for automobile mileage should be increased
- Supports increased usage of flex-fuel automobiles

Environment

- Does not believe climate change is entirely manmade
- Supports advancing clean coal technology and capping carbon emissions

- Believes climate change is manmade
- Supports advancing clean coal technology and capping carbon emissions
- Hopes to create jobs by building more sources for wind and solar power

Health Care

- Supports giving families a \$5,000 tax credit to buy their own health care
- Supports free-market competition among health insurance companies to keep costs down

- Supports universal health coverage, especially full coverage for children
- Repeatedly voted to decrease costs of prescription drugs and to let Medicare cover prescription drug costs

Iraq War

- Does not support retreat from Iraq
- Believes last year's surge of troops was effective

- Supports Obama's plan to withdraw troops on a timeline of about 18 months
- Does not believe last year's surge of troops was effective

Third-party candidates offer alternatives for voters

Smaller parties fight for space on ballot in North Carolina

Ryan Catanese
Reporter

Many voters hoped for and expected a new breed of presidential campaigning during this election cycle.

Change has been a buzzword on both sides of the campaign, but the presence of negative ads and nonstop bickering has been politics as usual.

Chris Cole, the North Carolina Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, recently said: "You know, there is a definition of insanity that is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

Many third parties, such as the Libertarian, Constitutional and the Green parties, have sprung up to provide voters with an alternative to the norm.

"It seems to me that if we continue to vote for the lesser of two evils, which is what a lot of people characterize voting for, we will never achieve any change," said Wayne Turner, a representative for the North Carolina Green Party.

Bill Eckler, the vice president of the North Carolina Constitutional Party, agreed, noting that no vote should be considered a throwaway vote.

"I think John Quincy Adams said, and I'm paraphrasing, that you should vote principle, even if you're the only one that votes, and not be afraid that you've lost your vote," Eckler said. "Principle is what you really need to be standing for. If the two main parties don't express what you believe in principle, then you need to vote Independent."

Regardless of Election Day results,

just voting Independent can instigate change.

"We need to demonstrate to the Democratic and Republican parties that there is a sufficiently strong Independent political movement out there to either cause some change in their policies or to let us participate fairly in the political process," Turner said.

But this isn't an easy task. There are policies in place, in North Carolina and elsewhere, that make it very difficult for Independent candidates to even appear on the ballot.

"I know in North Carolina, it's gotten that way because the two parties have made it very difficult for third parties to operate, and there are several other states that are the same way," Eckler said. "The ballot access is extremely difficult, because you have to have thousands of signatures to even appear on the ballot."

In order for a senatorial candidate's name to appear on the ballot, he or she must have 70,000 validated signatures. For most third parties, this can be a difficult task.

"One thing that results in is that we don't have any money left over for candidates," Cole said. "The active people in the party are worn out from the ballot drive. We can't develop any momentum, and that's something the Democrats and the Republicans don't have to go through, so that gives them an advantage."

Third-party politicians are making an effort to get their names out and gain recognition. For some voters, the ideas and policies of Independent candidates may be the change they're looking for.

The Ron Paul revolution ends, followers continue campaigning

Miriam Williamson
Design Editor

When Ron Paul's name showed up on the list of potential Republican presidential nominees, grassroots efforts sprung up across the nation supporting the Republican Congressman from Texas and his Revolution campaign.

Some of these supporters were long-time Paul fans, while others were simply intrigued by his ideas and campaign.

"He was running on the ticket before I even knew who he was," junior Vince Barrett said. "I guess I kind of got suckered in by the YouTube videos, and I just had immediate interest. I started reading a lot and got really into it."

Although he was running for the Republican nomination, Paul has different ideas and policies than many modern-day Republicans.

Instead, Paul claims to follow the more traditional, fundamental Republican ideals.

"I consider myself a Republican, but I don't want to associate with the current administration," Barrett said. "The Republican party doesn't follow the principles they preach."

One of Paul's most well-known ideas is his advocacy for limited federal government control. He also backs freedom principles, which support the rights of individuals.

For some, Paul's ideas made him the only viable choice, even though his name did not make the ballot.

"He's the only person I could trust to vote for," Barrett said. "He says the same thing no matter where he goes.

I'm not going to vote for Obama or McCain because they demonstrate a complete lack of understanding for the issues we face."

Paul's consistency is a strong factor in many of his supporters' faith in him.

"I read his articles and saw how consistent he was, even when it wasn't popular," said Cameron DeJong, an Elon alum and Paul supporter since 1996.

His differences from mainstream Republicans led many to deem him a third-party candidate, but Paul refused to run as such.

"Ron Paul said that if he didn't win the primary, he wasn't going to run anymore, so I saw it coming," Barrett said. "I was following it very closely so I knew the indications."

Since Paul's name won't be on the ballot come Nov. 4, his supporters must choose otherwise.

"Most Ron Paul supporters will either vote for Chuck Baldwin, Bob Barr or they won't vote at all," DeJong said. "Some of those who may not vote will write in Ron Paul's name."

Barrett will be writing in a candidate, but it will not be his initial choice.

"I'm actually voting for Hunter Bacot," Barrett said. "He asked for my vote, and I'm giving it to him. I just figured it'd be kind of funny to vote for him."

Barrett said that although he will not be casting a serious vote for president, he will be supporting Paul's ideals by voting for libertarians on the rest of the ballot.

Paul is on the ballot in two states: Louisiana and Montana.



Who's on the ballot?

These are the names that will be on the Elon, N.C., ballot on Nov. 4. Voters are also given the option to vote a straight party ticket for the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties. Find out more about each candidate's stance on his or her Web site.

President:

- Barack Obama (Dem.)
- John McCain (Rep.)
- Ralph Nader (Ind.)

U.S. Senate:

- Kay Hagan (Dem.)
- Elizabeth Dole (Rep.)
- Christopher Cole (Lib.)

N.C. Supreme Court:

- Robert H. (Bob) Edmunds, Jr.
- Suzanne Reynolds

U.S. Congress District 6:

- Teresa Sue Bratton (Dem.)
- Howard Coble (Rep.)

Attorney General:

- Roy Cooper (Dem.)
- Bob Crumley (Rep.)

Auditor:

- Beth Wood (Dem.)
- Leslie Merritt (Rep.)

State Treasurer:

- Janet Cowell (Dem.)
- Bill Daughtridge (Rep.)

Commissioner of Agriculture:

- Ronnie Ansley (Dem.)
- Steve Troxler (Rep.)

Commissioner of Insurance:

- Wayne Goodwin (Dem.)
- John Odom (Rep.)
- Mark McMains (Lib.)

Commissioner of Labor:

- Mary Fant Donnan (Dem.)
- Cherie Berry (Rep.)

Governor:

- Bev Perdue (Dem.)
- Pat McCrory (Rep.)
- Mike Munger (Lib.)

Lt. Governor:

- Walter Dalton (Dem.)
- Robert Pittenger (Rep.)
- Phillip Rhodes (Lib.)

Secretary of State:

- Elaine Marshall (Dem.)
- Jack Sawyer (Rep.)

Superintendent of Public Instruction:

- June Atkinson (Dem.)
- Richard Morgan (Rep.)

State Senator District 13:

- Brad Miller (Dem.)
- Hugh Webster (Rep.)

State Senator District 24:

- Anthony (Tony) Foriest (Dem.)
- Richard W. (Rick) Gunn Jr. (Rep.)

State Representative District 63:

- Alice Bordsen (Dem.)
- Celo Faucette (Rep.)

State Representative District 64:

- Henry Vines (Dem.)
- Cary Dale Allred (Rep.)

County Commissioner (pick 3):

- Eddie Boswell (Dem.)
- Joyce Glenda Bowman (Dem.)
- Linda Massey (Dem.)
- Dan W. Ingle (Rep.)
- William (Bill) Lashley (Rep.)
- Tom Manning (Rep.)

Register of Deeds:

- Natalie R. Jones (Dem.)
- David Barber (Rep.)

Nonpartisan Offices also on the ballot:

Supreme Court Associate Justice, Court of Appeals judges, District Court judges District 15A, Board of Education and Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. Visit the Board of Elections Web site for your complete ballot: www.sboe.state.nc.us/





UNTIL THE ELECTION OF AMERICA'S 44TH PRESIDENT

**JOHN
McCain**

In less than a week, one of these two men will become the 44th president of the United States. A continuously tight and historic race has kept Americans and the world in rapt attention. The race will be decided by a few key states, North Carolina being squarely on that list. It is now America's time to decide.

**BARACK
OBAMA**

THE BASICS

Compiled by Laura Smith

THE BASICS

Age: 71; born Aug. 29, 1936
Hometown: Alexandria, Va.
Childhood: Moved between naval bases in and outside the United States because his father was in the Navy
Home: Phoenix
Education: Graduated from U.S. Naval Academy in 1958; flight school at National War College in 1960
Career: U.S. senator from Arizona, 1987-present; U.S. congressman, 1983-87; U.S. Navy, 1958-81
Family: Married Cindy Hensley, his second wife, in 1980; has seven children and four grandchildren
Religion: Episcopalian
More information: www.johnmccain.com

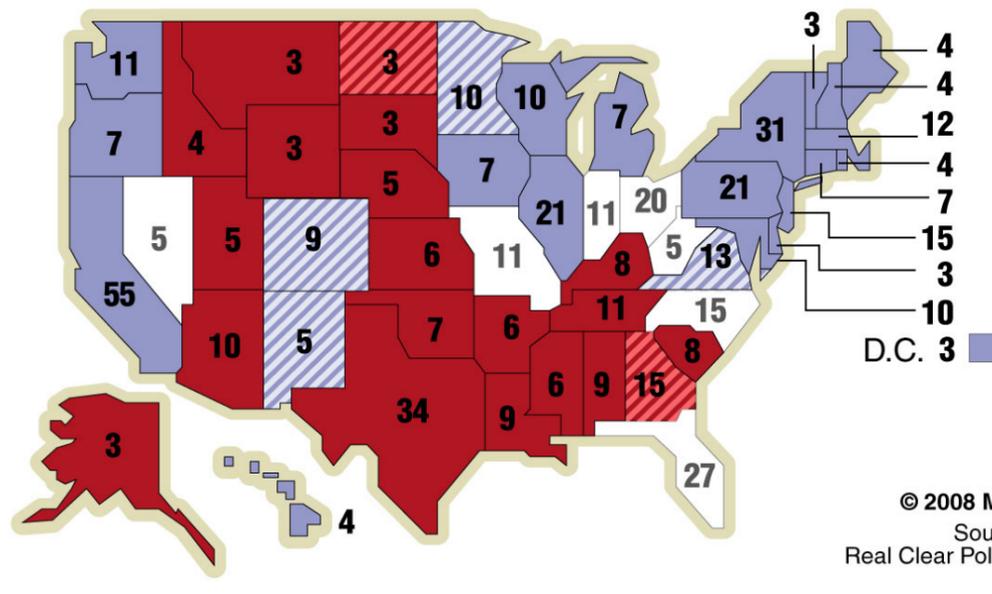
PERSONAL

Trivia: Prisoner of war in Vietnam, 1967-73
Favorite Food: Ribs, pizza
Hobbies: Hiking, fishing
Hero: Ronald Reagan
Favorite Movies: "Letters From Iwo Jima" and "Some Like It Hot"
Pets: Two dogs, two turtles, a cat, a ferret, three parakeets and 13 saltwater fish

State of the race

Electoral vote projection, 270 needed to win presidential race:

McCain		Obama		Toss-up	
	140 Solid		249 Solid		94
	18 Leading		37 Leading		
158 Total		286 Total			



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 Source: Real Clear Politics

Photos courtesy of MCT Campus

Age: 46; born Aug. 4, 1961.
Hometown: Honolulu; Jakarta, Indonesia
Childhood: Moved between naval bases in and outside the United States because his father was in the Navy.
Home: Chicago
Education: Graduated from Columbia University in 1983, after transferring from Occidental College; law school at Harvard Law School in 1991
Career: U.S. senator from Illinois, 2005-present; Illinois state senator, 1997-2005; private practice attorney, 1993-2004
Family: Married Michelle in 1992; has two daughters
Religion: United Church of Christ
More information: www.barackobama.com

PERSONAL

Trivia: First African-American to serve as president of the Harvard Law Review
Favorite Food: Chili
Hobby: Basketball
Hero: Martin Luther King Jr.
Favorite Movies: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Casablanca"
Pets: None, but promised his family a dog post-election