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Students prepare for Elonthon, a 24-hour dance marathon. pg. 7

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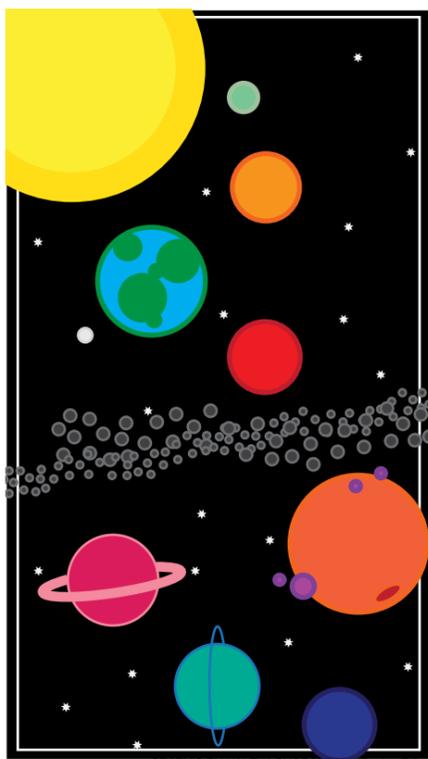
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# THE PENDULUM

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## Neil deGrasse Tyson to headline Spring Convocation



GRAPHIC BY HALEY LONGBOIT TOM | Design Editor

**Lauren Phillips**  
Assistant Style Editor

A line of Elon University faculty, staff, students and community members coiled through the Center for the Arts lobby. As they waited for the box office's two windows to open, they were unaware that most of them wouldn't receive tickets to Elon's 2015 Spring Convocation.

At 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, tickets to Spring Convocation became available at the box office. They were sold out within 30 minutes.

"They sold out faster than anything else," said Joan Dawson, program assistant for cultural programs.

One man caused this overwhelming demand for tickets: astrophysicist, author, TV personality and general science superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson. Tyson will visit Elon Thursday and serve as the keynote speaker for this year's Spring Convocation: "The Sky is Not the Limit."

Tyson is well known in the science community, but he also has a wide appeal that compelled faculty and students to fill all of the approximately 2,200 spaces available in Alumni Gym.

"It's great to see such a broad interest in this guy," said Tony Crider, associate professor of physics. "Unlike some occasions when you might bring a science speaker to campus, our job isn't to bring students there — it's to keep students out."

The high level of interest didn't surprise Crider.

"He's as close as you get to a rockstar in science," he said. "The day they announced he was coming to campus,

See **TYSON**  
page 12

## Campus security creates phone app

*Students can download app for own safety and to report tips*

**Katy Canada**  
Senior Reporter

Elon University's Campus Safety and Police launched LiveSafe, a smartphone safety application, on March 30.

Campus Safety and Police has been working since November to bring a safety app to Elon. LiveSafe cost the university around \$11,000, Director of Campus Safety and Police Dennis Franks said, but it was an investment in safety.

"I think you can't put a price tag on safety," he said. "We enjoy a low crime rate, but you don't want to take it for granted."

Users who download LiveSafe will first be prompted to create an account. Then, they can report a tip, dial an emergency phone number or view a map that shows where each blue light on campus is located.

Safe Walk — another feature of the app — provides the location of students walking alone a virtual buddy system that allows other users to track on a map.

Through LiveSafe, users can also contact Safe Rides, Elon's designated driver program, E-Rides, another transportation service on campus, and Safe Line, a phone line for reporting incidents of bias.

"Probably 99 percent of our students have a smart device," Franks said. "What better way to help build our community relations?"

Junior Kerianne Durkin said she would take advantage of the app even though she considers Elon a safe campus.

**Tommy Hamzik**  
Managing Editor

There's a great deal of mutual understanding between the players and coaches as the Elon University football team begins spring practice.

After spending last spring adjusting to new head coach Rich Skrosky and his staff and schemes, the Phoenix knows what to expect during its 15 practices this month, the first of which was held Monday.

Skrosky described that familiarity through a sequence where senior running back Tracey Coppedge provided



dispatcher on duty. Users may also report tips anonymously.

While the app covers topics such as campus safety and incidents, a section for students to file statements of hazing incidences is not included.

Currently, there is no category for students to report hazing, but Franks said students can relay that kind of activity through the "other" category and provide a description. He said Campus Safety and Police will look into adding hazing to the list of options.

To urge students to download the app, Campus Safety and Police issued a scavenger hunt from March 30 to April 2 that sent students searching for images of the Elon Phoenix across campus. Students who submitted photos of the phoenix to Campus Security through LiveSafe were entered to win a daily drawing for two \$100 Target Gift Cards, an iPad Mini and a parking spot in the McMichael parking lot.

Though Franks said there hasn't been a jump in crime rates to warrant additional precautions, Campus Safety and Police has taken several measures to increase security in the past year, including installing additional blue lights on campus and purchasing body cameras for officers to wear when they are on duty.

Freshman Cailin Jalynski said the app is a worthwhile addition to campus security because some of the current safety measures aren't always readily available.

"The blue lights aren't everywhere, and if you just need something instantly then [the app] is a good way to have it," Jalynski said. "I think just improving security and options for people is always good."

"I might use Safewalk now because I live off campus," she said. "Coming back from the library at night can sometimes be kind of sketchy."

Durkin also said she would use LiveSafe to contact Safe Rides on weekends.

Students who use the app to report a tip select options from a grid that displays 12 different categories, including traffic accidents, assault and suspicious activity. After choosing a category, users can provide a description of the situation, take a photo or video and communicate with the

## Phoenix starts spring football practice

**Tommy Hamzik**  
Managing Editor

some direction to freshman running back Nick Theos, who transferred to Elon in the winter.

Coppedge pulled Theos aside, telling him where their group was heading next.

"They couldn't do that a year ago," Skrosky said. "We've established some culture, some protocol."

Elon will have a revamped roster in 2015 after a number of departures during the off-season. Backup quarterback John Loughery transferred to Temple University, and starting offensive lineman Thomas McGuire will graduate in May and head to Division II

Minnesota State University, Mankato for his last year of eligibility.

Also gone is wide receiver Andre Davis (48 catches, 424 yards in 2014) and defensive lineman Robert Davis. Wide receiver Justin Osborne was dismissed from the team for a violation of team rules.

So there are still some adjustments to be made.

The biggest question surrounding the Phoenix, which went 1-11 last year in its inaugural season in the Colonial Athletic Association, is the quarterback position. Mike Quinn, who started all 12 games last year, graduat-

ed, and Loughery would have been in the conversation if he hadn't transferred.

So that leaves two candidates, neither of whom have taken a snap at Elon — redshirt freshman Connor Christiansen and incoming freshman Daniel Thompson.

"Connor has some comfortability about him because he's been through it," Skrosky said. "Daniel is a real competitive kid, and he's got a real composure about him. Every day, I'm excited when I come in and see those guys. They

See **FOOTBALL**  
page 15

# Pi Kappa Phi suspended until January 2017

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

Elon University, in conjunction with the national office of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, closed the Epsilon Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi March 17 until January 2017, according to an email to The Pendulum from Smith Jackson, vice president for student life and dean of students.

This decision comes more than a month after the fraternity was suspended indefinitely for allegations of hazing.

Jackson said a campus investigation and conduct hearing determined that new members of the fraternity were hazed during the spring pledge period and that the chapter hosted an unapproved event off-campus with alcohol.

"The decision to remove Pi Kappa Phi follows a pattern over several years of discipline for violations of the Elon Honor Code," Jackson said. "Student safety and well-being are the university's top concern."

While there was no evidence of physical injury or forced alcohol consumption, the fraternity's activities, which occurred during a time when the organization was on social probation for prior violations of the Elon University Honor Code, violated the university's and national fraternity's policies.

"Elon University is committed to hosting fraternities and sororities that uphold strong values and advance student success," Jackson said. "While groups support different philanthropies and causes and have different histories and traditions, all fraternities and sororities promote brotherhood or sisterhood, high scholastic achievement, service to



Because of recent hazing incidents, the Epsilon Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi has been suspended for two years.

the community, leadership on campus and beyond, and the betterment of individuals."

All chapter operations — including any formal or informal meetings under the Pi Kappa Phi name, brotherhood events, chapter meetings, philanthropy or social events — are suspended until January 2017.

According to Jackson, the fraternity may be permitted to start a new chapter in Spring 2017, pending a detailed plan from the national organization of recruitment and new member activities to be conducted by fraternity staff, a

four-year member development plan and an alumni board structure and training program.

Even though the chapter is currently terminated, the 12 members living in the on-campus house can reside in the university-owned building until the end of the semester.

Students with information about hazing activities in any organization can contact the Office of Student Conduct — in person or anonymously through the hazing hotline at 336-278-4293 — or University Campus Safety & Police at 336-278-5555.

## Community unites in sending thoughts, prayers for Rosales' recovery

Leena Dahal  
Assistant News Editor

A utility tower, bedecked with get-well soon cards from members of the community, stands near the site of the accident. Hundreds of well-wishing emails, letters and social media posts have been written and shared. Numerous hospital visits and generous donations to cover medical bills have been made. And the love, thought and prayer for Gabriela Rosales keeps pouring in.

Two weeks after Rosales was struck by a car while crossing N. Williamson Avenue, the Elon community continues to send outpouring support for recovery from her critical injuries.

In response to the community's assistance and care for Rosales and her family, Chaplain Fuller announced Monday the creation of a CaringBridge account, a forum that will provide updates on her condition. The Chaplain's Discretionary Fund, a designated Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life account that provides assistance to members of the Elon community experiencing difficulties, will also direct funds toward some of Rosales' medical bills. Members of the community have been invited to donate to the account in honor of Rosales.

With the support of her family, who traveled from her hometown in Nicaragua, and Elon faculty and staff, Rosales continues to receive care at UNC Hospital. As of Monday night, the CaringBridge account reported that Rosales remains stable with CAT scans yielding positive results and doctors slowly working to take her off the ventilator machine. According to a representative from UNC Hospital, Rosales is still in critical condition.

As the community continues to monitor her progress, strangers, classmates and professors have united in support of Rosales during this difficult time.

But the news hit Elon alumnus, Toorialey Fazly '14, especially hard. In the news of Rosales' accident, he was reminded of an ordeal he faced four years ago.

Only 15 days after arriving on campus in 2010, Fazly was struck by a car near the intersection of Haggard and Williamson. Thrown off his bike, he collided with the car's windshield and fell to the ground, sustaining several critical injuries including a broken neck and a broken leg.

"At first, I could not speak, but I could see," Fazly recalled. "The woman [who hit me] came out of the car, asked if I was okay and then drove off."

As an international student from Afghanistan, Fazly said despite having no family members in the continent and only a few established friends at Elon, the extensive support from strangers and peers alike helped bridge the distance from home.

Receiving more than 250 cards on the first day of the accident, he quickly realized he was far from alone. During his four month recovery period, hundreds more letters, emails and text messages from friends and strangers came pouring in. Classmates took notes on lectures he missed, countless people visited him during his recovery, and friends and strangers alike sent him homemade baked goods.

"I had to deal with the pain, that was something else," he said. "But knowing I had the support made this environment home for me."

Fazly said he wanted the community to know that as a victim of a similar incident, he truly and cordially appreciated the help and support he received during his recovery.

"More than anything else, the support was what helped me most in the process of getting better and healed," he said. "It mattered to me back then and it will continue to matter to me for the rest of my life."

As it did for Fazly, the support for Rosales from the com-

munity was immediate. Only three days after her accident, the community came together to raise funds for Rosales' medical expenses through a series of profit shares held on March 19.

Vivian Splawn, a worker at All That JAS, said the support was heartwarming.

"We were getting Internet orders from schools all around the country," she said. "We had a broad-range of people coming together to support Gabriela."

The store, which specializes in Greek merchandise and customizable gifts, raised a total of \$1,200 for Rosales' recovery.

"It could have happened to anyone and it could have happened anywhere," Splawn said.

The Oak House also participated in the profit share, making an exception for their rule to avoid profit shares for their first year.

"We initially started this year ruling out profit shares because we felt we are new and still learning the business," said co-owner Phil Smith. "But because of the situation and the support her family needed, we did not hesitate to make an exception for Gabriela."

The coffee shop directed 10 percent of every order on March 19 to Rosales' family, raising a total of \$250.

"A lot of people came and said, 'This is for Gabi,'" Smith said. "I thought that all the support was really indicative of the kind of community we have at Elon."



Signs and messages of goodwill were posted at an electrical pole close to where the accident occurred.

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# Small steps toward bus system

Kyle Maher and Julian Council Reporters

When Elon University's BioBus service added a route to downtown Burlington and East Burlington, Automotive Services, the department that runs the school's BioBus service, figured they would be transporting students to and from their volunteer obligations in those areas.

When they put the route into circulation, though, they quickly realized they would be shuttling an entirely different group of passengers around Burlington.

"We did feel like there would be a need for public transportation but not exactly how much until we began the route," said Automotive Services supervisor Keith Dimont. "Right from the beginning, we had folks without means of transportation using our BioBus for transportation to the Alamance County Health Department, Burlington Housing, May Memorial Library and Allied Churches."

This illustrates Burlington's shortage of public transportation, which, apart from the city's high crime rate, is almost universally considered the community's most pressing issue. Public transportation is especially lacking in areas with high rates of unemployment and poverty, such as East Burlington.

"Most of the folks we deal with maybe cannot drive [or] don't have a license to drive," said Tommy Hill, community employment team coordinator at OE Enterprises, a Burlington nonprofit. "Some folks we work with don't have the family support or any kind of means to purchase a car with insurance and everything, so even if they can drive, they can't afford a car. And that's usually the case for the majority of our folks that have that barrier. Transportation will always be the thing that rears up and stops most of the folks we deal with from finding steady employment and making an honest living. It's a huge problem for a lot of folks."

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Alamance County has more than 151,000 residents, making it one of North Carolina's 17 metropolitan areas. The major factor separating Alamance County from the other 16 is the lack of transportation.

Looking at the development of the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority, which serves an area just north of Charlotte consisting of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties, it's difficult to believe Alamance County has taken so long to address the issue.

As of now, the only means of public transportation available to the Burlington community are Elon University BioBuses and shuttles run by the Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA). Both are much-needed assets for residents without any other viable means of transportation, but drawbacks and limitations restrict their usefulness.

The BioBus is free for the community, but it offers only one bus for the 10-mile loop to downtown and East Burlington, and even then for only four hours during the workweek. The BioBus alone does not have the capacity to serve the thousands of residents who hope to use it. 2,312 residents rode the BioBus' downtown and East Burlington route in 2014-2015 — about 20 community riders a day.

The ACTA, founded in 2002 by the Board of Alamance

which leaves residents with jobs that last into the evening with no means of public transportation.

"Running 6 a.m.-5 p.m isn't helpful unless you get off work at that time, which most don't," Hill said. "And because those folks don't really have access to that service, they're still left with no transportation and are in the same bind they started in [and] that they had hoped ACTA would solve."

The cost is a steep sum for the majority of the service's targeted riders, most of whom live on limited means. The fee, combined with the high volume of customers and the limited trip schedule, leaves many searching for alternative options.

"ACTA does a good service for the town, but \$4-5 a ride is not economically feasible for most of the people

**"WE DID FEEL LIKE THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, BUT NOT EXACTLY HOW MUCH UNTIL WE BEGAN THE ROUTE."**

**KEITH DIMONT  
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES SUPERVISOR**

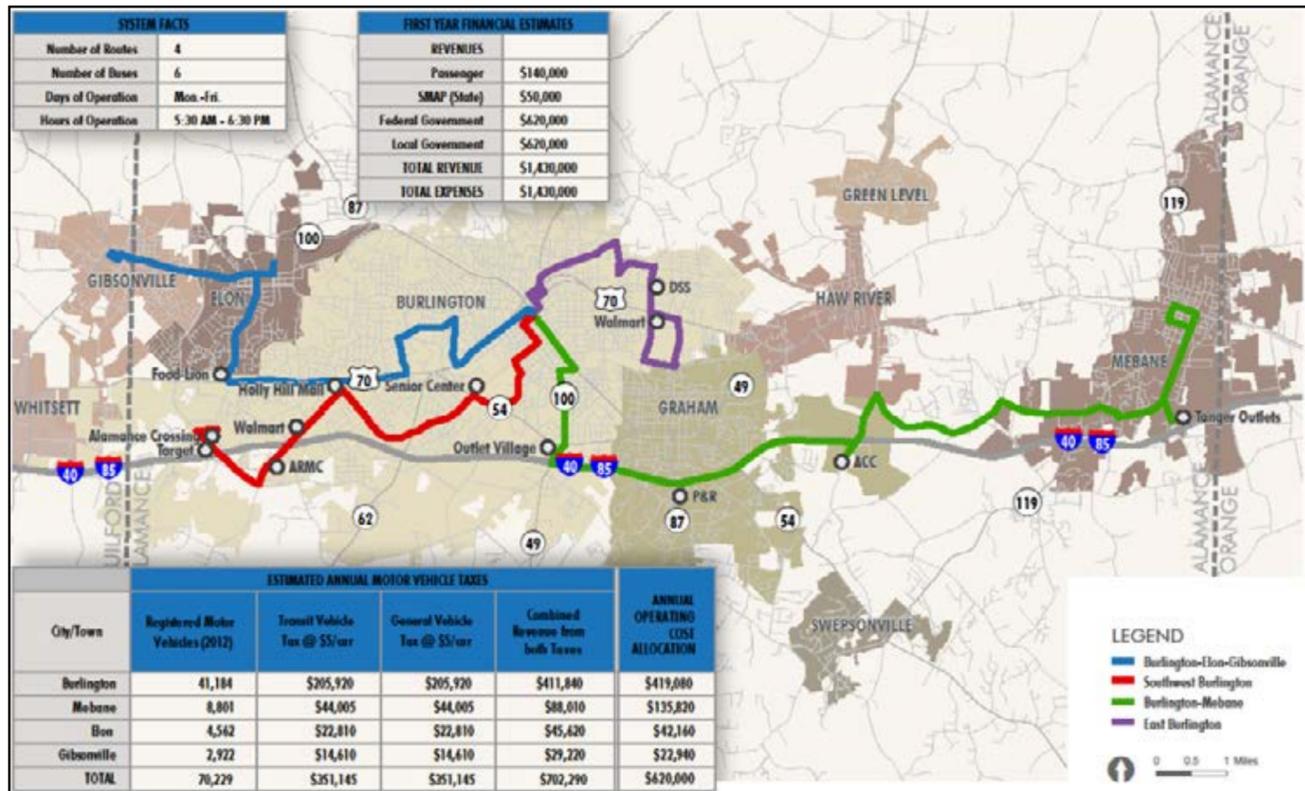
County Commissioners, is similarly unprepared to handle the number of residents looking to take advantage of its services.

Despite running at least 300 one-way trips per day, the shuttle service is in such high demand that citizens in need of rides are required to schedule them at least 24 hours in advance. Additionally, the ACTA has to charge \$5 for each one-way trip to pay for bus maintenance, drivers' and officials' salaries and insurance obligations.

The shuttle service only runs from 5 a.m.-5:30 p.m.,

we work with," Hill said. "If they're only working two or three hours and they have to pay \$10 round-trip just to get there, then it's probably not worth their while. It doesn't seem right. But I understand that \$4 or \$5 is as economical as [ACTA] can probably be."

Mike Nunn, executive director of the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPPO), was dissatisfied with his home county for not stepping forward and providing a solution for what he considered a clear issue within the community.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WWW.BGMPPO.ORG

# welcome for Burlington residents

Nunn, whose job entails planning for all transportation in the county, began discussing the seriousness of the issue with local elected officials and, with the Burlington City Council, issued a joint feasibility study in 2006 to initiate discussion of bringing a public transit system to Alamance County.

"The purpose of the study was to raise awareness of the problem in order to shed light on the unsatisfactory options available," Nunn said. "That way, elected officials would see how proper public transportation could be used to better serve the community."

The report, released August 2006 after a lengthy and thorough investigation into the issue, found that public transportation was necessary in order to "promote economic development by improving access to employment, re-training and shopping," particularly for residents with fixed or limited incomes. That economic development, the

**"THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY WAS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE BY FACILITATING AN OPEN DIALOGUE ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM IN ORDER TO SHED LIGHT ON THE UNSATISFACTORY OPTIONS AVAILABLE."**

**MIKE NUNN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BGMPPO**

study said, would "improve the quality of life for residents in the urban area."

In a comprehensive survey spearheaded by the Burlington City Council and described in the feasibility study, 25 percent of Alamance County residents had a person in their household older than 16 — the working age — who had no means of transportation. In addition, more than 40 percent of respondents said they would use a public transportation system to commute to work, and more than 70 percent expressed a willingness to use the system as their main method of transportation.

The study concluded that the system would address the issues with ACTA's service, which included long wait times to and from destinations, high demand relative to providable services and high costs.

To solve these issues, BGMPPO and the Burlington City Council decided the proposed public transit system would have five routes operating every hour and one route operating every half-hour to prevent long wait times and appointment requirements. To attract and satisfy customers who have limited means or work late into the evening, the system will run 5:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and cost just \$1 and change.

The study's findings demonstrated the necessity of a transit system and set the 8-year implementation process into motion.

During that time, the council made a point to immerse itself in the community to experience the seriousness of the issues first-hand. It also studied other cities' transportation services and determined the most effective plan for funding the system.

"We wanted to find out what other cities were doing, the way they were funding their own transportation system," said Burlington City Councilmember Kathy Hykes. "I personally looked up other studies that had been done

on funding of other transportation systems to determine what funding would be available to us in addition to the municipal [car] tax or in lieu of the tax if it wasn't passed."

After it felt sufficiently informed on the issue, the council voted unanimously in support of implementing the county-wide public transit system June 17, 2014.

While it will undoubtedly be helpful, the new service won't, in Hill's estimation, be a cure-all for the county's transportation woes.

"It's not going to be a fix-all for our folks, we know that," Hill said. "It's going to be something that'll help. But it won't solve the issue. Right now, of the folks we serve, it would probably benefit 15-20 percent of them. But it's not going to be a total fix-all because we got people living all over the county, some far out. But you can't develop anything that's going to get them."

To fund the system, community activists and the Burlington City Council had to create a money generator to supplement the money being funneled in through a number of different state and federal grants in addition to town and county funds.

Just recently, the Burlington City Council took an important step toward solving the system's funding concerns by passing a \$5 vehicle tax, set to go into effect July 1 — a model used by 10 of the 16 transit authorities in the state. Nunn and the council expect the tax to raise around \$200,000 or half of what the county needs to fully finance the system.

The proposed transit system will offer four routes throughout Alamance County: Burlington-Elon-Gibsonville, Southwest Burlington, Burlington-Mebane and East Burlington. The system has been described as a "destination system," meaning it has stops at medical centers, retail and shopping centers and public service offices, along with a commuter route connecting the county with the Triangle and Triad.

East Burlington is known as one of the least wealthy areas in the county. Nunn categorized it as a "high need area for public transportation and access to public services."

Yet of the four proposed public transportation routes, the East Burlington route is the shortest, and while that is cause for concern, Nunn believes the route will still accomplish its intended goal of better connecting East Burlington with the rest of the county.

"It's going to open up options for everyone in the community, especially in East Burlington," Nunn said. "It's opening up access to the entire city. Right now people have to stay in their own little area because they have no transportation options, and that area could be only three blocks. Well, now you can go to the whole city. The route provides options that weren't available to people before."

Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall defended the proposed routes, insisting they were carefully and meticulously planned after analyzing a variety of different route combinations.

"Employment and population density were key factors — along with housing and other retail destinations — when we were deciding where our buses would go," Wall said. "We chose routes that would serve the areas where people live, plus where they want and need to go on a daily basis."

Individuals in a community without public transportation access would continue to struggle to be hired or to maintain jobs once they were hired. The transit system will provide citizens with steady transportation at a discount rate and create jobs.

In Nunn's conservative estimation, the transit authority will need to hire between 8 and 15 employees to drive the buses, maintain the authority's building and buses, manage the authority and provide administration for the authority.

Nunn said that, despite its shortcomings, the economic impact a public transit system will have cannot be overstated given the poverty and unemployment that has crippled Alamance County for decades.

Hill also believes the service will give the local economy a much-needed jumpstart.

"I think it will boost the retailers," Hill said. "I would think it would boost the movie theaters and restaurants, where people now may have a chance to get to them where they haven't before. People do have money, even in lower income areas, and will be able to spend it on stuff they haven't been able to. I would hope that it would be a good jumpstart to the economy."

Once all funding has been raised, the county hopes to purchase equipment in 3 to 5 months to begin operation in early summer or spring 2016.

Once the system is in place, Wall hopes it will achieve

## BURLINGTON BUS OPTIONS

### BIOBUS

- Free to community
- 10-mile loop from Downtown Burlington to East Burlington
- Offers one route for four hours during workweek
- Only one bus making route

### ACTA

- \$5 per one-way trip
- 300 one-way trips per day
- Residents must schedule ride 24-hours before use
- Runs from 5 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



GRAPHIC BY MEGAN GRAVELLY | Design Editor

its intended effect of assisting the community's struggling residents.

"Adding this transportation option for all of Burlington and Gibsonville will be a key benefit to expanding consistent and dependable transportation for employees and employers that did not exist before," Wall said. "We hope that the community will find various ways to use the new system to raise their quality of life and contribute to the growth of our local economy."

# Hail to the madame president

## Avery Steadman takes role of first female SGA President in 22 years



CAROLINE FERNANDEZ | News Editor

Avery Steadman was inaugurated March 12 and will hold her first meeting as SGA president April 2.

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

NBA legend Michael Jordan didn't make his high school basketball team. Physicist Albert Einstein didn't speak until he was 4 and didn't read until he was 7. Elon University's newest Student Body President Avery Steadman ran for class historian in high school but was defeated.

"I was extremely devastated that I didn't get it," Steadman said. "I never thought I would get the courage to do it again. It's really putting yourself out there to have different opinions."

Her fortune changed when she stepped foot onto campus in 2012 to begin her freshman year.

On a whim two weeks into her first year at Elon, Steadman decided to run for a position on SGA. With the help of friends and roommates, she knocked on random Danieley apartment doors to collect the 200 signatures needed to run for freshman class treasurer.

"I have grown to love SGA and found that the organization has an ability to reach all students and change Elon for the better," she said. "I am so excited to see what this year has in store for me, the Senate and Elon."

Steadman changed her student government streak and won the September 2012 election.

"Her decision to run freshman year was spontaneous, and it's pretty amazing to see how far it has taken her," said close friend and junior Jenna Hall. "Avery's passion for SGA is inspiring and it is clear that she found her niche at Elon."

The 21-year-old junior advanced with a polished look, confident smile and firm handshake from freshman class treasurer to sophomore class treasurer before being elected executive treasurer in 2014, the first female in that position in 22 years since Megan Maxfield in 1994.

As executive treasurer, Steadman oversaw a budget of more than \$650,000 and took the initiative to refund the budget hearing process.

One of the more tedious tasks Steadman performed was making the executive treasurer's manual more organized and clearly laid out.

"I think there will be a lot more transparency between student government and the student body," she said. "I made the process for reimbursements a lot easier. It's now one sheet."

When it came time for the most recent elections, Steadman considered running for executive treasurer again — the thought of president didn't really cross her mind until discussing it with a friend.

"A friend asked me what I would regret more: running for executive treasurer again or not running for president," she said. "I then had my answer. I knew I would always wonder and had to give it a shot."

Officially inaugurated as student body president March 12, Steadman is currently wrapping up her duties as treasurer and will hold her first meeting as president Thursday, April 2.

Through her work with SGA, Steadman has made an impression on her peers.

"I have known Avery from the first week of classes her first year here at Elon," said former executive president Joe Incorvia. "Avery is very competent and hardworking and I have seen her really grow during her time on SGA. She is interested in helping others and really makes an effort to do her best to make sure students achieve what they hope to."

### Life outside SGA

The avid Harry Potter fan, who keeps a special 8-disc set of the films in her apartment, ready to watch for when she magically has free time, grew up in the suburbs of Buffalo, New York, and spent her summers sailing in the waters of Lake Erie.

Her true passion, though, wasn't on the waters but in ice skating rinks.

She had only been walking on her own for a little more than a year when her parents laced her up in skates and into the world of figure skating.

"Ice skating was my life for 16 years," Steadman said. "I had dreams of becoming a professional skater, but once I turned 12, I realized that wasn't going to happen."

When her dreams of becoming a figure skater were dispelled, she saw herself as a teacher. But after doing an internship her senior year of high school shadowing teachers and working with children, Steadman realized it was not the career for her and went back to the drawing board.

She said she unknowingly fell into accounting and finance after entering Elon. She's never looked back.

### Looking into the future

Thinking ahead to the future, Steadman hopes to lead the SGA senate and the student body in a way that fosters cooper-

ation, communication and passion.

"With the senate I hope that, as a leader, I can listen to them and they can listen to me," she said. "I try to make people feel excited for what they're doing instead of making it feel like a chore."

While her remaining time at Elon is solidified with her position as SGA executive president and involvement with Campus Recreation and Alpha Xi Delta, Steadman is open to what lies after the maroon robes in May 2016.

"I think I would have never, ever planned for this, so while I'm going to work hard to get whatever internship and job I think will fit for me, my guess is what I think is going to fit is going to change so I'm just going to go forward and see what happens," she said.

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# Banned in India, brought to Elon

## Controversial film on 2012 rape incident to be aired for Elon University community members

Tommy Hamzik and Leena Dahal  
Managing Editor and Assistant News Editor

Indian government officials may have attempted to silence Leslee Udwin's "India's Daughter," but since their ban on its distribution in India, it has stirred conversations across the globe and its message continues to speak volumes. And on April 18, it will be making ripples at Elon.

The controversial BBC Storyville documentary, which recounts the brutal December 2012 'bus gang rape' that resulted in the death of 23-year-old medical student Jyoti Singh and ultimately fueled national uproar, will be screened at 7 p.m. April 13 in the Global Commons Media

Room.

The 62-minute film, which was released in 2014, will be followed by a discussion on its underlying themes and messages.

The work, which includes footage from some of the rapists involved with the incident, examines society's response to rape as a global phenomena.

Amy Allocco, assistant professor of religious studies, sought the opportunity to bring the documentary to campus after numerous students who were on her study abroad program in India asked about the possibility of a screening.

Once she found a copy of the film with screening rights available, she reached out

to the students and they responded with enthusiasm.

Allocco, a scholar of gender in South Asian religions with 20 years of research experience in India, said she has been closely following the international news coverage on India's daughter with real interest.

"It is a complicated and difficult film on several levels, but I see a number of ways in which the film's focus on gender, sexuality, violence, feminism, and globalization resonates with issues that many of us teach and care deeply about," she said.

Allocco added that the film also intersects with conversations surrounding sexual assault and rape culture on our

own campus and on college campuses throughout the United States.

Ameya Benegal, an Elon junior from India and Singapore, said he encourages students planning on attending to conduct research to contextualize the documentary in order to form a more holistic opinion about it.

"It's not an easy film to watch but it is important," he said. "Personally, I think it takes a very Western stance on the issue." The film purchase was funded by Belk Library and Joan Ruelle, university librarian. It is open to the public.

The screening is open to the public.

# Elonthon set to blast off April 10

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

Friday, April 10, hundreds of Elon University students will take part in an "out of this world" experience of standing, dancing and celebrating "For the Kids" (FTK) at Elonthon 2015: To Infinity and Beyond FTK.

As of Tuesday, March 31, 1,073 students signed up for Elon.

Elonthon PR Chair Tegan Oglesby said that

A popular event for Greek organizations to participate in — all nine PHC sororities and six out of the seven IFC fraternities are signed up — Elonthon executive members made it a goal this year to diversify the groups who participate in the event.

"Every year, Exec makes it our mission to reach out to as many campus organizations as possible and personally invite them to make a team for Elonthon," said Elonthon Director Kaylyn Weller. "Teams don't have to be just campus organizations. We encourage friend groups, hall mates, and sports teams to sign up together as well. This is an event for every student on this campus to be involved in, so our dancer recruitment reflects that."

Oglesby agreed and said she thinks Elonthon has the potential to widen its reach of organizations on campus.

"It's a goal of ours to get a wider variety of organizations involved in Elonthon," she said. "Elonthon is a great event for teams and organizations to partake in. It's something for them to rally around."

Elonthon views the large presence of Greek Life as a natural move to expand their typical philanthropy work.

"In an event that's about fundraising, Greek organizations have so many people that they're naturally going to donate and participate," said Elonthon director of marketing Conor Janda.

A central part of Elonthon is raising money for young patients going through treatment at Duke Children's Hospital.

Last year, \$176,216.94 was raised at Elonthon, a significant drop from the \$212,728.20 raised in 2013.

While money is important, Janda also measured success through the spirit of the event.

"Last year, even though the total went down, there was more spirit," he said. "To me, keeping the spirit and morale high is one of

most important things."

Weller said Elonthon does not have a specific fundraising goal because every dollar raised goes toward helping children at Duke Children's Hospital. Raising any amount of money is the ultimate goal.

"However, since this is a fundraising event for such a worthy cause, we want to push further and raise more money every year for the kids," she said. "These kids are going through some unimaginable things, and if they can persevere, all of us can easily make a personal fundraising goal and meet that goal."

Since first participating in Elonthon in 2011, Weller has seen Elonthon — established in 2003 — become a larger presence on campus.

"More of the student population recognizes Elonthon and genuinely understand what it means to dance 'For the Kids,'" she said. "I think that is the biggest and most positive change of them all: participating in Elonthon FTK is slowly becoming a part of the Elon culture."

For many, Elonthon will be a period of honoring the children going through treatment.

"Some people don't understand why we do 24 hours," Oglesby said. "It shows our respect to them. They [Children going through treatment] go through so much and really appreciate that we stand for them."

## ELONTHON

**Where?** Alumni Gym in Koury Fitness Center

**When?** Start: 6 p.m. April 10  
End: 6 p.m. April 11

**Why?** For the kids

**Registration deadline: April 6**

**Donation cutoff: April 17**

## TOP TEAMS

1. **Elonthon Exec**  
\$4,165
2. **Zeta Tau Alpha**  
\$3,364
3. **Alpha Chi Omega**  
\$3,260
4. **Alpha Omicron Pi**  
\$2,935

\*as of Tuesday, March 31

GRAPHIC BY MAGGIE LOWMANT Design from

# Robin Russell's warmth lingers through memories



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE  
Robin Russell worked at the Elon bookstore and made lasting impacts with the community through her work and through living in Colonnades.

Leena Dahal  
Assistant News Editor

Through the tears and the heavy air, thick with the loss of a beloved wife, mother and friend, there was laughter, joy and love.

Even in death, Robin Russell's ceaseless spouts of warmth and kindness, captured through memories shared by Elon University community members, permeated the room.

Robin Russell worked at the Elon University Bookstore and was heavily involved in activities related to the Colonnades Neighborhood.

She died in her sleep March 28, the night of her 47th birthday. In a "Gathering of Friends," held Monday, staff, faculty and students gathered in the Numen Lumen Pavilion's Sacred Space and united through sharing memories, moments and thoughts of her.

Her husband, Alan Russell, associate professor of mathematics, lived in the faculty apartment in Colonnades E – Harper Hall as part of Alan Russell's service as faculty director of the Colonnades Neighborhood.

"I went home and asked her [if she would be willing to move to

Elon], and her entire face just lit up," Alan Russell recalled. "Since we moved that Fourth of July weekend until now, she began breathing life through the students."

But, it became clear that so many community members breathed life through her contagious joviality.

There were memories of her singing along to Bon Jovi and Boys II Men on the sales floor at the bookstore, teaching love languages, cheering for Elon during basketball games and decorating a co-worker's office with "Lordy, Lordy, look who's 40!"

Her daughter, Michelle Russell, was also in attendance and noted how her mother was always filled with joy and never failed to decorate anything and everything.

To her co-workers at the bookstore, Robin Russell's legacy will be one of humor, warmth and kindness.

"Robin had a wonderfully bubbly laugh that seemed to fill the room, and she made sure to laugh often," she wrote in her honor. "When she wasn't laughing, Robin was singing."

Sophomore Katie Soraghan, a resident assistant in Colonnades Neighborhood, said Robin Russell was one of the nicest people she knew.

"Everyday when I walked to Acorn, she waved to me from the bookstore window," she said. "I got the opportunity to get to know her throughout the year as she lived in Colonnades — she invited us to dinner and made us feel so much at home."

Soraghan shared how Robin Russell would consistently call her "cookies-n-creme" after she asked specifically for the flavor during one of their ice cream parties.

"I'll always have that with her," she said.

Other members of the Colonnades Neighborhood staff shared how her mother was always filled with joy and never failed to decorate anything and everything. Her tendency to work above and beyond to make everyone feel at home was apparent in all that she did.

"Robin was very much a part of the campus and was proud to represent and serve Elon," Carly Mayer, Store Manager said. "She was a loyal employee, a lovely woman and a great friend who will forever be missed."



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor  
Alan Russell and his daughter, Michelle, spoke at a "Gathering of Friends" Monday, March 30 to celebrate the life of Robin Russell.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO THE PENDULUM?

The Pendulum news organization is always looking for reporters, photographers, designers and videographers. All years and majors welcome!

To get involved, contact our Editor-in-Chief Michael Bodley at mbodley@elon.edu or visit our office, located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center.

DUE DATE: APRIL 1 BY 7 P.M.

# Cheat Sheet: Germanwings plane crash

Want a complicated news story explained? Email [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

French prosecutor Brice Robin, center, discusses evidence pointing to deliberate actions by the co-pilot in the crash of a Germanwings jet.

## The basics

Though commercial airliner accidents on the whole are near their lowest point in history, it's still been a tough couple of years for the aviation industry, punctuated by the inexplicable — Malaysian Airlines flight 370 — the war-torn tragedy — Malaysian Airlines flight 17 — and now the puzzling, Germanwings flight 9525.

The latest disaster cost 150 passengers on board their lives when the Germanwings, a popular German-based budget airliner, co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz, allegedly locked the A320 aircraft into an intentional nosedive into the French Alps.

Germanwings Flight 4U 9525 crashed into the mountains of the French Alps March 24 after taking off from Barcelona, Spain, en route to Dusseldorf, Germany. The crash killed 150 people — 144 passengers and six crew members.

After the black box was found near the wreckage, speculation of the cause of the crash soon turned into an investigation surrounding one of the pilots, Andreas Lubitz. Sounds recorded on one of the recovered black boxes

solidified investigators' theory that the Lubitz locked the captain out of the cockpit and proceeded to crash the plane, according to reports from German newspaper Bild am Sonntag.

## Leading up to the crash

French authorities have said that based on the recordings it is believed that Lubitz locked Captain Patrick Sondenheimer out of the cockpit before putting the plane on a rapid descent into the mountains.

Before takeoff, Sondenheimer told Lubitz that he didn't manage to go to the bathroom before takeoff. Lubitz told him he can go anytime.

After take off, Lubitz once again tells Sondenheimer that he "can go anytime."

Sondenheimer, the captain, can be heard pushing back his seat and saying, "You can take over."

At 10:29 a.m., it is detected by air traffic radar that the plane is starting to descend.

Three minutes later when air traffic controllers try to contact the plane, they receive no answer. Bild am Sonntag reported that shortly after, an alarm goes off in the cockpit, warning

of the "sink rate."

It's 10:38, and the plane is at 4,000 meters (about 13,000 feet). Lubitz's breathing can still be heard on the voice recorder, according to Bild's report.

Thirteen minutes later, the plane crashed into the French Alps.

Two minutes later, investigators think they hear the plane's right wing scrape a mountain-top.

Screams can be heard one final time.

## Motives and motivation

Much has been speculated over what caused the accident, if the incident could even be called that. Fueled by substantive reports earlier this week that Lubitz had sought treatment for depression or other mental health issues in the past, a debate was sparked as to pilot evaluations and whether enough is being done to ensure pilots are safe to fly.

As of publication, there has still been no clear link released between Lubitz's mental state and the crash — though it's difficult to find anyone who does not suspect a relationship between the two.

# News Briefs

## Two faculty members earn Fulbright honors

This spring, two Elon University faculty members were granted Fulbright awards — one of the highest honors in academia that comes with grants and living stipends — to explore religious practices in India and neighborhood revitalization practices in the United Kingdom.

The awardees, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Amy Allocco and Adjunct Assistant of Political Science and Policy Studies Professor Patrick Harman, plan to use the opportunity to live abroad and further their existing studies of their respective interests.

This July, Allocco is set to travel to India, where she will remain for up to one year to observe and interview Hindu families who conduct complex ceremonies in an effort to communicate with dead family members. Intended to call the deceased back into the mortal world to safeguard those they left behind, Allocco hopes to explain the practice to a Western audience through both recording rituals and interviewing participants.

Harman intends to embark for the United Kingdom in January 2016 to work alongside social scientists at Durham University to identify neighborhood-rebuilding projects deemed most effective by politicians, nonprofits and members of the communities represented.

Administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, along with the U.S. State Department, the Fulbright Scholar Program each year sends about 800 U.S. faculty and professionals to more than 150 countries to lecture, research or participate in seminars, according to the program website.

## Connie Book named provost and dean at The Citadel

Connie Ledoux Book, associate provost for academic affairs, has been named provost and dean at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

Book, who's been at Elon since 1999, will start at The Citadel this summer.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Connie Book as our new provost and dean of The Citadel," said Citadel President Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa. "She not only has the leadership and academic experience we sought, but she clearly embraces our mission. She is the perfect fit during this exciting time at The Citadel."

Book served as chair of the Department of Communications and faculty fellow and assistant for strategic planning prior to taking over as associate provost in 2010.

While at Elon, she's helped guide the Elon Core Curriculum and Elon Experiences while implementing the university's residential campus plan.

"Connie is an exceptional educator and mentor whose dedication to Elon will be greatly missed," said Elon Provost Steven House in a statement. "She has been a tireless advocate for the power of engaged learning and someone whose counsel has been vital to the ongoing success of our student programs. Connie has earned the respect of her colleagues as an intelligent and creative administrator who understands the complex dimensions of managing the operations of a university. She keeps the best interests of students at the center of every decision while striving constantly for institutional improvement."

# Editorial

## Spring football jeopardizes players' health

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

The crunch of the fall leaves and the brisk wind blowing as the sun sets are sentiments usually associated with football season.

Not the chirping of birds and spring flowers. Spring football practice has continued to grow across the college and high school game, with spring games at larger schools drawing upwards of 40,000 people. Many teams have begun their annual spring practices that culminate in a spring game — an intrasquad scrimmage.

But with the increasing number of concussions and brain-related injuries in football, spring football needs to be limited.

At Elon University, the football team opened spring practice Monday. The spring game will be played in a primetime slot of 7 p.m. April 25 — the third straight year it's been held at night.

The purpose of spring football is to keep the players in shape, practice new plays or formations and get an idea of what the depth chart could be in the fall. All of those things can be done without what the NCAA calls "live contact," which involves tackling to the ground and/or live-speed blocking. Instead, full-pad practices should be the most intense type of practice in the spring. Full-pad practices simply have the players in full pads and don't require live contact — rather, they're focused on honing technique and conditioning to prepare for games.

The NCAA allows 15 spring practice sessions, eight of them with live contact. Only three of those live contact practices can be scrimmages, or have live contact for more than 50 percent of the practice. The live contact practices can't happen on consecutive days or more than twice a week.

Elon, like all other college teams, mixes in live contact during the spring. The live contact practices should be cut down to include just one scrimmage and no more than two other days. As more and more football players are sidelined because of brain injuries, it's best to stay away from contact as much as possible, especially considering players go through nearly a month of camp before the season starts in August and many spend the entire summer at school working out with the team.

Last month, Chris Borland, a 24-year-old linebacker who led the San Francisco 49ers in tackles last season, retired less

than one year after being drafted out of the University of Wisconsin. He cited the potential for brain trauma in the future as a prime reason for the early retirement.

For years, it's become more and more prevalent how football players are impacted by the hits they suffer from playing the game. Borland's situation shows that players are taking heed of what's happening to their predecessors.

Defensive back Akceem Langham, who was a fifth-year senior for Elon last year, missed the last three games of Elon's 2013 season after suffering two concussions in a three-week span. As a result, Langham wore a thick, padded cover to his helmet during spring practice in 2014.

It's time the NCAA and its institutions begin taking more measures to protect the athletes.

The Elon football team should make an effort to stay away from live contact for the majority of its spring practices

and focus more on summer training sessions.

Last year, head coach Rich Skrosky was pleased at the team's progress throughout the summer because nearly the entire team was at Elon working out through June and July.

Coaches can't be present at practices during the summer per NCAA rules, but that doesn't mean players can't sharpen offensive and defensive sets. Plus, incoming freshmen are present during the summer — most aren't during the spring.

Spring practice has some benefits, yes. It boosted an Elon team going through a coaching transition.

But the long-term consequences outweigh the immediate positives that can be gained from live contact in spring practices. Elon should be wary of that this month, and should use live contact as little as possible.



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

Spring football practice is in full swing at Elon and will run through the end of April, but it should be limited to avoid injuries.

# Foreign language study should center on immersion

I have been enrolled in Spanish classes since 6th grade. Looking back on my foreign language education, I can say confidently that the way many other American children and I were taught Spanish needs a serious overhaul.

Spanish majors at Elon University are required to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country to apply the language in a native setting. My comfort with the language increased dramatically after my experience abroad, but the improvement didn't come from a classroom. I will not be able to better my abilities much in an Elon class.

The courses I need to complete my major fall into three general categories: grammar, literature and culture. I am not

required to take any upper-level conversation classes, and that is the major downfall of trying to learn another language.

Learning to speak a second language is not rooted in grammar and vocabulary, but in immersion. Being thrown into an environment where there is no choice but to speak a foreign language has taught me more than 10 years of language classes has. This type of environment should be emphasized in classrooms from day one of foreign language education.

In middle school, instruction begins with the alphabet and slowly introduces vocabulary and grammar. Children are taught foreign languages the same way they are taught English in grade school, and that's the problem. When English-speaking children start school, they already speak the language. When they begin taking language classes, they are not fluent.

The most important part of a language — speaking — is put off in so many foreign language classrooms. It is unrealistic to think the teaching techniques applied to English apply to a non-native language.

During Winter Term, I volunteered at Elon Elementary, one of the four schools in Alamance County that offer a Spanish immersion program. In the program, children are either in Spanish-speaking classrooms the full day or part of the day. Although they don't learn any grammar, most are able to speak Spanish fluently by 5th grade, if not earlier.

The United States as a whole needs to provide better foreign language education programs to prepare students to compete in a global world. Immersion programs are a step in the right direction. They create an environment in which students need to learn the language regardless of grammar rules.

For Elon, it is essential to recognize the value of upper-level conversation classes to both prepare students for their broad experience and allow them to continue improving their skills when they return.

Learning to speak a foreign language benefits individuals, schools and communities worldwide by allowing them to connect through languages. Without the focus on learning to speak through immersion and conversation, the language is taught backwards.

Educational programs both at Elon and nationwide must continue to expand and emphasize on conversation-focused courses and immersion programs to teach students the skills they will need to feel comfortable and capable speaking a foreign language.

# CRIME REPORT

## March 23

### POSSESSION OF DRUGS

UNIVERSITY DRIVE, ELON: A 19-year-old male was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of schedule 4 narcotics. An officer from the Elon Police Department searched his car during a traffic stop after he admitted to smoking marijuana. The officer found a marijuana pipe made of a "Sharpie" marker in the glove compartment, a "Sigma" grinder, plastic baggies, a marijuana joint, two glass bongos, a container with marijuana stems and a wooden pipe. The driver was detained during the search and released after being cited.

## March 30

### FELONY DRUG CHARGES

WASHINGTON STREET, BURLINGTON: A 24-year-old male was charged for possession with intent to sell cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession and sale of alcohol without a permit and possession and sale of non-tax paid liquor by the Burlington Police Department. Police officials executed a search warrant of 332 Austin Street for illegal sales of alcoholic beverages and discovered evidence to support the investigation. Officers also found cocaine and scales in the residence. The suspect was held on a \$2,500 bond and will appear in court March 31, 2015.

## March 24

### DAMAGED PROPERTY

LOY CENTER, ELON UNIVERSITY:

A damaged window in a Loy Center building was reported in the afternoon of Tuesday, March 24, according to Elon Campus Safety and Police. The incident occurred in Loy I, 108 Loy Court East. The apartment had damage to the first floor apartment window, but the window was not physically broken out.

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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# Drivers, pedestrians must look both ways

Pedestrian safety is a problem at Elon. When it comes to looking both ways, neither the pedestrian nor the driver are engaging.



Tim Melton  
Columnist

Walking around Elon's campus on an average day, I see that accidents involving pedestrians are not only feasible, but also inevitable. The majority of students at crosswalks rarely, if ever, pay even the slightest mind to the crossing signal.

Instead, many students rely either on their personal judgment or on the group consensus of other pedestrians when determining when it is safe to cross. Such thinking is commonplace, but it represents a constant danger of how pedestrians exist in relation to drivers — not to mention the careless attitudes of some of the drivers at Elon.

What causes this heedless dismissal of safety regulations in favor of one's personal intuition is the blind assumption that drivers will stop and pedestrians will pay attention. When a pedestrian crosses the road without minding the crossing signal, there is the unspoken assumption that should any vehicles approach, they will stop when the drivers see the pedestrian crossing the road. Conversely, it can be easy for drivers to assume that pedestrians will obey proper safety measures. Unfortunately, these expectations can lead to conflict.

It's been two weeks since freshman Gabriela Rosales was struck by a vehicle while crossing North Williamson Ave. March 16. Though the tragic incident is in no way

Rosales's fault, there is much more to take away from these unfortunate circumstances than a greater appreciation for pedestrian safety. This incident allows for a better understanding of the consequences when drivers and pedestrians fail to fully recognize each other.

By acknowledging instances in which drivers and pedestrians appear to disregard each other, we can most assuredly keep incidents like Rosales' to an absolute minimum.

This incident should be chilling reminders that pedestrian safety is necessary to learn

and keep in mind going forward. Merely rejecting these "guidelines" can lead to disastrous, sometimes fatal, results.

While each accident involving a driver and a pedestrian should be judged primarily by context, these assumptions could generally be considered contributing factors. We have been given an opportunity, as grave as the circumstances behind it may be, to examine faults in the relationship between pedestrians and drivers. We can improve this relationship by acknowledging that these faults exist and that there are unsp-

ken s that affect how drivers and pedestrians interact with each other.

Perhaps by allowing safety to play a more active role in how we live, we can prevent further such accidents in the future. Surely there is no better way to honor Rosales and the numerous past victims of our willful oversights.

Submit a letter to the editor  
at [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com)



To ensure safety, it's necessary for pedestrians and drivers to acknowledge one another before they proceed.

# DOCTORS' ORDERS NAVIGATING THE JOB MARKET



Lauryl Fischer & Frankie Campisano  
Columnists

It's that time of year again.

No, that other time of year — the time when the job recruiters venture out of the real world and into the bubble to size students up like the top pig at an anachronistic county fair, not unlike the one featured in Charlotte's Web. But you're not just some pig, you're Some Pig. A pig of significance. Pignificance.

Well, Wilbur, we've got some bad news for you. Life isn't always like E.B. White's classic novel about communism. In fact, life is a lot more like the movie adaptation. And not the classic one — the 2006 remake starring Dakota Fanning. Sure, everyone says nice things about it if it comes up in conversation, but secretly we're all just settling for what we're given. Is a Charlotte's Web film entitled to more than 78 percent

on Rotten Tomatoes? Maybe not. But what hope is there if not for something greater?

To be honest, 78 percent is better than we expected though it's kind of hard to throw shade at a movie with a score that high. But as an Elon student, you're probably aiming for higher than 78 percent. And your potential employers definitely are, which is the whole reason we started this column, before we got sidetracked with the whole pig thing. Reread Charlotte's Web though — seriously, what a book.

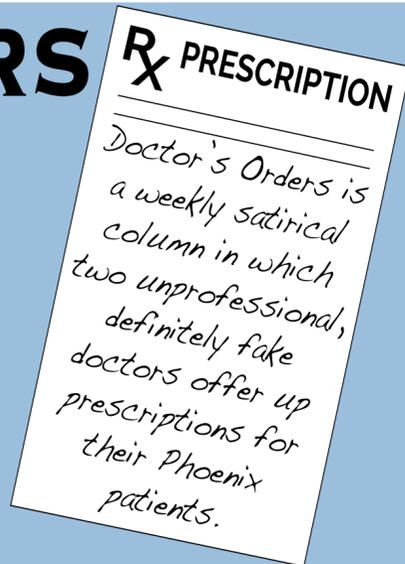
The point is, you need a Charlotte to help you stand out among the rest of the pigs. We're gonna be your Charlotte today and spell out some helpful advice so you don't get struck by the interview blues, or get burned out by the application process.

All you have to do is remember three easy steps: P.I.G.

P: Put your best foot forward. Smile and get ready to open the door to a world of opportunity and happy emoticons.

I: Impersonate reasonable human behavior. Potential employers want to know that you're a competent and mostly functioning person. Rest assured they'll run the usual checklist to make sure you're not a serial killer, a robot and-or alien and-or robot-alien hybrid, or pretty much anything that sounds like the creepy part of a Goosebumps book.

G: GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS. You're probably not going to be very successful. You probably won't get your dream job. Forget it, Jake — it's Chinatown.



For those of you who might not be familiar with the classic film Chinatown, first of all shame on you. Second of all, for the sake of the joke, you, the reader, are Jake. The 'it' is your dreams, and Chinatown is the... world? Society? Something abstract. That's the part that's supposed to make you think. Maybe there's a little Chinatown inside us all.

This column could end on an uplifting note, and we could tell you to go out there and be the very best you can be, regardless of what it is you end up actually doing with your life. We could include a nod to the fact that there wasn't really any adherence to the column's motif.

Or the column could end with the reminder that in a few hundred thousand years the Earth will be inhospitable, and in a relatively short time afterward, when life starts anew, there will be some new life form analogous to you, waiting for a barely literate spider to text him back.

# A mile in Paul Castro's shoes

## One professor's way of connecting with students

Danielle Deavens  
Senior Reporter

"Purpose, not paycheck," drove Paul Castro to leave his life as a screenwriter in California to teach in Elon University's cinema program. It also inspires the associate professor of communications to take the time to walk around campus with each student enrolled in his courses every semester.

Although they're not a job requirement, Castro said these walks give students space to express their worries and fears, as well as their aspirations.

Before he wrote acclaimed films such as "August Rush," Castro volunteered part-time at a suicide prevention call center. This taught him the value to have someone to talk to in the midst of what he calls "the scar tissue of life." For him, being a successful professor is understanding students outside the classroom.

"The first job as an educator is protection," he said. "Literally, because we have a dangerous world out there, but specifically with creativity. When you're creative, you're really vulnerable. It's important to create a safe environment for them to think, 'I can fail, I can be unimpressive and I don't have to be brilliant the first time every time — or I can be. It doesn't matter.'"

Castro said students often reveal things about themselves on these walks that

they would never have discussed otherwise. Students aren't forced to go on these walks, but Castro expects to walk with 60 students from the three screenwriting classes he is teaching this semester.

Junior cinema major Kayla Hammer appreciates Castro's unusual practice.

"When I first found out he did the walks, I was really grateful to have a professor that genuinely wanted to take the time out of his day to get to know his students better," she said.

Castro doesn't only learn from his students — he learns just as much from his 5-year-old daughter.

"My daughter is so fascinating," Castro said. "I learn so much from her. It reminds me to continually be curious about things, because when she discovers things for the first time, it's just awesome. She has a joy for life."

Castro attributes this joy to her youth and innocence and he says she learned it from him, as he approaches the toughest situations well.

"In life, you have to be like water," he said. "You have to be malleable — you have to be able to adjust to things, or else you're not going to exist. You're going to get all these things thrown at you with two reactions: 'Oh, my god, this is horrible' or 'This is awesome.' And when you start to look at everything as awesome, even these little owies, then they become awesome."

Castro explains this ideology to stu-



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

Paul Castro walks with junior Eric Hernandez through campus to discuss goals and ambitions.

dents on his walks. He believes cinema and screenwriting are about more than just being famous — they are about contributing to the world.

"It's a great gift and a great responsibility," Castro said. "When you're aligned with your spirit and you tell a story, then God's working through you — whatever that means to you. And it's out of your hands then. You give that gift to another person."

The powerful words Castro shares with students on their walks have lasting im-

pacts that stay with them as they continue their journeys at Elon and beyond. During his stroll with Hammer earlier this semester, Castro offered advice that has stayed with her.

"He said something I'll never forget: 'Kayla, you've got to start claiming your life,'" Hammer said. "That phrase has stuck with me since the walk, and it reminds me to do whatever's best for me and my future and to stay grounded in my morals and who I truly am."

# 'Bike & Build': a cross-country journey

Brett Gubitosi  
Senior Reporter

After graduation, some students start their careers. Some take a year off to travel, and others move back home. But senior Emma Kwiatkowski isn't doing any of these things. Instead, she is going to ride a bike.

Kwiatkowski is donating her time this summer to help build houses with "Bike & Build."

This national nonprofit raises money for affordable housing projects and awareness of the cause. Founded in 2002, "Bike & Build" has donated more than \$5.1 million to affordable housing projects around the

country, including Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together and other local nonprofits.

Through Bike & Build, Kwiatkowski will cycle from New England to the Pacific Northwest with 30 other volunteers on the Northern United States team. Along the way, they will raise funds and advocate for the cause by stopping in towns such as Buffalo, New York, and Bismark, North Dakota, to build homes for families in need.

"In our culture, not having a house can mess up your entire life," she said. "People will travel to Guatemala or Honduras [to build] when there's a housing problem in their backyards."

## BIKE & BUILD'S NORTHERN U.S. ROUTE



GRAPHIC BY TORI LABENBERG | Design Editor

The journey will begin in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, June 13. Over the following 10 weeks, the team will pedal more than 4,000 miles, an average of 69 per day, to Vancouver, British Columbia, arriving Aug. 27.

Biking cross-country has been on Kwiatkowski's bucket list for as long as she can remember.

She inherited her passion for biking from her father, who once went on a similar cross-country venture, and her mother, who biked across parts of Europe. In high school, Kwiatkowski went on a few extended bike trips, including a three-week trip through Vermont, but has never biked a distance as long as Bike & Build's route.

Kwiatkowski is excited about the volunteering opportunity. She said adequate housing is integral to life in the United States because it is difficult for homeless people or people in poor housing to find employment.

"We are deeply proud of riders like Emma," said Justin Villere, Bike & Build's director of operations and outreach. "Most Bike & Builders actually are not experienced cyclists or builders when the summer begins. We strive to engage young people with a passion for service and adventure. Because of this, our riders make an incredible impact in hundreds of communities."

To participate, Kwiatkowski must raise \$4,500. So far, she has raised \$1,960, \$1,300 of which she won in a computer coding tournament. To raise more, she hopes to organize a few fundraisers, like operating a food stand, but these projects are still in the works.

She is looking forward to spending the 10-week trip with a group of strangers. While looking at the Bike & Build Facebook page, she noticed previous riders still keep in touch.

"The friendships formed look really long-lasting and tight," Kwiatkowski said.

Although volunteer work is the primary focus of the trip, she will also get to explore another side of the United States as she rides through national landmarks such as Glacier National Park and the Great Plains.

When she's not biking or building, Kwiatkowski is eager to interact with townspeople, discover unfamiliar locations and have fun with her team.

"The best memories end up being ones you don't expect," she said.

Before her cross-country adventure begins, she has to prepare. All participants must log 500 hours of riding the bike they will be using. Kwiatkowski recently ordered her bike and will start training soon. For the remainder of the semester, she will try to log a few hours on Saturdays, but the majority of her training will be completed after she graduates.

The training is intense — one day she is required to bike 65 miles in preparation. Kwiatkowski is nervous about the physical requirements and safety concerns but is confident her journey will be a successful and worthwhile experience.

"I haven't really experienced the real world outside the Elon bubble," she said. "I want to help more in service and in local communities."

Donations for the ride can be made to Kwiatkowski's Bike & Build profile page at <http://www.bikeandbuild.org/riders/7821>

# Neil deGrasse Tyson: TV

## 'Cosmos' host to present 'The Sky is Not



Neil deGrasse Tyson has a Ph.D. in astrophysics from Columbia University, among other degrees.

### TYSON from cover

people began contacting me immediately asking how they could get tickets."

Tyson's latest — and perhaps his most well-known — achievement is hosting "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey" on FOX Network in 2014. "Cosmos" was a reboot of Carl Sagan's "Cosmos: A Personal Voyage," which ran in the 1980s. Tyson's 13-episode series was nominated for 13 Emmy Awards.

Tyson studied physics at Harvard University and went on to earn a master's degree in astronomy at the University of Texas at Austin. He also completed a Master of Philosophy degree and a Ph.D. in astrophysics at Columbia University.

Currently, he serves as the head of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, where he holds its Frederick P. Rose Directorship and is a research associate of the Department of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History.

He has written 10 books, the latest of which is "Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries," released in 2014. Many of his books are required reading for "Intro to Astronomy" classes at Elon.

Beyond his academic achievements, Tyson has also made a name for himself in entertainment. He has appeared on shows such as "The Big Bang Theory," "Conan," "The Colbert Report," "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," "Late Night with Seth Meyers" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

His biggest contribution to science may be the attention he brings to it. "It's cool that we have such a big name

Tyson was discussing Sir Isaac Newton and is sometimes paired with the phrase, "Watch out guys, we're dealing with a badass over here."

"That's who's coming to campus," Crider said. "The host of 'Cosmos,' author of several astronomy books students have used in their classes, and the badass."

#### More than a scientist

Tyson's background is in science, but for many, his appeal lies in his ability to communicate scientific ideas to the wider, less knowledgeable community.

Meskhidze is the president of Elon Society of Physics Students and is double-majoring in physics and philosophy. Her interdisciplinary studies allow her to see how the scientific community relates to and is viewed by the public.

"I think science education and science awareness in the public is really important," Meskhidze said. "The fact that Neil deGrasse Tyson, with his tweets and other facets of communication, is able to raise awareness of science and promote an interest in science among the public is really cool."

The popularity of Tyson's reboot of "Cosmos" proves that the general public is curious about science. The remake was originally shown on Fox and is now available on Hulu and Netflix, demonstrating that viewers want to learn more.

"People really want to see this guy," Crider said. "It's not just that he's famous. There are a large number of people out there that would like to see science and technology and engineering and mathematics not just swept under the rug, not just treated as if it's only for scientists. It's for all of us, it's for our kids. It's something that you need for a society to move forward."

For years, Sagan used the original "Cosmos" to explain science to the public and get them excited about it. Since

then, many television channels have appeared that claim to be educational or science-based. But, according to Crider, these channels often lack quality science.

"There are too many ghosts and aliens in 'educational' television," Crider said. "People want to see real science."

Tyson has managed to combine real science and entertainment. In addition to "Cosmos," which 135 million people across the world watched some part of, he hosts "StarTalk," a radio show and podcast that combines pop culture and science and has featured guests such as Bill Nye and Seth MacFarlane.

Tyson also speaks at conferences — science-related or otherwise — across the country. He is a Twitter celebrity with more than 3.4 million followers, and his tweets about topics ranging from the New England Patriots' "deflategate" scandal to information on Pi Day make national news and inspire their own national discussions among individuals.

Meskhidze said many people of older generations became interested in science because of Sagan's work, and Tyson is trying to parallel his efforts and replicate them using modern methods.

"He's able to integrate Sagan's ideas in a modern way," she said.

And, according to Crider, Tyson has been successful.

"It's great to see — both at Elon and the county in general — an increased enthusiasm in STEM [science, technology, engineering, math]," Crider said. "I think it's great for science and STEM in general to have one of its champions visit campus."

#### Space Week

Tyson's speech isn't until Thursday afternoon, but Meskhidze and the Society of Physics Students have been preparing for months.

Last spring, Meskhidze organized

## NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON'S BOOKS

- **Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries (2014)**
- **Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution (2014)**
- **The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet (2014)**
- **Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier (2013)**
- **Just Visiting This Planet (2011)**
- **The Sky Is Not the Limit: Adventures of an Urban Astrophysicist (2010)**
- **Cosmic Horizons: Astronomy at the Cutting Edge (2001)**
- **One Universe: At Home in the Cosmos (1999)**
- **Merlin's Tour of the Universe (1997)**
- **Universe Down to Earth (1995)**

# host, physicist, badass

## the Limit' at 2015 Spring Convocation

screenings of "Cosmos" as new episodes premiered. During the last semester, she planned screenings of certain episodes to increase interest in Tyson's speech.

For the week of convocation — dubbed Space Week — the Society has planned a series of student-run events to raise awareness of who Tyson is and get students excited about his arrival. To organize these events, Meskhidze submitted a proposal to Residence Life and received \$1,400 in funds from the Residential Campus Initiative.

"One indication that this is something special is [that] it's very rare that I've seen events leading up to a speaker," Crider said.

Events began Monday, March 30 with a "Cosmos" viewing in LaRose Digital Theatre. The Physics Club had a table at Tuesday's College Coffee, and Wednesday evening they are offering stargazing from

the gym roof. Thursday, April 2, there will be a Coffee Klatch following Convocation where students and faculty can gather and discuss Tyson's speech. The week will end Friday, April 3, with a viewing of "Interstellar" at 7 p.m. in McEwen 011. Events are open to all students.

"We're trying to draw in everybody," Meskhidze said. As for the day itself, Crider — one of the astronomy professors who has worked at Elon the longest — has been chosen to escort Tyson around campus. He was contacted before the official an-

nouncement was made and asked to clear his schedule.

"I've had this on my calendar for a year," he said.

**"HE'S AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN GET TO A ROCKSTAR IN SCIENCE."**

TONY CRIDER  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

#### Bringing Tyson to Elon

Tyson won't be the first scientific figure to speak at an Elon Convocation. Past visitors include Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, who spoke at Fall Convocation in 2013; astronaut John Glenn, who

spoke at Spring Convocation in 2005; and primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall, who spoke at Spring Convocation in 2002.

"He will be one of the more notable science folk that we've brought to campus for convocation," Crider said.

Crider was not involved in selecting Tyson, though he did suggest the name.

Jeff Clark, executive director of cultural and special programs, said it was a group decision to bring Tyson to campus. The group chose him from a list of proposed names, and Clark contacted Tyson's agent. "We try to bring in a variety of speakers over the years," Clark said.

Clark also said that, in early student surveys, Tyson was a very popular choice.

"It was a real coup that we brought him here for spring convocation," Crider said. "To truly bring someone in their prime is amazing."

#### Getting into Convocation

The box office distributed its tickets within 30 minutes, but the majority of tickets were given out through other methods.

Dean's and President's List students were given priority tickets for the event. These students received an email Feb. 25 that invited them to march in the procession and offered reserved seats. Their enthusiastic response — combined with that of faculty, of whom all full-time members are invited to march — limited the number of tickets available at the box office.

For anyone who didn't receive a ticket, the event will have a standby line to fill unclaimed seats.

Spring Convocation: "The Sky is Not the Limit" will begin at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2 in Alumni Gym.

"There are a lot of chances in your life to see music and sport celebrities," Crider said. "You could probably count science celebrities on one hand. All the energy that exists for science is focused on a few people, and we're bringing number one."

## NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON'S TWEETS

Neil deGrasse Tyson @neiltyson · Mar 14  
Best Pi-Day Ever: 53 minutes & 58 seconds after 6 o'clock, March 14, the year 1592: 3/14/1592; 6:53:58

Neil deGrasse Tyson @neiltyson · Feb 9  
Good education is not what fills your head with facts but what stimulates curiosity. You then learn for the rest of your life

Neil deGrasse Tyson @neiltyson · Jan 26  
For the Patriots to blame a change in temperature for 15% lower-pressures, requires balls to be inflated with 125-degree air.

Neil deGrasse Tyson @neiltyson · Feb 5  
Had to wait in line to renew a Passport allowing me to visit members of my own species across artificially conceived borders.

Neil deGrasse Tyson @neiltyson · Mar 24  
If I were ever abducted by aliens, the first thing I'd ask is whether they came from a planet where people also deny science.

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# Asher leads women's lacrosse in hot start



Stephanie Asher fires a shot against Kennesaw State on Jan. 31 to lead Elon to a 24-8 victory.

Kyle Lubinsky  
Senior Reporter

The Elon University women's lacrosse team is off to a strong start. A group of young talent led by freshman midfielder Stephanie Asher has propelled the program to a 7-3 start this season.

Asher made an immediate difference for the Phoenix this year. After ten games

she leads the team with 33 goals, including eight-goal games.

"It's really an honor [to be playing so well]," she said. "I can't take all the credit. I have amazing teammates that help me play the way I play."

While Asher provides an offensive spark for the Phoenix, she also has a history of success across multiple sports before coming to Elon.

Asher started playing lacrosse in kindergarten in Glenelg, Maryland. By the time she reached high school, she was excelling in both lacrosse and field hockey.

She earned first-team all-county honors in her junior and senior years for lacrosse. By the time she graduated, she was named All-American honorable mention.

Asher was a well-decorated field hockey player with 101 career goals. She was selected to the all-county team twice, and her team won three 2A/3A field hockey state championships. In her senior season, she was named the Howard County Player of the Year.

Though she enjoyed field hockey, she knew she wanted to play lacrosse at a higher level.

"I've always liked lacrosse better. It's a faster game," she said. "Being from Maryland, I think [lacrosse] was so big that I was always surrounded by it."

Elon's startup lacrosse program attracted Asher, who wanted a chance to be a part of history with the team. She connected well with both her teammates and the coaching staff, making the transition from high school to college easier.

"What stands out most to me is her competitive fire," said head coach Josh Hexter. "She pushes our team to be better by how she plays in practice."

Off the field, Asher plans to get a degree in exercise science. She hopes to become an occupational therapist for autistic

children.

On the field, Asher had to change parts of her game to adjust to the college style of play.

"The defense you're allowed to play is a lot more aggressive," she said. "As an attacker, I've had to work harder to dodge and get past my defenders."

In her regular season debut Jan. 31, Asher scored five goals and won three draw controls in a 24-8 win against Kennesaw State University. On Feb. 22 against Stetson University, Asher scored a career-high six goals, and finished the game with four draw control wins and three assists.

Despite her impressive debut, Asher still looks for ways to improve. She said she feels that her shot has been "off lately," and she hopes to win more draw controls going forward. Hexter has also noticed an improvement on defense.

"I can see the fire she has in practice trying to improve her defense, and it is showing in the games," he said. "It is becoming contagious to the rest of the team."

Asher shows no signs of slowing down, scoring five goals in the team's most recent competition against the Liberty University Flames, which the Phoenix won, 13-8.

"She is incredibly talented athletically," said Hexter. "As all the great players do, she makes her teammates better."

# Elon women's tennis extends win streak to seven

Jordan Spritzer  
Assistant Sports Editor

With a seven-match winning streak and 11 wins in its last 12 matches, the Elon University women's tennis team is peaking at the final stretch of the season.

"We're really clicking together as a team, especially in the bigger matches," head coach Elizabeth Anderson said. "We have a little bit of a break now, so we're just trying to regroup and get ready for the rest of the season."

The Phoenix came off an undefeated weekend in Hilton Head, South Carolina, March 23-24 after beating North Central College, Savannah State University and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. With many players stringing together positive results to extend the streak, the future appears bright for the Phoenix.

One of the players contributing to the winning streak is freshman Erica Braschi. The Do-rado, Puerto Rico, native has settled in well at the No. 4 singles spot, going 6-1.

"I like playing No. 4," Braschi said. "It gives me a lot of confidence. I've been getting a lot of wins at No. 4 and I think it's just a good level for me."

She has gone 10-2 in singles across all positions for the Phoenix this spring, including nine straight wins in singles play.

While her strength on the court may suggest she is ready to move higher up in the lineup, Braschi said she is happy wherever coach puts her as every spot

is worth the same point.

Braschi has also been racking up the victories in doubles, partnered with junior Taylor Casey. The two have become formidable opposition and are 9-1 when paired together, mostly from the No. 3 doubles position.

"They've been playing very well together," Anderson said. "Their games complement each other well, and they have a great chemistry."

According to Anderson, the duo's success can also be attributed to their mental strength.

"They're in a really good place mentally with their focus and just putting a lot into their games," Anderson said.

Like Braschi, Casey has delivered high quality performances on the court. She has gone 9-3 in singles play, mostly from the No. 6 singles position and has served as a doubles mentor to Braschi.

"Taylor teaches me a lot," Braschi said. "She's way more experienced than I am in doubles. I get something out of her and she gets something out of me."

But Braschi and Casey don't worry about personal or team winning streaks while on the court.

"We've been able to get into that mindset of playing in the moment, playing the team we're facing and it's worked out well," Braschi said.

Braschi spent most of her non-collegiate career playing singles but soon realized just how important doubles is for college teams.

She knew she would have to adapt to playing doubles but didn't expect it to be such a high priority in the collegiate game.

According to Braschi, the biggest adjustment she has had to make for Elon has been playing both doubles and singles.

"It's making me come in more and become a net player as well," she said. "It's changed my whole

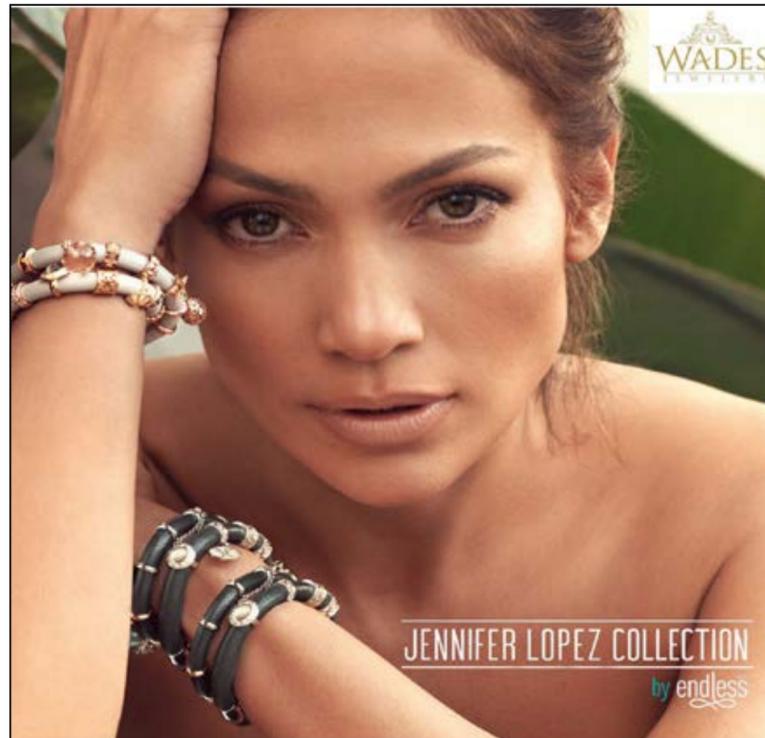
game drastically."

Braschi also draws inspiration from professional Puerto Rican tennis player Monica Puig. Puig currently sits in the top 50 overall in the Women's Tennis Association rankings.

Braschi said she's down-to-earth and was fortunate enough to travel with her during a juniors tournament when they

were both younger. But Braschi tries to model her game after former world No. 1 Justine Henin.

Braschi, Taylor and the rest of the Phoenix team will return to action at noon Friday when it plays the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



# Should college athletes get paid?

## Athletes should share in benefits, receive compensation for play

The business of college athletics is booming with no indication of slowing down. From administrators at the NCAA to school officials to television companies, college athletics has never been more profitable.

But it seems the only ones who aren't profiting from the industry are the athletes themselves. It is time for that to change.

**Alex Simon**  
Columnist

**Schools share in the wealth**

Marc Edelman, a professor at the Zicklin School of Business, wrote in a story for Forbes that the University of Alabama reported \$143.3 million in athletic revenue in 2013. With this revenue, Alabama paid football coach Nick Saban a \$7 million annual salary.

The average salary of a head football coach at a Power Five conference school was \$2.05 million in 2012. In 40 out of 50 states, the highest paid public official is a state university's head football or men's basketball coach.

While the NCAA, television companies and schools make lots of money from college athletics, athletes do not.

Most groups involved in college athletics, such as the ones mentioned above, are treated fairly. But for the athletes, life seems unnecessarily cruel since they are not paid.

Andrew Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College and author of "Unpaid Professionals," was quoted in a USA Today story saying the compensation for a big-time men's basketball player can be calculated by multiplying tuition by graduation rate, which is, according to the NCAA, 66 percent. Next, add room and board expenses. For most schools, this would be a total compensation amount of less than \$20,000 a year.

A joint study between the National College Players Association and the Drexel University Department of Sport Management found the average big-time college athlete lives below the federal poverty line. The study also said the NCAA and its

member schools have prohibited a free market from existing, which actively contributes to a black market in college athletics.

Although the word "scholarship" means the players are not paying for their education, a free education is nonexistent.

**Athletes struggle**

Typical Division I college athletes dedicate 43.3 hours per week to their sport, according to Edelman. This is more than the average American works in a week.

An athlete's time commitment includes optional workouts during the offseason. These workouts are supposed to be optional because some athletes have other commitments.

Essentially, every workout is mandatory for the athletes.

Another difficult situation for student-athletes is classwork. They spend all their time playing and practicing during the week, but they also have class and homework. During the season, the athletic schedule requires every student-athlete to miss classes for road games. Balancing classes and a sport is incredibly difficult.

And some college athletes have to balance more than just their own lives.

On March 4, Matt Norlander of CBSSports.com wrote a story on Division I men's basketball players who have children. According to one story, many athletes struggle to provide financial support for and spend time with their children. Baylor University's Rico Gathers reported that he, his wife and their nine-month-old son live on \$15,000 annually, which includes government assistance in the form of food stamps.

**Creating a level playing field**

In college athletics, the coaches and school administrators are living lavish lifestyles compared to players. NCAA administrators are making eight or nine figures a year. Television companies are making billions.

The ones actually playing the game are getting next to nothing for their work, and it is beyond time for that to change.

## Athletes choose to play, structure lacks even way to pay them

Athletes spend countless hours practicing and training outside of class, which gives them the right to certain

benefits. But many athletes believe they deserve the right to be paid by the institution they represent, and this is where controversy presents itself.

Players have access to state-of-the-art facilities, receive preferred housing and get special academic arrangements.

In addition, they receive hundreds of dollars worth of apparel and equipment throughout the academic year.

Few of these benefits are granted to regular undergraduate students.

According to a survey of all college athletic programs in the country by ScholarshipStats.com, the average Elon University male athlete receives \$19,993 and the average female athlete receives \$20,695.

An average undergraduate student is given a scholarship of \$11,740. How does being an athlete justify this enormous gap in scholarship money from the university? Is the time and effort of an undergraduate not worth as much as that of an athlete?

The argument many college athletes across the country make for getting paid is they bring in a tremendous amount of revenue and attention to the school they are competing for but don't get a share. But an athlete bringing in revenue is not a sufficient reason to pay them.

Every student-athlete voluntarily chooses to go to an institution and should understand the time commitment necessary to compete at the varsity level. If the expectations are too much for athletes, they could have easily gone somewhere else or enrolled in an institution as a non-athlete.

These athletes are treating the issue of compensation as if their activity is a job.

What happened to playing for the love of the game? Even if athletes were to get paid, there are several variables

that could affect an athlete's income.

**Too many undetermined variables**

While it is easy for college athletes to say they should be paid, the logistics behind paying them are difficult to establish.

Paying students involved in athletics also extends beyond the athletes themselves. Many athletic teams have student managers that do not compete in games. If players will get paid, so should student managers.

Who's to say that non-athletes aren't burdened with the same problem athletes find themselves in? Extracurricular activities like being a club, organizations or student governments can be just as time consuming as athletics.

Since other students participating in extracurricular activities don't get paid, athletes shouldn't get paid.

Many find college sport entertaining because of the passion and determination athletes have to stand out to better their stock for a professional career.

**Large schools would dominate**

If universities pay college athletes, then all the power in recruitment goes to the larger institutions that bring in the most revenue.

These schools will have the power to buy the best players. According to a study by USA Today in 2013, only 10 percent of NCAA Division I athletic programs would generate enough revenue to cover expenses, let alone paying athletes.

The key is these athletes are student-athletes and are no different than any other undergraduate. They do not deserve special treatment.

While it is easy to understand why athletes feel they deserve they are entitled to be paid, there are too many

confounding factors that arise when considering how to implement their demands. There is too much uncertainty about how to distribute wealth in a fair, equitable way.

## FOOTBALL from cover

both love football, and they're both competitive guys. They have an easiness about them."

Thompson is at Elon after enrolling early in February, as are freshmen wide receivers Josh Ramseur and Corey Joyner. Coppedge praised the transition those three and Theos have made so far.

"They've gotten out of the fact that they're freshmen," Coppedge said. "We understand that they're freshmen, but at the same time, they've taken on the responsibility of being here early."

Them taking on the challenge of coming here, learning the playbook and getting thrown into the fire a little bit, I think it'll be better in general."

Coppedge, who rushed for 663 yards on 182 carries in 2014, feels a greater leadership weight on his shoulders despite leading a depleted running back core last season.

"I can say I'm a veteran now," he said.

"I look at it differently now, as more of an opportunity. I kind of took on a leadership role last year, but it's going to start showing itself more this year. I've had to take a couple guys under my wing. Even defensive players, I give advice to them."

Senior linebacker and defensive lineman Alexander Dawson, who played in all 12 games last year and made 44 tackles, said taking advantage of the extra time in the spring to work individually is the biggest focus for Elon.

"You don't have to worry about an opponent on Saturday," Dawson said. "You can go back to the film room and take as long as you'd like and get to the details of perfecting your game. That's something you don't get as much in the fall."

The players have some added motivation after losing the last nine games last year and going 0-8 in the CAA.

Dawson said the coaches have been preaching the theme of "Take Action" — "Embrace the Grind" is still around, too — meaning to capitalize on the challenges presented.

"We've been using the word 'strain' a lot," Skrosky said. "Over the last year, [the



Running back B.J. Bennett carries the ball during the first of Elon's spring football practices.

players] took the [coaching] change well. They've been positive and very compliant. It takes more than that, though. You

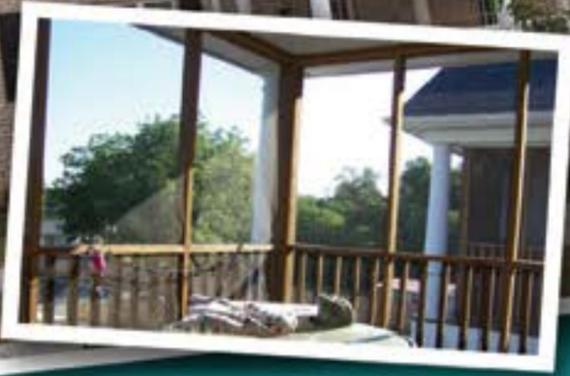
can just do what you're asked to do. You have to take it over the top. So that word 'strain' has come up."

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