

# THE PENDULUM

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## Elon exceeds ADA obligations

### Life after college: New graduates struggle with unemployment

Megan Larcher and Jessica Leano  
Reporter and Senior Reporter

College graduates, with freshly printed diplomas in hand, often encounter mixed messages regarding their future employment. Headlines blare with disheartening messages, including “Unemployment Rate Up For Men and College Grads,” “Twice as Many College Grads in Minimum Wage Jobs as 5 Years Ago,” and, more bluntly, “Is College Worth It?”

According to the Huffington Post, the unemployment rate of college graduates with at least a bachelor’s degree is half that of people with only a high school diploma. The national unemployment rate is currently at 6.7, though it has steadily decreased since peaking in 2010. The threat of unemployment after graduation has a range of effects on Elon University graduates as well as current students.

In the midst of papers, projects and exams, future employment may not be at the forefront of most students’ thoughts. However, some students already feel the pressure to take on multiple jobs to stave off future unemployment.

“College isn’t really an option for me without having jobs,” senior Kendall Gardiner said, “I pay for my own food, gas, insurance and clothes, so it is critical that I have steady income coming in.”

Gardiner switched her major during her sophomore year to Strategic Communications to increase her marketability. She based her decision to work in public relations partially to ensure future job security.

Instead of basing their majors on passion or chasing dreams, college students like Gardiner change their majors to prevent future unemployment. A May 2013



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Sophomore Shane Dittmar and his guide dog, Chevelle, spend much of their time together in the Performing Arts Center, but outside passersby pose problems.

Michael Bodley  
News Editor

Nearly one in 10 of the Elon University students roaming the school’s brick pathways have some sort of disability, a number that is in keeping with the national average of college students living with disabilities: 10-12 percent.

Under the Americans Living with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, both public and private universities must make certain accommodations in order to not

discriminate against someone living with a physical or mental disability. Though the university is in a state of slow growth under the Elon Commitment, sections of campus like the Historic Neighborhood were built long before the ADA took effect almost a quarter century ago.

According to Brad Moore, director of planning, design and construction management, the university must continue to look back while it plans for the future by renovating previously-existing spaces to accommodate the needs of students liv-

ing with disabilities on campus. ADA regulations demand 20 percent of the cost of a renovation be devoted to improving handicap accessibility, which starts in the parking lot.

“Whether we’re renovating an existing space or building something new, accessibility options start off in the parking lot, with a portion of spaces reserved for handicapped individuals,” Moore said. “From there, we’re looking at everything

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# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>16</b> "Living Downstream" movie screening KOBK 211 7 p.m.	<b>17</b> Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert McCrary Theatre 7:30 p.m.	<b>18</b> Baseball vs. Appalachian State Latham Park 6:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> Softball at East Carolina Greenville, N.C. 1 p.m.
<b>20</b> Men's Golf vs. Southern Conference Championship Pinehurst, N.C. 8 p.m.	<b>21</b> Easter holiday No classes held.	<b>22</b> "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero" screening LaRose Digital Theatre 7 p.m.	<b>23</b> Immigrant Rights Discussion Numen Lumen Pavilion 7:30 p.m.	<b>24</b> Elon Combined Choirs Concert McCrary Theatre 7:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> Women's Track and Field Outdoor Championships Spartanburg, S.C. 8 p.m.	<b>26</b> 2014 Black Excellence Awards TBA 6:00 p.m.
<b>27</b> Softball vs. Samford Hunt Park 1:00 p.m.	<b>28</b> LASO General Body Meetings La Cocina, Carlton 7:30 p.m.	<b>29</b> SURF Day No classes held.	<b>30</b> Softball vs. North Carolina Central Hunt Park 6:00 p.m.			

## THE PENDULUM

*Established 1974*

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## DISABILITY

from cover

that leads into the building, from the slope of the sidewalk to the size of the door openings. It all has to be handicap-accessible.”

Sophomore Shane Dittmar doesn't like to call his leber congenital amaurosis a disability, but he's one of the more frequent visitors to Coordinator of Disability Services Susan Wise's office which is tucked away in a first-floor corner of Duke.

But Dittmar has never seen the office or Wise. The very detail that defines his life prevents him from seeing the accommodations made for him: Dittmar is blind. But he's felt the presence of a host of helpers, from Wise planning possible accommodations for him before he ever put in an application to Elon University

in Fall 2011, to Physical Plant employees installing braille versions of campus signs.

But that's not to say it's a perfect system. When, the Fine Arts Learning Community moved to the Global Neighborhood this year from its previous home on first-floor Virginia, Dittmar moved with it, and he now has to navigate elevators and an “annoying” common room with Phoenix card swipes separating him from his friends on both sides of the hall.

But the Global Neighborhood makes more sense to Dittmar than older buildings like Carlton.

“Some of the buildings make sense, and some just make no sense at all,” he said. “You have doors hidden behind stairwells and numbers that don't follow in the logical order.”

When he's run into such problems, Dittmar knows Wise is only a phone call away, and she works with Moore and

the Physical Plant to address issues affecting Dittmar as quickly as possible. Once, while navigating a little-used section of the Center for the Arts, Dittmar discovered an entire hallway devoid of the braille markings that help him get around. A chain of phone calls and a couple of weeks later, he revisited to find new Braille markers lining every door of the hallway.

“Elon as a whole has really been just incredibly responsive to my needs,” he said. “I certainly don't try to be pushy or make more of a big deal of it than it is, but when I have concerns, they're addressed with speed, and that means a lot to one student.”

Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs, admitted it can be challenging for Elon to not only meet, but also exceed, the standards of the ADA, but she said it's a worthwhile cause.

“It can be difficult, challenging and, sometimes, expensive when planning residence life initiatives to make sure students with disabilities are accommodated,” Book said. “But it's so important.”

The 9 percent of Elon students living with a disability aren't always as obvious at Dittmar walking with his guide dog, Chevelle, around campus. Many of them have mental disabilities ranging from ADHD to depression.

Every student with a mental disability at Elon is asked to register with Disability Services. As almost every class syllabus indicates in the fine print toward the bottom, “Students with disabilities should see Disability Services in Duke 208 in order to create a plan to best address their academic needs.”

It's a phrase burned into the minds of most Elon students who see it over and over from class to class, but that doesn't mean they're necessarily as aware as the should be of students living with disabilities on campus and how to best live and learn alongside them.

Ever since Dittmar and his guide dog were matched a little more than a month ago, students have come up and petted the working service animal, which can be a hazard for the visually-impaired person who depends on the dog to safely negotiate hazards on campus and off.

“It's almost unbelievable how ignorant people can be, sometimes,” he said. “When an animal is working, on duty, touching it or calling out its name isn't only not appropriate, but it's dangerous.”

Colleges throughout the country have sought the best ways to raise awareness of students with disabilities living on campus, from peer mentoring programs to education implemented into ‘101’ classes to campus-wide action by the administration when an incident of bias occurs.

But according to Dittmar, the majority of the “honor” of educating his peers falls squarely on his shoulders.

“You can sit there all day and lecture students on how to talk to, how to treat students with disabilities, but it's easy to do if you're not the one disabled yourself,” he said. “I can best tell people how exactly how they ought to treat me, what's OK and what's not, because I live this every single day.”



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Though Dittmar estimates he costs the university much more than the average student, Book said Elon is invested in the success of all of its students.

## ELON GRADS

from cover

study from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce revealed that students in non-technical majors are less likely to find work after graduation, with law and public policy majors reaching a 9.2 percent unemployment rate and the arts reaching a 9.8 percent unemployment rate.

Regardless of discipline, with an undergraduate degree, the likelihood of unemployment decreases. According to the United States Department of Labor Bureau, in February 2014 the unemployment rate for those 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree and higher was 3.4 percent. Although this number is significantly lower than that of people

without a college degree, it is important to note that these numbers do not necessarily represent recent college graduates coming straight out of school.

The concept of unemployment perplexes even those soon entering, or already in the labor force. Taylor Binnix, a 2013 alumna, left Elon and moved back home without a full-time job. However, after returning to a part-time job, she was unsure as to whether or not she should classify herself as unemployed when filling out forms.

"I probably considered myself unemployed even though I had a part-time job at a restaurant," she explained. "Specifically speaking, I was employed, but being a college graduate, I felt unemployed."

Binnix's uncertainty regarding her unemployment status exemplifies the need

for an evolving definition of the economic term, especially in light of graduates living at home with part-time jobs, taking a gap year to travel or preparing for graduate school. Without a full-time job to support themselves, those graduates are not fully employed, but do not necessarily consider themselves unemployed.

Associate Professor of Economics Jennifer Platania clarified the meaning of "unemployed" as it relates to recent college graduates like Binnix.

"To be considered unemployed, a person needs to be not working [at all] and actively seeking employment," Platania said. "Those working part-time are still considered employed, although they may be 'under-employed' — another measure, different from unemployed."

### Searching for jobs

Assistant Professor of Economics Mark Kurt reinforced Platania's explanation of the word "unemployed." According to his interpretation of the definition, recent graduates like Binnix count as unemployed and in the labor force, if they are actively searching and filling out applications for a full-time job.

"If [college graduates] are actively searching for employment within the last four weeks from the most recent national employment survey date, they are unemployed," Kurt said. "If they say they are not searching, they are not counted as part of the labor force which is all employed plus all unemployed."

The number of graduates who report themselves as not searching will likely



FILE PHOTO BY UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The Class of 2013 left Elon to marginally worse employment options than those the Class of 2014 is expected to inherit. Majors in the arts, one of the worst job prospects, face a 9.8 percent unemployment rate.

have no effect on the national unemployment rate. As a result, the pool of graduates without full-time jobs will not contribute to an overall increase in the national unemployment rate, at least within their first year out of school, if they earn money from a part-time job or intentionally hold off on applying or accepting a full-time position.

On a smaller scale, Elon University's 2012 Cap and Gown Report breaks down the overall percentage of graduates employed. In the School of Communications, 18 percent of graduated students are seeking employment, while in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, only 9 percent of students are seeking employment, and 83 percent are employed or enrolled in graduate programs. This raises the question of students' major choices and job security after graduation. The choice between

practicality and pursuing a dream often is influenced by the worries of employment.

"On a personal level, it is very important to me to be doing something that I love, regardless of how much I am making," Gardiner said. "However, the practical side of me knows that financial security is 100 percent necessary after I graduate because I will start to have to pay back a significant amount of loans."

While unemployment rates for recent college graduates have dropped since the recession, a recent U.S. News study shows that twice as many college graduates are working in minimum wage jobs as they were five years ago. As of 2012, 284,000 college graduates are working at or below the minimum wage, a number that doubles the pre-recession low of 127,000 in 2006.

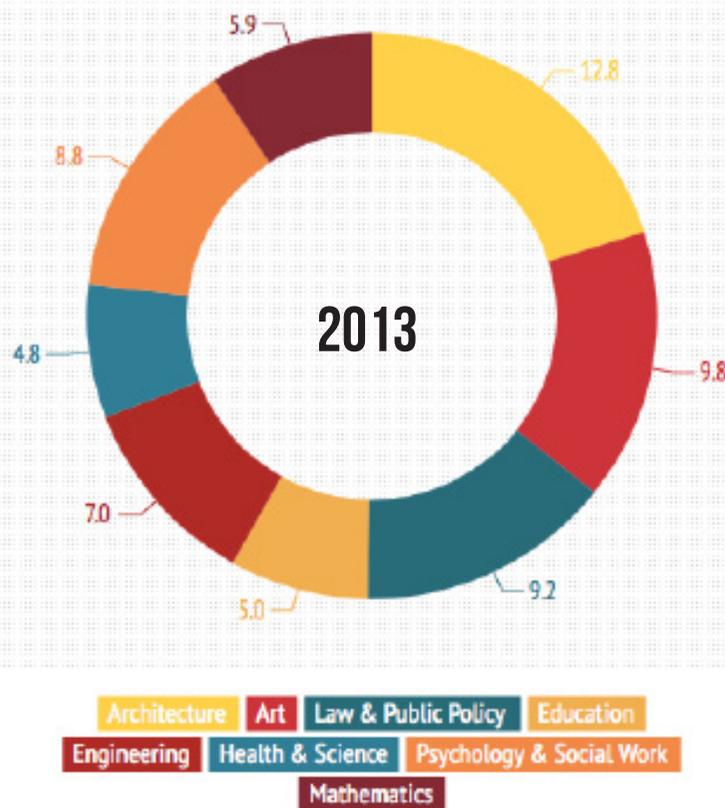
The current national minimum wage is set at \$7.25 per hour. Economists have



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Employees in the Student Professional Development Center aim to help their peers find employment.

## Unemployment Rates for Recent College Graduates by Major



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN DEMARIA | Design Chief

said paying off college loans, can be difficult with the average student borrowing more than \$20,000 per year for an undergraduate degree. Those planning to go on to earn post-graduate degrees can expect far greater loans.

According to 2013 data released by the federal government's Household Debt and Credit report, the number of non-dischargeable student loans hit a record high of \$1.08 trillion last year. Of those loans, \$124.3 billion are now considered delinquent, meaning the student in debt has been unable to pay them off and can't in the foreseeable future.

Unlike other forms of loans, student loans are in most cases unable to be defaulted on, even if the student in question declares bankruptcy, leaving some in a tricky and debt-ridden situation.

Many of the students and recent graduates struggling to pay off loans are one of the more than 260,000 Americans with a bachelor's degree who are working minimum wage jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 2013 report. The quarter-million is still a significant decline from 2010, when a high of 327,000 people with bachelor's degrees worked minimum wage jobs.

The data spells trouble to those students with high amounts of debt. The Institute for College Access and Success reported in December 2013 that the

average class of 2012 graduate left college with approximately \$29,400 in debt, climbing about 6 percent year after year over the past four years. This growing debt means that graduates need to start finding jobs as soon as possible to begin to pay off this debt.

"I wrote over 40 job applications that amounted to three interviews between June 2013 through September 2013. I finally found one full-time job offer in February," Binnix said, "Everybody says you have to be in the right place at the right time, and networking is part of that."

Although the definition of the word "unemployed" is one that is often misconstrued and confusing, many young people face similar doubts when leaving college and venturing into the workforce.

And they're no longer just comparing themselves to each other — students just graduating from college are often competing with adults who have had three-five years of working experience that a new graduate can't hope to compete with right out of college.

"On one hand, we compare ourselves to our peers," Binnix said. "But on the other hand, we're being encouraged by older adults to take advantage of this 'find yourself' time. It's hard to discern which voices to listen to." §

# Proposed NC immigration laws create tension as opinions shift

Simone Jasper  
Senior Reporter

In the midst of the illegal immigration debate in North Carolina, one Elon University student who was until recently undocumented is speaking out against proposed legislation.

One of the proposals is similar to Arizona's Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act. Also known as the "Show Me Your Papers" law by detractors. It would require drivers to show legal proof of residence to police if they are stopped.

Another proposal would require people who are in North Carolina illegally to reimburse the state for incarceration expenses.

Elon University Freshman Daniela Sostaita said she disapproves of these proposals. Until recently, she was an undocumented resident of North Carolina.

"I understand that it might try to keep them from working or driving, but that's not going to stop them," Sostaita said.

A study from the North Carolina Department

of Public Safety (NCDPS) found that some laws would bring disadvantages to the state, and these conclusions come as a majority of North Carolinians favor a path toward citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

In March, legislators requested that the NCDPS examine the bill before voting on it. The proposed laws were first introduced in April 2013, but some of them are still sparking controversy.

Police can already question immigration status when they stop drivers for other reasons, so the study said the proof of residence requirement is redundant. The study also said the proposed incarceration law could be expensive.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, there were 400,000 undocumented immigrants living in North Carolina in 2011. Nationwide, the majority of undocumented immigrants are Hispanic or Latino.

In 2012, an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice found that the Alamance County Sheriff's Office racially profiled Latino drivers. Sheriff Terry S. Johnson was ac-

cused of violating the rights of citizens and legal residents for arresting Latinos without probable cause. He currently faces federal charges.

Proponents of the proposed laws argue that requiring drivers to show valid licenses would create safer roads. Another proposal within the bill would allow illegal immigrants to get temporary driver's licenses.

Sostaita said she supports driving privileges for illegal immigrants, but a "Show Me Your Papers" law would deny people the freedoms they sought in the United States.

"They may have trouble getting to work or may be scared to go," she said.

These factors could be influencing lawmakers, according to Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon Poll and assistant professor of political science.

"The argued advantage is that you discourage immigrants from coming in the first place because there is an inhospitable environment," Fernandez said. "The problem is that you harass [legal citizens]."

According to Fernandez, many people

don't want the hassle of proving their citizenship to police. For this reason, he said the proposed laws might not pass. He said the state could use other measures to curtail illegal immigration.

"They can crack down on workers, punish employers and do raids," he said.

Fernandez also said shifting views about immigration could impact how North Carolinians react to proposed laws. Elon Poll results from February 2013 and April 2013 revealed that 80 percent of North Carolinians

**"I UNDERSTAND  
THAT IT MIGHT  
TRY TO KEEP  
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WORKING OR  
DRIVING, BUT  
THAT'S NOT  
GOING TO STOP  
THEM."**

**DANIELA SOSTAITA**  
ELON UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN



Sostaita moved to the United States from Argentina when she was three years old and was an undocumented immigrant until recently.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

support a path toward citizenship for undocumented immigrants if they can meet certain requirements. Nationwide, about two-thirds of Americans favor either a pathway to legal citizenship or a way for illegal immigrants to stay in the country without legal citizenship, according to a Pew Research study from January 2014.

With the decision about the proposed laws looming, Sostaita, who moved to the United States from Argentina when she was three years old, said she hopes more North Carolinians adopt positive attitudes toward immigration.

"It's very hard to grow up here and not be accepted," she said.

# Climate change debate, divide and denial examined in Elon discussion

Michael Papich  
Assistant News Editor

Elon University students and faculty were invited to debate and discuss climate change and why it's dividing the country.

Those who deny climate change see it as a scientific falsehood that could derail necessary economic development. But for those who believe it is real and a problem, climate change is one of the largest threats the planet faces.

Despite the stakes placed on the debate by both sides, only one student attended the discussion April 9 in the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

Randy Jackson, a sophomore marketing and entrepreneurship student, defined himself as an environmentalist who believes in conservation and said he seeks out information on his own to come to conclusions on climate change.

"When I learned that Shell spills the equivalent of the Exxon-Valdez in Nigeria every year, I realized that people aren't paying attention," Jackson said.

Regarding his specific views on climate change, commonly referred to as global warming, Jackson said he believes that climate change is natural but human contributions are speeding up the process.

"I've seen the core samples and carbon-dating, and that all points to natural variances," he said. "But I do think we're contributing."

Scott Morrison, assistant professor of education at Elon, led the discussion. He said even disagreements over the causes of climate change — mostly man-made versus partially or not at all man-made — impact the policy surrounding the solutions.

"If we disagree about what's causing it, that's going to change how we mediate it," Morrison said, pointing to carbon dioxide and how much of its human-led production comes from coal power plants and other ways of generating energy. "If that's not the cause, we don't need to close them down."

Morrison said he is not a climate scientist but instead follows the communication of environmental values and en-

vironmental justice to find the source of disagreement on climate change. Part of the source Morrison pointed to is the lack of effective science teaching.

"Unless the science was communicated to us, it might not be on our radar," he said.

Jackson said this is why non-partisan science is necessary to get the message of conservation out to a larger audience.

"We need more Neil DeGrasse Tysons running around saying, 'Hey, this is real,'" he said.

The U.S. ranked below the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's international average for student performance in science. According to Morrison, over the past decade, "we haven't changed much."

Merritt Chesson, a graduate intern at the Truitt Center who helped Morrison put on the event, said economics are a factor in skepticism.

"The money might be in gas, oil and coal. If environmentalists say these things are harmful, people might want to deny that," Chesson said.

Beyond just economics, Chesson said fossil fuels are major parts of people's lives now.

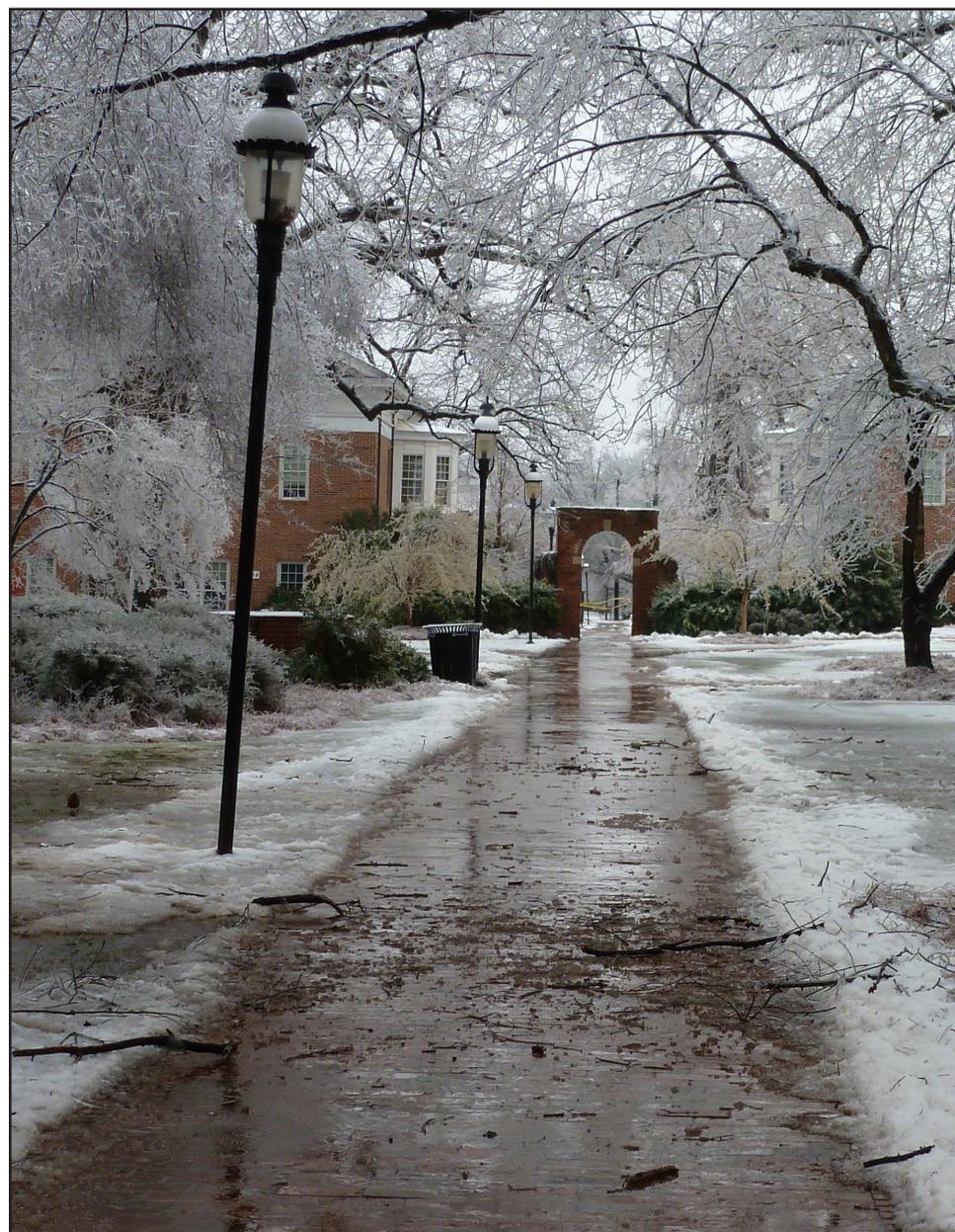
"The system we have in place would take a lot of effort to change," she said.

Jackson said some try and point at other industrialized countries like China who contribute largely to the world's pollution, but Americans still need to take responsibility.

"We're the ones that put that demand over there," he said.

Morrison said the consensus of climate scientists is that climate change is not only real, but that humans contribute to it. This theory of anthropogenic climate change reaches back to the 1800s.

To explain why, in the face of scientific evidence, many Americans still do not believe in climate change, Morrison explained that political and social groups who favor denying climate change use framing to make arguments more persuasive. Framing, as Morrison explained it, is a worldview created to fit a person's own needs and wants.



MEAGAN CASAVANT | Staff Photographer  
Climate change is an imbalance in global temperatures, leading to increasingly extreme weather patterns.

"When we have an idea in our head and new information tells us differently, it doesn't match our frame," he said. "It doesn't matter how much science you give someone if they've got that frame that global warming isn't happening."

Morrison said most political action on the climate change denial side comes from the Republican Party, conservative political groups and conservative media, while Jackson added that more centrist networks like CNN and typically left-

leaning networks like MSNBC also give airtime to climate denial.

"Conservation should be the position of the Republican Party," Jackson said.

Ultimately, Morrison said information about climate change will reach people, if not through politics and the media, then through experiences.

"We'll all feel it at some point," he said. "Whether it's droughts in the West or heavy rainfall in the mid-west or swarms of insects in the South."

# Potential changes in higher education could affect future of Elon

## *As global engagement grows, the need for a physical campus decreases*

Kristen DeMaria  
Design Chief

Elon University's commitment to global citizenship may be ahead of its time, but other changes could be on the horizon as higher education changes across the board. Students and faculty alike joined in on a discussion about the future of higher education April 10 in McBride Gathering Space.

The discussion, led by Elon's director of the Center for Engaged Learning Peter Felten and educational co-chair of the Institute for Educational Management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education James Honan, focused on the current disruptions to higher education and some examples of institutional adaptation.

Both Felten and Honan emphasized the importance of college's role in creating citizens. Many institutions of higher education, like Elon, emphasize this responsibility in their missions.

The changes aren't tied to the classroom at a university like Elon where 72 percent of the Class of 2013 studied abroad.

With the exception of the Global Experience, all other courses at Elon can be taken abroad. And as higher education continues to shift toward global engagement, more students may take advantage of greater time abroad.

"Our commitment around developing global citizens will change in some ways," said Associate Vice President for Student Life Jana Lynn Patterson. "We already have Elon centers. I see an Elon experience containing more global and domestic engagement."

But rather than concentrating on a business model of expansion, some colleges have taken the reverse route. St. Michael's College in Vermont, for example, elected to decrease the size of its student body from 1,900 to 1,600 to allow its mission to catch up.

This idea is not unique to St. Mi-

chael's. Other universities are considering whether their business models or their missions are the driving force of change.

"How many business models do we try to sustain?" Honan asked.

Keeping a business model in mind is important for some universities, Honan said, but he emphasized the importance of choosing a singular model and sticking to it.

Elon's undergraduate student body has grown by more than 200 in the past year alone, in keeping with a slow growth model to gradually increase the university's number of students.

Elon's student body isn't the only thing that has grown over recent years. The Institute of International Education found in its 2013 Open Doors Report that Elon earned the top ranking among the nation's master's level universities. The Elon Commitment also aims for 100 percent access to any global engagement experience by 2020.

Similar commitment is beginning to be emphasized by other institutions. John Sexton, the current president of New York University, discussed in a recent speech the importance of universities operating beyond sovereignties and boundaries.

Elon's emphasis on global citizenship upholds this claim.

"We are what John Sexton was talking about," Felten said. "Or at least close."

Some students value the experience of being on the physical campus of a university, but that could change in the near

future.

With an emphasis on engagement and developing students to be responsible citizens, Honan said the need for a physical campus to develop culture may not be necessary.

"Time lets you establish culture and space," Honan said.

The actual amount of time spent in a classroom may be yet another change for higher education, as many institutions have begun looking at competency-based

curricula. In this system, students go at their own paces until they can demonstrate competency in a particular subject area.

Southern New Hampshire University developed a College for America program that uses a competency based model and was lauded by both the Chronicle of Higher Education and President Barack Obama, in 2013.

The program, founded in 2012 by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, boasts a low cost of \$2,500 a year. Other universities have also started to explore the idea of a competency-based curriculum, and Elon could as well.

"What would happen if we looked at learning rather than seat time?" Felten asked.

Some Elon students see a benefit of shifting at least some courses to this model.

"In the future, I see Early classes can be done well in a competency-based curriculum," said sophomore Ryan Finn.

The technology is already ready for a competency-based system of education, like the College for America program,

but institutions like Elon would have to figure out a different role of the instructor. With students moving at their own pace, instructors would need to adjust teaching styles to create more individualized learning experiences.

This would also entail adjusting the curriculum for students in the School of Education preparing for careers in the teaching field.

Southern New Hampshire University's model has gained a lot of support, but Felten is wary of adapting the strategy just yet at Elon.

"I don't think we've figured out competency yet," he said.

Though a recent Gallup State of Education poll reported that 89 percent of respondents said higher education needs to change, only 49 percent said they were changing. Elon may soon become one of those institutions, but for now, its mission remains the same.

"Our commitment is around engaging students," Patterson said.

"I SEE AN ELON EXPERIENCE CONTAINING MORE GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC ENGAGEMENT."

JANA LYNN PATTERSON  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR STUDENT LIFE

CURRENT ELON STUDY ABROAD STATISTICS

**72** percent of the Class of 2013 studied abroad

**3** semester-long domestic programs in New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

**30+** programs for Winter Term

**3** Elon Centers abroad in Costa Rica, Florence and London

**84** total semester programs

**\$400** deposit required upon application submission

# Cheat Sheet: Heartbleed bug and Internet security



*Want a complicated news story explained?*

*Email [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu), and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet*

By the News Editors

In today's digital age, online personas and security are equivalent to identity and autonomy. So, when news about the "Heartbleed" bug came out April 7, informing internet users that personal information like passwords had been vulnerable for the past few years, it hit users with almost existentialist despair.

Elon University's technology department was quick to let Elon students, faculty and staff know that Elon sites are either patched or were never vulnerable in the first place. This came shortly after a fake Elon account asked students for their usernames and passwords.

But Gmail, the popular Google-run email service that Elon University uses for its undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and staff email accounts, was compromised by the bug. One of the largest email clients on the Internet, Gmail provides its service to more than 400 million accounts each month, though only a fraction were estimated to be affected — definitive numbers were not released by Google.

Heartbleed was not a virus sent by malevolent hackers or a country looking for valuable data. Rather, it is a flaw in the code that creates encryption around our accounts. In other words, the lock around your personal information when you create an account on a website had a loose screw.

Heartbleed, taking its name from the code extension called "Heartbeat," made it possible for someone to take information about an account from an encrypted website. Specifically, only about 64 kilobytes worth of memory could be retrieved at a time, but this flaw could be exploited repeatedly to get more and more information, including usernames and passwords.

In addition, "private keys" that servers retain to keep private account information for users was also vulner-

able through Heartbleed exploits, which could lead to a larger number of stolen data.

However, this only means that information was vulnerable, not that millions of passwords were necessarily stolen. Experts said the bug could have been as undetected by hackers as they were by the security experts themselves.

To ensure future security, experts recommended users change their passwords on affected sites, which include Facebook, Google-owned sites (YouTube, Gmail), Yahoo-owned sites (Tumblr, Flickr, Yahoo mail), OKCupid, Airbnb, Pinterest and Wikipedia. Online banking and shopping sites were also vulnerable. It is best to check with other websites to make sure the proper fixes have been put in place before changing passwords.

Heartbleed is considered the largest breach of security in the Internet's history, with two-thirds of websites vulnerable to attack.

The Heartbleed bug existed on the web for the past two years as part of an extension of OpenSSL, a particular form of open-source code, but was only discovered in the past weeks. While the bug has been identified and fixed, Heartbleed remains in the news because of new allegations that the flaw was known about throughout this two-year period.

Reporting by Bloomberg said the

National Security Agency (NSA) knew about Heartbleed and used the flaw to collect data. According to the article, the NSA looks for flaws in code to find ways into secure computers, examining OpenSSL for flaws in particular.

The NSA has denied knowledge about Heartbleed prior to the revelations in April. James Clapper, director of national intelligence, said in a statement that anyone who says that any government agency knew about Heartbleed prior to 2014 is wrong.

The NSA came under scrutiny in 2013 when information was leaked to the press that the agency collects data on emails, phone calls and other forms of communication, including information from American citizens.

The NSA is also in charge of providing the U.S. government with computer and Internet security.

In December 2013, months after details about the NSA were leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, a presidential advisory committee gave a report on the NSA, urging the agency to make security risks more available to the public. Members of the National Security Council said it is in the public interest for the NSA to disclose these vulnerabilities instead of holding on to them to see how they can be exploited.

The NSA and the Obama administration both rejected the December report as inaccurate.



The Heartbleed virus has affected as many as two-thirds of the world's websites.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPENCLIPART.ORG

## News Briefs

### Car crashes into Allied Churches shelter

A car hit Allied Churches' shelter in Burlington April 13, cracking the ceiling and doorways on the administration side of the building.

Burlington police estimated the damage to the shelter at \$10,000. The sight of the crash is currently boarded up. No one inside the building was injured.

The driver sustained minor injuries and was treated and released on the scene. The driver had a medical episode that caused her to become unresponsive, leading to the crash.

The shelter run by Allied Churches of Alamance County is located at 206 N. Fisher St.

### Elon professors win top philosophy prize

The American Association of Philosophy Teachers awarded the 2014 Lenssen Prize to two Elon University professors for having the best recent research article on teaching and learning.

Professor Ann J. Cahill and Associate Professor Stephen Bloch-Schulman's article, "Argumentation Step-by-Step: Learning Critical Thinking Through Deliberative Practice," was selected from 140 national and international papers.

Cahill and Bloch-Schulman's article, written in 2012, gave advice for growing students' critical thinking skills. The article was published in the journal "Teaching Philosophy."

The Lenssen Prize is named for Mark Lenssen, a deceased philosophy professor from Ohio Northern University, and is given out every two years. Included in the award is \$200 to go toward the price of traveling to the AAPT meeting in Minnesota.

# ACLU creating equality through democracy

In 2012, the state of North Carolina passed a constitutional amendment, known as Amendment One, which made it unconstitutional for the state to recognize or perform gay marriages or civil unions. After making its way through the North Carolina General Assembly, North Carolina voters approved the amendment, 61.04 percent to 38.96 percent, with 34.66 percent of registered voters turning out to vote. North Carolina is the last state to implement a voter-approved block to gay unions.

Gay marriage was already illegal in the state, but Amendment One took it a step further by defining marriage in North Carolina as being between one man and one woman—the state constitution now bans any other type of “domestic legal union” such as civil unions and domestic partnerships. The state continues not to recognize gay marriages performed in other states as well.

As attitudes toward gay marriage have continued to loosen around the country, Amendment One faced heavy condemnation across the state and nationally as well. Although Carolina voters ultimately voted the amendment into law, there was major concern at the time of voter perception regarding what the amendment would actually include.

Amendment One has once again appeared in the national spotlight two years later with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) taking legal action against the ban on gay marriage in the state. Next month, judges from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Carolinas, will hear a case that could alter the legal landscape for gay marriage in North Carolina.

Nationally, 59 percent of Americans now support gay marriage, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. That number represents an all time national high for support of gay marriage, with over half the country believing that gay men and women have a constitutional right to marry under the Equal Protection clause of the U.S. con-

stitution. An Elon Poll in September showed that although acceptance of gay marriage is growing in the state, with 47 percent of state residents oppose it.

With this issue hitting so close to Elon, the coming months remain crucial in potentially overturning the voter-approved law from 2012. Some students have called on the Elon administration to issue some sort of statement or weigh in with a stance on this issue.

Ideally, the university would be transparent on a variety of issues—promoting statements in support or opposition to the slew of pressing topics in our state and for our generation. But the university does not owe us these opinions, and instead we, as students, must work to encourage meaningful action for the things that matter to us.

Students and faculty who feel

strongly about this should call upon the amendment to be placed on the midterm ballot again for further consideration. If the 4th district court does not strike down Amendment one, it deserves to go back to the midterm ballot so as to better represent what the state actually wants.

It is time for North Carolina to examine this controversial issue from a human perspective and stop denying any human the right to be with the one they love, regardless of gender or preference.

Continuing to push agendas of inequality simply because its ‘the way it’s always been done’ has no place in an America that continues to develop to become more inclusive of all people.

As students, with vested interest in so many issues, we should take initiative to fight for the things that we believe in

and not sit idly by paying lip service as a sign of support.

Symbolic gestures and shows of support are great, but they are not what will actually change the law.

More effort needs to be put towards actually getting Amendment One back on the ballot and then working to increase voter turnout.

We have the ability to make changes in the state that we currently call home. But those changes will only come if time and energy are put toward efforts that can result in tangible change—votes and new legislation.

North Carolina legislators must recognize the cries for equality within the state. Putting Amendment One back on the ballot gives voters the opportunity to come down on the right side of history.



A record high fifty-nine percent of Americans now support gay marriage, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS.

# Please take a seat, Barstool Sports

The University of Connecticut accomplished a feat that few schools have ever done. Both UConn's men and women's basketball



**Nick Foley**  
Columnist

teams won a national title, which certainly merits celebration. The ensuing celebration rocked the campus in Storrs, Connecticut.

Amidst the rioting college students at the University of Connecticut last week was a man named David Portnoy. Portnoy, a

Massachusetts native, is

lege students at the UConn campus. Websites like Barstool add fuel to the fire when it comes to wild riots and dangerously wild parties on college campuses. Young men and women soon realize they can attain 15 minutes of fame by doing something crazy and then taking a picture of it to send to the Barstool website.

When Portnoy and his employees are not promoting widespread debauchery, they spend their time objectifying women in a series of

call "Smokeshow of the Day" and "Guess That Ass". These are essentially a series of pictures of college-age women that are voted on to see who is the hottest college student in the country. Not only is this demeaning, but it also promotes the intrinsically chauvinistic belief that men and women are on different tiers in our society.

This is just a stool sample if you will, of the kind of filth that is frequently posted on Barstool. The fact that they call themselves a sports

website gives the world of sports a bad name.

Another example of Barstool's out of control behavior is the "Barstool Blackout Tour".

These events have been heavily criticized for promoting and harboring mass underage and excessive drinking and have been the setting for numerous assault charges. After Barstool sports held an event at the House of Blues in Boston, club security announced they had confiscated more than 300 fake ID's out of the 2,000 people who attended the event. If Barstool can't play by the same rules every other club in the country is abiding by, then they should not be allowed to host these events.

Everyone is entitled to share their thoughts and views on the Internet. Though we are entitled to free speech, that does not mean we should trample others and promote riotous acts while hiding behind the screen of a computer.

We should do this not in the name of political correctness, but out of human compassion. We all want to be treated equally and fairly. David Portnoy and Barstool Sports do not have a malicious intent behind their postings. With minor changes to their website, they can still be edgy and funny while respecting others.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER.COM

The night of UConn men's basketball victory, Barstool posted photos and videos documenting the riots.

Elon also provides a full-time staff member (the Coordinator for Health Promotion) who develops and implements educational programming designed to challenge rape culture and prevent incidents of sexual assault. Here is a small sampling of the prevention programming provided by Becca Bishopric Patterson this year: Skits for all first year students during orientation; training for hundreds of student leaders; violence prevention workshops to Elon 101 classes, Greek organizations and Athletics; awareness events like Walk A Mile in Her Shoes, Couples Chemistry, the Consent is Sexy campaign, the Clothesline Project and Take Back the Night; holding monthly "Response Ability" workshops through the LEAD Program; and presentations by nationally acclaimed speakers.

There are also university wide positions and groups whose work includes a focus on sexual violence, such as the Sexual Assault and Gender Issues Council (SAGIC), the

Inclusive Community Council, the Provost Inclusive Community Team, the Director of Inclusive Community Well-Being and the Associate Provost for Inclusive Community.

We are troubled that much of the information we have provided in this letter, information that undermines the editorial's claim that "without these student organizations, there would be no active educational initiative on campus that discusses sexual assault," could be discovered by a Google search on Elon's website and a couple of well-placed phone calls and that this misrepresentation of university resources and efforts will unnecessarily deepen the isolation and suffering of survivors.

We have no doubt that the writers of this editorial are committed, as are we, to working against the prevalence of sexual assault on college and university campuses and ask that they and all students support the administration's many efforts in this direction and to engage productively with their own commu-

nities to recognize and challenge all elements of rape culture.

Sincerely,  
Ann J. Cahill, professor of philosophy and chair of SAGIC  
Rebecca Bishopric Patterson, Coordinator for Health Promotion  
Jessica Clark, Coordinator for Violence Response  
Leigh-Anne Royster, Director of Inclusive Community Well-Being  
Laurin Kier, Director of Tutorial Services, Assistant Professor of Sociology, member of SAGIC  
Melissa Jordan, Interim Director of the Multicultural Center, member of SAGIC  
Karen Nunez, assistant professor of Accounting, member of SAGIC  
Matthew Antonio Bosch, Director of Gender and LGBTQIA Center, member of SAGIC

To read the full Letter to the Editor, please visit [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com).

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Pendulum Editorial Board,

As members of the university community with responsibility for response to and prevention of incidents of sexual assault on campus, we are concerned that Pendulum readers – most importantly, survivors of sexual violence – may come away from your recent editorial with an inaccurate understanding of the leading practice response and education initiatives that Elon's administration has spearheaded in recent years.

Elon provides one full-time staff member (the Coordinator for Violence Response) whose primary responsibility is to provide support for community members in the wake of incidents of interpersonal violence. An advocate is available 24/7 through Safeline (336.278.3333), Elon's confidential support line.

## Europeans begin countdown to Eurovision Song Contest 2014

**Kaitlin Dunn**  
International Editor

The United States has many reality singing competitions; “The Voice,” “American Idol” and “The X-Factor,” are all extremely popular, but none of these shows are as celebrated as the Eurovision Song Contest in Europe.

Held once a year at the beginning of May, more than 125 million people tune in to watch contestants from different countries compete in the live show according to Eurovision’s official website.

When Elon University junior Maggie Macdonald attended boarding school in Scotland, she was introduced to the phenomenon and since then has been a huge fan of the competition.

“It gets very intense during Eurovision,” Macdonald said. “Everyone would get together and watch it on TV.”

Each country holds auditions and chooses one person to represent the nation in the final rounds. 37 countries are competing in the semifinals this year, and then 26 countries will move on to the finale. The only countries guaranteed a spot in the final are the five largest economic contributors to the competition (the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain and Italy) and the host country. The songs must be performed completely live with no prerecorded background vocals, although background accompaniment tracks have been allowed since 1999.

This year is the 59th year of the competition. Many previous acts went on to become huge stars after competing in Eurovision in the past, such as “singer Celine Dion (Switzerland) and pop band ABBA (Sweden). Several already established artists such as pop singer Cascada (Germany) and rock band Katerina and the Waves (the United Kingdom.) have also competed.

“It’s not always the best group that wins,” Macdonald said. “A lot of times it’s just the most memorable act. One year a group of old guys won because they had belly dancers in their routine. It’s part of the fun.”

Last year the winner was Emmelie de Forest of Denmark whose song “Only Teardrops” earned 281 points in the competition. As a result of, the competition this year will be held in Copenhagen. Five Danish cities were considered, but Copenhagen was selected in early September as the official host.

The two semifinal rounds will be held May 6 and May 8, and the final will be May 10. Even though the competition is not for another month, Europeans are already revving up.

Preview parties have been held in various cities over the past two months, in-

cluding London April 13, with 2014 competitors staging concerts with past winners.

“It’s a really fun way to get people excited for the competition and see who is competing this year,” Macdonald said.

Laura Hertling, a Berlin native who watches Eurovision every year, said she is certain this is Germany’s year to win.

“It’s been a few years [since Germany last won], and I think that we’re going to do it again this year,” Hertling said.

John McKenna-Hughes of Accrington, England, another Eurovision fan, is just as excited to see the United Kingdom compete.

“I really want the U.K. to win, or at least another country in the vicinity, so that next year the competition will be close and I can go see it,” McKenna-Hughes said.

With three weeks left until the first semifinal, both Hertling and McKenna-Hughes said many people are starting to get excited for the big event.

“I love it because it is just so crazy,” McKenna-Hughes said. “It’s like nothing you have ever seen before, and you will not see it anywhere else in the world because no one is as crazy as the Europeans.”

*Additional reporting done by Allison Pichowicz*



Heavy metal band Lordi of Finland sings “Hard Rock Hallelujah” during a dress rehearsal for the Eurovision Song Contest in Athens, Greece in 2006.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**Correspondent's  
corner:**

# Luther settles comfortably into life in Buenos Aires

Erin Luther  
International correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — I have been living with my host family on Buenos Aires for two weeks, and they are wonderful. I live in an apartment with Maria and Eduardo, the grandparents of the family, their son Wenceslau and their granddaughter Josefina. I have a big extended family here - two grandparents, six children and five grandchildren.

My favorite memories thus far with my family have been sitting in the kitchen passing around mate, an Argentine tea, visiting a feria, or market, in Palermo and playing cards with Josefina. She and Maria taught me how to play chinchon, which is similar to the gin.

One of the best parts of living with a host family is that I get a chance learn the porteno, or local vocabulary, and accent.

Living with a family has allowed me delve deeper into the Argentine culture through family traditions, daily activities and food. I love having such a great support system here.

## Exploring Buenos Aires

Not only has my host family turned out to be amazing, but the city of Buenos Aires has also far surpassed my expectations. Every day I encounter something new and exciting.

In the past month I have seen much of the city, and I feel much more comfortable making my way through it. I just started classes, so for the first few weeks I got to meander around the city every day. My favorite part about living in the city is that there is always an endless list of places to explore.

I have gotten to expand my cultural

knowledge of Argentina through many trips. I have visited art museums, including the Buenos Aires Museum of Latin-American Art and Fundacion Proa, where I saw Ron Mueck's sculpture exhibition.

The people in my study program and I have bonded through exploring the city. Together, we went to a milonga, or tango bar.

A few weeks ago, we took a trip to an estancia just outside of Buenos Aires where we rode horses, learned about the gaucho culture and enjoyed an asado, or barbeque.

The city of Buenos Aires is very diverse. By wandering around, I have explored the various neighborhoods of the city, including Barrio Chino, Palermo Soho, Recoleta and La Boca, and enjoy the unique characteristics and activities of each area. I especially love the feria of San Telmo every Sunday. It is a fair filled with 15 blocks of amazing art, leather, souvenirs, mate gourds, clothing and antiques.

I also stumbled upon El Atenco, an old theater that has been transformed into one of the most beautiful bookstores that I have ever seen.

## Registering for classes

Although I have loved almost everything so far in my experience here, there is one part of my time here that has been very stressful: school.

Registering for classes here is much more complicated than at Elon. Once the day of registration has passed, I can only drop classes, not add any more.

For this reason, I signed up for many more classes than I will take just in case I don't like the class or the teacher, or if it conflicted with another class I have to take. I am currently preregistered for 17 classes even though I will only take 6. It doesn't help that I registered for classes at three different universities.

Now that I have tried out all of the classes, I am excited to get into my finalized schedule.

## International Briefs

### Fire destroys Chilean port city

VALPARAISO, Chile — A fire starting in a forest near the port city of Valparaiso spread quickly through the city April 12, destroying homes and killing at least 11 people.

More than 10,000 people were evacuated and more than 500 were treated for smoke inhalation. While firefighters battled the blaze, Chilean sailors were called in to maintain order in the streets.

### Pope takes responsibility for sex abuse scandal

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis asked for forgiveness for the harm done by priests who have sexually abused children and pledged that the Roman Catholic Church would tackle the issue and impose sanctions.

Francis is the first pope to take personal responsibility for the scandal. He has also established a committee to advise him on how to best protect children and help victims.

### Ex-US Marine sentenced to 10 years in Iranian prison

TEHRAN, Iran — Former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati has been sentenced to 10 years in an Iranian prison for "practical collaboration with the U.S. government."

Hekmati was arrested three years ago while on a trip to visit family. He reportedly confessed to being a CIA spy, but in a letter to U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, Hekmati claimed that the confession was false.

Hekmati was originally sentenced to death, but the Iranian Supreme Court overturned his death sentence.

*\*All information in briefs compiled from CNN and The New York Times.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN LUTHER

Sophomore Erin Luther (far right) has been taking weekly cooking classes in Buenos Aires with her friends.

# Students combat social issues with Aware Fair

Courtney Campbell  
Senior Reporter

Within the Elon University bubble are intramural sport competitions, an upcoming B.O.B. concert and the tradition of stealing bricks. But beyond this campus, there are social problems and human rights violations of which students may not be aware.

The first-ever Aware Fair will be held 2-4 p.m. on Friday, April 18 in Speakers Corner. Senior Gloria So, awareness director of Elon Volunteers! will host the fair as a way of connecting students to the community and informing them about organizations that advocate for social justice.

"It's easy for Elon students to get wrapped up in the busy college culture, and the last thing anyone wants to do is sign up for another email list or attend another meeting," So said. "Yet Elon students do care and do want to learn about local and global issues. The emphasis is

on education."

Thirteen organizations will participate in this interactive event. Each organization will have a table featuring a variety of interactive activities, free food and giveaways, including "Consent is Sexy" t-shirts and food from the Burlington Co-Op.

"I hope to educate Elon students on the Lord's Resistance Army issues and Invisible Children's efforts," said Marlena Fernandez, Invisible Children representative. "I especially hope that [Invisible Children's] intentions are clear after the controversy that has surrounded the organization in the past."

WSOE will play social change music and broadcast on-air interviews from the participants about their projects and causes. So got the idea for the broadcast from the class "Ordinary People in the Struggle for Social Change and Reform."

"We had a day of music during which we studied the collective power of music in social

movements," So said. "It was inspiring, and the music created an indescribable mood that was shared by everyone present. It helps us feel together, connected and alive."

The idea for the fair came from a Phase 4 retreat through the Isabella Cannon Leadership Program, where students created a legacy project to leave their mark on Elon's campus. So discussed the idea with Bob Frigo, the associate director of the Kernodle Center, and her awareness team, consisting of members from Sierra Club, Amnesty International, Oxfam and Invisible Children.

"Awareness is about choosing to become informed," Fernandez said. "Elon students can talk to the awareness organizations on campus or do their own research in order to increase their awareness. But really, awareness is only the first step to making a difference."

From there, So worked on the logistics of the event — reserving locations, contacting organizations, coordinating the activity schedule

and designing an image to represent the event. Her team then divided the tasks related to public relations and setting up the individual tables.

"The executive board has spent multiple hours brainstorming activities and creating trivia questions for the event," Fernandez said. "Though it takes time and effort, we are all happy to do it because there is a chance of raising more awareness on Elon's campus."

So said she plans on continuing the Aware Fair by adding it to the responsibilities of the awareness director position, hoping to continue the spread of social-consciousness even after she leaves Elon.

"There's a term called Ubuntu that means 'I am because we are,'" So said. "I believe our responsibilities as global citizens include thinking as a community and being willing to advocate for social change. I hope all of the people that stop by will be inspired in some capacity and moved to try or feel something new."

## Congratulations to Elon University's Phi Beta Kappa 2014 Inductees



Elizabeth Gordon Adolph  
Carling Brooke Andrews  
Emily Theresa Armstrong  
Katherine Rose Bain  
Savannah Jolie Bradley  
Kelly Lynne Brand  
Jennifer Kathryn Brouder  
Alexander Wilhelm Bruch  
Jill Elizabeth Capotosto  
Michelle Marie Card  
Maria Bongiorno Castine  
Madison Ann Clough  
Cleo Louise Caroline Dan  
Hillary Hunter Dooley  
Grace Caroline Elkus

Andrew Fredrick Fischer  
Anson Grant Fisher  
Ashley Meagan Fowler  
Amy Elizabeth Good  
Eryn Ann Gorang  
Kathryn Ann Goulah  
Raymond Andrew Haack  
Sarah Katherine Holland  
Leigh Alexis Iler  
Erica Lynn Janik  
Leah Annik Jennings  
Alyssa Marie Kendall  
Georgia Ellan Lee  
Kimberly Ann Lilienthal  
Victoria Lee Lipinski

Molly Rose Lomenzo  
MacKenzie Rachel Mann  
Katelyn Erin Massey  
Claire Lillian Mayo  
Cara Megan King McClain  
Avery Franklin Thoreau McGaha  
Nakhila Shani Mistry  
Nicole Eileen Molinaro  
Sara Jean Perry  
Kimberly Carter Peterson  
Lisa Meglen Picklesimer  
Megan Elizabeth Rollins  
Wesley Ivan Rose  
Marissa Marie Rurka  
Julia Ellen Schast

Christopher Ryan Shill  
Lily Aitken Siegal  
Amber Kristin Smith  
Lauren Marie Speranza  
Brittany Pearson Stamp  
Emily Maria Steiner  
Alice Teel Sudlow  
Lauren Elizabeth Sutherland  
Caitlin Jenna Tarantiles  
Arielle Rebecca Weil  
Kyle Wilson Whitaker  
Brooke Elizabeth Winters  
Clyde Thomas Zuber

# From Biryani to Baklavah: Elon goes global through food

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

Elon's commitment to diversity and global engagement has increasingly found a role in all aspects of our student life — classroom experiences, social activities and, most popularly, the food.

For 1 1/2 years, Lakeside Dining Hall has hosted an "International Station," which features food from a different country or group of countries every week. In just three weeks, students can say that they have enticed their taste buds with food from from all over the world.

Pinky Varghese, executive chef at Aramark, was the pioneer behind the diversity options since the station's inception.

"When I joined the Dining Services, I was told that they were going to build a Lakeside Dining Hall and an International Station. So I sat down and thought of ways that would make it more global," Varghese said. "We finally came up with the idea of featuring a country or a group of countries together and immediately started preparing the menus for approval."

In terms of the country selection process, Varghese said that there are a variety

of factors that are important to consider.

"The first factor I consider before making the menu is that I want it to be as authentic as possible," he said. "The second factor is the popularity of the dish, and the third factor is whether or not the ingredients are available."

Of the many factors that are considered, Varghese stressed there are no social or political interests behind Aramark's decisions.

"Our selection does not signify any special interest behind it," he said. "For us, it's just about food."

Varghese said the ingredients needed to create the culinary experience are one of the major factors when creating the menu.

"I can't just go out and buy these special ingredients — a lot of what we use isn't available at Elon," Varghese said. "I have to go through certain purchasing systems. So, the availability of the ingredients definitely shapes our decisions as well."

Since authenticity is one of Varghese's major priorities, he said he relies on his previous experiences to help him in the country selection process.

"I have worked in several places with

a variety of different international chefs," he said. "My experiences working with them have helped me shape an understanding of what specific foods should look like and taste like."

Junior Madeline Monaco said the station does more than just entice your taste buds.

"I've always believed that you can learn so much about a country through its traditions and cultures, and I think food is one of the best ways to do that," Monaco said. "I love how even when I'm simply eating dinner, I feel like I'm experiencing a new culture. It's a refreshing change from the few options Burlington has to offer."

Monaco said she is highly supportive of the idea behind the Global Station, but she wishes the students could have more of a say in the countries or dishes that are chosen.

In regards to student involvement and input on the food, several international students and students who have visited featured countries during Study Abroad have expressed the same wish.

Gabrielle Chiongbian, a freshman from the Philippines, is one of those students.

"I love the idea that Elon is making the attempt to expand our global experience, but sometimes I feel like the food has been altered to make the taste more appealing to the general student body," she said. "Isn't the point of the global station to allow students to have a 'cultural experience' whether they like the food or not?"

Ameya Benegal, a sophomore from Singapore and India, said he enjoys the global station but at times feels disappointed.

"There's just that feeling you get when you eat something and you say to yourself, 'it's just not like this at home,'" he said.

On the other hand, numerous students are very pleased with the food's authenticity.

Junior Sophia Spach said she was thrilled to eat at Lakeside when India was being featured, as she studied abroad

in India during her sophomore year.

"The food tasted very authentic. Most of all, I was just so excited about the variety of the food and the chance of getting to eat Indian food again," she said.

Varghese said the recipes used have not been "Americanized" in any way.

"We make the food as authentic as possible and look at all aspects of authenticity — from its appearance to its taste," he said. "We understand that Elon students have traveled the world and have expanded their palates, so we really emphasize authenticity."

Freshman Iliana Brodsky said the entire experience is important not only because of the authenticity of the food but also because it is a break from the norm.

"Most college students are provided with the typical American comfort food — burgers, french fries, pizza," she said. "But because of the Global Station at Lakeside, we're given the opportunity to taste flavors from around the world."

Varghese said the accomplishments of Elon's Global Station are recognized by a variety of different schools.

"I was told yesterday that they are putting this idea in the system, meaning the recipes are going to be available all over the world. The work we are doing at Elon will be available to many more schools, and I think that's extremely exciting," he said. "The work that we're doing at Elon is an amazing thing. Because when I look at it every time, even though I made this menu 1 1/2 years ago, I kept thinking, no other school in the world provides such a diverse and valuable opportunity."

As the station is constantly evolving, he said the experience is extremely important for a student body that appreciates diversity.

"Food plays a very important role in connecting cultures. People used to think, 'Oh, this food is only for a particular people.' Now, everybody has developed a taste for all foods," Varghese said. "In the same way, I think it is important to realize that when people have accepted the food, they have inevitably accepted the culture as well."



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Lakeside Dining Hall has hosted an international food station since it opened 1 1/2 years ago.

## 'Angels in America' humanizes AIDS, speaks to present-day struggles

Casey Brown  
Senior Reporter

Part one of the Pulitzer-Prize winning play "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," entitled "Millennium Approaches," opened in McCrory Theatre on April 10. Written by Tony Kushner in 1993, it focuses on the lives of New York City residents, specifically gay couple Louis and Prior and Mormon husband and wife Joe and Harper, in the '80s and how their lives change in light of the AIDS epidemic.

Senior Caroline Klidonas, who plays Harper, a Valium-addicted wife whose marriage is vulnerable because of the unspoken knowledge that her husband is gay, said the play is impressive with the scope of issues it addresses.

"This play is a mammoth of a play," Kli-

donas said. "It covers everything from AIDS to homosexuality, justice to democracy, marriages falling apart and what scars we carry about. It is honest about what those scars are and how they make us who we are."

To assistant director and junior Jessie Bond, the play may be set in the '80s, but it speaks universally to what is happening today. While AIDS may not be as prevalent a topic, equal rights are, and the play speaks to those issues from its place in the past.

"There is a great focus on AIDS, but the themes are more universal than that," Bond said. "We have made some progress on them, but not a ton. The character Joe isn't comfortable being gay, and it's the prejudice that still exists that makes it that way. This play humanizes the populations that still aren't in equal standing."

"Angels in America" is a character piece.

While it is built from dozens of themes, the cast of deeply complex individuals is the heart of the show that brings those themes to life. Senior Wintson Koone, who plays Louis, a hyper-intellectual who struggles with staying with his AIDS-infected boyfriend, reminds the audience that, unlike the misconception, AIDS isn't just a homosexual disease. It has the ability to affect everyone.

"This is not a show about homosexuality," Koone said. "This is a show about people. These are people living in the '80s in New York City dealing with their lives in this turning point in America. The AIDS epidemic influences everyone, not just homosexuals. What I will say is that some of these characters are gay, and today, people are still facing hardship just for being who they are."

Despite the struggle these characters face, the play emphasizes that things turn around.

While there is an actual angel that appears at the end of the play, Koone said he thinks all the characters have the ability to be someone's angel. Everyone has his or her own struggles, whether they deal with marriage, health or identity, but each has the capacity to help others. Koone said he believes it's something everyone — cast, crew or audience member — can take away from "Angels in America."

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle," Koone said. "We are all angels, living in America. Everyone you meet is being influenced by your presence. And while that influence may be good or bad, it is still a force that is working its way into someone else's life. Elon audiences will hopefully see this raw and poetic work and think about how our actions influence others and how we can be an angel to someone else."

## Sweet Signatures holds annual spring concert

Diana Stancy  
Reporter

Kicking off the spring a cappella season, female a cappella group Sweet Signatures held their annual spring concert in a jam-packed Whitley Auditorium on April 12.

After a guest performance from all-male a cappella group Rip\_Chord, Sweet Signatures took the stage in white dresses and opened with the song "Burn" by Ellie Goulding.

The concert was especially significant for members of Sweet Signatures because many alumnae were present to show continued support.

Senior music director Lauren Speranza said, "I just hope they are impressed with our musicality and dynamics. I hope they enjoy it."

The close-knit group describes themselves as a family, and that is what initially attracted many members to join Sweet Signatures.

"I chose to join Sigs because I was so impressed by how talented all the girls were, and they seemed like such great friends," said freshman Holly Brueggman, who joined the group last fall.

Sophomore Bri Marino had a similar experience when she went through the audition process.

"You could truly tell they were a family," she said. "Seeing that cohesion made me want to be a part of that as well."

The nature of sharing art fosters this sense of closeness.

"You always have a special bond with someone when you perform and put it all out there on stage. It's going to be sad to leave those girls because we all truly care about each other," Speranza said.

For the seniors who will graduate in May, this performance was particularly emotional. During one of the last songs that featured the seniors, they embraced each other as a few tears were shed.

In honor of the seniors, the rest of the members prepared a special song as a surprise for them as they continue their journey after Elon. They chose to perform "My Wish" by Rascal Flatts.

Sweet Signatures recognized the alumnae and invited them to join the group onstage to sing a final song together, "Ever After," by Marianas Trench. This demonstration

captured the bond between the members and showed that the friendships formed by members of a close knit group last beyond college.

"We truly are a group, and we sing as one," Marino said. "When it all comes together, it's the greatest feeling in the world."

Sweet Signatures performed a diverse repertoire of pieces, from country group Lady Antebellum's song "Compass" to pop

star Katy Perry's "Roar."

Sweet Signatures members agreed that interacting with an enthusiastic audience is one of the most rewarding aspects of performing.

"Getting to share our talent and love for singing with an audience who appreciates it — I think our favorite part is getting to stand up and sing. We work so hard and put together an amazing product," Speranza said.

### Upcoming A Cappella Concerts:

<p><b>Smooth Progressions</b> April 18 - 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium</p>	<p><b>Vital Signs</b> May 9 - 6:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium</p>
<p><b>Twisted Measure</b> May 2 - 7:30 p.m. May 3 - 5:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium</p>	<p><b>Rip_Chord</b> May 10 - 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium</p>

# 'Game of Thrones': Is anyone still alive?

Leah Channas  
Social Media Editor

*Spoilers below.*

"Game of Thrones" is still one of the hottest shows on television as it enters its fourth season. Despite the deaths of a handful of the characters of Season 1, the plot continues to fascinate its audience with its violence and promiscuity.

While many people are still digesting the shocking events from the Red Wedding in Season 3, Season 4's premiere was a great

start that provided the audience with hints about plotlines the upcoming season would focus on.

Arya teams up with The Hound for some good, old-fashioned revenge. Her target is Polliver, the man who stole her sword, and their tavern escapade turns into a gory slash fest. In an epic moment toward the end of the episode, Arya ends up standing over Polliver and recites what he said to her before stabbing him in the throat.

The audience pities Jaime Lannister when he gets rejected by his sister Cersei for some casual reunion lovemaking, because, obviously, being held a prisoner was his fault. She claims that it is "too late." Jaime just can't seem to win right now.

Daenerys Targaryen has three rebellious dragons on her hands, who apparently are entering some sort of teenage phase and don't need mothering anymore. The dragons should have had more airtime though, especially with a substantial CGI budget and how much hype HBO built around the dragons. If Daenerys is going to have dragon troubles, we want to be able to see more than a couple of minutes of it.

Let's also take a moment to appreciate the sassiness of Jon Snow, everyone's favorite illegitimate child. His ability to sweet-talk his way out of death for being a traitor is marvelous, and the show just would not be the same without his smart mouth.

This upcoming season is sure to continue

pleasing its audience with more gory goodness, especially after the second episode of the season on Sunday when Joffrey died. Yes, it finally happened. When everyone thought he was just being dramatic, he was actually choking and dying. The most hated character on television will finally stop filling minds with his bragging and annoyance.

It was assumed something big would happen during the Purple Wedding, but the death of Joffrey took everyone by surprise and was probably the best thing that could have happened. The series continues next Sunday with episode three, "Breaker of Chains."

The question on everyone's mind is: who is going to die next?

## TV REVIEW

"Game of Thrones"

Our Rating:



# 'Mad Men' falls into beginning of seventh season

Dalton Cox  
Reporter

*Spoilers below.*

Seven years ago, the pilot episode of "Mad Men," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," pitched audiences a dramatic portrayal of America in 1960.

April 13, the premiere episode of part one of the seventh season, "Time Zones,"

landed audiences and protagonist Don Draper at LAX, across the country from the usual New York City setting.

From the AMC series' beginning, the opening montage has depicted the silhouetted suit falling into space, and audiences always assumed "Mad Men" would follow Draper, conqueror of Madison Avenue, to his inevitable downfall. Fueled by one too many Old-Fashioneds, Don seemed to have finally fallen from grace in the finale of Season 6. He was forced to take a leave of absence from the agency of Sterling Cooper & Partners and has unintentionally made plans that

will further estrange him from his still fairly recent upgrade of a wife, Megan Draper.

In the season premiere, Don is found traveling to Los Angeles for his now-routine weekend reunion with his wife, who is unaware of her husband's professional hiatus. Don re-emerges, doing some last-minute shaving in an airplane bathroom and later riding one of the airport's moving walkways.

If sex correlates to power in Matthew Weiner's groovy universe, Megan is all strength and promise. The twenty-something picks Don up from the airport in psychedelic slow motion, wearing a mini-dress and driving an Austin-Healey convertible.

On the West Coast, she has created a world independent from her husband, in which she has her own career and calls the shots. When arriving home in the Hills, Megan informs Don, "I love it, but my next house is going to have a pool — [pause] our next house." In contrast, Don's notorious libido has at last become diminished by his personal failures. When propositioned by a young widow on his return flight to New York, Don

fittingly tells her, "I'm sorry, but I have to get back to work."

On the East Coast, Peggy Olsen finds herself as always, in a parallel position to that of her former mentor Don. She possesses more innate talent and determination than perhaps any of her coworkers, yet she finds that after nearly a decade of climbing the corporate ladder, she is suddenly in a submissive position in direct contrast to the one she has fought to attain. Her new boss, Lou Avery, douses Peggy's every drive to exceed mediocre work.

At the end of the episode, Peggy tearfully collapses after failing to succeed in her personal and professional relationships. Peggy and Don finish the episode as outsiders. Though they still hold the facade of success, these characters, as Nixon put it in his inauguration speech, have plummeted, "reaching with magnificent precision for the moon, but falling into raucous discord."

Other subplots of the episode included Roger Sterling lightening the mood by having adopted a harem of sexual partners in some luxury hotel room. Joan Harris enjoys some well-earned suc-

cess by maintaining Butler Footwear as a client, despite an executive director's attempt to disregard her as the agency's uneducated sex pawn.

Despite Joan's triumph, the Butler "shoe-boy's" dismissive image of Joan seems to often mirror her own self-reflection. When the hour-long episode has passed, no one is altogether content. Peggy is left crying next to a Christmas tree, and a drunken Don is sitting on his freezing terrace, on the outside looking in. Viewers are reunited with these characters as they clamor to stay atop their skyscraping pedestals. Despite the revolutionary years, their positions are not so different from when audiences first met them in 1960.

The question is asked, can these characters find their way to redemption, or will they be perpetually damned by social prejudice and their own hubris? As Freddy Rumsen says in the episode's first scene, "I want you to pay attention. This is the beginning of something." But that something has yet to be realized. "Time Zones" recaptures our attention by asking all the questions, but gave viewers none of the answers.

## TV REVIEW

"Mad Men"

Our Rating:



# Men's tennis carries winning formula to SoCon Tournament

Jordan Spritzer  
Senior Reporter

With its highest national ranking in program history, a second straight Southern Conference regular season title and an undefeated conference record, it would seem the Elon University men's tennis team has nothing left to prove.

But the team is not resting on its regular season success, as it will be the last chance at a conference tournament title for Elon's lone senior, Cameron Silverman.

"I'm missing a conference tournament on my resume. That's the one thing I really want," Silverman said. "[The tournament] is always the most exciting part of the year, I think, for everybody on the team just to see all the hard work we've done over the year and to see if it pays off in the end."

For Silverman, a conference tournament title would be the icing on the cake of an amazing career in maroon and gold. Silverman has gained national recognition for his play throughout his four years. In January 2014, Silverman won the Men's National Open Indoor Championship by defeating the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Quinto Vega. With his success, Silverman has become a staple in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's singles rankings. The Mount Kisco, N.Y. native was ranked 35th in the most recent ITA polls.

But the road does not end here for Silverman. The senior has aspirations to continue his playing career after Elon and to try to establish himself on the professional circuit. Despite not playing at a traditional powerhouse program, Silverman said he has been given every opportunity to help him succeed at the next level.

"We start off with a really strong non-conference schedule, so I get a little bit of a feel [for things]. I played guys like Mitchell Frank of [University of] Virginia and other guys that are also trying to go on the Pro tour," Silverman said. "Whenever I practice, coaches are always trying to make changes for me and always trying to develop more for when I get out of

school and play with the big boys."

Elon head coach Michael Leonard said he believes that, with more improvement, Silverman can become a formidable pro.

"He has a couple things technically he has to get better at, [such as] a bigger forehand and little more consistent first serve," Leonard said.

According to Leonard, a former professional himself, the key for Silverman's success as a pro goes beyond skills.

"The thing for him to be the pro he wants to be and the pro I'd like him to be is to continue to be emotionally strong," Leonard said. "To be able to come out with the same mentality day in and day out throughout a match, which is a challenge for him. He's so much better than he used to be, but to go to a pro level — it's called professional for a reason."

Silverman and the rest of the squad have steamrolled through conference play en route to their 9-0 record. In its nine wins, the Phoenix has shut out opponents four times, won 6-1 four times and 5-2 once. But Leonard is not letting the lopsided scores make him or the rest of the team too comfortable.

"I think what happened a lot was we won a lot of close matches," Leonard said. "We won some big points in big moments to make the score a little more lopsided than it actually was."

Junior Stefan Fortmann, March's Southern Conference Player of the Month, said each match was a challenge regardless of the final score.

"Some of the matches may show up 5-2, 6-1, but they've been tough matches for our team," Fortmann said.

Perhaps Elon's biggest threat in the SoCon tournament is Furman University. Despite their struggles last year, the Paladins have found winning form behind new No. 1 singles player freshman Adam Steryous.

"[Steryous] really meshed that team together," Silverman said.

The Phoenix defeated Furman in Greenville 6-1 in a matchup of the last two unbeaten SoCon teams.

"They have a couple of big guys on the team. We did see some really big

serves, and they're a really dangerous team and have a lot of talent," Fortmann said. "When they get hot, they can definitely do damage to any other team in the conference. We're fortunate to have battled through some adversity. The guys toughened up to pull out a good win."

Elon defeated in-state rival Appalachian State University to clinch the regular season title, but Fortmann admitted the Mountaineers can pose a threat come tournament time.

"They've had a good regular season themselves," Fortmann said. "Although their overall record maybe isn't showing that they've had the best of seasons, you see their record in conference it's been one of the [better] ones. They definitely don't have a team that we can't blow past."

Leonard sees Appalachian State as a potential wild card because the Mountaineers will enter the tournament after a strong end-of-season schedule.

If Elon is going to take home the tournament title, the Phoenix will have to dethrone defending champion Samford University. The Bulldogs defeated Elon on its home court in 2013 in a match that came down to the final game. But the Phoenix has gotten the best of the Bull-

dogs in 2014, beating them twice.

"The first time we played them, it went really down to the wire. There were three or four matches that could have gone either way," Silverman said.

Elon then beat Samford again, this time in conference play. The Phoenix dominated throughout the day, blanking the Bulldogs 7-0.

Even with a field full of competition, the team believes its focus needs to be on itself, rather than the opponents.

"We can control things with how we play. Everything we focus on now is what we're doing, and things will take care of themselves," Leonard said.

Regardless of where the focus lies, Elon has found winning form. With all eyes on Chattanooga, the Phoenix will look to keep the momentum rolling.

"We're just going out and playing and doing what we're doing every match. It seems to be a winning formula, so we just have to try and keep it up," Fortmann said.

*For all updates and news surrounding the Southern Conference tennis tournaments, please follow @pendulumsports on Twitter and visit elonpendulum.com*



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

An undefeated regular season in SoCon play earned Elon the No.1 seed in the upcoming tournament.

# Elon seniors ready to make final push

**Matt Mallian**  
Senior Reporter

For three Elon University women's tennis players, the upcoming Southern Conference Women's Tennis Championships, scheduled for April 16-19 in Chattanooga, Tenn., will mark the final time they take the court as members of the Phoenix.

The three seniors — Jordan Johnston, Frida Jansaker and Bryn Khoury — have been part of some of the best teams in program history, setting records and cementing themselves in the Elon history books.

During their careers, the team achieved its highest national ranking in program history, won its first match over an Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) opponent and made its first appearance in the championship match of the SoCon Women's Tennis Championships.

Johnston, named SoCon Freshman of the Year in 2011, became one of the most decorated tennis players in Elon's history during her career as a Phoenix. Playing at No. 1 singles and doubles for the majority of her career, Johnston is a three-time, first-team All-SoCon honoree and has won the SoCon Player of the Week award three times.

Jansaker has earned All-SoCon team honors twice during her career at Elon and was named to the Academic All-SoCon team three times as well. As the team's top doubles pair during their sophomore and junior seasons, Jansaker and Johnston climbed up the national rankings, reaching as high as No. 43. The duo ended their junior seasons with a record of 42-4 in doubles play, helping the Phoenix to a program-best 21 victories in 2013.

Khoury's 2013 performance was another key component to the winningest season in program history. She went 22-4 at No. 4 singles for the Phoenix, good enough for second-team All-SoCon honors. In addition, Khoury has been named to the Academic All-SoCon team in each of her seasons as a Phoenix.

"[The seniors] have been fantastic," Elon head coach Elizabeth Anderson said. "They have really done a lot for our team on and

off the court. They are a great group and provide a lot of leadership to our team, and I can't thank them enough for everything that they've given to the team day in and day out."

This year's squad has experienced tremendous highs and lows en route to a 12-8 record and six SoCon wins. After losing its first four matches to nationally ranked teams, the Phoenix reeled off eight straight victories to improve to 8-4. But the team struggled a bit as the season wore on, dropping four of its next six matches following its winning streak. The Phoenix bounced back, picking up two victories against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Western Carolina University to close out SoCon play in preparation for the postseason.

Last season, the Phoenix came just short of winning the conference tournament. Trailing 3-0 against the College of Charleston, Elon stormed back to tie the match before eventually losing 4-3. To Jansaker, losing in the finals last season can only help the team heading into this year's tournament.

"We have more experience this year," Jansaker said. "Now we know that we've already been there, and it's not as new anymore so I feel like we will handle that situation if we can get there."

Knowing this year's tournament will be her last, Johnston is ready to leave it all on the court.

"We're fired up for this tournament — maybe more than ever — and we're all just willing to put everything out there in our last hurrah," Johnston said. "We've had some great times together, and win, lose or draw, we always have fun and enjoy it."

Four years have all but passed for the three seniors and, while matches have been won and honors earned, the trio lacks one achievement that has been the goal the entire time: a SoCon Tournament championship.

"It's been a great ride here at Elon," Khoury said. "I definitely want to finish strong. I can't imagine leaving this place, and I want to leave it on a good mark."

With a SoCon record of 6-3, the Phoe-



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Jordan Johnston is one of three seniors trying to bring a SoCon Championship to Elon in their final season.

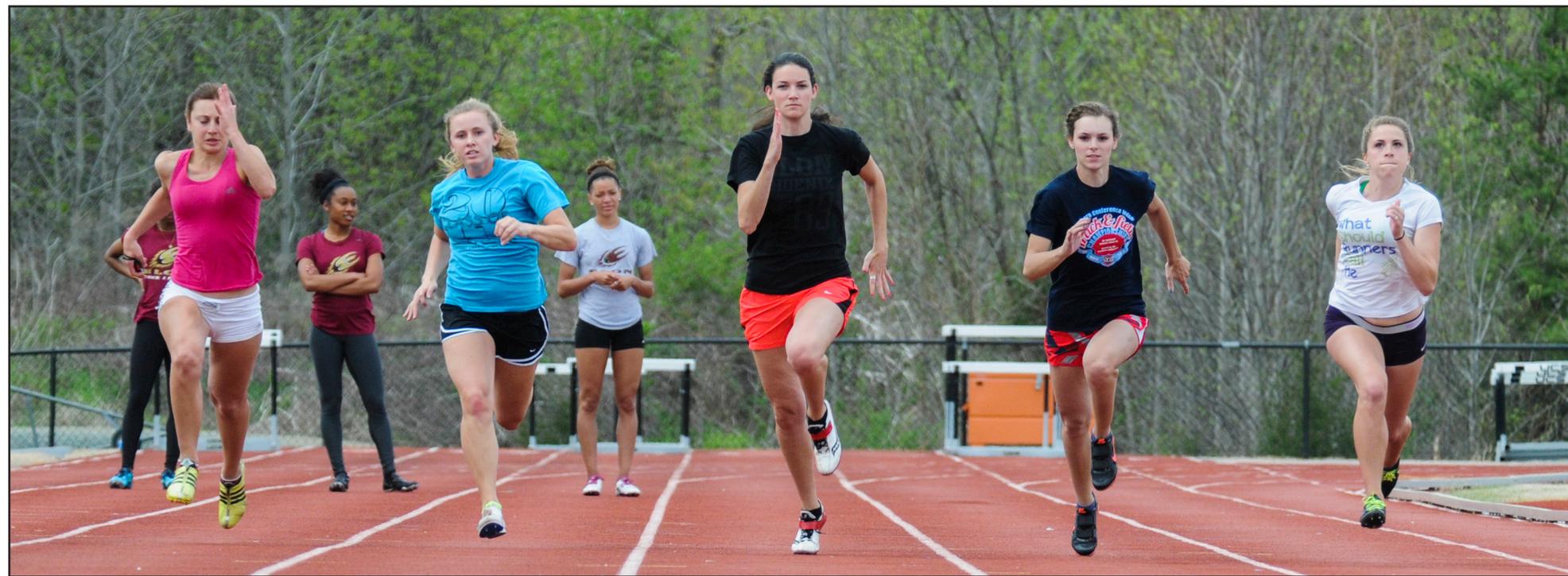
nix will be the No. 4 seed in the tournament and take on the No. 5 seed UNCG in its first match at 1 p.m. April 17. Elon defeated the Spartans in the only matchup between the two teams this season April 10, a 6-1 victory.

Awaiting the Phoenix in a potential quarterfinal match is the No. 1 seed Furman University. The Paladins, ranked No. 63 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis As-

sociation (ITA), own a perfect 9-0 SoCon record heading into the tournament, and narrowly defeated the Phoenix, 4-3, March 21, Elon's only home loss of the season.

Elon also lost matches to the two other teams ranked ahead of them in the SoCon standings, Samford University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. These losses came on the same weekend, April 5-6, as Elon lost 5-2 and 4-3, respectively.

# Flying under the radar: Elon women's



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Having overcome lost practice time because of winter weather, the Elon University women's track and field team is finally able to train for its spring outdoor season at Irwin Belk Track.

**Matt Krause**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Aside from football, what Elon University athletic team has the greatest number of athletes?

The answer might surprise you: women's track and field.

The track team, led by eight-year head coach Mark Elliston, is in the midst of the outdoor portion of its schedule, which runs from late March through May. This part of the schedule comprises the second half of the season, which began with the indoor season from January to early March.

Outdoor track is held on a 400-meter outdoor track. Indoor tracks are located in large warehouse-esque buildings and measure 200 meters each. The indoor track was kind to Elon in 2014, as two athletes won individual conference championships: sophomore hurdler Sydney Griffin and senior distance runner Allyson Oram.

## Indoor success

March 1-2 at the JDL Fast Track Com-

plex in Winston-Salem, Elon competed in the Southern Conference Indoor Championships. Griffin won the 60-meter hurdles crown, and Oram took first place in the 3,000-meter run.

Elon finished fifth overall in the meet with 88 points, a school record for points at the conference indoor meet.

"Indoor was a big boost for us," Elliston said. "We had a lot of great performances at the conference meet."

For Griffin, the hurdles win was her second straight SoCon indoor title. Her winning time of 8.60 was .05 seconds faster than the 8.65 she ran in 2013, capping off a season in which she doubted her ability to achieve success.

"I was struggling a bit because I was experimenting with my steps going to the first hurdle," Griffin said. "There were some times where I thought, 'This isn't going to be a good year,' but it all came through."

To realize her goal of a second straight conference title, Griffin had to overcome nerves. Even though she had already run a personal-best 8.60 Feb. 17 at the Liberty Quad in Lynchburg, Va., she was nervous

entering the 60-meter final at the SoCon meet.

"I'm always nervous," Griffin said. "That's one of my biggest battles. I remember waking up and saying, 'Today's the day,' and I felt confident."

Once the gun went off, adversity struck. Attempting to clear the second hurdle, she had a misstep, but was able to recover and go on to win the race.

"I was behind, and I was like, 'No, I'm not losing like this,'" Griffin said. "And [I] made it to the finish line, and I was at peace."

Griffin's title followed Oram, who won the 3K event with a time of 9:34.37, which broke her own school record.

"Their talent is phenomenal," Elliston said. "Once they can really train and work hard and get into some good competition, then they really do shine. We've got a pretty good core group of really solid athletes."

## Battling the weather

Once the indoor season wrapped up, it was on to outdoor season. But a major obstacle stood in Elon's way: the weather.

"When it's freezing cold and you try to go outside and bundle up to run fast or jump, it just doesn't work," Elliston said.

"It's not easy to run on the track when it's covered in snow," Griffin added.

The abnormally brutal winter weather that rolled through North Carolina wreaked havoc on the team's preparation. The first outdoor meet of the year took place March 14-15, just a week after an ice storm coated Alamance County and left Elon without electricity in many of its buildings and student residences. In the meantime, the track team was forced to find alternate methods of training. The indoor venue at Wake Forest University is shared among local schools, so Elon was able to get some training time there.

Other nontraditional training methods were used as well, specifically visiting Elon's campus recreation facilities. Still, this training was no substitute for time outside on the track.

"We've tried to get into the pool and the rec center, but it's tough to train," Elliston said. "It pushes us from training into exercise. Getting ready for Division I compe-

# track achieves success inside and out

tion out in the cold weather just doesn't work."

## Out in the fresh air

Elon finished second at the Seahawk Invitational, hosted by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. That meet saw Griffin take first in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.23.

Sophomore Jennifer Esposito was excited for the outdoor season to begin. Esposito finished fourth in the 100-meter dash at the UNCW meet with a time of 15.20 and won the 400-meter hurdles at 1:01.38.

"I love outdoors because they have the 400 hurdles," Esposito said. "I was very excited to run that again because I didn't run it last year because I was hurt, and there's no 400 hurdles indoors."

Two weeks later, Elon was unfazed by rain at the Raleigh Relays hosted by North Carolina State University. Griffin and Esposito broke school records in hurdles competition, with Griffin taking the 100-meter hurdles at 13.95 and Esposito clocking in at 1:00.57 in the 400-meter hurdles.

"It's always nice when you [set a personal record]," Esposito said. "It's always nice to see your teammates [set a personal record] too. You're around the same people every day, and it's great to see them get better."

For Griffin, the feeling of setting the record took a while to set in.

"It was very overwhelming," she said. "When I thought about it the day after, I thought, 'Wow, that's insane.' I knew I could do it, it just took the right weather, it took the right amount of competitors, and there was good competition at the Raleigh Relays."

Another Elon athlete who has found success is sophomore high jumper Megan Kirschling, who was named SoCon Field Athlete of the Week following her performance in Raleigh, where she cleared the bar at 5'7".

Elon's athletes know, with the SoCon Outdoor Championships coming up April 26-27 in Spartanburg, S.C., there is potential for the Phoenix.

"I would like to see us break into plac-

ing [in the top three] in conference," Griffin said. "I know we can do it, and if we all stay healthy and driven we can even do more than that."

Griffin said her dream is to qualify for the NCAA Championship meet, which will be held in June in Eugene, Ore. First, she would have to go through the NCAA regional meet in Jacksonville, Fla., May 29-31.

## Building the program

While Griffin longs for the chance to compete on the national stage, Elliston is focused on elevating his program, largely unknown on campus and in the community. Elliston said the administration has already helped his program significantly, raising it from "under the radar" when he took over to its current state.

"We're still the bottom of the totem pole, but we're starting to get attention, and they realize what we've done," he said.

Elliston said getting a new track facility constructed is a priority for him, as it will allow Elon to host meets on campus. Currently, the Irwin Belk track is only used for practice.

"It's a good one, but it's not good enough for meets and to get teams to come here," Elliston said. He added that when Elon has the infrastructure, he wants to "put on a good meet where teams will come and then come back."

In the meantime, Elliston will keep on recruiting. Thanks to the fact track and field is largely based on numerical results, Elliston is able to do a large majority of his recruiting online. His main goal is to get potential athletes out to Elon for a visit and sell the school and program then.

"Once they take a good look at Elon and see we've got good academics and a pretty good track team, they've got the best of both worlds," Elliston said.

Griffin, one of these recruits, was receiving a great deal of attention from recruiters following a standout freshman season in high school, but injuries beset her in her sophomore and junior years.

"Elon was the only school that kept talk-



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

**Sophomore Simone Jackson is one of many runners contributing to Elon's success on the track this season.**

ing to me," she said. "Coach Elliston would always check on me."

Griffin returned to full health and set new personal records her senior year while holding her commitment to Elon.

Elliston also stresses academic success for his team, pointing out that the average team GPA for all 45 athletes is a 3.3.

"They're not like the average student,"

Elliston said. "They're not able to stay up late or put that paper off because they're working hard physically, and weekends they're competing so they have to get their rest. That's pretty impressive."

Griffin and Esposito both have two more years of competing for Elon and will have a role in helping to bring the program further into the limelight.

# HOLI 2014

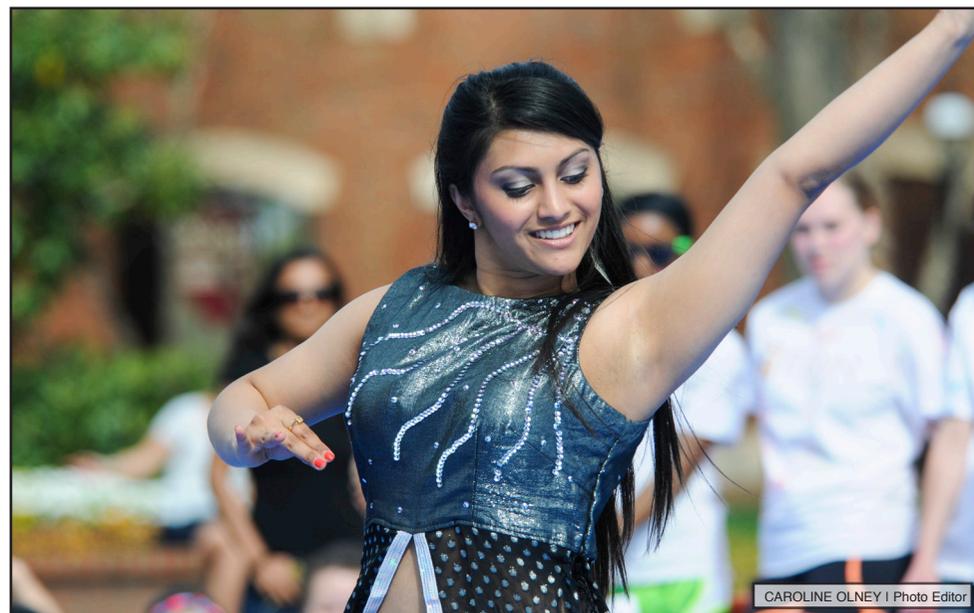
The Truitt Center for Religious Life hosted a Holi Celebration April 11 at Speakers Corner. The festival traditionally celebrates the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

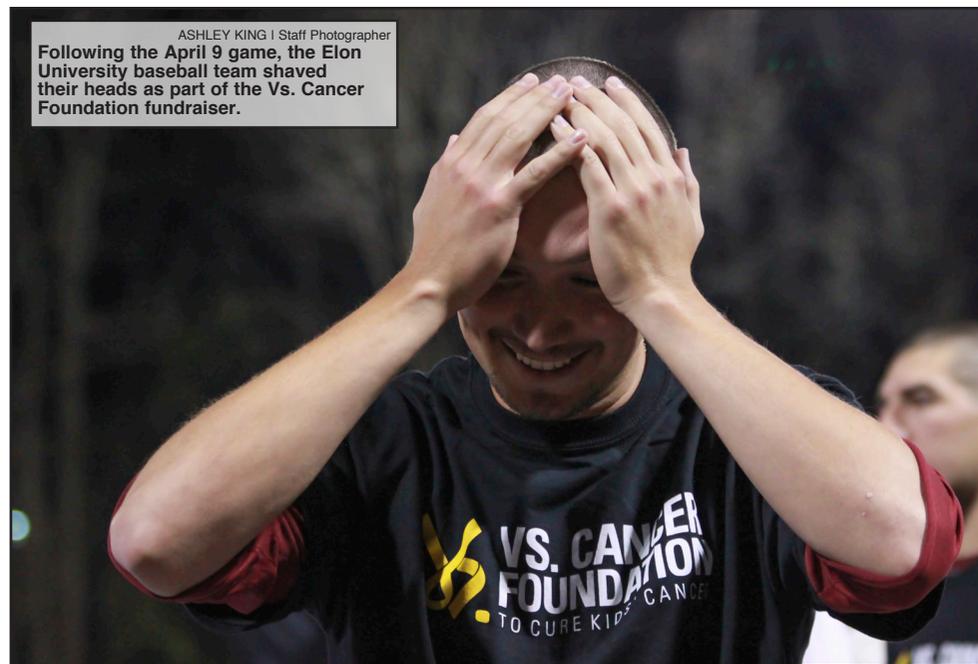


CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
High Point University freshman Josh Greene slides under the tag of Elon University senior Sebastian Gomez. Elon won 12-5 April 9.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Following the April 9 game, the Elon University baseball team shaved their heads as part of the Vs. Cancer Foundation fundraiser.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer  
Alpha Chi Omega dancers compete in Greek Week Dance April 9. Delta Delta Delta and Delta Upsilon won.

# Another milestone

## *Elon baseball coach humble in earning 600th victory*

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Six hundred wins is a big deal, right?

“It’s really not,” said Elon University baseball coach Mike Kennedy.

Kennedy won his 600th game April 12 when the Phoenix routed Wofford College 12-2. Currently in his 18th year at the helm, he’s had 16 winning seasons and advanced to the NCAA Tournament six times.

“I’m pretty happy I was able to be a part of it tonight,” junior pitcher John Antonelli said. “Hopefully it’s something he’ll remember forever.”

Kennedy took over as head coach for Elon in 1997 after serving as the pitching coach for four seasons, three of which the pitching staff ranked among the country’s 20 best NCAA Division II teams in terms of earned run average.

That work carried over all the way to 2009, when he was selected to be the pitching coach for USA Baseball’s Collegiate National Team. The team posted a 2.16 earned run average that summer, winning the 2009 World Baseball Challenge title.

Kennedy played for Elon from 1988-1990 before being drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the ninth round of the Major League Baseball amateur draft. He said that’s the last time

he’s actually won a game.

“The guys win games,” Kennedy said. “I think when I played here, I won maybe two or three with some big hits. Other than that, it’s been a long time since I’ve won a game.”

He helped guide Elon’s transition to the Division I ranks in 2000 without missing a beat. Prior to that, Kennedy led Elon to a South Atlantic Conference regular season title and a trip to the Regional Championship — in his first season on the job.

Fifteen seasons with 30 or more victories, five conference regular season titles and three conference tournament titles show the success Kennedy’s had and the legacy he’s built.

During the course of his tenure, there have

been 35 Elon players who earned first-team all-conference honors and 48 players who have gone on to play professional baseball.

“I’ve been very, very fortunate to coach some really good players,” he said. “I’ve been very, very fortunate to be consistent. If I had to say anything about 600, I’m just really pleased this program has been really consistent in what we’ve done.”

Anticipating the milestone, Elon players planned a Powerade shower for Kennedy following the win over Wofford. Prior to the postgame huddle, a few players subtly dragged the cooler out to the field. Kennedy spotted them and made them put it down and come to the huddle.

After he finished speaking, Kennedy sprinted over and dumped the contents of the cooler out, preventing any celebration of that sort.

“I’m not a big fan of that stuff,” Kennedy said. “They did it one time before, I remember, and it about killed me. I caught them in time.”

Elon first baseman Tyler McVicar acknowledged how big the victory was, but he said he knew Kennedy would shrug it off.

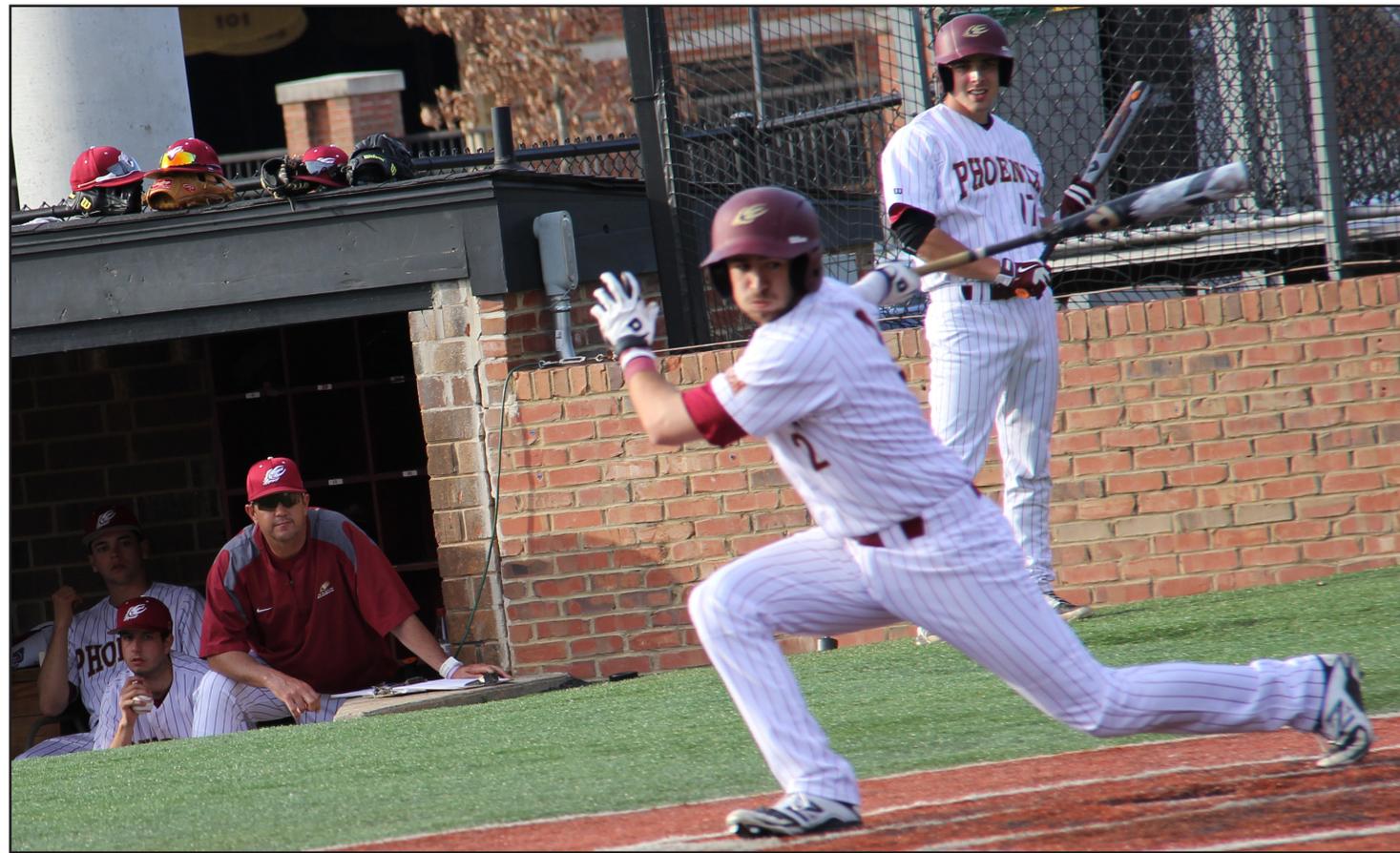
“He didn’t want to get covered after we won the conference tournament, so I figured he wouldn’t want to get covered after that,” McVicar said.

Senior Sebastian Gomez said when Kennedy won his 500th game in 2011, the team didn’t realize it until after the fact, so nothing was planned for him. Gomez marveled at how nonchalant Kennedy was about the accomplishment.

“He told us to take him out for a steak dinner,” Gomez said. “I’m like, ‘Come on coach, we don’t have that type of [money].’”

That’s who Kennedy is. He’s put his players first for the past 21 seasons at Elon, and the effects show on the field.

While he wasn’t drenched with Powerade, he’s soaked up the potential of countless baseball players at Elon. And that couldn’t be measured by wins, yet alone steak dinners.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Eighteenth-year head coach Mike Kennedy (left, in dugout) has led Elon baseball from a Division II team to a nationally respected Division I playoff participant.