

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION I

The
I N A U G U R A T I O N
Of
B A R A C K O B A M A

T H E 4 4 T H P R E S I D E N T
O F T H E U N I T E D S T A T E S O F A M E R I C A



“My oath is not so different from the pledge we all make to the flag that waves above and that fills our hearts with pride.”

They are the words of citizens, and they represent our greatest hope.”

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THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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COVER PHOTO: President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama wave to the crowd at their second Inaugural Ball. The event featured a host of musical guests, including Jennifer Hudson and Alicia Keys. Photo by Al Drago, photo editor.

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CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Students in the Department of Performing Arts dance to "The Punk Panther Theme Song" during a performance of Tapped Out! Jan. 18 in McKinnon Hall.

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National Day of Service generates new wave of volunteers

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The service fair tent on the National Mall swelled with energy Jan. 19 as volunteers young



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor
Illinois congresswoman and Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth speaks at the National Day of Service event Jan. 19 in Washington, D.C.

and old convened to participate in the National Day of Service, an inauguration weekend tradition President Barack Obama initiated to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

The tent housed more than 100 charities and nonprofit organizations that provided hands-on opportunities for volunteers to learn about service and give back to others.

Elon University senior Maddy Carretero recruited volunteers to get involved with Roots & Shoots, a service program for kids founded by Dr. Jane Goodall in 1991. The program encourages kids to join together and participate in community service of all kinds. By registering their projects online with the organization, kids have the opportunity to log their hours and receive local media attention. In 2012, Roots & Shoots members logged more than 1 million hours of service collectively.

"It's really awesome to see so many kids getting involved in service," Carretero said. "A lot of people think community service can be frustrating or difficult, but it is so easy if you get together and do it with your friends."

Sunshine Mail, a faith-based nonprofit founded in 2010, asked volunteers to cre-

ate handmade cards for children who are terminally ill, homeless or in foster care. By mid-afternoon, the organization had collected more than 500 cards.

"We provide care packages with things children need, like shampoo, soap and stuffed animals, but we add the cards because it is nice for a child to know they are loved," said Rebecca Kelly, a volunteer with Sunshine Mail.

At a neighboring station, volunteers colored bookplates for First Book, a national nonprofit that provides books to children and schools in need. The bookplates were placed on the inside covers of books intended for donation.

"Children who receive the books can then write their names on the plate to show ownership of their brand new book," said Meghan Kelly, a volunteer with First Book. "It's a really wonderful thing."

Martha Friskey, a resident of Bowie, Md., brought her two children, Samantha, 14, and Jacqueline, 12, to participate in the Day of Service. Both children colored several bookplates.

"I think everyone should contribute," Friskey said. "We are the lucky ones who live in the D.C. area, and we need to give back. Together, we can start a new four

years off right."

Several prominent individuals spoke at the fair throughout the day, including Chelsea Clinton, National Day of Service honorary chair, Eva Longoria, Presidential Inaugural Committee co-chair, and Tammy Duckworth, a congresswoman from Illinois and an Iraq War veteran.

"We are all Americans and we live in a great country," Duckworth said in her speech. "Because we live here and have the opportunities and choices so many people in other countries don't have, we have to give something back."

The fair was one of many events hosted across the country to honor King's life and legacy through volunteerism and other service projects. King's birthday — which falls on inauguration weekend — has traditionally been celebrated with a National Day of Service, but Obama was the first to include it in inaugural activities.

Obama urged all Americans to participate in the National Day of Service in several YouTube videos the administration posted recently.

"Inauguration weekend is about more than just celebrating," he said in a video. "It's about coming together and giving back to those in need."

Obama during inaugural address: 'Politics can't impede progress'

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

In his second inaugural address, President Barack Obama promised the approximately 800,000 people gathered on the National Mall that he would act firmly on issues such as healthcare, gun control and climate change. Political discord is no excuse for delay, he said.

Decisions made in support of sustainable energy, through a progressive constitutional interpretation, will define the future, according to Obama.

"That is how we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God," he said. "That's what will lend meaning to the creed our fathers once declared."

It is the responsibility of the American

people to respond together to the issues of the day, the president said, urging national unity.

Obama said the country faces a "never-ending journey" in applying the Constitution to modern times, alluding to the conflict between the original intent and the living document interpretations. Advocates of original intent prefer a literal translation of the Constitution's text, while supporters of the living document believe interpretation should change and adapt with time.

But the time to act is now, Obama said.

"We must act. We must act knowing that our work will be imperfect," he said. "We must act knowing that today's victories will be only partial."



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor
Thousands of spectators await the start of the inauguration Jan. 21 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Obama promotes equality, optimism in second inauguration

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Thousands of handheld flags rippled from the Capitol lawn to the Washington Monument as Barack Obama was publicly sworn into his second presidential term as the 44th President of the United States on Jan. 21.

Obama centered his speech on the pursuit of both equality and the American dream, two ideals preserved and protected by the U.S. Constitution. He vowed to promote equality for people of all races, genders and — for the first time in inaugural history — sexual orientation.

“That is our generation’s task, to make these works, these rights, these values of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness real for every American,” he said in his speech. “Being true to our founding documents does not require us to agree on every contour of life. It does not mean we all define liberty in exactly the same way or follow the same precise path to happiness.”

He briefly addressed several key issues of the 2012 election — the

federal deficit, immigration reform, climate change and entitlement spending — and called for a political ceasefire within Congress.

“For now, decisions are upon us and we cannot afford delay,” he said. “We cannot mistake absolutism for principle or substitute spectacle for politics, or treat name-calling as reasoned debate.”

He assured the audience of America’s prominence on the global stage, but he asserted the need for education reform and job market improvements to maintain its place in the spotlight.

To achieve these goals, he called for national unity and shared responsibility, two themes somewhat reminiscent of his 2009 speech. This time, though, he emphasized national pride rather than national crisis.

“We have always understood that when times change, so must we, that fidelity to our founding principles requires new responses to new challenges, that preserving our individual freedoms ultimately requires collective action,” he said.

His words rang out over a sea of faces bundled against the morning chill. Gloved hands applauded his

stirring turns of phrase.

Jordan Taylor, a senior at Howard University in Washington, D.C., said he braved the cold to witness history after voting in the presidential election for the first time.

“It’s a big deal, you know,” he said. “He’s the first black president in history. I came last time, too. I want to tell my kids that I was there.”

Nearly a million others shared history with Taylor, officials estimated, though Obama’s second inauguration wasn’t as well attended as his first.

The celebrity presence was just as large as the last inauguration, though. Myrlie Evers-Williams delivered the inaugural prayer; James Taylor sang “America the Beautiful” and Richard Blanco read a poem he wrote for the occasion.

The regality that emanated from the Capitol balcony was punctured only by a lone man who scurried up a three-story tree roughly 200 yards



Members of the Color Guard await President Obama's arrival at the Inaugural Ball Jan. 21. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

from the building with a sign that read “Pray to Stop Abortion.” He broke the silent moments of the ceremony with passionate cries to save the nation from certain damnation.

Beyoncé drowned him out with a powerful rendition of the National Anthem, but he resumed his cause as throngs of spectators exited the lawn. Many stopped to take a picture as he swayed precariously on the tree’s

topmost branches.

Though he conceded the protester’s presence was a distraction, Dan Evers, a resident of San Jose, Calif., said he was glad he flew across the country to witness a presidential inauguration for the first time.

“It was beautiful,” he said. “It was exactly the inspiration we all need to do better as individuals and as a nation.”

Inaugural Parade goes march through cold, crowds to see President Obama

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. - They tumbled off the Capitol Lawn and onto Pennsylvania Ave. for the Inaugural Parade after President Barack Obama was sworn into office for the second time Jan. 21. By mid-afternoon, thousands of people lined the sidewalks to witness his first ride after the ceremony.

But the crowd had to wait a while. The parade, scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m., was delayed for nearly an hour by the Inaugural luncheon.

At last, he arrived on the scene. Onlookers sporting Obama hats and novelty pins waved frantically as his black SUV crawled past the National Archives, and he waved

back through a heavily tinted window.

“I’m from Chicago, too!” shouted a woman as he drove by. “Chicago pride!”

Behind him, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, forewent the heat of their armored car to walk alongside their supporters in the chilly January air.

“This is really great,” said Mary Kamp, a Richmond resident who drove to D.C. for the day to partake in the celebration. “It’s my first time seeing something like this.”

Policemen on horses tailed the Presidential procession, followed by marching bands, jazz ensembles and dance teams.

The service academies marched solemnly amidst a gaggle of giddy onlookers, but by the time the Utuqqagmiut Dancers of Wainwright, Alaska, danced past the Newseum, the crowds were starting to dissipate.

“It was fun for a while, but now it’s just getting cold,” said Sandy Griffin, a resident of Fairfax, Va. “It’s been a long day.”

Both Pennsylvania and Independence Avenues were partially closed for the parade, penning many frustrated pedestrians



Hundreds of spectators stand in line during the inauguration parade Jan. 21 in Washington, D.C. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

within the National Mall.

By 4:30 p.m., the metro system reached its full capacity. Several stations let passengers ride free of charge to avoid long line at the fare kiosks. Swarms of antsy tourists converged on metro station steps.

Some hailed taxis, others caught buses. Some moved on to other festivities. For most, the inaugural celebration was drawing to a close as Washington, D.C. prepared to lead the nation into the next four years.

“I’m hopeful for the next term,” said Ernest Healy Jr., a resident of Baltimore, Md. “I certainly want to see something done about unemployment and the issues surrounding immigration. And I would really like to see some working together between the two major parties and an end to partisan gridlock. Then we can move forward.”

Kids' Inaugural Concert honors children of military families



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A collective scream rose above the rafters of the National Convention Center as Michelle Obama, Jill Biden and their children opened the Kids' Inaugural Concert Jan. 19. The concert, themed "Joining Forces," honored military veterans and their families on the weekend of President Barack Obama's second inauguration.

As the Obamas and Bidens took their seats in the crowd, Nick Cannon appeared to introduce Usher, who danced across the stage in black leather pants and

bright red high-tops.

His performance of "OMG" infused the crowd with an energy that only grew as Far East Movement, Mindless Behavior, Soul Children of Chicago and Black Violin gave it their all.

In between sets, televised messages from The Wanted, Ryan Seacrest and several Disney Channel stars reminded the children in the audience they were special.

As the evening drew to a close, Biden touched on her experience while her son, Beau, was deployed to Iraq.

"We will be here for you while your moms and dads are away," she said. "We want to celebrate the strength of

our military services. Joining forces is especially important to me because I know something about being a military mom."

Applause for Biden faded, and Obama approached the podium. In her speech, she expressed her pride in the military and their families.

"As these wars draw to an end and we draw down our troops, I want you to know that we will not be drawing down our work to support you," she said. "The fact is that today, we have a greater obligation to serve you than ever before, and we will do everything in our power to meet that obligation and

give our military families what they deserve."

Then, a star-spangled Katy Perry burst onto the stage in a cloud of glitter, much to the delight of the young female audience members and her boyfriend, John Mayer, who was spotted in the back, bobbing his head to "Teenage Dream."

"Four more years!" Perry chanted breathily between songs.

And then it was over. Older children floated out of the concert hall on a pop music high while the younger ones curled up on their parents' shoulders. Some went home for a bedtime story, others for a nightcap.



ALL PHOTOS BY AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

MAN

"It's my first time to [Washington,] D.C. and it's really cool that I get to watch history in the making with a bunch of my friends."

Rigel Robinson, junior at Parkway West High School in St. Louis, Mi.



on the

"In the next four years, I'd like to see Congress play better together and make the right decisions for our country as a whole."

Linda Burbin, Richmond, Va.



STREET

"There's six of us here for the inauguration and we all studied abroad different places last semester, so it's nice to all be back together and celebrate this day with the rest of the country."

John Kelley, junior at George Washington University



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

NOW, MORE THAN EVER,

we must do these things *together*, as **one** nation, and **one** people.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

University presidents advocate campus gun control after Conn. shooting



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

University presidents across the nation are attempting to ban firearms from campus, after a tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., left 20 children and eight adults dead Dec. 14, 2012.

Corinne James
Senior Reporter

In the wake of the Newtown shooting last month, more than 320 university presidents in the United States have signed a petition against legislation for legal possession of firearms on university campuses.

Although Elon University President Leo Lambert has not signed the petition, Elon strictly prohibits the possession or use of weapons on university property. Consequences for violation may include suspension, expulsion and arrest.

Additionally, of 100 Elon students surveyed informally, 93 said they are against guns on campus and will likely support Lambert if he chooses to sign a petition advocating gun safety.

On Dec. 19, five days after the Sandy

Hook Elementary School shooting, Oglethorpe University President Lawrence Schall and Agnes Scott College President Elizabeth Kiss released a letter of opposition to legislation in Georgia calling for legal possession of firearms on university campuses. The petition received widespread support within days after it was published.

Schall said he drafted the petition, "College Presidents for Gun Safety," at 2 a.m. Dec. 16.

"I had watched the service that night where President Obama spoke and afterwards I just could not fall asleep," Schall said. "I was haunted by his challenge to the country that we could do better. This is America, we could do better."

In the United States, five states allow concealed weapons on campuses, 21 states ban weapons on campuses and 23 states allow universities to decide on an individual basis.

Schall said he drafted the initiative to represent concerned campus leaders, regardless of their political preferences.

In addition to gun regulations, the petition recognizes the need for identification and treatment of "the mental health issues that lie beneath so many of the mass murders."

Other organizations, such as the Association of American Universities, have drafted similar letters.

Schall estimates more than 400 university presidents have made a call for gun safety laws.

Regardless of Lambert's decision, campus police remain alert for reports about guns on campus, which the department rarely receives, according to Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president of Student Life.

There ARE roughly **300 MILLION** firearms owned by the citizens of the **U.S.**—
 of these own **66 percent** own guns for target shooting.
 firearms for **41 percent** own guns for hunting purposes.
 protection **67 percent** against **crime.**
 Since the **Newtown** school shooting **the U.S. has** an average **18 gun deaths** per day.
 A total of **more than 400 gun deaths** in the U.S. equal **more than the total combined WAR DEATHS** since **VIETNAM**

Things that kill MORE people than guns do:

Cars: There are approximately 30,000-35,000 gun-related deaths per year, but there are nearly 45,000 fatal car accidents per year. Despite this, gun deaths are projected to exceed car deaths by 2015.

Medical Malpractice: Your doctor just might kill you. Preventable medical errors account for 98,000 deaths in the U.S. every year.

Alcohol: Party smart – more than 100,000 people die every year from alcohol abuse and alcohol related injuries.

Obesity: Hit the gym – obesity kills nearly 400,000 people per year in the U.S.

Tobacco: Don't be a chimney - about 450,000 Americans die every year from smoking.

'Difficult Dialogue' questions Elon's commitment to social justice

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

As part of a series of events at Elon University commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a "Difficult Dialogue" held Jan. 17 facilitated conversation about social justice in the world today.

The Diversity Emerging Education Program (DEEP) held the discussion in a judgment-free environment, according to Melissa Jordan, associate director of the multicultural center.

According to several students in the room, Elon as a whole does not share their passion for social justice.

Sophomore Yasmine Arrington, junior Kanree Wright and senior Emily Kane spearheaded the discussion, which began with an examination of some of the most prominent social justice issues in the world today, though the conversation was quickly narrowed to the confines of the "Elon bubble" and whether social justice is really valued on campus.

Some students suggested the Elon community is not open to discussing social justice issues such as starvation, poverty and education.

"As a whole, the campus climate involving hard things isn't one open to

talking," Kane said.

Citing the "Not on Our Campus" initiative that followed two racially charged incidents at Elon in September 2011, senior Lauren Clapp said the campus community shouldn't wait to address these kinds of issues. Rather, she said she would prefer Elon to be proactive in promoting social justice and volunteerism.

"We're into social justice when it's trendy and relevant," Clapp said. "The issue is still here, but I don't see any sort of engaged, sustained interest beyond show up, wear a button, have a profit share and we're done."

Senior Will Brummett echoed Clapp. "Elon does things afterwards, and we are a reactionary community," he said. "We're well-intentioned, but we're not there yet."

But real acts of social justice are easier said than done, according to Wright.

"It's not just about me saying, 'Oh yeah, I'm going to go out and do it,'" Wright said. "It's time-consuming, and it takes a lot of hard work and education about the issues."

But Jordan said she believes the manner in which students are educated is contributing to the problem.

"We encourage students to sit, listen

and take notes, not sit, listen, then give us your opinion," she said. "We train students to be thinkers when we give you the opportunity to think."

Students must first develop the willingness to address social injustices, which is lacking throughout much of campus, Kane said.

"A lot of Elon students aren't really willing to challenge themselves on that deeper level," she said. "Social justice for me is looking at the core root of problems that require you to do community service."

Senior Courtland Dooley called for more realistic expectations of students at a university like Elon.

"If you were that adamant about social justice, you wouldn't go to college," he said. "Your college would be giving back to the community. That would be your education."

But academic obligations do not excuse students from helping others, Wright said. She volunteers with Education For Liberia, a nonprofit that works to educate children in her native Liberia.

"Social justice is us acting as a voice for the voiceless," she said. "But at Elon, I feel like they're like, 'Yes, go out and do service,' but how many of us actually



MARILJO SAULON | Staff Photographer
Senior Emily Kane speaks about Elon students' lack of commitment to changing social injustices Jan. 17.

know what Burlington looks like?"

Freshman Jensen Roll said the event's low turnout demonstrated Elon's disregard for social justice issues.

"If we're to say that we're at all worried about social justice, I think you can see that by the turnout of this room, that's not the case," he said.

Community reflects on MLK legacy during commemorative events

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

An assortment of Elon students, faculty and staff gathered outside Moseley on Jan. 18 to "Lock Arms for Peace" during the Beloved Community Peace Journey, sponsored by the Multicultural Center as part of a series of campus events commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The event featured a community march through Young Commons and along Haggard Avenue with several stops, during which Leon Williams, director of the Multicultural Center, encouraged march participants to consider the burdens of the world in the context of civil rights.

"Think about the victims of the world and people who are suffering," Williams

said. "Start thinking about these burdens and what we can do with them."

Previously, university chaplain Jan Fuller gave each person a smooth stone and a permanent marker. Fuller and Williams then asked everyone to write a personal burden on the stones, which were placed in a bag and carried for the duration of the march.

Forming a procession, the gathering linked arms and walked together in silence. Midway through, Williams encouraged the marchers to break from each other and link arms anew with another person they didn't know.

Inside the Hearth Lounge, participants formed a circle for reflection and discussion. Fuller related the stones to the piles of rock that are found throughout the Old Testament, often as records of events.

"Piles of stone meant that a people was here, and that they made a difference," she said. "We can change one of these burdens and make it lighter for the world."

Distributing index cards and pens, Fuller asked everyone to write down a form of hope that they could commit to - something they want to change in the world today. Responses ranged from the general - "Live each day as my authentic self" - to the specific - "Work to create a petition against laws that promote sexism."

Lasting peace is the ultimate goal, Fuller said, pausing to offer a definition.

"We want to claim peace in our community as defined not by an absence of violence, but by a sense of wholeness," she said.

And the road to peace isn't easy, but it is worthwhile, Fuller said.

"It does sometimes feel for me that it is an uphill battle," she said. "But there's always something else to do, some way to help."

According to Fuller, it's not something that can be done alone, rather, peace requires a community to work together.

"Let's commit ourselves to people that we've known, people that we don't know and people that we know now," she said.

Some expressed a sense of frustration that more people were not in attendance to hear the message. Senior Will Brummett agreed with Fuller, but he wished more of the Elon community would participate in similarly themed events.

"I've been to many of these events for four years now, and it's always the same people," he said.

Residence Life expands housing options for 2013, allows students to return to residences

Corinne James
Senior Reporter

Residence Life at Elon University recently announced all students will be able to return to their current residence halls or apartments during the 2013-2014 academic year, a change in policy from the previous year. Two of the five buildings in the Global Neighborhood will be available for sign-up, as well.

The Global Neighborhood will house freshmen and several learning communities, including the language and fine arts communities. Additional spaces in The Station at Mill Point, a residence area for upperclassmen, will also be available.

According to the Residence Life website, the expansion of residential areas aligns with the university's strategic plan, the Elon Commitment, which outlines a goal of having 75 percent of undergraduates living on campus by the time residential construction is completed in time for the 2014-2015 academic year.

"These new, state-of-the-art facilities further support the creation of a premier residential program where students' in and out-of-class experiences more fully complement one another and further strength-

en Elon's rich sense of community," according to a Residence Life email.

Some students appreciate the option to return to their on-campus apartments. Sophomore Katie Maraghy said she plans to take advantage of the opportunity.

But some students don't wish to live on campus as upperclassmen. Sophomore Justin Marcus said he plans to live off-campus in the Goodson Apartments on Haggard Ave.

Marcus said the apartments are much cheaper than on-campus housing, and he wants his freedom.

"I want to live off campus because Elon's on-campus rules are ridiculous," Marcus said. "The only downside I foresee is that without a car it might be challenging to see all my friends regularly."

On-campus housing selection will be completed in two phases. Those who wish



to return to their current location will complete the first phase, and those who wish to change assignments will complete the second phase. Students who wish to return to or sign up for The Station at Mill Point must complete a separate sign-up process.

Danieley A-F will now be designated to house upperclassmen. The apartments will be available on a 12-month lease, according to a press release from Residence Life.

Preiss Management Company is also

Housing Selection Dates

Feb. 26: Returning tenants of The Station at Mill Point can apply to keep their current housing

Feb. 27: Rising juniors and seniors can apply to live in The Station at Mill Point

March 4 & 5: Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors can apply to keep their current housing

March 7: Rising juniors and seniors can apply to live in a different on-campus location

March 12 & 13: Rising sophomores can apply to live in a different on-campus location

offering 168 spots in the Crest apartments for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students who currently reside in residence halls may apply for the Crest apartments during Phase Two of the selection process.

Housing selection will take place online, and students will be assigned an application time slot based on the number of years they have lived on campus and their GPA. The student with the earliest time slot in a group may include his or her roommates on the application.

Flu complications, secondary infections put college students at risk

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

If you get over the flu, your troubles might not be entirely over.

The 17th person to die of influenza-related causes in North Carolina passed away the week of Jan. 7, with the majority of deaths affecting the elderly.

Dr. Ginette Archinal, medical director of student health at Elon University, said this distribution matches general flu seasons, unlike the first H1N1 outbreak that put college-aged people at increased risk for complications that are uncharacteristic of influenza.

"In general, the risk is not so much the flu itself," Archinal said. "The risk is dehydration because of not feeling like eating because of the flu, and then there's the secondary risk of pneumonia and bronchitis and

other secondary bacterial infections on top of the flu."

These secondary infections and other respiratory illnesses are making up a large portion of what the health center is currently dealing with, not the flu itself.

"The problem with the flu generally is the secondary bacterial infection after the flu," Archinal said. "Anybody who already has a preexisting respiratory problem like asthma is at greater risk of getting a secondary bacterial infection. Anybody who's had a kidney transplant and is on drugs so they don't reject their kidney is at a greater risk."

To prevent the spread of the flu or any recurring infection, Archinal stressed employing hand washing or using hand sanitizer, keeping your hands away from your face to prevent the transmission of mucus particles and not sharing drinks or other items that are used on the mouth.

"Even though it is not perfect, the best protection is still the flu vaccine," Archinal said. "If you get the flu even if you've had the vaccine, you still get a milder illness."

While the R.N. Ellington Health Center did carry vaccines for this flu season, the school itself does the majority of on-campus inoculations. Flu shot events, like the ones that took place in September, are the result of Elon buying vaccines and giving them to students, faculty and staff.

Students like sophomore Jenny Sekulow got the flu shot after hearing how early this year's strain was hitting.

"This was my first time I got a flu shot ever, because of how bad it was this season," Sekulow said. "Being on a college campus, you're exposed to it most of the time because you never know who has it, who's been around it."

Other students, such as freshman Brian

Lorello, also stressed the college environment as a reason to get immunized.

"This is my first year in college, so I wanted to make sure I was well prepared," Lorello said.

TIPS FOR surviving the flu

- Get the vaccine. It's not perfect, but it will at least lessen the severity of your illness.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer and keep your hands away from your mouth.
- Don't share drinks or other items used on the mouth, such as Chapstick.
- If you get the flu, stay hydrated.

Google anti-trust case may affect future Internet regulations

By Michael Papich, Senior Reporter



Google Inc., creator of the world's most popular search engine and owner of sites such as YouTube and Blogger, recently faced one of its few real challenges to future growth. And it got away relatively unscathed.

Many future careers will depend on the Internet, so the Google case could set a precedent that will affect the jobs offered to college graduates from Elon University and around the world.

Competitors of Google, such as Microsoft, brought complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) over a year ago, saying Google was stepping into other search formats, and Google engines were being prioritized. According to complaints, Google was purposely changing its searches to direct consumers only to Google sites, which constituted a violation of antitrust laws.

Antitrust laws are regulations created to maintain competition between companies and provide consumers with more choice. In low competition markets, consumers must choose from a narrower range of products.

"Certain industries that involve very high barriers to entry and huge infrastructure costs tend to lean towards being 'natural monopolies,'" said Christina Benson, assistant professor of business law at Elon.

Imagine going on Google to search for affordable textbooks. Google's online shopping searches are presented first, while other results like Chegg are listed less prominently.

"The theory is that greater competition in an industry should force companies to continuously innovate," Benson said. "By contrast, when industries become dominated by one or only a few competitors, there is typically much less innovation, higher prices and lower quality."

Google argued it is not preventing competition, as other, similar software is a click away.

According to Antonio Izzo, faculty fellow at Elon's teaching and learning technology office, although that may be true, many people seem to rely on Google almost exclusively.

"For all of the things that Google tools offer for collaboration, there's other software that exists," Izzo said. "Everyone just seems to be very inherently familiar with how Google works."

Google, whose executive chairman Eric Schmidt is a science and technology adviser for President Barack Obama, went before the FTC to argue the company's actions did not violate antitrust laws, and on Jan. 3 the five committee members found no case against Google and voted unanimously to close the investigation.

With this victory, Google can continue to push forward in an era where technology increases faster than legislators can keep up with.

Previous FTC and antitrust cases involving communication technology resulted in the breakup of AT&T/Bellsouth in the 1980s and the slow-down of Microsoft in the 1990s as Internet Explorer and Apple rapidly gained prominence and consumer loyalty.

Google is already a multi-billion dollar company, and the Jan. 3 decision may speed its trajectory.

Dissenters argue much of Google's work is with information analytics, rather than just providing search engines to consumers.

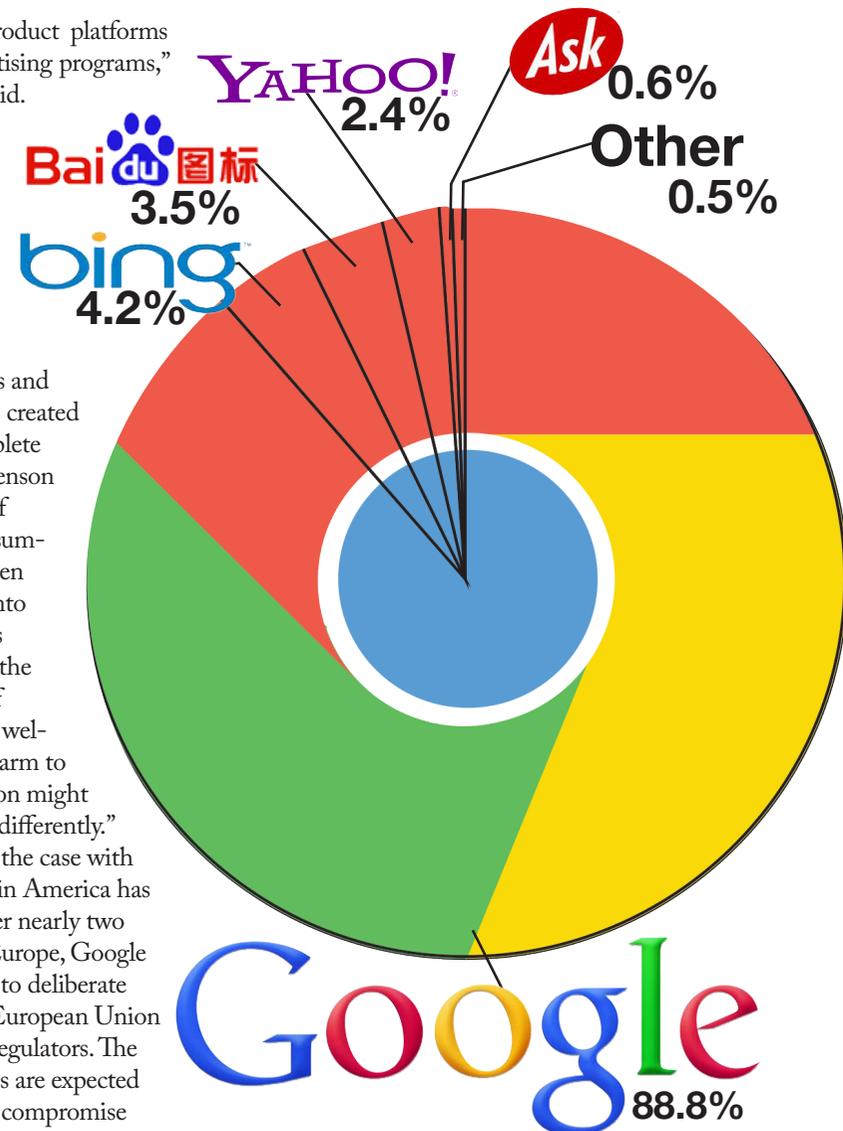
"Another very important category of consumers for Google's services are those entities that market themselves using Google's

various product platforms and advertising programs," Benson said.

Over-looking the customers who use Google to advertise their companies and businesses created an incomplete picture, Benson said, and if these consumers had been factored into the FTC's decision, "the analysis of consumer welfare and harm to competition might come out differently."

While the case with the FTC in America has ended after nearly two years, in Europe, Google continues to deliberate with the European Union antitrust regulators. The two parties are expected to reach a compromise sometime in 2013.

How do you search?



See which search engines are favored by Internet users across the globe. Information compiled by karmasnack.com.

Alexis Gray's trial postponed

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Alexis Gray's trial, originally scheduled for Jan. 7, was postponed until April 10, 2013.

Gray, an 18-year-old student at Penn State University, entered Elon University's campus Nov. 25 with a Remington-597.22 caliber rifle, a knife and 6.5 feet of rope in her vehicle. Her parents and ex-boyfriend, Elon freshman Greg Seelagy, alerted campus police that she was likely traveling to Elon before she arrived, and the police apprehended her outside Danieley Center. After obtain-

ing a search warrant, the police searched Gray's vehicle and took her into custody.

After being taken into custody, Gray completed a mental health evaluation at Central Regional Hospital in Raleigh and returned to Pennsylvania with her parents. She will be enrolled in an intensive psychological treatment program there, according to an email sent by Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Gray is only allowed to return to North Carolina for court appearances. She has been permanently barred from the Town of Elon and the Elon campus.

Elon offers smoking cessation classes to students, staff

Cleo Dan
Senior Reporter

Throughout February, the Office of Substance Education at Elon University will offer smoking cessation classes for all students, faculty and staff who are seeking assistance to quit smoking.

"We brought the program to campus because there are members of our community who are interested in quitting smoking and we want to support that," said Jordan Perry, coordinator for Health Promotion at Elon. "Although only about 15 percent of

Elon students report smoking a cigarette in the past 30 days, this is an important resource to provide, no matter how many people choose to attend."

The program will consist of approximately six to eight students per class and attendance is voluntary.

"Our primary goal is to provide education and resources," Perry said. "If a student isn't interested in quitting smoking, we certainly won't try to compel them to quit."

The classes, stem from the FreshStart program established by the American Cancer Society.

Staff from the Alamance Regional Medical Center will help organize the classes on campus.

Outreach programs and educational services provided by the Office of Substance Education are rooted in academic, student and institutional support. The approaching smoking cessation classes draw on this framework by offering the Elon community a safe outlet to approach smoking cessation.

"A wealth of research indicates that smoking cigarettes compromises one's health," Perry said. "We just want to have a healthy campus."

FDA may approve genetically engineered salmon

Cleo Dan
Senior Reporter

Genetically engineered Atlantic salmon may soon become the first transgenic animal to be sold in grocery stores and supplied by food service vendors across the country, possibly including ARAMARK, Elon University's food supplier.

The fish swam a bit closer to FDA approval when the administration released a draft last month of its environmental assessment affirming the modified salmon does not pose a considerable environmental threat.

ARAMARK seems to agree.

"Professional experts are reasonably satisfied with the current regulatory guidelines in the United States and feel they reasonably address the safety of genetically engineered foods that are permitted by regulatory authorities to be brought to market," said ARAMARK spokeswoman Karen Cutler.

In 2010, the FDA concluded the genetically altered AquaAdvantage salmon was safe for human consumption, generating controversy between proponents and opponents of biotechnology.

The modified salmon, engineered by AquaBounty Technologies at Prince Edward Island and grown in tanks in Panama, grow to nearly twice the size of conventional Atlantic salmon at a faster rate. They contain

two superfluous growth genes from other fish, including the Chinook salmon.

Proponents of the genetically engineered salmon see it as the future of the aquaculture industry — the commercial farming and harvesting of fish — while opponents are concerned the hybrid salmon may escape their land-based confines and interbreed with wild Atlantic salmon.

If the FDA allows the modified salmon to be purchased or sold for consumption, some stores will not supply it.

"We will not sell the genetically modified salmon," said Beth Krauss, spokeswoman for Whole Foods. "Our farmed seafood standards require farm-to-fork traceability and require producers to provide detailed information on farming practices and pass independent third-party audits. These standards prohibit the sale of both genetically modified or cloned seafood and their progeny."

But some members of the Elon community will support the sale of transgenic salmon.

"A lot of research is put into genetically modified foods," said senior Marion Copeland. "I believe that if such a food product is to be put on the market, it is because it provides benefits to consumers."

But other members of the Elon community are concerned about the effects genetically modified foods may have on human health and the environment.

"When you take genes that were never intended to be in that animal, it's opening up something that nature never intended," said Steve Moore, an environmental studies lecturer. "It's irreversible."

And if the FDA ultimately approves the modified salmon for market sale, it may not be explicitly labeled as a genetically altered product. According to current federal health regulations, genetically modified food and their substantial equivalents do not differ on a material or nutritional level and therefore do not require separate labeling.

"At this time, a decision is still pending on the AquaAdvantage application," said FDA spokeswoman Siobhan DeLancey. "Therefore, no decision has been made on the labeling of food products from these salmon."

Unlike the United States, several countries around the world have implemented regulations monitoring the labeling of genetically modified food. Nearly all European countries require the majority of modified food products to be labeled.

Moore said he thinks the United States should consider similar regulations.

"People have the right to know and select genetically modified salmon or not," he said. "As a community, we need to become more conscious of our food and work to be more environmentally and socially conscious of what we eat."

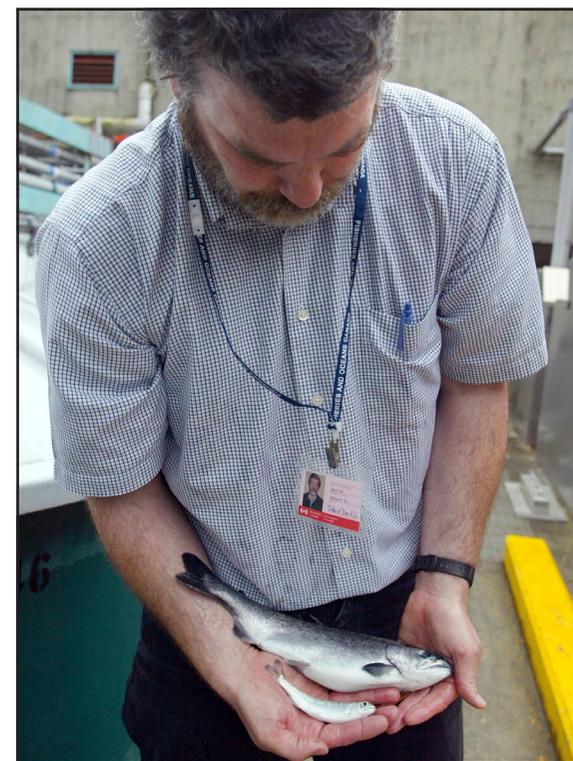


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Genetically modified AquaAdvantage salmon can grow to nearly twice the size of unaltered Atlantic salmon, as seen above.

Elon faculty, students bear weight of federal budget decision

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

As the United States hung suspended from the “fiscal cliff” early this month, both the Senate and the House of Representatives approved legislation to raise taxes on America’s wealthiest and suspend deep cuts in federal spending – a complicated last-minute deal that may directly impact taxpayers in every income bracket, including Elon University students, faculty and staff.

By passing the legislation, Congress narrowly averted automatic tax increases and federal budget sequestration cuts scheduled to take effect at the start of the new year, but the deal is likely to affect other changes in the economic climate. The Social Security payroll tax increased from 4.2 percent to 6.2 percent in the wake of the decision, marking the end of a two-year holiday that put a little extra money in the pockets of all wage earners.

“Faculty and staff paid biweekly will see the effects of that immediately,” said Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology at Elon.

The stock market, unemployment rates and interest rates also hang in the balance of the decision, which raised many questions about the country’s economic stability.

“I think given the period of uncertainty, if you’re a graduating senior, employers may be hesitant to hire,” Whittington said. “And if you had counted on getting a summer job and then returning to school, that may be more difficult to do.”

Families may also have to reevaluate their budgets. Whittington said some may look more critically at the cost of college.

“Those are quality of life impacts,” he said. “In extreme cases, some people may say ‘You cannot return to Elon, or wherever you’re going to college.’”

For individuals who earn more than \$400,000 and couples who earn more than \$450,000 annually, taxes on capital gains rose from 15 percent to 20 percent. The healthcare reform legislation added an additional 3.8 percent surtax, increasing the maximum tax rate on capital gains to 23.8 percent.

“A good portion of our student body has family income invested in various stocks, op-

tions and mutual funds,” said Darien Flow-ers, student government association executive president. “We’re seeing significant taxation from the federal government, and if that is seen as income, then you get state taxes factored in. That will have a direct impact on the livelihoods of the percentage of students who see income from capital gains.”

The economic consequences of the decision are likely to affect Elon’s budget and revenue, as well. Moody’s Investors Services recently released a report forecasting “diminished prospects for revenue growth” for all institutions of higher education in the United States, including the most elite.

“The new sector-wide negative outlook reflects mounting pressure on all key university revenue sources, requiring bolder actions by university leaders to reduce costs and increase operating efficiency,” the report overview states.

Whittington said endowment spending to support the university’s budget will not be impacted in 2013, but the higher tax rates on capital gains coupled with stock market instability may affect endowment spending in the future.

The North Carolina Legislature also has a hand in the university’s financial situation. Two bills to reform state taxes and perhaps eliminate corporate income taxes are under consideration.

Some feel North Carolina’s 6.9 percent cor-

porate tax rate deters businesses from installing plants or factories in the state. It is less expensive to do so in Virginia and South Carolina, where the corporate income tax rates are 6 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

But if the government eliminated the corporate income tax to bring more jobs into the state, other institutions would be forced to compensate for the lost income.

“Non-profit institutions that don’t pay sales taxes or property taxes would have to pay those,” Whittington said. “For Elon University, that would be \$3.5 million a year.”

If the state legislature decides to decrease the corporate income tax, Whittington said Elon may have to tighten its belt.

“We might have to try and reduce our own expenditures,” he said. “That means looking at all sorts of things, including less pay raises, new employees and new programs.”

Though Congress managed to prevent financial free fall, Whittington anticipates a bumpy road ahead.

“We’re going to be tossed, turned, pulled and stretched,” he said. “This has been years in the making, and you’ve got to make some really hard, critical decisions at the federal level, which will cascade to the state level. I can’t predict how it will end. In politics, all sorts of things happen.”



President Barack Obama makes a statement after the passage of tax legislation Jan. 1 in Washington, D.C.

Jan. 1: Hours after breaching the fiscal cliff, Senate passes legislation that raises tax rates on wealthy Americans and suspends sequestration cuts. The House passes the bill that night.

Nov. 9-31, 2012: Congress begins intense debate, but remains gridlocked until the end of December.

Nov. 8, 2012: Congressional Budget Office releases report warning against automatic spending cuts.

Nov. 6, 2012: Obama’s reelection and the Democratic victory in the Senate suggest the federal budget deal will include tax raises.

Oct. 2012: A bipartisan group of senators drafts a plan to decrease the deficit in 10 years to put off sequestration cuts. House Republicans refuse to accept it.

Sept. 2012: Obama drafts an outline of tax cuts to take effect Jan. 2013.

Nov. 2011: The committee is unable to compromise and misses its deadline.

July 2011: Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction is formed to decide how to reduce the deficit.

Nov. 2010: Republicans gain control of the House of Representatives during midterm elections.

Since 2007, the federal budget has been rocked by economic recession and political polarization. The passage of President Obama’s economic stimulus package in 2009 enraged Republicans and began a series of political wars about deficit reduction.

FISCAL CLIFF TIMELINE

Look before we fall off the fiscal cliff

On Dec. 30, 2012, at a concert venue in Atlantic City, N.J., Kanye West made an announcement. He said, “Stop the music for a second. Can we make some noise for my baby mama?”

Meanwhile, the United States economy was scheduled to fall off a cliff.

“Fiscal cliff” is a term coined by Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, that describes a combination of tax increases and spending cuts that were to come into effect at midnight on Dec. 31.

Instead, the debt ceiling was raised once again, preventing the automatic budgetary revisions from taking effect.

Essentially, the fiscal cliff is an economic concern that arose because our representatives can’t agree on how to manage the budget. They averted the cliff that economists predicted would send us back into a recession, but they only delayed the real problem.

So how did we get into this mess in the first place? In 2001, President George W. Bush and Republicans in Congress could not get the 60 Senate votes needed to pass Bush’s initial 10-year, \$1.7 trillion tax cut, so they used a tool called reconciliation that allowed them to pass the tax cuts with a simple Senate majority of 51 votes. The snag in this plan was that these tax cuts were to expire after 10 years; he was simply prolonging our economic woes. President Barack Obama further evaded the issue by striking a deal with the Republicans in 2010 to extend the tax cuts for another two years. On Dec. 31, 2012, these extensions expired.

According to a Washington Post article published Jan. 15, the federal government will reach the legal limit on its abil-

ity to borrow sometime in the next 30 to 60 days. The current debt is \$16.4 trillion, a number technically above the statutory limit. Republicans in Congress are refusing to further raise the debt ceiling while Obama is not budging when it comes to spending cuts.

But why all this talk about the economy? Elon students have bigger issues than being pushed off some metaphorical cliff, don’t we? Well, not necessarily. The fiscal cliff is an issue that has the potential to significantly affect college students.

In an interview published earlier this month, David Brooks, an op-ed columnist for the New York Times, made the following comment:

“My big puzzle is why young people are not in the streets. They are really being hosed, sentenced to a living standard much lower than their parents because of [baby] boomer greed. I guess it’s hard



President Barack Obama discusses fiscal cliff negotiations during a news conference at the White House in Washington, D.C. on Fri., Dec. 28, 2012. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

when you are 25 to imagine the tax bill and the benefit cuts that will hit when you are 40, but someday interest rates will return to their normal levels and it will all come crashing down.”

Despite the adverse effects that will surely impact college students not so far down the road, students continue to show apathy toward this issue.

Our question for the Elon student body is why aren’t we taking the fiscal cliff deal seriously? Why do we, as students, with so much invested in our futures, fail to take

notice of something that will undoubtedly impact our financial stability? It seems that there is a tendency to get wrapped up in Elon-centric issues, but at a certain point, we need to open our eyes to the things going on around us or we will be in for a rude awakening. Is the Elon bubble just too cushy a safety net? That remains unclear, but what is plainly clear is our treasury is running out of money and our government is running out of time. Whether or not we choose to acknowledge it, our generation is going to be the one to pay the price.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Greek Life Considerations

As recruitment for freshmen and sophomore men and women approaches, I feel it is necessary to state my biased yet anonymous opinion so people know what they are getting into. Don’t get me wrong, Greek Life has been one of the main highlights of my overall social life and going Greek has led me to friends that will hopefully remain in my life forever. Yet there are important things that excited first-years tend to overlook before going Greek.

First, you might think you already have your “Big” in Alpha Alpha Alpha, but guess what — you don’t! Nothing is guaranteed, no matter how many dinner dates you’ve gone to at The Root or what the president of the sorority or fraternity tells you. Remember, the decision isn’t made until you sign your bid card and the voting process is complete. This isn’t to scare anyone, but to encourage you to keep your mind open about all organizations.

That brings me to my next point — no matter what organization you join or don’t join, you are still an Elon University student. I don’t care if Alpha Al-

pha Alpha is the coolest thing since sliced bread, we are all still college kids getting an education and no matter the reputation or stereotype of your organization, it is important to keep your head on your shoulders. It’s almost comical how people think they are invincible once they join an organization, but we forget the important statistic: Less than 35 percent of Elon students belong to a Greek organization.

For some reason there is a false notion that if you and someone you know join different organizations, you are pitted against each other for the next

four years. Elon Greek students forget that joining an organization isn’t comparable to a playoff game between the Red Sox and Yankees.

Don’t try to fit in somewhere that isn’t you. It’s painful to watch your friend try to squeeze into her size 2 skinny jeans with a semester at college under her belt (literally). So don’t force it! Be yourself and find people that you want to surround yourself with for the next four years and beyond. As the Carolina girls run room to room trying to determine what business casual is, try to remember (as cliché as it sounds) everyone has a place in this world.

Why gun control isn't controlling anything

The good, sane people of this country are not the ones walking into schools, churches and shopping malls, firing at random. All the laws, restrictions and regulations in the world mean nothing to somebody mentally unstable enough to walk into a school and shoot with no regard for the consequences. These people are not operating off some sort of morality, and they are certainly not playing by the rules of legality. Simply put, gun legislation will not stop them, and gun control will not hinder them.

In the wake of the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, anti-gun fervor has spread across the United States. While those who are critical of firearms are calling for massive revisions in gun laws, pro-gun lobbyists continue to fight for the right to bear arms.

Despite the emotional response these shootings elicit, limiting the right to bear arms is not only fundamentally unconstitutional, but irrational as well. Calls for gun control are not fueled by reason, but pushed forward on emotional and fear-based agendas. Stricter gun laws

will not guarantee the safety of the American people; instead they will continue to distract from legislation that could create long-term, meaningful change.

Despite the perception that mass shootings are becoming more common, the frequency of them is not increasing. Additionally, violent crimes as a whole have sharply declined in the United States during the past two decades, according to FBI crime statistics. In fact, throughout the past five years, gun sales have risen steadily while violent crimes have dropped substantially.

Furthermore, assault weapons are garnering heaps of negative press. The weapons of choice in mass murders overwhelmingly have been pistols and revolvers; according to FBI crime statistics, they have been used almost two and a half times as often as assault weapons in mass shootings throughout the past three decades. Last year alone, 300 people were murdered with rifles, but more than 6,000 were killed with handguns.

Addressing the weapons themselves will do virtually nothing to stop another Newtown

tragedy. Our country needs to provide easy access to mental health care for people possessing violent tendencies who cannot afford it, do not have access to it and those who are too fearful to commit themselves.

Also, instead of trying to impose new gun laws, why not focus on better enforcement of those already in place? The current gun laws are embarrassingly ineffective due to a lack of enforcement.

Instead of perpetuating a cycle of misinformation, myth and media buzzwords, choose to look past the hype and discover the truth behind gun control.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS
Demonstrators rallied at Gravelly Point in Arlington, Va., citing Second Amendment issues as their cause for protest.

Reason must prevail over the initial emotional outcry. Facts and logic must serve as the basis of reform, not sentiments of hatred and fear as the result of tragedy.

We fundamentally lack the knowledge to pass any law that will, without doubt, reduce gun violence. What we do have is the power to protect our individual liberties and work for real, meaningful change.

Media's unwarranted 'bad boy' rep

Bob Dylan once sang the words, "I'll know my song well before I start singin'." The media teams covering the Newtown,

Conn. shooting should have listened up.

As details from the shooting were released, multiple news sources announced Ryan Lanza was the gunman. They were wrong — it was his brother, Adam. That was a colossal mistake.

The media has made plenty of those. But they have also served

the American people on numerous noteworthy occasions: the Pentagon Papers, Watergate and WikiLeaks, to name a few. Freedom of the press is the very first amendment to our constitution. I'd say that's pretty significant. We ought to think long and hard before restricting what the press can divulge to us. Anything less than a free press is censorship.

It's overly simplistic to claim that the media makes a frenzy out of serious issues. Yes, they dramatize stories, but we eat that stuff up. The only reason news stations can afford to run a 24-hour news cycle is because we continue to watch.

Although I am a serious advocate of an unregulated press, I realize there are many negative consequences that can result from media coverage. I think it's disgraceful how most Americans can readily tell you who Adam Lanza and James Holmes are, but many choke if asked to name a congressman.

It's also shameful how the vacation spots of reality television stars and the tumultuous relationships of celebrities pass as newsworthy. Let's face it: We know more about Jay-Z than we do about Joe Biden.

But it's not the media's fault that these wrongdoers and do-nothings are notorious; it's ours. We need to take ourselves more seriously and the media will follow suit. The media exists to serve us, so as long as we feed into sensational news stories, that is exactly what we'll get.

Media monster knows no boundaries

Imagine a family member is murdered. Your reaction to losing your loved one is broadcast across national television.

Instead of a private funeral to say goodbye, you have invasive media personnel wanting the scoop.

For the families of the victims at Sandy Hook Elementary School, this nightmare is their life. This nightmare is perpetuated by the media.

From the moment word broke of the tragedy in Newtown, Conn., the entire town was turned into a circus. Reporters invaded the small town and did not leave for several weeks.

Before his family had even been informed of his death, the name of the alleged shooter was released. Unfortunately, it was the wrong name.

The media knew no boundaries as they

approached the scene of the crime. Innocent children who had just experienced trauma had microphones shoved in their faces. They witnessed their friends being murdered and the media forced them to relieve it minutes later.

The police needed to know the details of what occurred at Sandy Hook that day — the public did not. We do not need to know how many bullet holes each child had in his or her brain. These intimate details are none of our business, but the media makes it our business.

This was not an episode of "CSI". These are real people. The horror that the children, teachers and Newtown community endured is unfathomable. So why do we try to fathom it? Why do we have to know so much?

Knowing everything that happened will not do any good. It will not bring us any closer to finding out why. It will not heal the families that have been torn apart. It will not bring back the lives that have been lost.



Audrey Horwitz
Coulmnist



Kaitlin Dunn
Coulmnist

Searching for a sense of community amid Brixton's violent past

Rachel Ingersoll
Staff Photographer

LONDON — Brixton. It's located in central London, but have you ever even heard of it? The main groups of immigrants are those of African and Caribbean descent, but Brixton is also home to a multitude of different cultures and ethnicities.

Brixton is largely unknown because it has undergone massive changes in recent years — changes that have attracted an influx of people to the area. Once well known for rampant drug problems, alcohol abuse and violent gang members, Londoners were afraid to venture there. Anne Kershen, a professor at the University of London, said when her son went to Brixton for parties, she would fear for his life. When she picked him up with her husband, they were afraid to even drive on the streets.

The gang violence became such a problem that no one wanted to go to Brixton, especially at night. Regina Weidenmuller, the owner of Beautiful Books, a local Christian bookstore in the Brixton Market, said she would see people shooting up across the street from her shop.

"The night used to be a scary place in Brixton," she said.

Roxy, a local shop worker from New

Zealand, often visited the clubs in Brixton. Even then it wasn't safe. "There were always drug dealers out," she said. "It was quite frightening."

In 1992, on her first day at Rachel and Malika's, a local shop in the Brixton Market, she witnessed a drug bust. Over the years she has seen a massive change in the area. "The community is just amazing. And in London, that is quite rare," Roxy said. Her favorite thing about Brixton now is the diversity of culture. She explained racism is not a problem in Brixton, as each culture is respectful of each other's traditions.

"Most of the shops are owned and operated by local families too," Roxy said. She has seen a lot of changes in Brixton and the United Kingdom in general since she first arrived. Problems with crime, violence, drugs and alcohol have all decreased.

The police are also working diligently with the community to make it a better place. Now families take their children to Brixton to play on the carnival rides or see a movie. This would have been unthinkable 15, 10 or even five years ago.

"Brixton is always busy. Even at midnight you can go through Brixton and the main streets are full with people and the bus stops are still full," Weidenmuller said. Despite being from Germany, Weidenmuller said she feels "right at home" in

Brixton, but while she admitted Brixton is greatly improved, crime still exists. The community is not completely fixed.

Nieve, a local sanitation worker from Jamaica, has worked in the Brixton Market area for 35 years. According to Nieve, Brixton was supposed to be demolished three years ago. The restoration of Brixton helped the community not only keep their jobs, but also grow and prosper. The people are livelier and more open. "People are friendlier in general," he said. He added that the police have really helped turn Brixton around.

Many immigrants just like Roxy, Weidenmuller and Nieve immigrated to London for work opportunities, a better life and hope. They knew a new place meant a new opportunity. As Brixton has changed, they are truly glad they made the decision to leave their home countries.

Brixton is now their home and they are a community, just like Elon University is home with its own community. While studying abroad can take you out of your community at Elon, it can also introduce you to something new.

In order to maintain anonymity, two sources in this story refused to give their last names.

European crime statistics

Criminal capitals

	Crime rate*
1. London	32%
2. Tallinn	30
3. Amsterdam	27
4. Belfast	26
5. Copenhagen	24
6. Stockholm	23
7. Brussels	20
8. Berlin	19
9. Paris	18
10. Vienna	17
11. Edinburgh	17
12. Rome	17
13. Helsinki	15
14. Madrid	14
15. Athens	13
16. Budapest	13
17. Lisbon	10

Dangerous EU countries

	Crime rate*
1. Ireland	22.1%
2. U.K.	21.0
3. Estonia	20.2
4. Netherlands	19.8
5. Denmark	19.3
6. Belgium	17.8
7. Sweden	16.2
8. Poland	15.0
9. Germany	13.1
10. Finland	12.7
11. Italy	12.6
12. Greece	12.3
13. Austria	12.2
14. France	12.0
15. Portugal	10.4
16. Hungary	10.0
17. Spain	9.0

*Share of population in selected countries that has been victim of crime within a year (crimes such as robbery, burglary, sexual assault, bodily harm)

Source: European Crime and Safety Survey (EU ICS)
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Fall-Poll

© 2007 MCT

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Statistics depict London as the most crime filled European city in 2007.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY RACHEL INGERSOLL

Originally from Jamaica, Nieve and his coworker have been sanitation workers in Brixton for 35 years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL INGERSOLL

As the sun goes down in Central Brixton, families enjoy the lit up carnival rides.

Biking, bussing and braving Bornholm

The coastal island challenged DIS students with a rainy weekend

Alana Romans
International Editor

Beautiful, brazen and blustery Bornholm. The isolated island east of mainland Denmark is known for its vast lavender fields, steep cliffs and its well-known biking paths.

The island itself is small but crowded, with nearly 40,000 inhabitants. But Bornholm's biking paths seem endless, carrying bikers from historic, round churches to quaint harbor towns. This is why DIS (the Danish Institute for Study Abroad) offers a biking trip to its students during both the spring and fall semesters. The trip itself is extremely popular, attracting over 90 students on its most recent excursion this past September.

Aleah George, a fall DIS student who attends Providence College in Rhode Island, has been anticipating the trip for months.

"I saw my friends' pictures from Bornholm last year and thought that biking the island would be a great way to experience such a unique part of Europe," she said.

While George admits she's not the most athletic, she believes seeing the beautiful island with such an up-close view was well worth it.

But students must take into account fall is the tail end of the fair weather season, and cold rain storms greatly outnumbered eager tourists. Another DIS student, Elon University junior Becca Rubin, spontaneously signed up for the trip last minute, attracted by the waterfall and well known beaches. Unfortunately, her trip didn't turn out quite how she had anticipated.



PHOTO COURTESY ALANA ROMANS

As a threatening storm quickly approaches the remote island of Bornholm, the Round Churches are lacking their usual influx of seasonal tourists.

"I was really looking forward to seeing the waterfall, but because it's off season, the waterfall was a bit more of a trickle" Rubin said.

Along with the bad timing came bad weather. The weekend saw glimpses of sunshine but was mostly consumed with sweeping winds, dark skies and occasional downpours.

Despite the grim forecast, bikers were not deterred from the gravel filled paths. Routes heading towards Sandvig and Svaneke were packed with bikers. Nevertheless, as the day wore on, more and more weary bikers found themselves huddling for warmth and opting for the sheltered bus.

"We tried to turn the trip from biking in Bornholm to bussing in Bornholm but eventually decided to suck it up and stick out the last nine miles," Rubin said. So she took on the

challenge and biked the lengthy uphill trek. Although Rubin and George both thought the island to be full of flat and leisurely paths, Bornholm was anything but that.

In fact, the majority of Bornholm's rolling fields were just that: rolling. Steep hills make up the majority of the intimate island's landscape.

"It wasn't as much of a leisurely ride as I was anticipating; the hills were definitely exhausting," George said.

Regardless, despite the grueling hills, chilling rain and intense wind, both George and Rubin felt a sense of overwhelming satisfaction after biking 43 miles in two days.

"I'm tired, but in the end I'm happy I did it, even though my calves are still burning," Rubin said, laughing. "But let's get one thing

straight: I might memorize the bus routes next time."

In the past week, financial talk has dominated the newsstands here in London. Citizen support seems to fluctuate between closer ties with the European Union and a fear of immigration from other countries.

In South Kensington, where the Elon University program is located, there has been an influx of affluent French immigrants leaving their native

country to safeguard their funds against newly implemented government taxes. Overall, the economy in England seems to be doing relatively well as investors gain confidence. Socially, there is much ado about gay marriage in the Anglican Church. It is currently allowed for parishioners and there is talk of allowing celibate marriages between bishops.



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Correspondent's Corner



JENNIFER FRIAS

Where TRADITION meets the *future*

Mariya Greeley
Senior Reporter

The lives of Jo and Eugene Grimley, owners of the white historic house on S. Williamson Avenue, are almost too good to be true.

Eugene Grimley is a chemistry professor at Elon University, and his wife, Jo, was a chemistry professor at Elon University for many years before her retirement. Many would argue their commitment to the university, its students and its community is enough to bring a Fiske's Guide to Colleges writer to tears.

History in the making

The pair's family history with Elon began more than a century ago, when Jo's grandfather worked as a contractor building West dormitory.

"When my dad was four years old, my granddad took him way up high on West dorm and let him lay the last brick," Jo said.

As a side project, Jo's grandfather built the house at 201 S. Williamson Ave. where he raised Jo's father and aunt.

Jo's father later attended and played football at Elon College, where he met Jo's mother. After they married, the couple moved in across the street from the large, familiar, white home where Jo's aunt still lived. The house now belongs to Jo and Eugene.

"I spent lots of time here," Jo said. "I sat out on that side porch licking chocolate ice cream out of bowls. I spent as much time in this house as I did in my own."

"That's what it's about," Eugene said. "A

lot of the things here [Jo] saved from her family and youth and so on. It all means something. It connects you with the people and the values. It's a rich place to live. It's a wonderful place to live."

Eugene and Jo met at Michigan State University while studying chemistry and physics, respectively, in graduate school. They then spent 17 years teaching at Mississippi State University before deciding to move to Elon in 1987.

"We are not Mississippians," Eugene said. "I'm from New Jersey and she's from North Carolina, and that's not Mississippi. In Mississippi you don't see colors of leaves; they just die."

Both of the Grimleys continually express how amazing it is to be so close to relatives and so close to immediate family — literally.

The Grimleys are not only pleased with the area they live in and their family's history in the area but with the interior aesthetics of their home as well.

"It's comfortable," Eugene said. "It feels like a glove or shoe that you've worn. It doesn't feel big at all."

Comfortable seems to be the perfect word for the home. Each item of furniture has a story. There are quilts and stained glass that Jo made all around, pots their son crafted and a collection of pottery covering their living room's white built-in shelves.

A family affair

Along with connections to the past, the Grimleys are able to stay connected to the younger generations of their family as well. While one of their daughters lives in



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Jo Grimley and her dog Zeb stand in front of the house her family has owned since her grandfather built it.

Georgia and another in Florida, their son and his wife, both Elon graduates, live just across the street with their two sons.

The Grimleys' large homey abode, full of history and extra bedrooms, unsurprisingly tends to be the hosting spot for holiday family gatherings.

In the front few rooms, there is a rocking horse for their grandson to play on and a small desk at which he can draw or write. There are photos and paintings of family in each room and a large pile of toys in the living room, which is secondarily — or perhaps primarily — dubbed their grandson's playroom.

Included in this pile of toys are a coffee maker at which you can place an order with the young Grimley and a cardboard box cut to look like a TV.

"He gets in it and he'll tell you the weather," Eugene said.

As a proud grandfather, Eugene said the 5-year-old "doesn't miss a trick" and has an impressive vocabulary.

"We'll see if he goes to Elon," Eugene said with a smile.

Although all of their children are fully grown, Eugene and Jo are not alone in the house. They have a white cat and a bouncy 27-pound golden doodle puppy, Zeb, who is well known and adored by students around campus.

Phoenix pride

The couple began their lives at Elon during an exciting time. According to Eugene, the chemistry department was just beginning so they started from the bottom up.

Eugene and Jo said they are still excited about the direction of their beloved department. Eugene talked happily about his research with undergraduates working with bees and determining the chemical fingerprint of each type of honey.

"It's very interesting. And if all goes bad, you get to eat the honey," he said.

The pair isn't just excited about the

"It all means something. It connects you with the people and the values. It's a rich place to live. It's a wonderful place to live."

-Eugene Grimley

Historic home houses family values, hometown pride in the evolving Elon community

sciences at Elon, but rather everything happening in the community.

“The programs on campus are such high quality — the lectures that are brought on campus, the convocations, particularly the music and the teachers are just fabulous,” Eugene said.

football — let me know what you’re doing. I want to come watch you in your realm.”

Mixed feelings on an evolving campus

The couple said they frequently make use of the nearby Station at Mill Point.

move in there for freedom and freedom to do what they want to,” Eugene said. “Certainly on Thursday nights and some other times, too. We witness some of that.”

Still, the Grimleys are happy to have student neighbors and are now content with the new student community.

“The Station — the people that live there — are [in] singles, and they are closer to graduation, and they’re not there to have the kind of freedom for partying or that kind of social freedom,” Eugene said. “They’re great neighbors. We love having [the Station] next door.”

Surrounded by student-rented houses, though, things have not always gone so smoothly on other sides.

“I noticed this year that the town has looked worse in terms of trashy yards than I have ever seen it,” Jo said.

President Leo Lambert sent out an email earlier in the year asking students to clean up their yards, though this seemed to have little effect.

“There are areas that I used to walk with the dog all the time that I simply don’t want to walk because I don’t want to see the mess,” Jo said.

Eugene summarizes the couple’s main concerns as “disrespect for property and students on this busy road.” They often see cars pulled over by the police on weekends, sometimes two at once, likely for drunk driving.

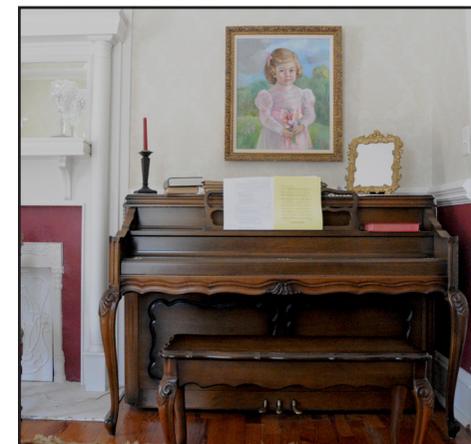
With regard to a history of disrespect for property, Jo has a disheartening story.

“We had a little Christmas tree in the backyard, just for the two of us to see,” she said. “[Eugene] put it up on Friday evening, put the lights on it, and Saturday morning we got up and there were beer cans all around it. And the lights hadn’t been just unplugged, the line had been torn. Fortunately no one had been electrocuted.”

The couple said they would probably put up a few more trees if they decide to retire here, which they hope to, in order to prevent people from traveling through the yard.

“I’ve found things in the bushes over there that we don’t need to print — cell phones, beer cans, everything,” Eugene said.

“Students that move into these houses



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

The Grimley house’s decor fits the home’s history.

Preparing for the future

As for long-term plans for the historic house, Eugene is willing to let his home rest in the hands of the university he loves.

“Eventually I’m sure the university would like to have it, and we’d like them to have it,” he said. “They could maybe use it as a faculty union. Faculty could use a meeting place. We don’t have one. I can’t go into Colonnades with guests and have a beer. It’s just a professional world versus a student world.”

They said they also know their home may be torn down if Elon buys it but said they are understanding of Elon’s obligation to look toward the future, something they have helped the university do in so many ways during their 25 years here.

MEET EUGENE GRIMLEY

WHAT: Tectonic Plates: Alamance County’s Science Café

WHERE: Fat Frogg

WHEN: Second Tuesday of every month 7 p.m.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Home is where the heart is: Jo Grimley’s family has called their house on Williamson Ave. a home for three generations and provides a place for the fifth generation of Grimleys, Jo and Eugene’s grandsons, to play.

Both he and Jo regularly attend these events, especially those involving their own students.

“I teach Science Without Borders so many of my students are majors other than science,” Eugene said. “Many of them are in theater, musical theater, things of this type. I always tell the class, ‘Whatever you’re doing — if you’re pitching baseball or playing

“We can walk, or get on the bikes, or walk the dog, or [our grandsons can] ride in little cars and bikes around on the sidewalks,” Jo said. “We probably walk around there at least once a day.”

However, they did have concerns when the Station was being built so close to their home.

“Students that move into these houses

Spooky legend stays alive among West Dormitory residents

Katy Canada
Senior Reporter

If you're ever lying awake at night wondering what Elon University was like before the fire of 1923, you could always go to West Dormitory and chat with Mary.

She has a track record of talking to students during the night, especially while they're asleep. Mary is also known for making occasional appearances, shattering mirrors, turning computers on and off, flickering lights and swinging chandeliers.

Mary's story is one most Elon students have heard before. On Jan. 18, 1923, the night of the fire that destroyed most of Elon's campus, Mary, a young student, was trapped on the third floor of West Dormitory. She couldn't find an escape, so the story goes that Mary leapt from a window and plummeted to her death.

Past and present Elon students say Mary's spirit has lingered on the third floor of West Dormitory. In a short documentary about Mary called "Haunted Oaks," one student reported he woke up in the middle of the night to see his girlfriend talking in her sleep to a mysterious figure who was crouched in front of her. Other students claimed they saw lights flickering or a ghost-like figure wandering the halls.

Freshman Courtney Sola, a current resident of West, lives in the room where Mary is reported to have once lived. She has no doubt

Mary haunts the room. Sola says most people on her hall agree strange and unexplainable things happen in her room. Her friends claim they hear peculiar noises in her room that they don't hear anywhere else.

Sola has had two personal encounters with Mary. The first occurred when her mirror fell off the wall and shattered on the floor. She said the mirror was completely secure on the wall, and there was no way it could have fallen. Sola doesn't doubt Mary was responsible.

"I was the only person on the third floor, and I could hear footsteps out in the hall, but no one was there."

-Alex Robinson, sophomore

Her second encounter occurred when she was alone in the room one night. She was asleep in her bed and woke up to find a figure staring into the mirror. The figure was wearing a dress, and her hair was in a bun. Figuring it was her roommate coming back from a night out, Sola rolled over and went back to sleep. Moments later, her roommate walked into the room wearing pants and her hair down around her shoulders.

At first, Sola said she was "absolutely petrified" of Mary. But now, she and her roommate laugh about it.

"We joke that she's our third roommate,"

Sola said.

Tom Mould, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, said Mary is considered a benevolent ghost because the way she was said to have died is so tragic. People tend to view her with pity instead of fear.

But historically, Mould said, there is no way the legend of Mary is true. West did not burn in the fire, and there were no reported deaths.

Mould said when West residents talk about Mary, it's a way of social bonding and a

form of entertainment.

"Everyone in West has a shared tradition of having the ghost," he said.

Mould also explained when students report being afraid of Mary, it could serve as a way of expressing the anxieties and fears that go along with transitioning into college life. If a student finds he or she is homesick, expressing fear about the ghost is a way to unload those emotions without feeling shame or embarrassment.

Sophomore Alex Robinson, resident assistant of West's third floor, said she has not had a personal encounter with Mary. During

the summer, she had to move into the building before the other residents, and while she was there alone, she says she was extremely frightened.

"I was the only person on the third floor, and I could hear footsteps out in the hall, but no one was there," Robinson said.

West Dormitory, which is the oldest building on campus, is known to have creaky floorboards and slanted hallways. Residents often complain the doorframes are crooked and the rooms smell like dust, and everything in West looks slightly different from other buildings on campus.

Robinson admits the overall sensation of West Dormitory is unnerving. Once in a while, she feels a cool breeze in the otherwise stifling bathroom and thinks of the story of Mary.

Now, Robinson tells her residents Mary is just there to keep an eye on them and protect them.

The legend of Mary can also be seen on the wall of third floor West. Several years ago, the residents of the third floor painted a mural depicting Mary's death. Robinson says several of her residents have asked if they can paint over it because they think it's scary.

The Shadowlands Haunted Places Index recognizes West Dormitory as one of North Carolina's haunted locations. But even if West truly is haunted, Mary doesn't seem to be causing too much trouble for Elon students — just the occasional fright.



MARIO SAULON | Staff Photographer

The mural on West's third floor depicts the way in which Mary, West's famous ghost, died in the fire of 1923.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO SAULON

Mary has frightened West residents for years but is considered a benevolent ghost, according to Tom Mould.

A cappella groups come together for Speakeasy concert

Jessica Petrocchi
Senior Reporter

Rip_Chord, Elon University's all-male a cappella group, hosted its first Speakeasy concert Jan. 19 at West End Station. Two of Elon's other a cappella groups, Sweet Signatures and Vital Signs, jumped at the opportunity to sing in a fun, casual performance.

To make the deal even more enticing, the three groups entertained their fans free of charge.

"For us, it's not about the money," said Rip_Chord President John Molloy. "It was about bringing all of the groups together and having a good time."

Originally, this show was intended to bring Rip_Chord and an all-female guest group from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Lorelies, together in a single performance. The Lorelies had to cancel, but Rip_Chord decided to keep the event date.

"It was a great chance for all of the Elon a cappella groups to perform together in a really laid back setting," Mol-

loy said.

Performing at a bar was a new feat for all three groups.

"I want there to be a stronger a cappella community on this campus, and I think this is the perfect opportunity to bring all the groups together and do what we all love to do — sing," said sophomore Nick Cook, president of Vital Signs.

Cook said the group loves being able to perform with other a cappella ensembles. He said he thinks the concert will be very special and become a new tradition at Elon.

Sweet Signatures, Elon's all-female a cappella group, performed one mash up and Carrie Underwood's "Blown Away." They will have the opportunity to perform this new addition to their set list at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) later this year. Sweet Signatures was selected among nine other groups to compete in the quarterfinals Jan. 26 at Duke University.

Judging by the packed bar, Elon students agreed this Speakeasy concert was long overdue.



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

Members of Vital Signs sing Gotye's hit song "Somebody That I Used to Know" at West End Station.

"I couldn't have asked for anything better," Molloy said after the show. "We're definitely going to do this again."

Rip_Chord opened and closed the show dressed to fit the Speakeasy theme.

"Lots of suspenders and bow ties," Molloy said.

After each group had gone through at least two songs, Rip_Chord's Molloy and junior Tyler Johnson took the stage to complete a dream of theirs: singing

with the audience. As they began Ben E. King's "Stand By Me," the entire crowd joined in.

Fans filled every corner of the venue, even sitting on the counter to get a better look at the singers.

"I think that bar scene is going to work really well for this event," Molloy said. "This concert is definitely going to have a more grungy feel to it."

Time shifts, gender issues examined in absurdity of 'Cloud Nine' play

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

Theater of the absurd took on a new meaning this week, as Fred Rubeck, chair of the Department of Performing Arts at Elon, debuted Caryl Churchill's 1979 play

"Cloud Nine" in the Black Box Theatre.

The play, which combined cross-dressing, a time jump and a huge helping of food for thought, presented an opportunity to laugh and ponder what people tend to overlook in their daily lives.

Act I, set in British-ruled Africa, introduces Clive, a colonial administrator dedicated to his country, queen and family — a clan with more than its fair share of problems. Infidelity, homosexuality, imperialism and the true nature of a dysfunctional family were touched upon as Clive's family was joined by philandering explorer Harry and their widowed neighbor, Mrs. Saunders.

Act II put the audience through a time machine, setting the scene 25 years ahead. Clive's children, Victoria and Edward, are introduced in the 1980s.

Churchill's play explored the themes of family, love and experiencing life from multiple angles while exploring a concept from the previous act — the family's next

generation in a new decade.

The absurdity of "Cloud Nine" did not come from the themes that drove it but from the actors themselves and the parts they played. In Act I, Clive's wife was played by a man, his son by a woman, his daughter by a doll and his native servant by a white man. In this way, it made traditional pairings, such as husband and wife, seem strange while less conventional pairings, like the explorer Harry and Clive's son, made sense. And once the actors seemed settled into their roles, they switched around for Act II to play new parts.

At the heart of the play, there was the hope the audience would take a second to think about what they watched. After peeling away the costumes, the time periods and even the genders of the actors, the play is about people and the oppression they face from their society, both in the past and present day. The different dimensions of the play acted as aids to help the audience see

ludicrous societal expectations on gender.

The chaos of Churchill's play is simplified by its Black Box setting. Big stages usually require big props, which can distract from the heart of the action. In contrast, the Black Box, with four sets of blinds and a number of moving props, was sparse. This left the cast and their over-the-top personas to fill the empty spaces as a cluttered set could have taken away from the performance Rubeck and the performers offered their audience.

While this play may not be a typical performance one would see at a mainstream theater, it provides an opportunity to see a work that promotes active thinking. As Rubeck points out in his director's notes, there are a number of questions that may be left unanswered that are still worth thinking about. The performers committed to every moment in character and presented a show that made every absurd moment seem exactly as it should be.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Senior Chris Kalfas plays Clive in a production of "Cloud Nine."

Calling all lovers of horror. . .

Stephanie Butzer
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When Alpha Psi Omega, Elon University's theatre honor society, began taking suggestions for the annual One Act Festival, senior Sean Liang, the society's president, submitted Lanie Robertson's play, "The Insanity of Mary Girard." The play focuses on a woman's experiences after her husband commits her to an insane asylum for becoming impregnated with another man's child. Perhaps the scariest part, Liang said, is that the play is based on a true story from 1970 Pennsylvania.

"I'm a huge horror movie fan so it's really fun for me to take something that I love and put that style on a show, especially in theater," said senior Sean Liang.

APO has become a way to allow students to produce their own works and shows. The submitted pieces can be student-written or works that have already been published by professional playwrights.

Liang said he submitted the play because it's a form of theater Elon does not often perform. Elon seemed to be the perfect place to show it because in educational theater, students and faculty like to see as many forms of art, technique and style as they can, he said.

"I really loved the idea of — we don't see it very much — horror in theater," Liang said. "It's hard to do."



Senior Nonye Obichere and The Furies go through the beginning lines of "The Insanity of Mary Girard." Obichere said the rehearsals are genuinely frightening. STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor

After careful consideration, Liang and the

other leaders in APO decided to take on the show.

Fred Rubeck, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, said he is proud of Liang for taking on leadership roles. They worked together on the improv show, Instant Laughter, in the fall. But Rubeck first noticed Liang's talents before Liang even came to Elon. They were first introduced when Liang was a senior in high school and came to Elon to audition for the BFA Acting program.

"There was something special about Sean we noticed from the beginning — a creative and unique quality that would serve him well as a performer," Rubeck said. "It also served him well as a person. He's really grown to be an emotional center to the whole group in the department — a support system and a really good friend."

Creating the nightmare

"The Insanity of Mary Girard" is written to seem like a bad dream. The set consists of a solitary tranquilizing chair. Liang will use a relatively unknown form of Japanese art called butoh, where some actors and actresses wear completely

white makeup and possess grotesque facial expressions and physical features. The play is anything but traditional, Liang said.

He first stumbled across the Japanese art of butoh in his Theatre History class.

"It's everything that I'm interested in," Liang said. "The reason I chose butoh is because it works so well with the nightmare aspect of the play. The play is Mary Girard and then the five Furies that are the inmates."

The Furies, which translate to the goddesses of vengeance in Greek mythology, are meant to disturb the audience.

"There's nothing in this play that actually grounds us in reality," Liang said. "It moves like a dream. To use butoh for [The Furies] to move through the space really takes us to a different realm of reality."

The Furies' white makeup convinces viewers they are not looking at normal people or inmates. The Furies are scripted to move almost in a dance form. Liang said "The Insanity of Mary Girard" could work almost as a musical number.

"It has a lot to do with sound and movement," he said. "The Furies are the body of the show."



Freshman Lauren Richards and sophomore Mercer Lindquist read their edited scripts in preparation for a rehearsal of "The Insanity of Mary Girard." STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor

'The Insanity of Mary Girard' is coming

Liang said he hopes to use butoh as a simplistic explanation of a complicated art form. He loves that the point of butoh is to disturb viewers.

"I love watching an audience's reaction to horror," he said. "Some people go because it's cheap and cheap scares and fun, but it's also the stuff that — and this is one of the reasons why I love 'The Insanity of Mary Girard' — goes a little bit deeper."

Playing the insane

Senior Nonye Obichere plays Mary Girard. She said the art of butoh adds to the Furies' character because the audience cannot tell if they exist in reality or in Mary's mind.

In the play, Girard is supposed to be terrified. Meanwhile, during rehearsal, Obichere is scared out of her mind, which makes the acting that much more real. Unlike Liang, she does not enjoy horror films.

Even though Obichere is excited for the play, she said she is also nervous about the part.

"I've never really played a character like Mary," she said. "I'm usually a showgirl or someone in the back dancing so I wanted the opportunity to play something that I could really work on and use everything that I've learned here."

Obichere has known Liang since their freshman year.

"He's really the perfect person to direct the show because of his love of horror movies and how much he knows about everything scary," Obichere said. "He's just so good at it and so talented."

Liang said the play is not only about fear.

Gender is highlighted in the play as well. There is a lot of culture surrounding Mary's pregnancy with another man's child, especially with the time period. He said a viewer can start to see the gender issues that are relevant to today's society.

"We start to see her break the expectations of what a woman is supposed to be and rebel against her husband," Liang said.

As a professor, Rubeck said he sees a lot of students grow and develop their talents on and off stage. He has watched Liang learn to parlay his unique skills and abilities into something Rubeck believes will serve him well, such as his incorporation of butoh in "The Insanity of Mary Girard."

"It's been a pleasure to watch that grow," Rubeck said. "Part of that is that personal connection he develops with people around him. He's like a light that shines and people are drawn to him."

Preparing for show time

Auditions for "The Insanity of Mary Girard" were held Jan. 4. Obichere recalls her experience with a shiver.

"Sean put me in a chair and blindfolded me and had everyone else who was auditioning to be the Furies," she said. "At first I was like, 'This might be kind of scary, but I know everyone in this room. It's not a big deal.' And then they started getting closer and touching me and one person was praying. Crazy things were happening."

After Fake Break, the cast and crew will have two and a half weeks until opening night Feb. 21. Liang said this would give the performers time to learn the script and establish the movements in their muscles. Then they will add costumes and

props and eventually light and sound.

Liang is expecting mixed reactions from students, faculty and community members. He said some will feel repulsed, others will be disturbed and others will love it the originality.

"I have to take into account that a lot of other people don't necessarily have the same interest as me, so as a group, we're trying to reach out and not just disturb an audience," Liang said. "I told the actors, 'That's not your job. That's not what

we're here for. We're trying to explore these characters."

Obichere said she has told her friends if they enjoy the television series "American Horror Story," they will love the show.

Aside from the humorous full-length APO show, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," "The Insanity of Mary Girard" will be Liang's final show at Elon.

He hopes to go out with a gasp and a scream.



Senior Sean Liang instructs the performers how each Fury will taunt Mary Girard as she tries to understand her predicament.

STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor

CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Liang played a servant and a young girl in the Jan. 19 Department of Performing Arts' "Cloud Nine."

Josh Wick: Lighting the way for Elon women's basketball



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Elon University assistant women's basketball coach Josh Wick (center) is in his second year with the team and brings several years of college basketball coaching experience with him to the bench for the Phoenix.

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

In 2011, Charlotte Smith was hired to take over the Elon University women's basketball program when former head coach Karen Barefoot left to take the same job at Old Dominion University. As with any team, she could not do it all alone, so she brought in an accomplished staff of assistants. One of these assistants is Josh Wick,

who brought more than a decade of coaching experience to Elon. Despite a late start into the game, Wick has become an integral part of the Elon basketball family.

Wick grew up in Florida where basketball was not the main thing.

"Soccer and baseball were, so when I got up to North Carolina I realized how passionate people were [about basketball]," he said.

He started playing basketball in fifth

grade. After high school he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he took a break from basketball until he was presented with the opportunity to coach a recreational league team with a friend.

"I fell in love with it again, just caught the coaching bug," Wick said.

While a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, Wick took over the boys' program at Cresset Christian Academy in Durham, where

he led the team for three seasons.

"I realized I wanted to coach and not teach, and got on staff with Coach [Sylvia] Hatchell at Carolina as a video coordinator for three years," he said. "And from there I bounced around to a few other assistant spots [at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and East Tennessee State University] and now I'm back with Coach Smith and blessed to be a part of her staff."

Wick made the transition from his natu-

ral men's game to the women's game before moving to the college ranks, and describes the transition as relatively seamless.

"I felt like attention to detail on the women's side was much greater," he said. "It's two different ways to play the game, but I had a lot of fun with both groups."

At East Tennessee State, the Buccaneers won two conference championships under his watch and gave Wick the opportunity to coach in the NCAA Tournament twice, which he described as "a great experience for me and for the players."

An old friendship led Wick away from East Tennessee State and into the confines of Alumni Gym.

"I met Coach Smith at Carolina when I was on staff and she was an assistant coach and I really admired her," he said. "We had a good friendship and we stayed in touch, and when she got this job she called me and the rest is history".

Wick is very pleased with his current role guiding the maroon and gold.

"(Elon) is a special place," he said. "I love that it's an academic school and our standards are very high. The type of people who we recruit are exceptional students and exceptional people."

Not only is Wick happy to be at Elon, his players are glad to have him.

"Coach Wick is a fun coach, he's easy to talk to, and his specialty is that he perfects all of our shots...he's really good at that" said sophomore forward Sam Coffer. "He's a jokester. He's fun, but he can also be serious when he needs to be."

Some of that success and seriousness has arrived this season. Although the Phoenix started its season 4-7, the team had a six-game Southern Conference win streak (as of press time) that ran their record to 10-7. For Wick, he believes that much of the success is simply due to the fact that he and his fellow coaches have a year under their belts.

"Last year, it was tough to get (the team) to buy in," he said. "New coach, new system — it's a transition period. This year, the players will tell you they've bought in a little more."

Wick is pleased with what he has seen out of his team this year and believes the sky is the limit for the Phoenix in 2013.

"I think this team is definitely a cham-



Wick (far right) was on staff at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill when he met Charlotte Smith (standing with arm raised), who was an assistant coach at the time. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

ampionship contender this year," he said. "This team has what it takes to get there and to win. These kids have a great opportunity."

"I think this team is definitely a championship contender this year," he said. "This team has what it takes to get there and to win. These kids have a great opportunity."

Being part of a postseason trip would be significant not only for Wick, who has already been to the dance, but also for Elon overall.

"It would mean a great deal," he said. "The SoCon is a very competitive league from top to bottom. It's exciting for us — we try to visualize our goal".

Wherever his career takes him, Wick still considers it amazing that he is even at this level of basketball.

"Soccer was the first sport I played and I thought I would be in love with soccer forever and ever," he said. "But then basketball came along and really changed my perspective on things."

Though Wick is fully committed to Elon women's basketball, he still enjoys some time away from the gym, mostly to hit the links for a round of golf.

Women's Basketball Schedule

Home game: ●

Away game: ●

January 26 @ Davidson - 2 p.m.

January 28 vs. Georgia Southern - 7 p.m.

February 2 @ Appalachian State - 2 p.m.

February 4 vs. Western Carolina - 7 p.m.

February 9 @ UT-Chattanooga - 5 p.m.

February 11 @ Sanford - 8 p.m.

February 16 @ UNC-Greensboro - 2 p.m.

February 20 vs. Wofford - 7 p.m.

February 23 @ Furman - 2 p.m.

February 25 vs. Appalachian State - 7 p.m.

March 2 vs. Davidson - 2 p.m.

March 4 @ Georgia Southern - 7 p.m.

No longer Green

Men's basketball teammates share bond since high school

Junior forward Lucas Troutman (left) and junior guard Sebastian Koch of the Elon men's basketball team have been playing together for almost five years, starting at Christ School in Arden, N.C.

Zachary Horner
Web Editor

Two guys from the same high school playing on the same college basketball team isn't too strange. But two Elon University men's basketball players have a bit of a different story.

Christ School, a private preparatory high school in Arden, outside of Asheville, is sort of like a military school. Just sort of. There's no actual military training.

The students have a rigorous schedule that involves waking up for a 7:15 a.m. breakfast with classes starting at 8:30 a.m. Class ends around 2:40 p.m., and after 45 minutes for meetings, a mandatory two-hour "sports period" follows. If you're not interested in sports, you can invest time in drama, yearbook or music classes instead of athletics. Then there's a 6 p.m. 90-minute dinner.

Christ School students are also a bit different in that they're all male.

"It's definitely weird, different, if you're not used to that," said Elon junior guard and Christ School alumnus Sebastian Koch. "The positive thing about that is that you build strong friendships with some of the guys. You see them every day, you're stuck with them at one place. You'll

probably have friends forever."

He's quick to add, "But having no girls there is definitely something really different."

Junior forward Lucas Troutman, who chuckled when he heard the initial question, says Christ School had a sister school.

"That was like several hours away, so that didn't count," he said.

Troutman and Koch came to Elon in the fall of 2010 after spending time as teammates during their junior and senior years at Christ School. They built a strong bond that has carried over and brought success to the Phoenix in their three years on the team.

Backgrounds of difference

Troutman hails from Belton, S.C., a city that held 4,134 inhabitants at time of the 2010 census.

Troutman had attended Belton-Honea Path High School, which has competitive cheerleading teams and marching bands, but the basketball program was, well, not so good.

Meanwhile, Koch had moved to South Carolina from Munich, Germany, before his 10th grade year and began attending and playing basketball for Wren High School in Piedmont,

S.C., about 20 minutes from Belton.

"When [Sebastian] came over to Wren, I had heard about him and knew about him, but didn't really know that much about him or anything," Troutman said. "We decided to get together and play on the same AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] team."

Koch and Troutman joined the Carolina Raptors, a prolific AAU basketball team that counts North Carolina State University men's basketball alum C.J. Williams, Appalachian State University football senior wide receiver Tony Washington and Western Carolina junior men's basketball guard Trey Sumler as alumni.

The two heard about Christ School through the Raptors' coach, Walt Clement.

"We just kind of formed, it just happened. Nice coincidence, I guess," Koch says. "It was my first summer for AAU, then my mom found out about it, the Carolina Raptors, then I got to know Lucas and we played together there and we got to know Christ School and we ended up going after that year."

The two applied and were accepted and began playing for the Christ School Greenies for their junior year.

"What's a Greenie?"

That's right, the Greenies.

"It's not necessarily a mascot," Troutman said. "The way they've always described it, the definition, is something like 'the man's man.' It's actually a long exaggerated definition that they've given it."

Koch said he didn't know what a "Greenie" was until his senior year.

Christ School may have an arguably odd nickname, but their basketball program is no laughing matter. Led by head coach David Gaines, who on Jan. 12 earned his 400th career win in 15 years with the school, the Greenies won six North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association state championships in seven years (2005, 2007-2011). Troutman and Koch were part of the 2009 and 2010 championship teams.

The alumni list for those teams isn't shabby either. Current Duke University forwards Mason and Marshall Plumlee, University of South Carolina's Eric Smith and Lakeem Jackson, College of Charleston guard Trevonté Dixon and Harvard College's Dee Giger (who also played on the Carolina Raptors) were all part of those championship teams.

"That was like the dream team of high school," Troutman says. "It was a lot of fun

playing with them. And within those two years, with that success, that was something in my first high school that was just a dream, it was something that could never be reached, it wasn't really possible."

It didn't take long for the 6-10, lanky big man to find out things were different.

On his first day in practice, Troutman told his

The team laughed and replied, "We usually win state. If we don't win state, we're mad."

"And I'm sitting there thinking, 'This is crazy, this doesn't make any sense,'" Troutman said. "Then once you start playing with them, they weren't lying. It's a heck of a team to play for."

But Koch points out their opponents weren't too shabby either.

"We played against Oak Hill [Academy, Va.], Word of God [Christian Academy in Raleigh] and Findlay Prep [from Henderson, Nv.], and those are future NBA players as well."

Oak Hill is responsible for players such as Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo and Denver Nuggets guard Ty Lawson. Word of God produced Washington Wizards guard John Wall and current N.C. State forward C.J. Leslie, while Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson and Boston Celtics guard Avery Bradley came from Findlay Prep.

Elon head coach Matt Matheny was impressed with not only Koch and Troutman's talent, but with this competition.

"They were both playing against very good competition and they were both not only holding their own but [were] some of the better players on a great high school team," he said.

During this time, Troutman and Koch's friendship grew.

"In high school, he was a day student and I was a boarding student, so we didn't get to hang out a whole lot," Troutman said. "But every once in a while, on the weekend, I would go stay with him at his house and that would help me get away from campus and have fun. But we've always been good friends since high school and been able to hang out together and do stuff."

Maroon and gold

Koch was the first player Matheny had actually heard of, having seen clips of the tall guard on the Internet, but he went for Troutman first during the summer before their senior year.

"We recruited him pretty heavily," Matheny said. "We went to Christ School for an open gym to sit down with him and watch him play. He played well and we knew we were going to recruit him. But Sebastian played pretty well, too."

Matheny was initially impressed with Troutman's size and ability to run while Koch had shooting ability.

Troutman was equally impressed, but by something else.

"When they came to recruit, a lot of the other coaches would come in just a T-shirt or just a polo, some shorts or khakis," he said. "No, these guys came in suits every single time. You'd think they were the mafia sitting over there, looking over there all the time seeing them. They recruited me hard and they were



Troutman (31) was named the men's basketball Southern Conference Player of the Week for the week of Nov. 27.



teammates, "Y'all always get into the tournament, to get into states."

"Playing on a team like Christ School gives you better competition to play against," he said.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

As of Jan. 20, Koch held the second-best three-point shooting percentage in the Southern Conference.

really nice to me throughout the whole way."

Troutman committed to Elon in the fall of 2009, but Koch had not been sold yet.

"Whenever I came on my official visit here, I think Lucas had already committed," Koch says. "And I came in mid-October some time and the guys showed me a great time. The coaches were awesome, I got to meet a couple of the regular students and I just fell in love with it, so it was not a hard choice to commit."

In the midst of yet another championship season, these two great friends ended up committing to the same place, but their recruiting process was completely separate.

"It wasn't like a package deal," Matheny said.

For Koch, however, it was definitely an added bonus.

"It was perfect, I guess," he said. "In high school, we were just joking around. 'How cool would it be if we were in the same place together?' There was this opportunity but I wasn't sure yet if I wanted to go here. But then on my visit, I was like, 'This was an awesome place to be, and I already know one person for sure here,' so that made it a lot easier."

Koch and Troutman were part of a big class for Matheny. It was his first full recruiting class

junior forwards Ryley Beaumont and Eghoesa Edomwonyi (a Rice University transfer), were crucial.

“Those guys believed in what we envisioned here before anybody,” Matheny says. “[Senior forward] Roger Dugas can be included in that. If you look at that, presently the junior class, we started recruiting those guys and encouraging them to come. They said yes even before we played our first game. Jack after the first season, Gosa after the first season, but Ryley, Lucas and Sebastian said yes in the fall. It says a lot about how they feel about this school and how they feel about what we envisioned.”

Running the show

Neither Koch nor Troutman started a single game during their freshman seasons but both contributed solid minutes off the bench.

Against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Feb. 19, 2011, Koch hit six three-pointers on the way to a career-high 23 points. Troutman also notched a career-high 23, against Western Carolina University Feb. 2 that year.

They were behind a pretty impressive start-



ing lineup. Chris Long, Drew Spradlin and Terrence Birdette suited up at guard, while Daniel Watts and Scott Grable lined up in the post. Beaumont also got some starts down low and Isenbarger contributed key minutes off the bench.

“That was a big class that left after our freshman year,” Koch said. “So [in our sophomore year], we were exposed to a lot of playing time and starting to learn how we can put the team on our backs, and I think this year, we took another big step in becoming better and better and becoming leaders of the team.”

When the recruiting class of 2010 was brought in, Matheny spoke about the potential the group had. Was that potential realized?

For the head coach, absolutely.

“If you went back and watched film of them in their freshman year, and you looked at them now, they have both come a long, long way, and they’ve come a long way physically, in terms of their maturity, emotionally and the way they’re playing,” Matheny said. “They’re veterans now. They still both have a high ceiling, they still both have room to improve quite a bit. They have progressed as we had hoped they would.”

Koch has developed into a bit of an

anomaly at the guard position. He’s a 6-foot-8-inches shooting guard/small forward-type player who can handle the ball but can also drive to the rim.

On Jan. 5 against Princeton University, he had a highlight reel-type dunk in which he drove the lane past a few Tigers’ defenders and slammed the ball home, something he hasn’t done much in his career. Dunks are usually reserved for Troutman.

“(Koch’s) versatility is difficult to match up with,” Matheny said. “And the more he takes it to the rim, like you saw against Princeton, the more difficult he is going to be to guard. Thinking back to the first video clips I saw on the Internet, you see a 6-6, 6-7 guard that can handle the guard (position), that played the point guard (position) growing up in Germany. And now we’re playing him at the three, and he’s got skills of a

smaller guard. That’s pretty difficult to match up with. It’s really good for us to have a guy that skilled as our connector.”

Troutman has a special nickname for Koch.

“He’s always been a heck of a shooter,”

Troutman said of his close friend. “Ever since he’s come here, it’s been ‘Lights Out Koch.’ Sitting outside, he can knock down a three anywhere.”

It’s true. “Basty,” as some of his teammates and Coach Matheny refer to him, is arguably the best three-point shooter on the Phoenix, if not the Southern Conference. As of Jan. 21, Koch sat second in the conference in three-point field goal percentage, hitting 43.4 percent.

Koch called Troutman’s game “very smooth.”

“He has an unguardable hook shot,” he said. “It’s the truth. He shoots a good percentage from the paint. Most of the time when they give it to him in the paint, and they don’t double (team him), we get a basket.”

Did he have that hook shot in high school? Lucas laughs.

“In high school, I’d say he dunked more because it was a whole lot easier to dunk back then because we had littler defenders,” Koch said. “He definitely had the hook shot there too, but I remember more of Lucas dunking.”

As individuals, they lead

Earlier this season, Troutman was named the Most Outstanding Player of the EA Sports Maui Invitational Regional Games, an in-season tournament hosted at Alumni Gym. The Phoenix defeated Colgate University and Florida Atlantic University Nov. 18 and 19, and the big man was honored after notching 32 points, 17 rebounds and 11 blocks over the weekend.

Following the win over Florida Atlantic, Isenbarger said: “Just watching him block shots and be such a presence on the defensive end, it was fun to watch and then he did it on the offensive end too. Around the bucket, he’s better than anybody in our conference. We’re happy to have a guy like Lucas. Being a veteran, he’s also stepped up in leadership and teaching the younger guys how to play and how to practice hard.”

Matheny has been especially pleased with the confidence Troutman has begun to show this season.

“He’s been a lot more consistent, and we

continue to push him,” he says. “He has really exhibited coachability, this year even more than years past. When we push him and prod him and encourage him, he sort of takes it upon his shoulders to listen, to do the best he can and to do it more often in the past.”

But more than just their individual play, the head coach has been quite pleased with the leadership the duo has exhibited.

They need to. The seniors on the team, guards Josh Bonney, Aaron Smith and John Moody and forward Roger Dugas, usually do not get a lot of playing time, so normally it’s Troutman, Koch, Beaumont, Isenbarger and sophomore guard Austin Hamilton on the floor. Troutman, Beaumont and Isenbarger are the captains, but Koch still factors in.

“We expect them to continue to lead us,” Matheny says. “It’s a collective leadership group that we have, and we ask them to individually do as much as they can, and also to sacrifice for the betterment of the team and we expect that to continue.”

Headed toward that goal

Troutman and Koch have experience of what it takes to win a championship. While playing with Christ School, they won two state championships. Their head coach was an assistant on a Davidson College team that won 310 games, 10 SoCon division titles, five SoCon tournament championships (NCAA Tournament trips for each one) and four postseason National Invitational Tournament appearances.

Yes, that includes the year former Davidson and current Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry surprised even the college basketball gods by putting up astronomical numbers to push the Wildcats to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in 2008 as a sophomore.

So the “championship experience” is there. But accomplishing it? That’s the goal.

“Win the Southern Conference,” Troutman said at the start of the season when asked what it meant to “Elevate Elon,” a common catchphrase around the program the past couple of years. “That is our key and what we’re going after, is winning the North Division and then winning the Southern Conference and getting to the NCAA Tournament.”

Quite central to that is togetherness of the team, multiple players have said.

Lucky for Koch and Troutman, they’ve been practicing that for nearly six years now.

THE LAST WORD: America, it's not you, it's me

The United States of America. The greatest country on Earth, or so we Americans like to believe. The land of free speech, free religion, even freedom fries. Freedom is everywhere, giving Americans an immense amount of pride in their nation.



Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

At home, I would certainly call myself happy to be an American. But proud? Not so much. Place me abroad, and I feel like I'm back in my first day of high school, trying to hide what a dork I used to be in middle school. I become reluctant to admit I'm American to the locals of other nations. I have been abroad a handful of times

before, so why is it now, on the Winter Term Holocaust Journey, that I have become so ashamed to admit that I'm American?

Is it America's need to insert itself into every country's problems that makes me so embarrassed? Let's be honest, if Earth were a high school, the United States would be both the obese bully shoving kids into lockers and the school gossip carrying around a pink, bound Burn Book.

Let's face it: The United States has not been the most peaceful country – internationally or internally – in the last few years.

Amsterdam's lax laws on social issues like the legalization of cannabis and prostitution are widely known. While we were there, my class's guide was quick to point out the country's no-tolerance stance on gun possession. The Dutch are charged immediately if they are found with a firearm.

Whether it was my imagination or not, I cannot help but think she was referencing the number of shootings we have had in our country in the past year. No one can argue the United States has seen better, if not more peaceful, days.

Perhaps I'm more embarrassed of Americans than the country itself. As a people, we do not exactly have a healthy and positive stereotype. Loud, ignorant and large are some of the first words that come to mind. Although none of these words could be used to describe me, I still fear being associated with them.

One thing I can't deny is my lack of proficiency in foreign languages. When we have visitors in our country, it is expected they speak English. Yet when we travel abroad and the tables are turned, every interaction is also spoken in English because our society is overwhelmingly unilingual.

It would be unfair for me to blame America completely for my incompetency. While learning a second language doesn't have anywhere near the importance in the U.S. that it does in other countries, Elon offers plenty of language classes. Instead of taking advantage of this opportunity, I chose to meet the bare minimum to save my GPA.

While I could be ashamed of any one or all of these American stereotypes, I think there is a bigger issue than any of those. We are a country of excess – big portions, big people, big personalities. These qualities allow many of us to live with a "glass half-full" opinion that no other country can compete with ours.

America, it's not you, it's me. I simply am not a big enough personality or a "glass half-full" kind of guy to be proud to hail from the greatest country on Earth.

Inaugural Word Search

Can you find all of these presidential terms?

Obama	P	I	F	Q	O	V	Z	W	K	L	I	S	M	T	V	T	C	B	M	
Presidential	V	O	X	E	Y	S	E	V	C	B	N	A	R	I	N	H	K	J	P	R
Washington	N	O	T	G	N	I	H	S	A	W	A	S	E	N	Q	F	V	O	G	M
Capitol	E	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	R	G	U	H	T	W	U	R	E	P	I	D
Biden	V	C	V	E	F	C	V	C	A	W	G	A	D	F	O	V	D	B	A	U
Malia	J	V	I	P	E	F	D	Z	B	J	U	U	N	M	F	O	C	M	N	E
Democrat	M	W	U	F	R	C	W	Q	F	C	R	O	O	G	H	W	E	I	K	N
Oath	M	T	A	K	F	E	Y	Y	G	O	A	H	C	T	O	R	T	O	O	O
Inauguration	H	I	Y	R	U	O	S	D	Z	T	T	B	E	J	I	E	S	I	C	S
America	T	B	C	I	G	R	L	I	H	S	I	L	S	C	D	R	T	D	A	B
Speech	L	B	F	H	N	D	A	A	D	Q	O	O	A	S	N	C	K	U	P	K
Michelle	G	R	C	K	E	P	T	M	V	E	N	J	T	M	E	G	E	I	I	A
United States	O	N	M	Z	R	L	P	K	Y	O	N	A	U	L	L	N	B	O	T	Y
Freedom	R	W	K	H	A	V	L	H	O	X	T	T	E	W	M	E	X	P	O	K
Flag	K	K	V	M	C	C	L	E	W	E	T	E	I	L	D	Z	J	G	L	G
Oval Office	G	M	A	R	U	E	I	J	S	U	R	M	J	A	E	S	V	D	O	S
Sasha	S	B	A	L	D	S	E	R	V	J	G	U	L	U	L	B	I	D	E	N
Second	O	J	N	L	F	T	W	P	Z	E	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	E	X
Term	H	F	O	S	I	K	U	K	S	N	Y	H	U	B	N	F	G	A	L	F
Reelection	D	V	D	Z	H	A	Z	U	T	Z	J	Q	M	E	S	Z	N	D	F	X
Barack																				

Top Tweets

@xoGossipSquirrel

Spotted: Girl tripping over ice while trying to instagram it. Careful in those heeled boots, honey. XOXO, Gossip Squirrel

@HeyAlexHay

Elon gets excited over a couple inches of snow. Study abroad trips walking thru several feet of snow collectively not impressed

@HeadPhoenix

Critter's Elon Cares joke: what do you get when you cross an elephant and a rhino? El-if-rhi-no. Gonna teach grandson. He'll kill in daycare

@alyson_leonard

Im too in love with Elon to care about any other college acceptances. #classof2017

@enpsawyer

I miss the days of waking up now, getting brunch from Nades @elonuniversity, and then reminiscing about the night. #LongLiveElon



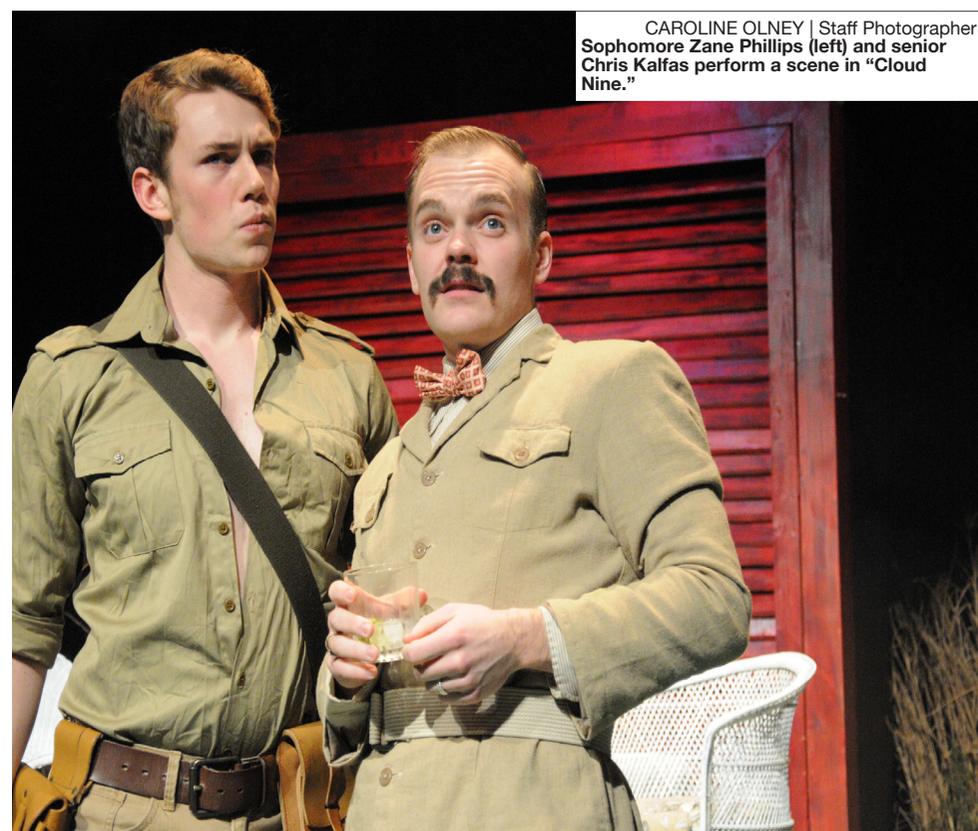
Top Photos



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor
First Lady Michelle Obama addresses the crowd at the Kids' Inaugural Concert Jan. 19 in Washington, D.C.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer
Elon senior Jessi Rexroad dances to a song by Ingrid Michaelson as part of Elon's "Tapped Out!" performance Jan. 18.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer
Sophomore Zane Phillips (left) and senior Chris Kalfas perform a scene in "Cloud Nine."

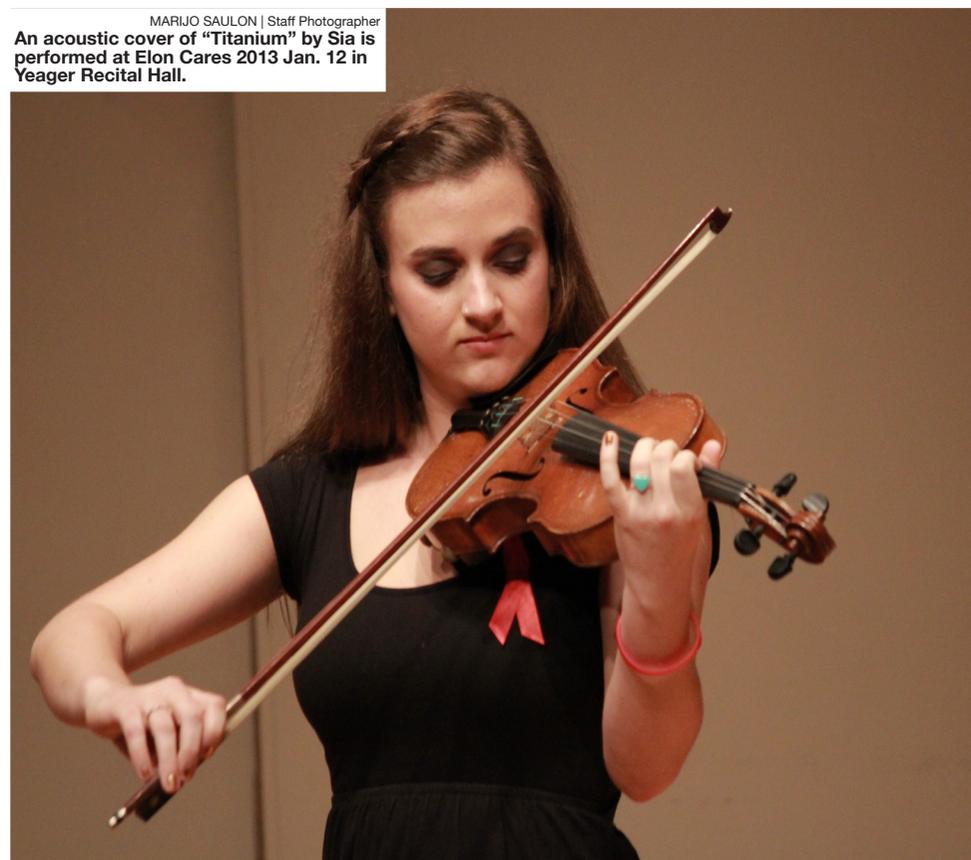
FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Sophomore guard Austin Hamilton (10) dishes a pass to a teammate during Elon's Jan. 6 loss to Princeton University.



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

An acoustic cover of "Titanium" by Sia is performed at Elon Cares 2013 Jan. 12 in Yeager Recital Hall.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Miss America 2013 Mallory Hagan hugs Samyra Hurlock, who celebrated her 3rd birthday at the Day of Service event Jan. 19 in Washington, D.C.



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