

# THE PENDULUM

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## Andy Grammer cancels on Homecoming

Michael Bodley  
Editor-in-Chief

Rising pop star Andy Grammer has canceled his headlining appearance at Elon University's 2015 Homecoming Concert. Grammer's appearance fee — not disclosed — will be refunded to SGA.

The Student Union Board and SGA joint-sponsored concert will proceed as scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17 with "The Summer Set," a pop-rock quintet originally slated to open for Grammer.

As of publication, SUB had begun searching for other potential additions to the concert — but another artist isn't definite, according to junior Caroline Blanchard, SUB's performance chair. SUB and SGA may table the refund for possible events later this school year, she said.

"I'm not totally sure which direction we're going in," Blanchard said. "We're looking to have some sort of addition to the show. We don't know what that looks like at this time."

Grammer also canceled all other October concert dates, according to SUB, to focus on his appearance on the 21st season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Grammer's cancellation follows months of planning and promotion of the concert to the student body and alumni returning for Homecoming Weekend.

"It's definitely upsetting," Blanchard said. She added, "I hope the student body realizes that this is completely out of our control."

## From Acorn to Disney World

*Students raise money for employee's dream getaway*



Acorn employee Kathryn Thompson cried after hearing she and her family would be going to Disney World, thanks to a GoFundMe campaign that raised thousands of dollars for the cause.

Courtney Campbell  
Style Editor

Before starting her shift Monday night, Acorn Coffee Shop employee Kathryn Thompson cried. Her dream had just come true — she would be finally able to take her family to Disney World.

After weeks of fundraising through a GoFundMe page, junior Taylor Zisholtz and freshman Lucy Smith-Williams revealed they had raised more than \$6,000 to fly Thompson and four of her family members to "the happiest place on earth."

### Revealing a big surprise

"It was really exciting," Smith-Williams said. "Of course she's really shocked, so she didn't understand at first, but once we explained it to her, she was so surprised. It was everything we hoped for."

Both sporting Mickey Mouse T-shirts, Zisholtz and Smith-Williams showed Thompson a sign with the words, "We wanted to thank

See *ACORN*  
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## Itzhak Perlman fills Fall Convocation with classical music

Caroline Fernandez and Courtney Campbell  
News Editor and Style Editor

The first time Itzhak Perlman played his icon Yehudi Menuhin's violin, he knew he had found the one.

"I played a couple of notes on that violin and said to myself, 'I've died and gone to heaven,'" Perlman said to a packed Alumni Gym Tuesday afternoon, the guest of honor at Elon University's Fall Convocation.

Two weeks later, as the young Perlman negotiated a home purchase, he received an unexpected phone call with news most-welcome: the out-of-reach violin of his dreams was for sale. And he was in no position to afford it.

"It came available right when we didn't have enough money," Perlman said. "But we made another loan because I said, 'Even if I don't play a note on it, it's worth the money just to look at.'"

Perlman, now 70, is one of the world's best classical musicians. He's played opera halls the world over, and he performed at President Barack Obama's first Inauguration in 2009.

The violin, Perlman's prized possession, is far older than he, crafted in 1714 to play a piece composed by Bach. As a child, Perlman learned the same rendition as he played an advertisement for a cookie manufacturing company.



Perlman played a series of renditions throughout Convocation, interspersed with life advice.

"Hopefully, I can play it as well as when I was a child," Perlman said.

For minutes on end, on he played.

Besides the sound of people rummaging in their bags to record the music with their phones, one could hear a pin drop.

"Can you do that some more?" asked Gerald Whittington, moderator and vice president for business, finance and technology.

"It's just one time that works," Perlman said. "The other time, who knows?"

Thrice more, the violin emerged and silenced the audience with a crescendo of notes plucked fast and slow — including the famous score he and Steven Spielberg wrote and produced for the Oscar-winning "Schindler's List."

Perlman took to a combination of wit and

humor to keep the audience on its toes, often at Whittington's expense. As soon as Perlman arrived on stage, he corrected Whittington that he had won 17 Grammy Awards, not the 16 Whittington mentioned in his opening.

It wouldn't be the first snappy retort.

"I believe you were on the 'Ed Sullivan Show' three times," Whittington said.

"Six," Perlman said. "And I count for a living."

Spending long hours perfecting his trade, Perlman has developed a practice regimen all his own. Perlman explained that musicians should only practice for five hours, tops.

Any more, he said, would be like putting a sponge in water and adding a few drops — useless.

"A lot of things about practicing have to do with repetition," Perlman said. "Muscle memory."

Perlman, currently on a worldwide tour, will perform more than 50 times between now and May. Since the summer of 1995, Perlman and his wife have owned and operated a summer camp, The Perlman Music Program, for young, aspiring musicians.

"My goal is to continue to enjoy what I do and not to be bored," Perlman said. "Conducting and teaching and playing. Each one of those things helps each other. When I teach others, I teach myself."

### NEWS

Elon's room and board costs spike  
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### STYLE

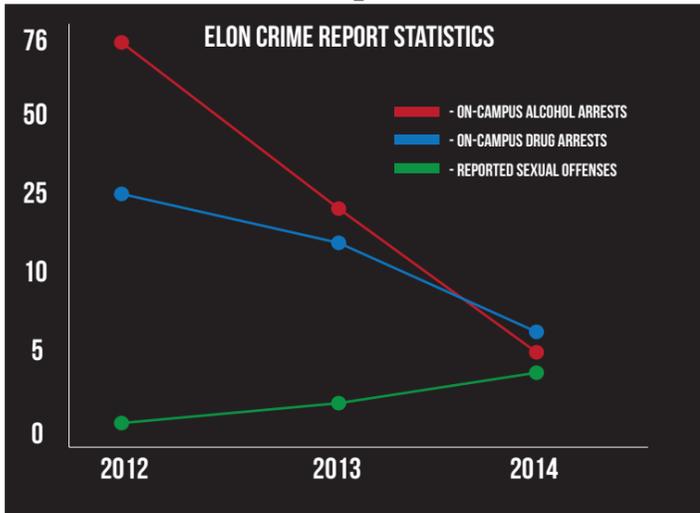
Loy Farm used for ecological research, greenhouses and more  
pg. 14

### SPORTS



Men's soccer player reunites with mother and sister at Elon  
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## Elon crime report released



### Staff Reports

The recently released 2014 Annual Security Report for Elon University, which reported crime statistics from 2012 to 2014, showed an increase in sexual offenses and a decrease in alcohol and drug-related arrests.

On-campus alcohol and drug-related arrests dropped in count by 71 percent and 18 percent, respectively, 2012-2014.

Also dropping since 2012 were referrals for alcohol and drug-related incidents.

The total number of alcohol referrals made in 2012, 613, decreased in 2014 to 520. Drug referrals dropped from 129 in 2012 to 52 in 2014.

"I believe our efforts in connecting to our community has played a part in crime reduction," said Dennis Franks, director of campus safety and police, in an email. "Our officers patrol the campus in a variety of methods including foot and bicycle patrol along with standard vehicle patrol. This allows us the opportunity to connect with people more so than just patrolling in a squad car."

The number of reported on-campus

burglaries has remained consistent since 2012. In 2014, there were 11 reports of burglary, in 2012 and 2013, there were 10 and 12, respectively.

Franks said the registration of belongings as well as increased education can decrease burglaries in the future.

"We continually encourage people to register their belongings using operation ID along with efforts in educating people on the importance of securing their valuables," he said. "Officer presence of walking through facilities also helps deter crime from occurring."

In terms of reported sexual offenses and stalking instances, numbers have been steadily increasing.

Since 2012, the number of reported sexual offenses has increased from one to four.

Stalking instances were not recorded in 2012, but two were reported on campus in both 2013 and 2014.

Reports of domestic violence and dating violence decreased from one reported incident in 2013 to no reported instances in 2014.

The full 2014 Annual Security Report can be found on Elon's website at [elon.edu/safety](http://elon.edu/safety).

## Common reading takes different direction 'Why We Can't Wait' examines diversity

Christina Elias  
Senior Reporter

This fall semester, unlike in years past, no author will come to campus to discuss Elon University's common reading selection.

The Elon Core Curriculum's 2015-2016 choice, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Why We Can't Wait," didn't provide that option — traditionally, though, the chances of an author visit play heavily into the committee's selection process.

"It was a trade-off," said Jeffrey Coker, director of the Elon Core Curriculum and associate professor of biology. "We knew we couldn't get King, obviously, to speak, but we knew that there were other people [who] could come in and talk about the themes."

Though King's seminal civil rights account — begun as a letter written while the reverend was imprisoned in Birmingham, Alabama — was published in 1964, its applications remain relevant today, according to Coker.

The selection follows repeated incidents of racial bias at Elon University stretching back almost a decade. Nationally, race tensions have run high — most notably in Ferguson, Missouri; New York; Baltimore; and Charleston, South Carolina.

To capitalize on complicated conversations, Coker and his colleagues have set up a year-long series of campus events centered around diversity, civil rights and race relations, as well as personal and social responsibility. Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts Jr., a Pulitzer Prize-winner, recently spoke on campus in a talk, "Race in America."

"A good common reading program doesn't just talk about the book all year — [because] that gets redundant — but starts with the book,



Martin Luther King Jr.'s words still speak to this generation, organizers said.

then goes somewhere," Coker said.

Since at least 1992, the Elon Common Reading Program has aimed to "create a shared intellectual discussion" across campus by uniting different departments and schools through a shared nonfiction work or novel.

Unlike other schools, Elon does not require the common reading be taught in class. It's not mandatory for each Elon 101 course and core classes don't have to use it, either. There are those — students, faculty and staff — who never as much as flip through the pages.

Not that those who teach it aren't aware.

"You have to put some things back on the students, honestly," said Laurin Kier, assistant professor of sociology who teaches the book in her Global Experience course. "I truly believe — particularly in college when you are not having someone standing over you and telling you exactly every single thing that you're supposed to do — the more students are willing to put into it, the more students are going to get out

of it. And I do think students have a responsibility here."

Still, Elon's common reading organizers know no method is fool-proof.

Calling it a "tough choice," Coker said Elon has to decide between making the reading required in every classroom and hoping the theme might catch on in a more subtle way.

"If you went to some universities, every student gets it, and it's very shallow and superficial, and we don't want that, so we allow it to be more organic," Coker said.

According to freshman David Dignan, the majority of freshmen do take the time to read the book, either over the summer or at the beginning of the school year.

"I did not read the book personally, but I'd say I am among the minority," Dignan said in an email. He added, "There isn't really anything they could do to make more freshmen read it. Those who are going to read it will and those who choose not to just won't have that knowledge going into some of their classes."

# Going global on the big screen

Simone Jasper  
Assistant News Editor

The Global Neighborhood film series will highlight the theme "Food: The Culture, Ethics and Politics of Eating" in its next showing October 27. The film series is one of the programs that fits into the Residential Campus Initiative, which aims to integrate academic and residential experiences.

This year's film series includes works from around the world. The films and the discussions that follow screenings focus on how food connects to politics and ethics in today's world.

"A lot of people don't see on the surface how food is an academic issue," said Safia Swimelar, associate professor of political science and policy studies and coordinator of the film series. "How ethical is it that we have the highest rate of hunger among developed nations? It's an ethical question that's also academic and intellectual."

Upcoming films for the fall semester include "The Price of Aid" 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27 and "A Place at the Table" 7 p.m. Nov. 17. The films will be shown in Global Commons 103. Past film series themes included "Religion and Conflict" in 2013-2014 and "Gender and Sexuality in a Global Context" in 2014-2015.

Swimelar, who serves on the Global Neighborhood Association, has used films as a way to understand global is-

issues in her research. She proposed the film series idea, which launched when the neighborhood opened during the 2013-2014 school year.

"I championed the idea that a global film series would get students involved and help them see — literally and also through understanding," Swimelar said.

The film series is a part of the Residential Campus Initiative's mission, which is to "provide a seamless academic-social campus experience," according to the student life five-year plan.

"[The film series] is one of the ongoing programs that will make Global distinctive," said Shannon Lundeen, director of academic initiatives for the residential campus and associate professor. "That fits into the Residential Campus Initiative's goal to make each neighborhood have its own traditions."

Besides the film series, Global Neighborhood has monthly dinners and com-

petitions between residential buildings.

Elon's other residential neighborhoods for freshmen and sophomores — Colonnades, Danieley and the Historic Neighborhood — also offer distinct programming. But Global was the first neighborhood designed with the Residential Campus Initiative in mind.

Sophomore Arlet Vanhoutan, a resident of the International Living Learning Community (LLC) in Global D, said she plans to live on her hall for the rest of her time at Elon.

"Personally, I love the dynamic that it's competitive [between buildings]," Vorpe said. "But it's also academic. We're trying to learn more about today's society, which will help us to be better people in the real world."

The film series helps to promote academic culture through faculty-led discussions, according to Lundeen.

"One of the ways it fuses academic life into the neighborhood is bringing a faculty member to introduce each film and lead a discussion afterwards," Lundeen said. "It's not just that you watch it and leave. The Residential Campus Initiative allows you to engage outside of the classroom with peers."

The film series also increases global awareness, according to Swimelar. "A lot of students don't watch international films," she said. "It's not just about the content but also about seeing images from other countries."

“WE’RE TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TODAY’S SOCIETY, WHICH WILL HELP US TO BE BETTER PEOPLE IN THE REAL WORLD.”

MEGAN VORPE  
SOPHOMORE, GLOBAL RESIDENT

Global Neighborhood events helped her to integrate into the campus as a freshman.

"It's good because you get so involved and familiar with the students and professors," Vanhoutan said. "I applied to live on the hall after living here last year —

# Advancing to the next level

## *Elon eSports gains legitimacy with new computers*

Max Garland  
Assistant News Editor

For the Elon University eSports team, setting up matches for its video games has been a hassle since its inception in 2012.

“We need a place to play, so right now we rent out [McEwen 207] for practices and games,” said Elon eSports Vice President Tyler LaVecchia, a sophomore. “But the computers here never save anything, so we always have to reinstall the games we compete in, which can take hours.”

That all changed Tuesday with the arrival of five Lenovo Y40 laptops, which according to Elon eSports President Zach Wellman, are gaming-quality PCs the team can use at any time. The laptops were financed via an SGA special allocation of \$5,000, marking the organization’s first step towards recognition on campus.

“It’s absolutely a huge move for us,” said Wellman, a senior. “I was ecstatic when I heard we had gotten the funding. Now we can travel to major tournaments or play somewhere without having to rent a space with computers.”

LaVecchia called SGA allocation a “stepping stone” toward legitimacy for Elon eSports, even though the allocation was much less than its original proposal in the spring.

### Help from SGA

According to SGA Executive

treasurer Leo Moran, the eSports team wanted 12 PCs worth \$12,000, but that type of funding wasn’t realistic. After working with the SGA finance committee, the team presented its proposal to the SGA senate for a \$5,000 allocation on Sept. 24. It passed.

“[Elon eSports] told SGA that basically they wanted to be more competitive with other schools in video games,” said Moran, a senior. “A lot of other eSports teams get funded by their schools for computers and other equipment, which they don’t have.”

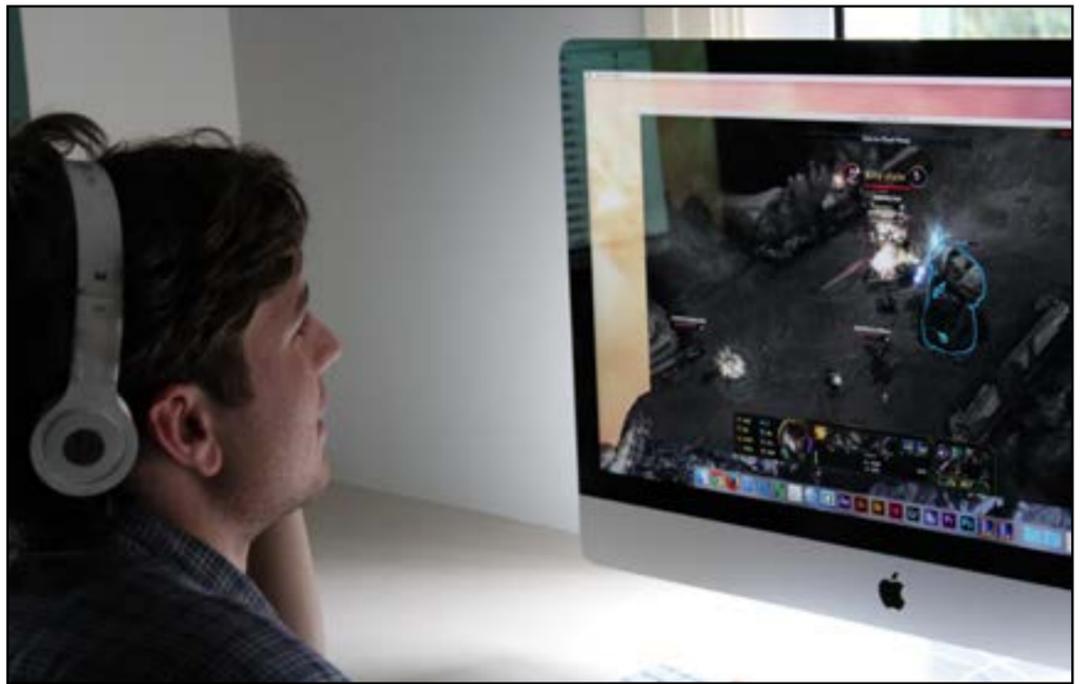
The team originally wanted desktop PCs, but lack of infrastructure and storage space in the organization didn’t make that feasible, according to Wellman.

“We’re looking to get four solid years out of these computers,” he said. “Until we get an actual space to play in, we’ll be using these as our main gaming PCs.”

The computers will be stored at the Moseley Center and available to check out for all students, faculty and staff, since the university technically owns them. Wellman said the eSports team has top priority for checking the computers out, since they are designated to the organization.

### Growth of eSports

Outside of Elon, the eSports scene has been expanding outside of its roots in South Korea, Japan and China since the introduction of competition-focused and team-



MEGAN KOTTKAMP | Staff Photographer

Elon eSports member and junior Paul Camarda practices League of Legends at McEwen 207 Sunday.

work-oriented video games like League of Legends and Dota 2. One professional eSports tournament, The International eSports 2015, had a prize pool of nearly \$18.5 million, according to esportsearnings.com.

Colleges have recently been getting in on the action, with Robert Morris University and the University of Pikeville offering athletic scholarships for League of Legends.

North Carolina schools are no strangers to the eSports scene. Duke University and North Carolina State University have their own teams in the Collegiate Star

League, a collegiate gaming organization that hosts leagues and tournaments, along with Elon.

According to Wellman, eSports funding is difficult for smaller schools like Elon without the sheer numbers that larger, public universities have. The new computers are a small step towards increasing their competitiveness with these bigger rivals, one reason being they are on Windows operating systems, not Mac OS X, which have been the only computer types available in the spaces the team has been able to rent.

“There’s a big difference between playing League of Legends

on Mac versus a Windows computer,” LaVecchia said. “Windows handles these games better. It’s also really difficult to use the Mac mice here, it’ll be much easier with a standard mouse.”

The timing is beneficial for the team, as registrations have finished for their A and B teams in League of Legends and Dota 2. Practices have begun to prepare the team for the upcoming Collegiate Star League season. Although the new computers won’t cover the entirety of the roughly 75 members in Elon eSports, it’s five more gaming-focused computers than the organization used to have.

# Rainbow flags to fly high

## *Alamance’s first Pride Festival to kick off Oct. 10*

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

Earlier this week, Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies, received an email that read: “After this weekend, Alamance County will never be the same.”

The email refers to Alamance County’s first gay pride festival, taking place Saturday, Oct. 10 to mark the one-year anniversary of North Carolina achieving marriage equality through the district courts.

The event — hosted by Alamance Pride, the area’s newly created nonprofit organization supporting the LGBTQIA communities in the county — will take place in the Historic Train Depot & Amphitheater. The Sat-

urday event will feature music, food, more than 50 local vendors and, in the pride spirit, thousands of rainbows.

Starting from 11 a.m. and running through 5 p.m., various events will be hosted during the festival, including an interfaith service, a performance from Triad Pride Men’s Chorus and a drag show. Carri Smithey & The Ends has been announced as the festival’s headliner.

The email is one of the many indicators of community support Alamance Pride has received in its planning process. When the event was first announced, a GoFundMe campaign was created to collect donations to support its planning — within hours of

its creation, community members made in donations ranging from \$5 to \$1,000. After one month and more than 50 individual donations, the community surpassed the campaign’s goal by \$2,001 with a whopping total of \$5,000.

Huber, co-coordinator of Vendors for Alamance Pride, said any leftover funds from the event will be donated to Allied Churches to support the homeless in Alamance County who identify as LGBTQIA.

To Huber, the visual representation of the community coming together and supporting these individuals is significant and powerful in a county where the amendment against marriage equality passed with 60 percent of votes.

She specifically highlighted the impact the event may have on Alamance County youth and their parents who identify on the spectrum.

“It’s going to be an important event for signaling to these groups that there is acceptance and other people who identify under the LGBTQIA spectrum in the community,” she said.

Huber especially highlighted the importance of the event’s organizational sponsors which include Fat Frogg Bar and Grill, Pandora’s Pies and Fire Salon and Spa.

“Elon University has been our top sponsor, and we have been so positively overwhelmed by how supportive the university has been,” Huber said.

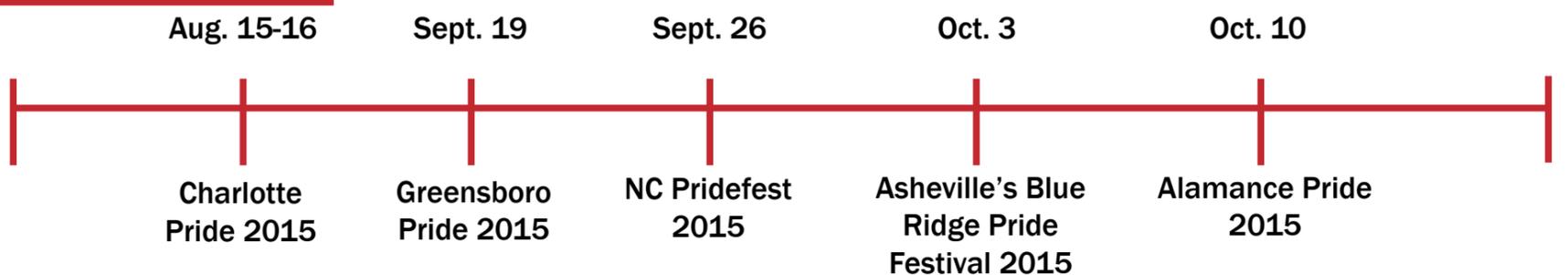
Sophomore Olivia Ryan said she couldn’t be happier that a pride event is happening in the county because it lessens the distance between Elon and her home in New York City.

“I’ve been going to the NYC Pride March and PrideFest for the past few years and the events are always one of the highlights of my summer,” Ryan said. “I love being surrounded by people who are passionate about the same cause and feel free to be themselves.”

Ryan is also excited to celebrate a first with other members of the Alamance Community.

“Being able to go makes me feel like a part of [Alamance County’s] history,” Ryan said. “I’m beyond excited.”

### NC PRIDE EVENTS



# Symposium shares perspectives

*Speaker series to feature academic research about Latinos*

Simone Jasper  
Assistant News Editor

Speakers will highlight academic work about Hispanic and Latino communities in “Perspectivas,” a two-night series Oct. 7 and 8. The first ever Hispanic/Latino symposium will feature eight student, faculty, staff and alumni presentations.

“Perspectivas” is a part of Elon University’s programming for National Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month and marks a shift in the focus from previous years. Sylvia Munoz, associate director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education (CREDE) and director of the Spanish center, served on the Hispanic Heritage Month committee and said committee members wanted to change programming for this year’s celebration.

“We love sharing music, food and all of the components of culture that are fun,” Munoz said. “I felt like we were missing the component of academic culture. I knew a lot of people were interested in sharing their research, so we’re doing small sessions to give snapshots.”

The series is called “Perspectivas,” which translates to “Perspectives,” because it aims to increase awareness from different viewpoints. The programs are 5-8 p.m., and conversation topics range from “Global Intercountry Adoption and Child Abduction in Guatemala” to “Growing up Latino in the U.S.”

The symposium comes during Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs Sept. 15 - Oct. 15. The goal of the month is to recognize and celebrate the Hispanic and Latino community’s contributions to society.

The symposium sessions are 30 minutes or an hour, and each night culminates in a reception so the audience can ask additional questions. Munoz said the brief presentations allow for people to attend the sessions that fit in their schedules and allow the speakers to be flexible.

“They can structure it in any way they want,” she said. “Some talk about their research, and others are interactive.”

Junior Daniela Sostaita, who will give a presentation at the symposium, is also on the Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month

committee. She said showcasing issues in Hispanic and Latino communities helps promote understanding.

“We’re trying to highlight it in an academic realm,” Sostaita said. “For a lot of [people], what they think about is culture. A lot of times it’s reduced to that. That’s great and important for people to be aware of, but it can’t be limited to that. Hopefully, people will see another side.”

Sostaita said she hopes the programming will expand upon what people already know about Hispanic and Latino people and culture.

“I expect that it’s new information for a lot of people,” Sostaita said. “They might have thought about these issues but not how they impact the Latino community, and the number of Latinos is growing in the United States.”

Other Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month programming this semester included a mix of old and new events, including the Independence Celebration, Latin Night in Soccer and Typical Costa Rican Breakfast.

## “PERSPECTIVAS”

**Who:** Eight student, faculty, staff and alumni speakers

**What:** A speaker series that highlights academic work about Hispanic and Latino communities

**When:** 5-8 p.m., Wednesday Oct. 7 and Thursday, Oct. 8

**Where:** Global Commons 103

Munoz said she wants “Perspectivas” to become a signature program for Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month in the future. This fall, she hopes attendees will be able to relate to the topics and learn more about Hispanic and Latino culture.

“They’re excited about sharing their knowledge and expertise, so I hope people take the opportunity to come,” she said.

# Smith Hall in Smithereens

*Administration reacts to ongoing damages in historic hall*

Elizabeth Kirkhorn  
Senior Reporter

It’s Sunday morning in Smith Hall. Freshman Matt Sullivan is waking up, walking out of his dorm room and taking in the sights of Smith for the first time that morning. Upon first glance, it is immediately clear that Saturday night charades have not been kind to one of Elon University’s most historic residence halls.

“After the weekend, things just always look a lot worse than they used to,” says Sullivan. “People get sick, not in the toilets. The showers, the sinks, the trash cans. There are missing exit signs, smashed ceiling tiles, broken windows and window screens.”

Unfortunately, Smith’s inhabitants for the 2015-2016 school year are not the first class to witness obscene damages in the residence hall. As the only all-male dorm on campus, Smith has been a hot spot for vandalism and destruction for years.

“Damage in Smith includes damage to signs, bulletin boards and water fountains,” said MarQuita Barker, interim director for residence life, in an email.

Residence Life has tried several approaches to tackle the vandalism, according to Barker.

“We’ve used hall meetings, individual conduct meetings, fines,” she said. “We have also worked with Campus Police to increase their presence from time to time.”

These methods have proven largely ineffective.

“I think over the years Smith has gained a reputation,” Sullivan said. “It’s a party. Freshmen always go there and do whatever they want. I’ve seen people who don’t even live in Smith disrespecting the property and I feel like that kind of thing gives it a bad name.”

If one were to ask many Elon students about Smith, they’ll chuckle or sigh and go on to tell you about the reputation for destruction. Upperclassmen will share horror stories about their time in Smith. This may cause freshmen to attempt to live up to that party reputation and try similarly dangerous and destructive escapades. It is a vicious cycle that has contributed to Smith’s woes for years.

Residence Life is seeking to stop this cycle in its tracks this year by rebranding Smith Hall and ending its notoriety in terms of vandalism. Barker confirmed that Residence Life is discouraging students from spreading rumors about Smith in order to help stop the reputation surrounding it.

In the meantime, Campus Police is holding up their end by overseeing Smith on the weekend.

“The police are monitoring the halls three times a night during the weekend,” Sullivan said. “They’re fining for damages they see, and they’re investigating other incidents as well.”

“It’s just something you get used to,” said Will Sadler, another freshman resident of Smith, and Sullivan’s neighbor. “Everyone is up late and there are always people out in the hall doing something. It’s pretty distracting as far as studying. You realize day one you’re not going to get any work done in Smith. Everyone goes to the library.”

# Searching for a midnight snack

*Lack of late dining hall hours concern for students*

Elizabeth Kirkhorn  
Senior Reporter

Because all three of Elon University’s All Access dining locations — Colonnades Dining Hall, McEwen Dining Hall, and Lakeside Dining Hall — close between 8 and 10 p.m., students have been struggling to find a nutritious late-night snack this year.

Elon Dining provides five different meal plan options to students. The population of students who are on the All Access Basic plan is substantial. Since this option does not cover purchases at any of the on-site retail locations, any holders of an All Access Basic Plan are out of luck after the dining halls close.

“I’m involved in the radio station and a bunch of clubs that have meetings that end at 8 or 8:30 p.m.,” said freshman Riley Beal, who is on the All Access Basic plan. “I don’t have time to grab dinner before, and after, the dining halls are closed. It’s harder for us to get food without the Plus 7.”

Many students echoed these concerns. As the year ramps up and club meetings become frequent, it is harder for participants to go to the dining halls for a nutritious meal or snack. Lakeside Dining Hall remains open until 10 p.m., but some students whose housing is further away in the Historic or Danieley Neighborhoods feel this is too far of a trek, especially at night.

When students deem Lakeside, their only late-night option, too far from home, they end up powering through their study sessions with Pop-Tarts, Easy Mac and ramen noodles, none of which are sufficient brain foods.

Senior Courtney Vereide said she often snacks.

“I think it would be great if students had opportunities to get a good meal to fuel their late night studies,” Vereide said.

Elon Dining stands by its decision to close dining halls at 8 p.m., and Lakeside at 10 p.m. The food provider reassesses the need of the student body multiple times a year and decides when dining hall hours are necessary based on feedback from such appraisals.

“Our goal is to make the majority of the people happy,” said Pulkit Vigg, Elon Dining resident district manager. “We do a lot of focus groups and we meet with the SGA. We talk to a lot of students daily. Before the semester starts, we look at the trends — how many students went to Lakeside, McEwen, or Colonnades. We look at breakfast, lunch, dinner, light lunch, light dinner.”

Elon Dining also checks in with local social media to read up on student critique of the dining halls.

“Yes, we look at Yik Yak, and we look at Twitter. We have to,” Vigg said. “We have to look at all avenues of feedback. Good, bad, or ugly. That’s how we get information, plus word of mouth.”

Such focus groups and studies have aided Elon Dining in bringing many positive improvements to campus in recent years. Qdoba Mexican Grill and Einstein Bros. Bagels in the Danieley neighborhood have proved incredibly profitable. Lakeside and Colonnades, both fairly new dining developments, are staples on Elon’s campus. Late Night McEwen, open on the weekends from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., is available to students on the All Access Basic meal plan.

“Our goal as dining is to take care of the All Access people first. They are our most important population,” Vigg said. “Instead of burdening them to buy a Plus 7 or more meal dollars, we will always have something open on campus for them. I think opening a dining hall until 10 suffices the need right now. If the need changes, we will increase it.”

Of course, if demanded, expanding dining hall hours will come with a price. There will be an increased need for food as well as staff.

“Nothing ever increases without a cost burden at the end of it,” Vigg said. “But price is not the biggest priority for us. My priority is to take care of students so that they buy a meal plan next year. Repeat customers, for any business, are the key.”

The difference of opinion between Elon Dining and Elon students regarding dining hall hours will continue to cause disagreements. But at the end of the day, it is clear that Elon Dining’s central purpose is to serve the university community.

“When we closed Colonnades on the weekend, we opened 80 more hours for Einstein’s, and we expanded Lakeside’s hours,” Vigg said. “It’s a balancing act for us, but overall, we add hours when we take them away.”

While the need for expanded dining hours does not seem dire enough to be addressed at this time, many favorable developments from Elon Dining are on Elon’s horizon.

“We’re looking to open Qdoba and Einstein’s seven days a week,” Vigg said. “That’s the priority I’m working on.”



CAILIN JALYNSKI | Staff Photographer

Students eat at Late Night McEwen, one of the dining options open later in the evening.

## Potential plan would focus on endowment

*President Lambert calls for increase in financial aid*

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

Halfway through the Elon Commitment, a 10-year, \$586 million strategic plan, Elon University is potentially months away from taking the next steps to continue to grow the institution.

President Leo Lambert discussed the future of Elon Oct. 1 with SGA. Much of the hour-long discussion surrounded a possible \$250 million February 2016 campaign launch, which, if approved, would be the biggest in the university's history.

Lambert said going forward with the \$250 million plan in mind, working on the endowment is a major goal.

"Most of the resources [from the campaign] will be directed toward endowment," he said. "That will be our next focus for the next 50 years."

Lambert said Elon recently partnered with Ayers Saint Gross, an architectural firm that specializes in master plans and building designs for higher education institutions, including Wake Forest University and Harvard University.

Major focal points with Ayers Saint Gross include looking into an addition to the current McMichael building and a second building for the business school, according to Lambert.

"We're trying to think broadly with them," said Lambert. "Not about what Elon will look like in 2020, but what it will look like in 2040."

In response to junior Steven Armentariz' question about adding more scholarships and need-based aid, Lambert said Elon is looking to improve already established programs, such as Odyssey scholarships.

The Odyssey Scholars Program is a merit-based scholarship program for talented students who demonstrate financial need.

"We're looking to add more Odyssey scholarships, increase broad pool of aid," Lambert said. "More attention may go toward our fellows programs with relatively modest stipends attached."

But while endowment is a major part of the next campaign, Lambert said annual giving will also play a role.

"Endowment is only one part and annual giving is another," he said. "It costs \$500,000 to endow one Odyssey Scholarship. Lots of \$20 donations could make a big difference."

Lambert said a report on future additions and plans may be ready for students later this year, but "certainly next year."

# Muslim holiday encourages reflection

*Eid al-Adha celebration welcomes attendees to learn, pray, observe*

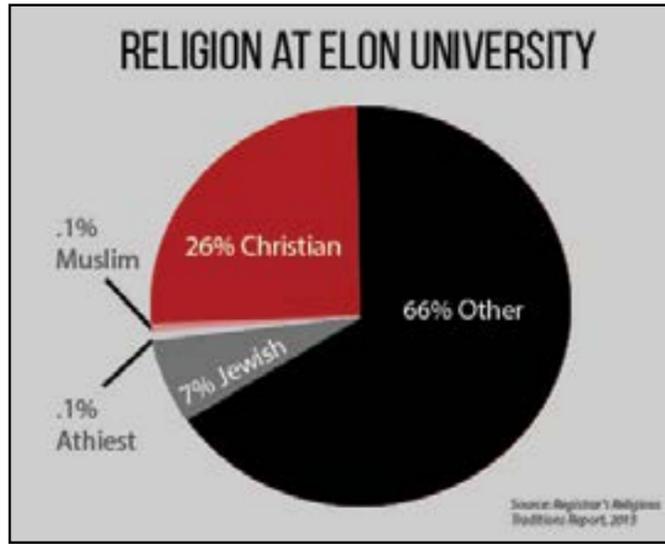
Sophia Asmuth  
Multimedia Editor

Elon University's growing effort to increase awareness and expand its diversity on campus is slow to progress. A snapshot of Elon's Registrar Report for fall 2015 shows 65.5 percent of the student body are Christian and 7.6 percent are Jewish — the next largest religious group on campus. There are only seven Muslim students at Elon.

"These seven [Muslim students] represent a larger part of the community around us that we may be integrated within," said Shereen Elgamal, assistant professor of Arabic. "This is an academic institution, so students are going to branch out from here ... Elon is a cross-section of society to prepare us for what is to come."

Around 1.6 billion Muslims around the world celebrated Eid al-Adha on the evening of Sept. 23. One week later, roughly 150 Elon University students and community members celebrated the holiday in the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life Oct. 1.

In short, the celebration recognizes Abraham's total willing sacrifice of his son to God. Senior and practicing Muslim, Shahad Haswa, explained the holiday in reference to Christmas.



"[Christians] have Christmas and get presents, we have Eid al-Adha and get money," Haswa said. "You go visit family ... and then you see them again because they want to come to your home after — totally insane."

With such a small number of Muslim students at Elon, the holiday was more of an educational experience for many and less geared toward celebrating the holiday itself.

"Back home, we celebrate for fun, but here I celebrate more for education and making people aware," Haswa said.

Just hours before Elon celebrated faith through Eid al-Adha, a gunman shot 19

people, killing 10, at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon. Reportedly, the attacker asked one simple question of his victims before he pulled the trigger: "What is your religion?"

In the instances of killing based on religion, Elgamal encourages people to constantly seek out the truth based on facts.

"There are differences between what the religion says and what people choose to do," Elgamal said. "When someone says, 'I do this in the name of [a certain religion],' he's a criminal. Why would we take his word for it?"

According to a Pew Re-

search Center Report titled "After Boston, Little Change in Views of Islam and Violence," many U.S. residents do take "his" word for it. In May 2013, 42 percent said the Islamic Religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers — an increase from the 38 percent in August 2009.

To dispel "Islamophobia," speaker and activist Faisal Khan, spoke to the Elon students at the celebration. Khan used Eid al-Adha to educate about Allah and his vision for humanity.

"His message is not only addressed to Islam or Muslims. It is to the entire humanity," Khan said.

Khan described this as a message to remove ignorance, to establish the belief in one god and to have faith in one god. He recommended the removal of ignorance through interfaith and civic engagement and encouraged students to participate in government affairs, write to media outlets and volunteer for nonprofit organizations.

"The only way we'll overcome our differences is to get to know each other and serve our communities together," Khan said.

Go to [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com) to find accompanying multimedia content for this story.

# Connecting through faith

*Truitt Center restructures, brings together Christian groups*

Emmanuel Morgan  
Senior Reporter

College students will never turn down a free meal, so it's no surprise Elon University Associate Chaplain Joel Harter urges multifaith groups to use food as incentive for students to come to events.

"We have food at most events," Harter said. "It gives these kids a free meal while also helping them with their spiritual needs."

But after asking campus Christian groups such as Affinity and InterVarsity to be more proactive in reaching out to students in a multifaith campaign, food should be just one of the reasons students go to religion-focused events.

"The various Christian groups were able to work well in the beginning of this year to get students connected," Harter said. "Making it easier for new students to find community was something we did better this year."

Harter said last year he received feedback from students who were having trouble getting connected to people of similar faiths. This year, the comments were only positive in regards to the proactivity of organizations on campus, according to Harter.

Donita Sharkey, sophomore student leader of Affinity, welcomes the newfound focus on reaching out and said it will serve both organizations well.

"There's a need for diversity in your workshop," Sharkey says. "We were made for community. The Bible says every nation and every tongue were made to worship Him."

The Truitt Center also wants different faiths to cooperate more often on campus, according to Harter. He said he wants Elon's Christian students to feel as supported as possible, because if they are comfortable and confident in their beliefs, they will go out to events sponsored by different religions.

"Most of our students have probably grown up in the Catholic Church and never really interacted with people of other faiths," said Trung Huynh-Duc of the Catholic Campus Ministry staff. "With the multifaith presence here and having multifaith events ... it opens up different perspectives. It also helps us realize most of

our similarities rather than our differences, and that goes along with Elon's mission to help us become more global citizens."

The multifaith campaign is also an opportunity for students to evaluate their own stance

the same way with Christianity," Sharkey said. "When I see how other people worship and I see their drive and their passion, it convicts me and it makes me value and respect their religion more."

Though venturing out of the comfort zone is hard, Harter said those who do will help themselves. President Leo Lambert said something similar at many past New Student Convocations in regards to all the resources the university has to offer — enjoy the buffet and don't eat a bologna sandwich.

That philosophy can also apply to learning of different faiths on campus.

"All I'm asking is to give it a chance," Harter said. "No one has to stop being who you are, but by opening your eyes to other faiths, you can better understand why you're a Christian and deepen your Christian faith. At the same time, you're building relationships with other people who you probably would not have otherwise."

“THE MULTIFAITH PRESENCE HERE ... HELPS US REALIZE MOST OF OUR SIMILARITIES RATHER THAN OUR DIFFERENCES.”

TRUNG HUYNH-DUC  
CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

within their respective religions.

By witnessing different faiths, individuals receive a deeper appreciation for that faith along with their own, according to Sharkey.

"You don't notice the beauty in yourself until you see it in someone else and I think that's

# For some, practice makes perfect

## *Carlton renovation promotes language immersion experiences*

Sarah Wood  
Senior Reporter

A few months after the first-floor of Carlton was renovated to create a conversational space, professors and students debate whether or not foreign language discussions outside of the classroom are important.

Besides the space in Carlton, the World Language Living Learning Community (LLC), study abroad programs and El Centro de Espanol offer chances to practice language. Many professors believe that creating an immersion-like experience outside the classroom is the most powerful tool when learning another language.

Scott Windham, associate German professor, is a firm believer in that theory.

“Research suggests that, in order to learn a language, you need formal language study and immersion,” Windham said in an email. “The combination of classroom study and living the language — through study abroad or an internship, for example — is the most powerful way to learn.”

### Spaces for conversation

Carlton’s renovations created a welcome reception desk, an additional classroom with modular tables, two meeting rooms, a digital touch screen that projects information regarding cultural and language events at Elon University and a flat screen television to show films and international news stories.

“[They] created a modern, international engagement space or ‘hub’ in first floor Carlton to support teaching and learning in new and exciting ways,” said Sophie Adamson, associate professor of French and chair of the department



Ana Teresa Gago (left) and Jimena Artinano converse in Spanish in El Centro, located on the first floor of Carlton.

of World Languages and Cultures, in an email.

Adamson said it’s too early to indicate whether the new renovations are further helping students, but she believes it’s a useful tool.

“The department views first floor Carlton as an extension of the classroom in that it provides additional opportunities for language development, cultural exchanges, cross-cultural community building and collaborative cross-disciplinary connections,” she said.

On the other hand, senior Caroline Yuen, a fluent Spanish speaker, has found in-class learning to be more effective.

“I like [the new Carlton building],” Yuen said. “It looks renovated, modern, and very welcoming. I’m satisfied with how Elon has helped me learn. Maybe I’m old fashioned, but I would say taking classes has overall been my strongest resource for improving my Spanish. However, I also enjoyed the Spanish Learning Community

as a freshman.”

The Global Neighborhood is home to the World Language or Polyglot House LLC that is open to students interested in learning about different cultures while also improving his or her own language skills.

“I think the nature of the Global Neighborhood is to make students global citizens,” said Ricardo Mendoza, lecturer in Spanish and Spanish house advisor, in an email. “We provide different activities and different discussions that help to improve the linguistic and cultural skills of every single student in the Polyglot House.”

In order to be accepted into the program, students must master an intermediate or higher level and show an appreciation of cultural exposure. There are 37 people currently living in the LLC that speak French and Spanish.

“Everybody has become really close with each other and they actively participate in group dinners,

movie nights and generally just getting to know each other,” Mendoza said.

### Immersion experiences abroad

Studying abroad is another example of full-language immersion. Students can experience the culture of their language of study first hand during Winter Term, semester or full-year programs.

Currently, seven out of the 35 Winter Term 2016 programs travel to a Spanish-speaking country.

“Study abroad is a necessary ingredient in learning another language, and it confers benefits in regards to cultural proficiency — plus it’s a life-changing experience,” Windham said. “I encourage all of my students to study abroad for a summer or semester.”

### Practicing language skills

On campus, El Centro de Espanol, located on the first floor of

Carlton, provides an opportunity to practice Spanish.

“The best way to improve [a language] is total language immersion,” said Sylvia Munoz, director of the center. “When a student is immersed in the Spanish language (or any other language), [they] learn to speak, understand, read and write from native speakers in a real-life context.”

El Centro offers small, informal classes that meet twice a week for 45 minutes sessions as a way to create an immersion-like experience for all levels of Spanish. Students can also earn up to \$650 towards study abroad credit if they log 140 hours with El Centro over the span of two years.

“I can see improvements in students’ language ability after they participate in the classes,” Munoz said. “The participants might not see that improvement right away, especially at the basic level, but the instructors can. Again, all the classes are designed around a communicative approach.”

Adamson stressed that learning a new language allows for a broader understanding of the world and connections to be made with a variety of individuals.

“At Elon, we understand the interconnections of our world and the importance of intercultural competence,” Adamson said. “Across campus, we want to do everything possible to prepare students for successful lives in today’s global world where they will encounter differences in language, cultural perspectives, race, nationality, religious traditions, and political and economic structures. Our students’ first jobs may very well be outside of the United States, as they will certainly compete for careers on an international level. Therefore, the study of languages and cultures is more essential than ever.”

# Events aim to increase SGA accessibility

## *SGA strives to highlight student issues, one coffee cup at a time*

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

At an SGA retreat earlier this year, a group of Elon University class senators united over a primary concern: Student issues aren’t reaching their office.

The product of a collective brainstorming session, which sought to lessen the distance between students with concerns and class senators with connections, will begin this week.

With cups of The Oak House coffee, a relaxed and informal social climate and music playing in the background, the senators added a twist to the conventional idea of “office hours.”

Starting Tuesday, the Student Issues Committee, a group of SGA’s class senators dedicated to addressing issues within the student body, will begin hosting its office hours in The Oak House

to become more accessible to students with concerns about campus issues.

Junior class senator Joshua Fritz hopes the shift in spaces will significantly impact the way students perceive SGA.

“Many students, especially first-years, could feel intimidated by how formal the office is — and because there are so many upperclassmen in there, they may feel like they’re barging in,” Fritz said. “[The] Oak House is so much more accessible.”

The Student Issues Committee consists of senators from all classes who each play a specialized role within Elon. Throughout the year, they relay key issues and concerns brought to their attention to higher administration.

Fritz said SGA’s ability to unite students with concerns or ideas to higher administration is often overlooked. He encourages

students to take full advantage of the committee and stop by even if they don’t have concerns.

“I would define SGA as being the first contact point to get to any figure of authority on campus,” he said. “So even if SGA doesn’t have the direct power to get things done, it can — at the very least — connect you to someone who can, instead of hitting a wall.”

Senior Jess Buller is on the fence regarding whether the shift will make a huge difference.

“I think that people who are going to seek out those office hours will seek them out wherever they may be,” she said. “That being said, I know that if I went to The Oak House and saw somebody I knew from SGA and said, ‘Hi,’ I’d be more than likely to have a conversation about issues I may have.”

To Fritz, it’s the spontaneous,



In a new initiative to better connect with students, SGA will be holding casual, open office hours in the Oak House every Tuesday 4:30-5:30 p.m.

unintentional conversations that make all the difference.

“We decided to choose a place where many students are already located at so that they can informally start these discussions,”

Fritz said. “The Oak House provides the perfect atmosphere for those kinds of interactions.”

Office hours will be held in The Oak House every Tuesday 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.



# Through the roof

*Elon not immune to soaring room and board costs*

**Max Garland**  
Assistant News Editor

The cost of a college education is skyrocketing nationwide, and Elon University is no exception to the rule.

Tuition has been steadily rising at Elon every year. According to the most recent university factbook, the tuition of \$30,848 for the 2014-15 academic year is nearly double the amount it was in 2004-2015 at \$17,310, though the rate of growth has slowed since the 2008 financial crisis.

Other expenses, such as room and board, haven't stayed steady, either. Room and board costs increased by 7.8 percent 2014-2015, a spike from the previous year's increase of 4.4 percent.

The substantial increase in room and board wasn't without reason, according to Gerald Whittington, Elon's senior vice president of Business, Finance and Technology. At the beginning of 2014, a state law requiring universities to collect tax on sales of student meals and event tickets took effect. Whittington said in an email that Elon had to increase the cost of meal plans for the 2014-2015 year to "for the introduced sales taxes, hich come at a rate of 6.75 percent for Alamance County.

"This [tax] was the cause

for the increase above the norm," Whittington said. "Given that the sales tax increase was not something that we had any control over, it was an extraordinary increase during that year."

The 2015-2016 increases in room and board weren't as large, according to Whittington, at rates around 3 percent. But he added that how much charges will increase in the future remains "unclear."

Despite the increase in costs to room and board, the majority of Elon students live on campus at a percentage higher than the national average: Out of all undergraduate students at Elon, 69 percent live on campus, according to Rachel Tinker, the communications coordinator for the Inter-Residence council at Elon. Among U.S. private colleges, 64 percent of full-time students live on campus, per CollegeBound.net.

"A big reason for this is that we have a lot of apartment-style living geared toward upperclassmen with places like the Oaks and Mill Point," Tinker said. "Elon students are also really involved on campus, so they need to live close by."

Whittington said the advantages of living on campus outweigh the rising costs, which aren't anything out of the ordinary.

"It is normal for room and board to increase given inflation for things like food costs, labor and utilities," he said. "Living on campus has proven to be a more productive experience for students. They get better grades, they graduate sooner and in higher percentages than those who live off campus."

Inflation has contributed to room and board costs, increasing 3.4 percent nationally among four-year public colleges, according to a 2014 report by Trends in College Pricing.

"I think [college] costs are an issue because it's really tough to get out of that debt once you're in it," said senior Sarah Riley. "It's easier in other countries because the costs are lower, but here it's really expensive. So you want to get a greater education, but the costs keep piling and piling on."

The costs are rising, and many students have difficulty keeping up. The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) found that 69 percent of seniors who graduated from public and nonprofit colleges in 2013 had an average debt of \$28,400 in student loans, an increase of 2 percent from the 2012 average.

"If you're going to be making a wage of \$30,000 a year, you probably shouldn't be going to college," said Vitaliy Strohush, an assistant professor of economics. "For the average student going into a career like STEM or business, it's a good decision. In fact, more should be going if they're in that category."

Strohush added that the ease of getting a student loan puts more pressure on people to go college, despite not realistically being able to afford to pay off their loans.

To keep incoming and outgoing students out of debt, Elon Dean of Admissions Lisa Keegan said in an interview last December that the university is attempting to keep tuition increases at a minimum by being cautious and strategic with its expansion.

"Looking at the value of higher education and then thinking about long-term educational goals, the cost has to be part of the decision," Keegan said. "We worry a lot about squeezing out that middle income [prospective student]. This is something that the university has been looking at every single year, but especially in our current strategic plan."

# From prison to paperback books

*Piper Kerman talks incarceration experience during Elon visit*

**Morgan Abate**  
Online Editor

**Prison reform in the United States**

The day Piper Kerman left FCI Danbury prison, the guards brought her down to the processing room, handed her the smallest men's clothing they had, gave her \$28 in gratuity and led her out the back door.

By the door of the triangular-shaped, 12-story Chicago prison, her then-boyfriend Larry Smith waited impatiently for her with a plane ticket and women's clothing, ready to take her home.

Smith had visited Kerman during her 13-month sentence for money laundering and drug trafficking and written to her — two of the most important things, Kerman explained, for those in prison.

"The visiting room is the most important room in a prison," she said. "And if that's the most important room, then mail call is the most important time of the day. A card, a letter, a postcard, even a magazine — it's some signal, some sign, that you haven't been forgotten by the outside world."

Kerman shared this and other firsthand experiences of serving time Sept. 30 to a sold-out McCrory Theatre. She also addressed prison reform and touched on the themes of prison life that she wove into the book and Netflix original series "Orange is the New Black."

As someone who experienced the U.S. prison and criminal justice systems, Kerman laid out the exact reforms she said are needed to reduce the prison population, to keep people out of prison and to help them re-integrate back into society.

The biggest reforms Kerman discussed revolved around jail and court reform. She pointed to states such as New York, New Jersey and South Carolina, which have all taken measures to implement these reforms and have seen a decrease in crime as a result.

"States that have reduced their prison populations are safer," she stressed several times throughout the speech.

According to Kerman, the public defense system is also flawed. About 80 percent of all defendants are too poor to afford an attorney — and most attorneys take on about 400 cases each year. In addition, the federal government does not pay for these attorneys.

Kerman advocated for a third solution — an overhaul of the juvenile detention system in the United States. Studies have shown that children in this system are more likely to end up back in prison than those who repay the community for their actions through alternative methods. Children should not be sentenced to an adult prison.



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor

"Orange is the New Black" author Piper Kerman visited Elon through the

"Stop putting kids in adult prisons," she said. "Prison is no place for a child. I don't care what they did. It's not a place for 18 to 25-year-olds, the riskier age group."

She also applauded a piece of legislation currently in Congress that would significantly help prisoners re-entering society.

The Fair Chance Act would reduce the barriers former offenders face when applying for jobs with the government. According to Kerman, 18 states already have laws similar to the act in place. For instance, in Ohio, where Kerman currently lives, federal employers cannot ask candidates for their criminal history until they are about to be offered the job.

"The legislation is there," she said.

"It just needs to be reintroduced and put on Obama's desk."

'Orange is the New Black'

Kerman also spent time talking about the conditions of prisons, the women with whom she did time, the rules and rituals that come out in the book and the show and the dehumanizing and marginalizing prison system in the United States.

But when she chose to write about her experiences, she wanted to write about them in a way that would entice a particular audience.

"I wanted to leave people with a different idea of who is in prison," Kerman said. "I wanted people to read about prison who wouldn't

think to pick up a book about prison."

Kerman touched on the common themes she found that define the prison system and the life within it: race and class; gender and power; and friendship and empathy. These themes are all central to her book and can be found layered over each other in the show, "Orange is the New Black."

The United States has investigated some of these prisons where sexual abuse was rampant, like the Otter Creek Correctional Facility in Kentucky. In the case of Otter Creek, Kerman explained, neither the state nor the company knew how to address the sexual abuse, so they moved the prisoners instead. The facility has been closed since August 2012.

"Most women and girls that are in prison are the survivors of sexual or physical abuse," Kerman said. "Women and girls in the system suffer from higher rates of substance abuse and mental illness than men."

Friendship helped Kerman survive her time in prison. Without it, prison would have been a lonelier and much more somber place to be.

"It's what's needed to bring home nearly 700,000 people from prison and jail every year," she said. "Not all of them have a Larry to make their journey home a safe one."

Senior Reporter Lucia Jervis contributed reporting.

# Cheat Sheet: Oregon Shooting

## News Briefs



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Local church groups gather to pray at a makeshift memorial outside Snyder Hall where the Umpqua Community College shooting occurred.

A shooting at Umpqua Community College in southwestern Oregon Oct. 1 became the most recent and most severe of the more than 40 school shootings that have occurred in the United States in 2015.

### What happened in Oregon?

Christopher Harper-Mercer, 26, opened fire around 10:30 a.m. PST at the 3,000-student college's Snyder Hall. According to CBS News, Harper-Mercer, who graduated in 2009 from the Switzer Learning Center, a school for people with emotional issues and learning disabilities, maintained a blog in which he showed an interest in mass shootings.

In other online profiles connected to Harper-Mercer, he implied that he disliked organized religion. According to a witness account in the New York Times, the shooter asked the victims their religious beliefs before shooting them.

### Give me some background on school shootings

The shooting, which led to the death of 10 people — including the shooter — and injury of seven, continued the national conversation on gun rights and gun violence. Before Columbine High School students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold turned the gun on themselves, they killed 12 students, one teacher and injured 21 others in the April 1999 incident. Since that, there have been more than two dozen deadly school shootings, including the death of 32 people at Virginia Tech in 2007 and 26 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

### Is there legislation to decrease gun violence?

While lawmakers have proposed and battled for increased legislation and changes to prevent gun violence, Congress has only passed one weapon-related piece

of legislation — a law in response to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings that improved national background checks.

After the 2012 Sandy Hook mass shootings, President Obama's gun-legislation overhaul plan to ban certain military-style assault rifles, limit the size of ammunition magazines and increase background checks with gun sales was defeated in the Senate.

### What's the deal with weapons on Elon's campus?

Weapons of any kind are not allowed on Elon University property. The Weapons on Campus Policy states, "In efforts to maintain a safe living, learning, and working environment it is the policy of Elon University to strictly prohibit the possession of any weapons on university property or at university related events. This includes any firearm, even with the possession of a valid concealed carry permit. This prohibition extends to firearms locked inside of vehicle, while on university property."

### Flu shots available for Elon students

The Office of Student Health, in conjunction with Midtown Pharmacy, will be administering flu shots to students.

Students will need valid proof of insurance or \$20. The shots will be offered 2-6 p.m. Oct. 7 in the Francis Center – Central Lobby and 4-8 p.m. Nov. 2 in Belk Library.

If a student cannot attend these clinics during the allotted times, Bio-Buses have routes to CVS and Target where flu shots are also available.

### Alumni networking opportunities available during Homecoming Weekend

Most of the academic departments will host Open House sessions with alumni during Homecoming Weekend Oct. 16-18. These are considered an opportunity for networking and creating connections with professionals in respective fields. For more information regarding times and locations, go to [elon.edu/e/alumni/homecoming](http://elon.edu/e/alumni/homecoming).

### Food trucks to come to campus Oct. 7

Elon University Dining will be hosting a food truck frenzy on Wednesday, Oct. 7. The event will take place in the Koury parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Payments can be made via meal dollars, food dollars, Phoenix Cash or cash and credit cards.

### Alamance County approves fifth public transit route

The Alamance County Board of Commissioners approved a public transit route from downtown Burlington to downtown Graham and Alamance Community College in its Oct. 5 meeting, according to a Burlington Times-News report. The route is one of five in the upcoming transit system.

### Elon responds to Oregon campus shooting

In the wake of a community college shooting massacre in Oregon this past week, Elon University reminded students, faculty and staff about procedures if an emergency were to happen on campus.

Dennis Franks, director of campus safety and police, urged the community to be aware of proper procedures regarding campus lockdown.

He also advised students and staff to sign up for the E-Alert emergency system via email and text message and download the Live Safe application on smartphones.

## CRIME REPORT

### Sept. 30 FRAUD SOUTH WILLIAMSON AVENUE, ELON:

A man and woman reported a case of possible fraud to Town of Elon Police last Wednesday in regards to sending money to an attorney who said he was in charge of a federal grant program.

The couple connected with the attorney through a friend from the Trinity Worship Center. The woman asked the attorney Sept. 28 how to obtain the money, and he said they needed to send \$495 to a woman in Kansas via MoneyGram to be a part of the program. The couple sent the money along with personal information through Facebook messenger, saying the grant would be delivered by an

associate the next day.

After the associate did not come, the attorney said the IRS stopped the payment and the couple needed to send an additional \$565 to proceed. A suspect has not yet been located.

### Oct. 1 POSSESSION OF STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE CAMERON STREET, BURLINGTON:

A Burlington man and woman were charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle — a Yamaha motorcycle — and misdemeanor possession of marijuana up to a half ounce.

The woman was additionally charged with misdemeanor resisting an officer. Burlington police arrest

warrants said she allegedly gave police a false name of a man in the home they were searching with a warrant, according to a Burlington Times-News report.

### Oct. 1 FOUND PROPERTY WEST TROLLINGER AVENUE, ELON:

An Elon University student reported to Town of Elon Police Thursday afternoon that an unknown person left a bicycle in front of his apartment. The Diamondback bicycle was left up against the fence on the front patio of the student's apartment. The bicycle is currently being stored in the maintenance department of the Town of Elon municipal building.

# Editorial

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.

## Join the conversation about consent

“Consent is sexy.” “No means no.” “Got consent?”

Activists involved in efforts to prevent sexual assault have used these and countless other phrases to spread awareness of the importance of consent. But a new one has entered the mix, and it has legislation behind it.

“Yes means yes” is the nickname given to affirmative consent policies enacted on college campuses in California and New York. These laws, passed in 2014 and 2015, respectively, take a new angle on issues of consent and sexual assault on college campuses, but they’re not the perfect solution. “Yes means yes” is another step forward, just another entry point into the constantly shifting conversation about consent.

At Elon University, the consent conversation can seem one-sided. A select number of organizations are heavily involved in it, and while their voices are heard by most of campus, there needs to be more. A policy that affects the whole school should be discussed by the whole school, and more community members need to make an active effort to educate themselves on consent and how they apply it.

California State Senator Kevin De Leon, who pushed the affirmative consent bill through the California Senate, has said that the new policy will lead the nation in creating healthy environments for college students. But it’s not as innovative as he may think.

“I don’t see it as that different from how we currently teach consent,” said Becca Patterson, coordinator for health promotion at Elon. “I think the ‘yes means yes’ initiative comes from a really great place.”

“But it can’t be the only thing we talk

about,” she added.

Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge, and Success (SPARKS) is a student organization of peer educators who teach students about healthy lifestyle choices, including those related to consent and sexual assault. They go beyond basic consent policies and teach the components of consent so students can better understand it, especially when policies are vague or even nonexistent, as they often are.

The North Carolina General Statutes’ Chapter 14 — Criminal Law — provides no definition of consent.

The California Penal Code defines consent as “positive cooperation in act or attitude pursuant to an exercise of free will.” And in 2014, California’s senate added the section popularly known as “yes means yes,” to the state’s Education Code.

The new section states that, in order to receive state funds for student financial assistance, public and private postsecondary institutions must enact an affirmative consent policy that requires “affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity.”

New York recently passed similar laws for its public and private college campuses. Other states have yet to do the same, and in North Carolina, there are no laws regarding consent policies for postsecondary institutions.

Luckily, Elon’s definition of consent is more comprehensive than North Carolina’s. In the Student Handbook, consent is defined as “voluntary, intentional agreement to engage in a particular sexual activity.”

But Elon’s consent policy isn’t the



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor

**SPARKS has an office in the Moseley Center where students can stop by to pick up health education materials and speak with peer educators during their office hours.**

perfect solution, either. There may not be a perfect solution. And finding a perfect solution shouldn’t be the goal of prevention efforts, because every situation and every individual is different. The goal should be encouraging conversations that allow for a deeper understanding of the implications of consent.

The university needs to clarify its definition of consent and continue to promote conversations about consent. Students need to be prepared to take part in these conversations and think seriously about how they apply consent to their lives.

Consent can be a difficult idea to grasp. And as an abstract topic, it can be even more difficult to apply to real life. But it needs to be more than a catchphrase — it needs to be a conversation. It needs to be something

students put the same effort into understanding as they do topics from class. It can’t be something that only comes up at special events, not in a country where there is a rape every 21 hours on a college campus.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), and as usual, various organizations across campus are hanging ribbons, making banners and setting up Moseley tables.

But let’s make this DVAM different than the others.

Let’s use the steps “yes means yes” has taken to take a few steps of our own forward by applying the consent policies we hear about to our real lives. Consent isn’t just a hot topic, and it isn’t an unchanging ideal. It needs to be seriously considered and discussed.

## Resist numbness to gun violence

On Dec. 14, 2012, Adam Lanza took the lives of 20 children and six employees a mile



**Courtney Campbell**  
Columnist

away from my high school, Newtown High School, in Newtown, Connecticut. During that time, my school was in lockdown

for more than two hours, and I was filled with confusion and fear that turned to tears and frustration.

For a while I didn’t know how to cope with what happened. Though I wasn’t personally affected, I mourned for my community, for my classmates and for my home.

I couldn’t understand why someone could be filled with so much hatred they would take their pain out on others — I still don’t.

It took some time to get through the pain my community felt, to learn how to smile again in a world with so much darkness and hate. I still think about that day often, more so when I go home.

I would never wish this kind of tragedy — this branding — on anyone’s community.

But mass shootings like this repeat themselves again and again, with Charleston and now with Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, which left 10 dead and seven wounded.

The saddest part is, we’ve become immune to it.

Since Sandy Hook, there have been 142 school shootings — 45 of those this year alone. This does not include mass shootings outside

of schools and the other gun-related incidents that happen daily.

Honestly, I don’t know what to do about it. What can I do? My friends and community members have started organizations, and they have marched down to Washington, D.C., pleading and begging for change in mental health and gun control.

But nothing has really happened. Not a single federal gun law has been passed.

We move on for a moment, until it happens again, then again and again. Life goes on and mass shootings have become normal in this country, which just isn’t OK.

The United States has become so accustomed to hearing about shooting after shooting that Oregon was barely even trending on social media because people are used to it. Our numbness might be more disturbing than the

shooting itself.

But we continue to do nothing.

I understand the support for the Second Amendment and our right to protect ourselves, but the United States’ obsession with guns is out of control.

I have been told that guns don’t kill people, people kill people, and that apparently more guns could have prevented Sandy Hook from happening. Even Oregon Sheriff John Hamlin sent a letter to Vice President Joe Biden demanding no new gun laws after Sandy Hook.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, U.S. citizens are 20 times more likely to be killed by a gun than people in other developed countries. We are afraid of terrorists such as ISIS when the real danger is in our own country.

If other countries have figured how to live without excessive

gun ownership and still be safe, why can’t we?

Mental health plays a huge role in these mass shootings, which is why background checks are so necessary. But with so many guns around, it’s hard to control who has access to them, and that scares me.

After Sandy Hook, we were told continuously by our principal, “Our collective strength and resilience will serve as an example to the rest of the world.” And maybe we did. We became “Newtown Strong,” believed that “love always wins” and overcame the pain as a community.

But it’s not right that other communities continue to go through this as well, and that we’re letting it happen.

My heart and prayers continue to go out to Umpqua Community College. And to the next town. And to the next.

### THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily news operation that produces a newspaper, website and magazine. Letters to the editor are welcomed and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters 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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## How many perspectives do you hear?

Elon values almost all qualities among its students and even celebrates them through various clubs and organizations. Education



Jenna Barone  
Columnist

on various topics helps buffer potential clashes between students of different religions, countries, sexual orientation and race. At Elon, “differences” has a positive connotation.

One issue, though: college professors tend to hold liberal views,

with the minority identifying as Republican. I acknowledge that no professors, no matter how qualified, can teach completely objectively, and I do not criticize professors’ beliefs. But I would appreciate the acknowledgment of the other end of the spectrum. I pay a high tuition, and in return I would like to receive a well-balanced education.

Elon assigned “Why We Can’t Wait,” a book written by Martin Luther King Jr., to kick off the class’ focus on racism in the United States. King addresses his strategy of equality in the last chapter of the book, a series of actions involving many government-funded programs.

Michelle Alexander, the author of the next book assigned to students — “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” — openly critiques Ronald Reagan and supports Barack Obama. We later watched a video on Tim Weiss, an anti-racism activist, who also supports very liberal policy. Lastly, recent cultural event speaker Leonard Pitts Jr. called the Republicans a “know-nothing party” in one of the articles I read as a homework assignment.

Though I did not necessarily agree with every point made by such activists, I appreciate and believe it necessary to see opinions other than my own. I seek similar respect from my peers, but it seems some believe one end of the political spectrum represents the entire spectrum. The exposure to variations of the same opinion eliminates the reality of other distinct voices.

The political speakers chosen for the first semester of Elon’s cultural calendar seem to share a disappointing commonality: party affiliation. Melissa Harris-Perry, Leonard Pitts Jr. and Jennifer Granholm all identify as members of the Democratic Party. Why not change it up a bit?

One resource, “Young America’s Foundation,” suggests speakers available to visit campuses. Black political activists such as Deroy Murdock and Joseph C. Phillips offer race perspectives from the right, and their professional experience in broadcast and book/opinions writing, among others areas, make for well-qualified, interesting speaker material.

Colleges and universities are notorious for leaning to the left. But to fully embrace diversity, we must allow diversity of thought. I do not wish to trumpet either voice at the end of the spectrum, claiming one idea is better than the other, trying to convince you that I am right and you are wrong. I simply desire to hear all sides of an argument.

Representation of a single idea overshadows the other, and thus does not put into view what is really there. A major theme of the Global Experience, acknowledging issues hidden in plain sight, exemplifies this concept. Differing opinions often encounter conflict, but disagreements lead to change, another abstract concept vital to maintaining a society which guarantees as many rights and freedoms to as many as possible.

All I want is to hear everyone’s voices.

# Campus Voices:

## Respect requires political tolerance

The Pendulum is renewing its efforts to serve as a voice of the Elon University community. Each week, this space will feature a column from a member of the community. Want to participate? Contact us at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu).

When I toured Elon University my junior year of high school, I was mesmerized. Not



Colby Marvin  
Elon College Republicans

only was the campus beautiful, but every student was passionate about something, whether that was

art, traveling, service, politics or truly anything else imaginable.

Especially alluring was the passion with which students treated their community. The admissions videos showed diverse groups of respectful people treating each other kindly and working together to improve the community, and I so desperately wanted to be surrounded by others who share my compassion for others and desire to make a positive impact on the world.

Luckily, most of my expectations regarding the caliber of Elon students have been met. Nearly everyone cares deeply for at least one cause and engages in activities that foster the missions behind these passions.

As chair of Elon College Republicans, I am invigorated by our weekly discussions. I find great joy in facilitating discussions about issues that matter to me, and the light that my peers emit when they share their opinions is dazzling.

Politics can be a sensitive subject, so I have implemented rules regarding respect at College Republicans, and because of that I feel that all members feel valued and unafraid to voice their opinions.

Unfortunately, I worry that, outside the safe space that I foster, Republicans at Elon are being disrespected. I have endured heartbreaking experiences where my peers have described me as an intolerant, women-hating zombie because of what they perceive my views are. Occasionally these slurs are made vocally, but more often they are made by people hiding behind the mask of their social media profiles.

As one of the four pillars of Elon’s honor code, respect should be incredibly important to all of us, and something that we uphold with every action in our daily lives.

Because of the lack of respect I have been shown, I rarely delve into the specifics

of my political beliefs, despite the fact that they are inoffensive and fairly moderate on the social spectrum.

I feel as though the few intolerant, disrespectful students who grace the brick walkways of Elon have silenced me and many others. While these people are few, their words are harmful and their impacts are profound.

Perhaps these unkind people do not realize their comments are spiteful, or perhaps they do not think that their mean tweets will be noticed, but the fact of the matter is that these comments are heard and seen, and they are hurtful.

Respect is something that we should all come to college equipped with and includes the understanding that nothing displayed online is private. Unintentional bullying is still bullying.

Elon claims to cultivate an environment that develops students’ sense of respect, and while we do occasionally receive emails about being decent humans who do not shout racial slurs at others I, at least, have never encountered anything that encourages me to be respectful in my everyday pursuits.

The Elon Honor Code is

something that we encounter every day by signing our names under it on each exam and staring at it hung proudly on the walls of each classroom, but it is not something that is ever discussed.

We are told that honor, integrity, responsibility and respect are attributes that we must all possess to be Elon students, but we fail to receive guidance about how best to go about honing these characteristics. Consequently, some students lack the foundations of these four pillars and are thus unable to build upon them.

My greatest hope for Elon’s future is that students learn to exhibit political tolerance in addition to general respect for those who may have differing opinions and values.

I feel ashamed that I have allowed the disrespect of others to mute my public defense of my beliefs, and I do not wish for others to share this chagrin.

Respect is paramount to our success as people, and I believe that it is crucial that Elon opens a dialogue regarding respect and the rest of the Honor Code, both to help its students become better people and to prevent opinionated students from feeling marginalized.

## DOCTORS’ ORDERS WEEKEND AT JOAQUIN’S



Lauryl Fischer & Frankie Campisano  
Columnists

No storms last forever, but you had every reason to barricade yourself indoors and ride out Joaquin over the past weekend. A hurricane is the universe’s way of handing you a great excuse to drink some hurricanes and gripe over the fact that the storm came just days before the Carolina Hurricanes’ season starts. That joke could have killed.

But level with us, Phoenix (of the Elon variety — we’re not getting into Joaquin Phoenix jokes this week): no matter how you spent #Joaquin-Watch2015, you didn’t do the work you’d planned on doing.

In fact, there are a hopeful few among us who played stormwatcher in the hopes that class would get canceled.

Don’t worry. As notorious procrastinators (see the great Doctors’ Orders

missed deadline catastrophe a few weeks ago), we’re not trying to get on your case.

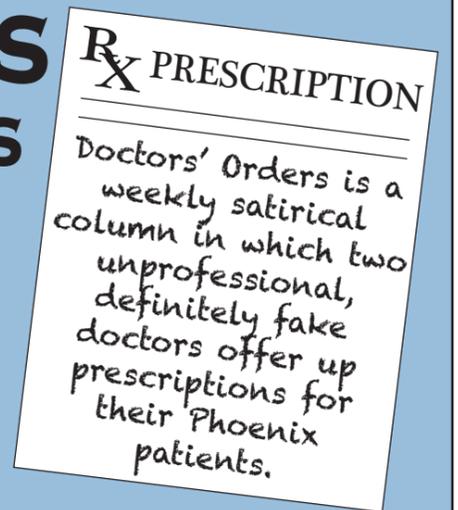
This is just a gentle reminder that those Moodle assignments come with timers, and you’re not fooling anyone when you start an assignment 15 minutes before the deadline. Oh, and since you’ve yet to use that planner you bought at the beginning of the year, midterms are upon us, and they’re bound to be a doozy.

Forecasts are predicting floods on all floors of Belk Library as students pour in, desperate to snatch up those choice study spots. We’ll be getting record-breaking highs of stress and panic moving into next week, too. You’ll be able to hear the sobbing from any spot on campus. Take shelter in a safe space — if that safe space happens to sell coffee, buy coffee.

There are two classical philosophies to the dreaded midterm exams: testing students before the break, allowing them to travel and relax and angst around their hometowns in relative peace (or, at least, give them time to grapple with their failure), or testing students after the break.

That option appeals to those of us who want to dump our problems on the laps of our future selves but leads to an entire break spent thinking about getting work done instead of, you know, getting work done.

If your professors are sticking to the tried-and-true pre-break agenda, then chances are you’re not reading this column, you’re studying. But we’ll throw out



these words of advice for you anyway. A midterm, like a hurricane, has every possibility of sweeping in and causing damage to your GPA. But it’s not irreparable, friends. You can always rebuild your grades from the bottom up.

Unless this is one of two grades for your entire course. Then, yeah, we understand why you’re hyperventilating a little bit. If you have a panic button, you should press it now. Joaquin got downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane, and your GPA might follow suit if you can’t save it.

Learn from the wisdom of Joaquin — the eye of the storm is meant to be a brief, calming reprieve for a reason. It’s Mother Nature’s equivalent of Club Belk’s third floor. You don’t know when you’ll inevitably find yourself there, but when you do, it’s time to get to work.

Sooner or later things will be crazy again. If you don’t learn your lesson this time, don’t sweat it. Finals tend to creep up after midterms, anyway.

# A mission to help her homeland

## *Elon student fights for rights in Cambodia*

Alexandra Schonfeld  
Senior Reporter

Compared to the average Elon University student, sophomore Barang Phuk has journeyed many miles receive a proper education. The Cambodia native made her first trip to the United States about a year ago, when she arrived at Elon University as a freshman.

But the soft-spoken girl is doing more than making her mark at Elon — she’s making her mark on the world by becoming an advocate for education by speaking at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI).

Phuk grew up in rural Cambodia in Siem Reap Province, which is a little larger than Greensboro. The youngest of four sisters, she watched each of them grow up and marry young.

### Looking for something beyond Cambodia

But Phuk wanted something more — an education. As a child, she attended a government-supported primary school.

“I had to pay for school supplies myself,” Phuk said.

“Education is not a big thing in my village, and my parents did not have enough money to buy me school supplies. I sold mangoes and then bought my own school supplies.”

Phuk describes growing up in a society where education was under-valued and there were never enough resources to provide a substantial education system.

“Teachers only teach two days a week because they are paid low salaries,” Phuk said. “The government pays them very low. They could do other things other than teaching instead.”

At age 13, Phuk began to learn English, and in that same year was awarded a scholarship to attend a U.S.-

based private high school in Cambodia. Since she was young, Phuk had been concerned with bringing knowledge she learns back into her community to educate others.

“When I was in grade 10, I started teaching kids English,” Phuk said.

After graduation, Phuk was interested in colleges offering degrees in political science. Though Elon was 8,000 miles away, she decided to consider it.

“So I applied,” Phuk said. “I wanted to go to school in America because in Cambodia we have a poor education system. I always wanted to go and get an education so I could come back and help my community.”

### Surviving culture shock

After arriving on campus last fall as an Odyssey Scholar, she experienced culture shock and thus experienced a long adjustment period through her freshman year.

“Everything was so different,” Phuk said. “When I first got here, I wore a jacket because it was cold for me. Everyone looked at me like I was crazy.”

But since arriving on campus, Phuk has fully immersed herself in the Elon community.

She is a member of Model United Nations (Model UN) and the vice president of the Asian Studies Club as of this year. Phuk remembers starting out Model UN being shy and too nervous to speak, but she just returned from speaking at an international conference in New York City.

Phuk was invited to be a part of the youth panel of the CGI’s annual meeting. The CGI works to “create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges,” according to the foundation’s website. Their meetings engage some of the brightest and most influential minds to work to solve global problems, like lack of education and women’s rights.

“SHE IS INTELLIGENT, GIVING, DETERMINED AND RESILIENT. I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM HER. SHE IS PURSUING HER DREAMS WITH FIRE THAT I WISH I COULD REPLICATE.”

ESTHER FREEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF WATSON AND ODYSSEY SCHOLAR PROGRAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARANG PHUK  
Barang Phuk spoke with advocate Shazia Ramzan on rights.

Phuk got involved in the organization because of her connection with WeDu, an organization partnered with the CGI that helps support women’s leadership in Asia.

WeDu asked Phuk to apply to attend the meeting, which landed her on a panel of influential speakers including Shazia Ramzan — a friend and classmate of Malala Yousafzai, and fellow advocate of girl’s education.

During their conversation, Phuk and Ramzan led a discussion about the challenges that young people around the world face and what non-governmental organizations and private sectors should be doing to solve these problems.

“I specifically talked about some of the problems that youths in Cambodia face,” Phuk said. “Domestic violence is a big thing in our country, so youths do not have a chance to get an education because they have to take care of their parents and grandparents to support their family, because their parents don’t have jobs.”

### Changing the world

Phuk’s experience at home in Cambodia has inspired her studies here at Elon and beyond.

“I want to do so many things,” Phuk said. “I want to go to law school because I want to be a parliamentarian. I want to study international law or human rights law. I want to be a human rights lawyer.”

Phuk’s desire to work in the Cambodia parliament comes from seeing the lack of women represented in decisions for her country.

“I think the laws in the country that are passed do not necessarily represent the needs of women, so I want to work there so at least there is someone there to disagree with them when they pass a law that does not represent the needs of everyone,” she said.

Esther Freeman, director for the Watson and Odyssey Scholar program, sees nothing getting in the way of this young woman with big dreams.

“She is intelligent, giving, determined and resilient,” Freeman said. “I have learned so much from her. She is pursuing her dreams with a fire that I wish I could replicate. She is truly an inspiration. I can’t wait to see how she will change the world.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA  
Barang Phuk is from the Siam Reap Province, a rural area in Cambodia where she is advocating for better education.



Junior Taylor Zisholtz and freshman Lucy Smith-Williams set up a poster in anticipation to reveal Acorn employee Kathryn Thompson's surprise.

## ACORN from cover

you for all that you do... you and your family are going to DISNEY WORLD," along with kind comments that were posted on the GoFundMe page.

The entire coffee shop yelled, "Surprise!" and Thompson's jaw dropped.

"Are you serious?" Thompson asked through her tears as she was handed a bag of donated Disney shirts for her and her family. "It's a dream come true. I love y'all."

Zisholtz and Smith-Williams explained to her how they have been raising the money for the trip through donations from a GoFundMe page since September. All she needs to do is pick a date and pack her bags.

It has been Thompson's dream

to go to Disney World because she's always wanted to take her autistic grandson to meet his favorite character, Mickey Mouse.

"I'm excited just to be going," Thompson said. "To see my grandson's eyes light up when he sees Mickey. I hope he won't be scared of him."

Thompson thanked and hugged Zisholtz and Smith-Williams as well as other students sitting in the coffee shop.

"She's seen the community come together," Smith-Williams said. "There are so many people who worked to make this happen. She's going to be thrilled when she reads all the messages."

### Uncovering her dream

Around 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, Zisholtz was sitting in Acorn Coffee Shop, waiting for her sandwich. Since it was a slow evening, Thomp-

son brought Zisholtz her food and immediately started a conversation with the few people in the room.

Thompson asked Zisholtz and Smith-Williams, who was sitting by herself at a table across the room, where they were from, bridging the silence between the two.

"I think once we got talking with her, you could see how passionate and even just in the few seconds, you could see how warm she was," Zisholtz said. "In a world where everybody is so cold, they keep their wishes and their feelings all to themselves. With Kathryn it was just an open door, she welcomes everyone, in and she works so hard."

Though Thompson didn't have much to say about Zisholtz's hometown, a Philadelphia suburb, her eyes lit up when she heard Smith-Williams was from Florida. She fired out questions such as, "How long does it take to drive there?," and "How much would it cost to take a family of five to Disney World?"

She revealed to the girls it was her dream to take her son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons to Disney World.

Thompson's life is rooted at Elon — her parents graduated Elon in the 1950s, she lives across the street from her parents' house and works five nights a week at Acorn, leaving at 2 a.m. after each shift.

"She's been here for a long time," said Glenn Austin, Acorn's assistant location manager. "She's dependable. She hardly ever calls off and is a stable employee for the night shift. I think it's a wonderful surprise."

Her dedication and heart inspired Zisholtz and Smith-Williams to do something. Though they were complete strangers at the time, the two quickly became partners-in-crime

for the operation.

"I moved my stuff to Lucy's table, and we were just brainstorming ideas because I looked at her and was like, 'We're doing this, we can do this, we have to do something,'" Zisholtz said.

### Raising the funds

The two researched how much it would cost to send five people to Disney, which came to around \$6,000. This goal could be met if half of Elon's student body donated \$2 each. Though neither Zisholtz or Smith-Williams had made a GoFundMe before, they decided it would be the best platform for their cause.

Since GoFundMe takes 5 percent of the funds, they bumped the goal to \$6,500.

"It's one of the lowest packages, but it's still a package," Zisholtz said. "But they are still able to fly."

The page was created Sept. 12. Within three days, half the funds were raised.

Their plan was to have the money raised by the end of October so the family could go over Thanksgiving break. But they raised the funds

Zisholtz said. "We thought this would take over a month."

Though there was some plateau after the first three days, Zisholtz continued reposting the GoFundMe page with different updates, comparing a donation to the price of an Acorn cookie, to keep the donations moving.

She also reached out to alumni via email to expand the cause. Zisholtz believes the campaign was so successful because of Thompson's connection to the university.

"Everyone knows Acorn, everyone eats their cookies, everyone's been there a million times," Zisholtz said. "It's Elon, it's their school, it's something they can link to and it's doing good for someone, and who doesn't like doing good?"

Throughout the fundraising operation both Zisholtz and Smith-Williams were worried the surprise would get out, which is why they avoided most media Thompson would have access to. They also spoke with Austin to ensure it would be kept secret.

"I was so nervous," Smith-Williams said. "We were always trying to post that it was a surprise in our updates, so she wouldn't know. But you never know what someone will say."

Luckily, everyone kept quiet, leaving Thompson shocked at the reveal.

Now, Zisholtz and

Smith-Williams just need to schedule the trip, but the dates are ultimately up to Thompson.

"It was everything we hoped for," Zisholtz said. "We couldn't have done it without the community. We have everything ready and we just need to stamp a date."

"I'M EXCITED JUST TO BE GOING. TO SEE MY GRANDSON'S EYES LIGHT UP WHEN HE SEES MICKEY."

KATHRYN THOMPSON  
ACORN COFFEE SHOP EMPLOYEE

much faster.

Zisholtz said everyone — not just the Elon community — shared the GoFundMe on Facebook and donated something, including John Jin from the GoFundMe Team, who donated \$1,000.

"The response is incredible,"

# The Elon Noyce Scholars Program

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# Elon student bursts into rap scene

Valerie Reich  
Reporter

Senior Eli Kronovet, a member of Elon University's cappella group Rip\_Chord, is creating an upcoming EP titled "Unethical" that shows his rap credentials. The six-song EP is written by Kronovet and is completely produced by a crew of Elon students.

"Unethical" is different from Kronovet's first album, which included a variety of covers and his own original music.

Kronovet couldn't produce an EP all on his own. His main engineers — people who mix, master and post production — are senior Jonathan Glover and junior Kevin McCarthy. Glover also makes beats for Kronovet along with junior James Hare and junior Marc Spano.

To get Kronovet known by the Elon population, senior Allison Srour is helping by managing his social media, setting up shows and concerts and getting him in touch with other people in the community who are willing to work together creatively.

Kronovet explained his music process with the following Q&A:

**How would you describe your sound?**

"Over the past year or so I've been experimenting with different genres within hip-hop. But I also don't worry about trying to make my music sound a certain way; my goal is to create a sound that is the most authentic and organic sound possible.

"I spent all summer making turn-up, party music with [senior] Jonathan Glover out in L.A. Now that I'm back here [at Elon] I'm working on songs that are more substantive and also more groovy than they are hard-hitting party music."

**Who are some of your influences?**

"I grew up listening to Southern hip-hop. Outkast, Lil Wayne, T.I. and Ludacris were all ma-

jor influences to me when I was younger and were the reason I fell in love with hip-hop.

"Since I've started taking my music seriously, I use every hip-hop song and artist that I vibe with as my inspiration. And that list is way too long to type out."

**How did you get into making your own hip-hop music?**

"I went to a very diverse middle school and that's where I got into rap. I remember me and my friend Antonio writing songs in class and then going to the bathroom to record them on his old flip phone back in sixth grade.

"I knew that I had the ability and skill to make good music, but it wasn't until the summer before my junior year that I decided I had wasted enough time and it was finally time to start pursuing what I really want to do with my life, making music."

**You mentioned before you had an album coming up. Can you talk a little bit about your recording process?**

"Not sure if I can release that precious information [laughs]. But first I have to get inspired, and I can be inspired by anything. Then I gotta make sure I write it down on my phone so that it doesn't escape my mind in the future.

"Once I have the time in my schedule to put my mind to writing a song I look at this list of song ideas that I have already written down and use, that as the basis for the [new] song.

"The recording time honestly varies song to song. I will say that now I am spending much more time editing, reworking, and refining my verses than I did when I was working on the 'Kronicle,' my first project."

**But how long does that whole process take?**

"I usually will write a few drafts of a song, record it in the studio and then listen to the song

for at least a few days to a week to see if there is anything else I need to change before I am completely comfortable with releasing it to the public."

**Who's in your team or crew? How did you meet them?**

"Ah, the squad. First, it wouldn't be fair to describe them as 'my' team. It's everybody's team because everyone is working not only to better themselves, but to better each other. Every one of these people wants music to be in their future, and by working together and getting on the same page, when one of us succeeds, all of us succeed."

**Finally, why don't you tell me about "Unethical," your upcoming EP?**

"I am currently working on a handful of projects, but the one that will be released first is the project I alluded to earlier that

Jon and I were working on in LA. It's an EP titled 'Unethical' that will consist of five to six catchy songs that we hope people at Elon will be able to party to and vibe with.

"As of now, the plan is to start releasing singles towards the end

of October, leading up to the release of the full project by early to mid-November."

*Editor's note: This Q&A was conducted over a series of email and in person interviews.*



Senior Eli Kronovet is releasing his EP 'Unethical' the end of this November, which features his own rap songs.

# 'Harper Regan' captures darker themes



Rebecca Hurd played the lead of Harper Regan during the fall play of the same name.

Lea Silverman  
Senior Reporter

The Department of Performing Arts has put on the two-act play "Harper Regan" written by Simon Stevens, from Oct. 1-7. The show follows Harper, a working mother attempting to see her dying father.

The play, set in various parts of England, goes through Harper's interactions with various characters: her boss, her husband and daughter, a teenager she meets on the street, her mother, a man she stabs in a bar and a stranger she has an affair with.

Each intense interaction tells the audience something different about Harper, who later reveals her motives behind the actions, stemming from her own issues.

The intimate setting of Roberts Theatre in Scott Studios was perfect for the audience to feel closer to Harper's life and story.

Because of the small theater size, the audience is pulled into the setting and all of the mishaps Harper becomes involved with.

When she stabs a man for being a bit too forward, blood spurts out of his neck, off the stage and into the audience, bringing them closer to the show than ever.

"I actually kind of liked the part where she stabbed the guy at the bar," said senior Meghan Windle. "It was a pretty crazy story, but I think the actors did an awesome job making the performance believable."

The actor who was responsible for making the intense role of Harper Regan believable was senior Rebecca Hurd. As Harper Regan, Hurd shone with deep emotion compared to the other characters who were only on stage for about 15 minutes of the two hour show.

Hurd played Harper with such innocence that the audience was shocked with the myriad of immoral acts that occurred throughout.

"I really enjoyed how the play was more concerned with character than plot," said sophomore David Patterson. "It gave the actors room to show their range and they did a great job with that freedom."

A character who didn't appear in more

than two or three scenes but stood out significantly was Harper's husband, Seth Regan, played by junior Christian Frost.

Frost stood out particularly because his put-together and professional character completely hid one of his deepest secrets. One would never guess that the father who wears a suit but stays home to help his daughter study for her major exams is a man who can't get a job because he is a registered sex offender.

We find out, as Harper tells the man she is about to have an affair with, that Seth was arrested for taking photos of children playing in a park and saving them on to his computer. This caused a strain between Harper and her parents, who thought Seth was guilty of using the photos inappropriately, and gave her justification for her own wrongful actions.

The acting and dark themes expressed throughout "Harper Regan" set the bar for the upcoming shows from the performing arts department, including the musical "Oklahoma!" and the improv show "Instant Laughter."

# Students, staff explore Loy Farm

## Tours explain value of 'unknown' area at Elon

Caroline Perry  
Senior Reporter

In the brief time that it wasn't raining at Elon University this past week, a varied group of educators, staff members, students and community members gathered together to explore Loy Farm.

"It's just solar panels, right?" said sophomore Annie Skeadas.

This confusion and curiosity of the farm led the Office of Sustainability to open up more tours of Loy Farm for anyone looking to learn more about the property.

Isolated off campus, just past the intramural fields, Loy Farm is home to farming systems, long-term ecological research, greenhouses, the Design Build Studio for Responsible Architecture and the recently added solar farm.

### Home to the sun

Elaine Durr, director of sustainability, and Jessica Bilecki, education and outreach coordinator, led the group on an hourlong tour of Loy Farm. They began with the solar panels, one of the most popular features of the farm.

According to Durr, there will be 9,900 panels across approximately 15 acres when the installation is complete. Workers were still in the process of installing the remainder of the panels while the group toured the farm.

"We expect to generate enough energy from the solar panels to power 415 homes per year," Durr said in an email. "To think of it in terms of university energy con-

sumption, on an annual basis, this farm is expected to produce 10 percent of the university's annual electricity needs."

Durr emphasized the significant difference the panels will have on the university's sustainability goals.

"Another way to think about this is if we were to do this with a carbon source of energy, its about 21,000 metric tons of carbon that would have been used if we had used a carbon source of fuel," she said. "Twenty-one thousand metric tons is 450 cars per year."

These solar panels are not actually owned by the university. Rather, the university leased the land to Loy Farm Solar LLC, a third party that is responsible for the development and construction. The initial lease is for 15 years.

There were a few reasons that led Elon to lease the land to a third party rather than install the panels itself. The biggest factor was cost.

"This is a fairly expensive project, it's about a \$6 million project," Durr said. "The primary reason Elon wouldn't just do this on our own is because the university would have to pay that amount. We really needed to find a third party that had tax liabilities. It is an investment for them."

But the university was determined to have this farm for many educational reasons.

"First, the educational opportunities for our students to come here and learn about this facility and to learn how solar works and the output," she said. "Once the facility is functional we will be able

to send output information to the university using the dashboard system."

There is also a dashboard online containing information about several buildings on Elon's campus and their energy usage.

The dashboard shows specific information regarding how much energy residence halls use and how much energy academic buildings use on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. The dashboard also tracks the energy used hourly so people can see what times of day energy is being used the most and students can examine why this happens.

### Reduce, reuse and relive

From the panels, the group then took a BioBus — another eco-friendly resource of Elon — to see the urban studio, food and farming systems, the other features of Loy Farm.

The urban studio looks like a mobile home from afar, but it is an art studio. Bilecki clarified as to what made up the interesting choice in architecture. A class was responsible for designing and building this studio.

"It is made out of four different shipping containers," she said. "Shipping containers are a pretty big waste problem and concern. They take up a lot of space. People were looking to reuse them and now we have that whole workshop made out of containers."

Other eco-friendly materials also make up the workshop. The class used wood that was cast off

from other construction projects. Additionally, there is an entire wall that is made up of plastic glass.

"This clear Plexiglas wall allows sunlight to come through," she said. "If you think about the types of indoor spaces you like to spend time in, generally if there is daylight, people are more productive in those spaces."

The Plexiglas does make the studio a little colder because of the lack of insulation, but there are heaters placed in the studio that heat the place using as little energy as possible.

### Giving back to the community

During the tour, there was a class seated at picnic tables near this studio. Bilecki encourages students, faculty and staff to use this space for learning or just enjoying.

"The agricultural part of the farm is used for undergraduate research and for students who are in classes," she said. "It is really an education space where students can learn about farming, sustainable food systems and the methods and theory behind that."

The Office of Sustainability only asks that groups tell Janet MacFall, professor of environmental studies and biology, they want to use the space, so she can orchestrate the farm's visitors.

Additionally, students who participate in the Peace Corp prep program come down to the farm to learn about the agricultural component of their program.

A little way past the urban studio is the hoop house: a greenhouse

with a large dome-type structure that allows produce to grow year round.

"If it gets really cold, you can put another row cover over the produce that acts like a blanket," Bilecki said. "There are no additional tie-ins to electricity."

Some food that is grown at Loy Farm goes to Campus Kitchen, an organization that provides meals to community members in need. They cook about 200 meals with the produce that will go to Allied churches or two senior citizen centers.

Other food goes to catering. "If you are having an event you can ask to incorporate food from Loy Farms," Bilecki said.

But she said if groups do choose this option, they should have an open mind considering there will be limited option for meals.

"You're going to get what's in season, so you don't have a lot of say in what they give you," Bilecki said.

Many different members uphold the farm and all of its different features. Along the walk, a tour group member spotted beehives in the distance.

"One of the beehives actually came from a building on campus where they had swarmed," Bilecki said. "We had a great groundskeeper who was able to get them out here."

Currently, Loy Farm doesn't harvest the honey, but the bees do vital work as they help fertilize and pollinate plants. In the future, Durr and Bilecki hope to use them for undergraduate research.



NADIA NOBREGA | Staff Photographer

# Men's soccer forward returns to family home

## *Vandermaas-Peeler joins mother, sister at Elon for senior year*

Jordan Spritzer  
Assistant Sports Editor

When senior forward Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler arrived at Elon University in January 2015, he was not stepping into unfamiliar territory.



Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill transfer not only joined eager new teammates but also enjoyed a homecoming of sorts with close friends and family, like his mother and sister.

But the transition to a new school isn't the only switch he's making. He's playing as the central striker for the Phoenix after playing most of his career as a winger or attacking midfielder role.

"Becoming the focal point of the attack is a little bit different for me," Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler said. "I'm usually trying to set the guys up and having a [striker] in front of me. Now being the guy who's getting in the box and getting on the end of balls is different."

### All in the family

Despite playing a new position on the pitch, Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler can find comfort in knowing he's walking the same campus as his mother Maureen and younger sister, Alex.



Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler

"I'm proud to have my kids [Cooper and Alex] here," said Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, professor of psychology. "I think it speaks to the quality of our programming

that so many faculty children are choosing us — it's not just the tuition-free option, but I think people see the value of a small liberal arts university education."

Alex Vandermaas-Peeler, a junior, was named one of the 15 students to win

the 2015 Lumen Prize, Elon's top academic award. She was mentored by Safia Swimelar, associate professor of political science and policy studies, for her project "Analyzing Women's Post-War Narratives in Bosnia and Rwanda: Implications for Peacebuilding."

Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler has been heavily involved in study abroad programs, including being a faculty member on trips to London, Florence, Italy, and Hawaii. Her daughter's knowledge of all of Elon's study abroad options played a big part in her decision to come to Elon.

"With Alex, we looked up and down the eastern seaboard. She probably looked at 20 different colleges," Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler said. "At the end of the day I think she just saw the value in some of our programs at Elon."

Maureen's first job in academics was also in Hawaii, where she worked for the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She and her husband Russ Vandermaas-Peeler lived in Hilo for two years, where her son was born. With a new baby in the family, Maureen knew Hawaii was becoming impractical.

"We had this baby and we wanted the family to be able to meet him and know him," she said. "We loved Hawaii but it was very expensive."

### Return to the mainland

The Vandermaas-Peeler family returned to North Carolina and the family lived in Burlington when Maureen began working at Elon. It was the suggestion of Cooper's kindergarten teacher and Elon soccer alumna Kelly Carrigan '92 that started Cooper's soccer career.

"I put [Cooper] in the car one day and she said [to me], 'You know Cooper is really good at soccer?'" Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler said. "I responded, 'What, he's only 5' and she said, 'If you hurry you can get him on a team.'"

"We got him on a team and, from that moment on, he loved it."

The Vandermaas-Peeler family moved to Cary, North Carolina, where Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler was exposed to different soccer opportunities. It was there where



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Senior forward Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler (15) dribbles the ball to the corner Sept. 18.

U.S. Men's National Team coaches spotted Cooper and called him up for a match with the U-18 team against Germany in Israel in December 2010.

Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler opened the scoring in the 62nd minute, but the Germans scored a pair of late goals to claim the victory. Cooper found value in the experience, even in defeat.

"It's just a dream," he said. "Obviously to wear the badge of the United States is awesome. Any kind of chance to represent your country is awesome. I'm just glad I could help the team by scoring the goal that day. It was a phenomenal experience to see other cultures and how they live."

### Making connections both near and far

On top of his mother teaching at Elon and his sister already enrolled, Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler had another familiar face waiting for him at Elon: senior defender Nathan Diehl. The two were recruited by UNC the same year and Diehl lived with Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler before

transferring to Elon after his freshman year.

While the mild-mannered Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler and charismatic Diehl may seem like an odd match, Diehl said the two are extremely close.

"We're very similar in how we act when we're away from the field," Diehl said. He added the two are always spending time together, whether it's playing FIFA or playing with Vandermaas-Peeler's new dog Thor, a 5-month-old mixed-breed puppy rescued from the Burlington Police Animal Shelter.

Diehl said Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler's favorite player is Rudd van Nistelrooy, a former Manchester United and Dutch national team striker. Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler's father came to the United States by boat from Holland where he met Maureen's mother and married just a few years later. Being the grandson of an immigrant, Maureen said her son is strongly influenced by the European connection.

"I definitely want to emulate my style off of those guys and I still watch the Dutch every time they play," Cooper said. "It's not a coincidence to see some tendencies overlap there."

Cooper's European influence is hard to miss for those with an eye for soccer tactics. He plays like a traditional Dutch center forward who'd fit the mold for the "Total Football" system, which has become synonymous with Dutch soccer.

The system calls for versatile players in all positions. The idea is that during the flow of the match, players will be drawn in and out of position, so the players need to be able to not only do the duties of their starting position, but also those of whichever position they may be occupying at that time. As a result, movement is equally key. Vandermaas-Peeler is constantly looking for pockets of space to exploit the opposing defense, or making runs that draw defenders to him and thus create space for one of his teammates to exploit.

Cooper said his favorite aspect of "Total Football" is that it allows a team to remain in control of the game throughout the match.

"Even if you don't have the ball, you press and trap [your opponent] in places where you want them to have the ball so they're not dictating the game, as opposed to if you drop in and sit back they can impose their will on you," he said.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler (15) celebrates a goal with senior midfielder Eduardo Alvarez (7). The Phoenix defeated Drexel University 3-1 Sept. 18.

# Working hard not to be noticed

*Arnholt, Petroni, Gallagher attempt to make difference on special teams*

Alex Simon  
Sports Editor

The Elon University football team has been repugnant on offense this season, currently ranking 120th out of 123 Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) teams in total offense.

The inability to move the ball on offense gives the special teams unit plenty of opportunities. The Phoenix has 42 punts in five games this season, tied for second in the nation.

For senior long snapper Matt Arnholt, the abundance of punting chances has challenged him to try and achieve the perfect snap. Once he achieves it, he has to repeat it.

"I've done it so many times that I don't have to think about how wide my feet are and anything like that," Arnholt said. "That's pretty natural now. It's more about doing my job of putting the ball in the same spot every time, and I know the right way to do it."

"It's just what do I have to do in order to do the same thing I did last time, and putting the ball in the same spot every time on punts and field goals."

For both punts and field goals, a good snap will typically go unnoticed. But Arnholt, or Arny to his teammates and coaches, knows the stakes of a bad snap.

"I can't snap it over his head, I can't snap it on the ground," Arnholt said. "Because if I did, that could cause a touchdown for the other team and lose us a game."

## Led by a legend

Volunteer assistant coach Mitch Rippy knows what snap is needed for a kicker to easily boot the ball.

"The perfect snap is a snap that the holder can control and put down in a proper manner so that I [as a kicker] can kick it," Rippy said. "It trickles down to me, but really the two steps before it gets to me are the most important. It's got to get to where I can kick it before I kick it. A nice, crisp, tight spiral so the holder can control the ball, and that gives him a better chance."

The Elon Hall of Famer ranks in the top five all-time for PATs and field goals at Elon from his playing days (1976-78). He's in his second stint as a volunteer assistant coach for the specialists at Elon, which head coach Rich Skrosky appreciates.

"Mitch has been great — he's done it,



Junior kicker John Gallagher (40) prepares to kick a field goal as junior punter/holder David Petroni (18) steadies the ball Sept. 26.

he's been those positions, he's obviously in the Hall of Fame [at Elon] and he brings so much value," Skrosky said. "At every level, even the BCS [sic: Football Bowl Subdivision] level, most programs don't have [a kicking coach]. His dedication is something I'm thankful for."

Rippy uses his expertise with Arnholt and the other specialists, junior punter and holder David Petroni and junior kicker John Gallagher, on getting the small things right.

"We actually practice out here where the laces come back properly so that the laces are not facing the kicker," Rippy said. "Out here, we practice where the ball turns 'X' amount of rotations, so that it comes to the holder and he doesn't have to spin it. We tried to practice where the laces come back, where he grab it with his right hand and just puts it down."

As holder, Petroni has seen Rippy's tutelage impact Arnholt.

"Every kicker is particular ... the lean of the ball, how far back they want it, how far to a side," Petroni said. "The big thing that's

pretty consistent with every holder is you want the laces out. Arny's gotten a lot better at that — a year ago, it would be kind of shaky, if the laces came in on the side. Now, almost every snap is perfect laces, and I get it right down for John."

Gallagher focuses on the trio as a whole, and making sure the timing between the three is just right.

"It's all about rhythm, and working on the operation between Arny, Petroni and me," Gallagher said. "Just getting that work in and [Petroni] is a great holder. We've worked that through for a long time. The holds are always going to be great, the snaps will be great. I just got to make my kicks."

## Distance makes the snap get harder

A long snap is a tough snap. Field goals typically require 7-yard snaps, while punts require 14- or 15-yard snaps.

Petroni, who has his hands on the ball after every snap, understands the difficulty of getting each right.

"The ideal snap on a punt would be on the right hip for a righty and the left hip for a lefty," Petroni said. "A tight spiral right on the right hip would be the ideal snap for a punt."

"On a field goal, it's a little different. It's actually tougher, because you're seven yards away, I'm facing sideways, and I have to catch it to the side. I put my hand out, try to give him a spot a foot off the ground, but right over where the hold is going to be."

Rippy agrees with Petroni, and focuses on the difference in spinning the ball for each snap.

"The yardage is the most important thing, getting the yardage exactly right," Rippy said. "The longer the ball travels, the more rotations it's got. So we have to practice getting it exactly seven yards, so that the rotation of the ball is proper. If you get back six inches too far, the ball could be in an improper place."

Arnholt was the long snapper for field goals in eight games last year, and the experience has paid off in Petroni's eyes.

"Arny has done a really good job on the field goal snaps, because if a snap is a foot behind me, there's not much I can do to

bring it back," Petroni said.

## Practicing in their own world

Practices for the specialists are much different than the rest of the team. They work on an adjacent field, away from the watching eye of Skrosky, who equates their practice to another sport.

"I talk to them in the building a little bit, but I equate their skill to golf," Skrosky said. "The art of a great golfer is being able to repeat the same swing over and over. And that's really what you want out of your specialists, is being able to repeat the same skill over and over, whereas other positions have a myriad of technique."

"So when I do talk to them — and I probably talked to them more last year to set an expectation with them — I challenge those guys, because I do this we have a talented group of specialists. But it's really Mitch and Coach [Scott] Browne [coaching them], because similar to golfers, you don't need a lot of voices in their head."

Arnholt understands why Skrosky — and the rest of the team — leaves them alone during practice.

"We find space on our own to get our work done," Arnholt said. "We all have, really, just one job, its just we have to do it to perfection every time. Whereas everyone else on the team, like the quarterback, he has a million things to worry about, whereas we just have our job, but we have to do it right every time."

Skrosky allows the special teams coaches to work on the "technical nuances" of the process, rather than focus on making sure the specialists know how important their roles are.

Arnholt understands the immense pressure on him to get each and every snap right. And now that he's snapping for both punts and field goals, he's embracing the pressure.

"I've learned that it's my job, it's my one job. It comes with the territory," Arnholt said. "There was a lot of pressure when I stepped on the field at the Wake [Forest University] game, but after the first snap, you kind of learn to tune out the crowd and just go back to what you do on the practice field every day."



## Game Day

**Date/Time:** Oct. 10 | 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Richmond

**Stadium:** E. Claiborne Robins Stadium

**Series History:** UR leads 5-0

# Freshman libero makes quick impact for volleyball

*Jaudon shows confidence, anchors defense early in collegiate career*



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Freshman libero Maddie Jaudon (13) keeps her eye on the ball when she prepares to serve and as she gets a dig. Jaudon leads the Phoenix in digs this season with 236.

Kyle Lubinsky  
Senior Reporter

A typical freshman on the Elon University volleyball team doesn't get much playing time in her first season. But libero Maddie



Maddie Jaudon

Jaudon is not a typical freshman.

Jaudon, who hails from Batavia, Illinois, has made a big impact in a short time in her first year at Elon. Through 16 matches, she leads the team in digs with 236 — the

next closest player trails her by more than 100.

She's also played in 61 of the team's 63 sets so far this season, placing her second on the team (sophomore outside hitter Sydney Busa is first, playing all 63 sets).

"[Jaudon] pursues balls, she's very aggressive," said head coach Mary Tendler. "She doesn't want any ball to hit the ground. The whole team kind of follows her."

For Jaudon, the transition to college was aided by her high school club team, Sports Performance. Her coaches stressed technique, and the team played up to three tournaments a month. The extra practice paid off — Jaudon tallied 26 digs against Radford University Aug. 29 in her third-ever college match.

"She sets the tone, she's intense," Tendler said. "She's confident, she doesn't look like a freshman on the court. She looks like she's ready to go and [she's] looking at the other team saying, 'Serve it at me.' Even in tight matches, she's ready to make the play."

There have been adjustments, though. Jaudon had to learn how to position herself on the court to be effective in Elon's system. Then there's the level of competition, which is a big difference from high school volleyball. At 5 feet, 6 inches, Jaudon is the shortest player on Elon's roster, and she had to acclimate herself to the taller and stronger players of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

"My club program was big on preparing us for college, but there's nothing that can prepare you for playing against girls that are 22 years old," Jaudon said. "We worked on a lot of things. We're still working out a lot of kinks."

Her teammates helped in the process. Before the Phoenix started the preseason,

Jaudon recalls senior outside hitter Megan Gravley and junior outside hitter Kayla Agae serving the ball. Returning her teammates' serves and spikes in practice has helped in ways that no amount of high school preparation could.

Jaudon grew up playing both volleyball and soccer, but as a freshman in high school, she knew she'd have to pick one. She chose volleyball and started on Batavia High School's varsity team for three years, winning team MVP as a senior.

When she chose a college, she looked to her parents for advice. Her father is a passionate University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill fan, while her mother is an avid Duke University supporter. They advised her to look at schools in North Carolina. Despite never visiting North Carolina before her college visits, she felt she found a home at Elon immediately.

"Once I came here, there was nowhere else I wanted to go," she said. "After seeing campus and spending time with the team and being with the coaches, I came and I knew."

Her enthusiasm about Elon has been evident on the court this season. In the first 16 matches of the season, Jaudon has recorded double-digit digs in 11 matches, including five matches with more than 20 digs.

She finished four games in a row with more than 10 kills against Virginia Tech, Radford, High Point University and Charleston Southern University. She also leads the team with 11 service aces.

Tendler believes Jaudon will only improve over time as she adjusts to the changes of playing in college.

"For her, it's about positioning, because every team does something a little bit different," Tendler said. "She's learning to be disciplined and be in the right spot on different plays, and that's something she'll get better at."

Volleyball has yet to lose its luster for Jaudon. Since she began playing, the sport's competitiveness and constant scoring has fueled her passion.

"[There's] not many sports where you can say you're scoring points every 30 seconds," she said. "There's this speed about it and the natural enthusiasm that comes with it. Just getting out there and knowing that even if the other team gets a great kill, you start over."

SPORTS SCHEDULE: OCT. 7 - OCT. 20

**Wednesday, Oct. 7**

Men's soccer vs. Northeastern | 3:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 8**

Volleyball vs. College of Charleston | 7 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 9**

Women's soccer vs. UNCW | 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 10**

Men's soccer vs. Lipscomb | 7 p.m.

Football @ Richmond | 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Delaware | 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 11**

Volleyball vs. UNCW | 2 p.m.

Women's soccer vs. College of Charleston | 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 14**

Men's soccer @ UNCW | 7 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 16**

Cross country @ Wake Forest

Women's soccer @ Delaware | 7 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 16 (continued) Homecoming**

Men's and women's basketball Late Night With The Phoenix Alumni Gym | 8 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 17 Homecoming**

Football vs. James Madison | 3 p.m.

Cross Country @ NCAA Pre-National

Volleyball @ William & Mary | 7 p.m.

Men's soccer vs. James Madison | 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 18**

Women's soccer @ Drexel | 12 p.m.

**Monday, Oct. 19**

Men's golf vs. Elon Intercollegiate

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

Men's golf vs. Elon Intercollegiate

Men's soccer @ Duke | 7 p.m.

Volleyball vs. North Carolina A&T | 7 p.m.



# Building success from the back

## Strong start for backline vaults Elon into CAA contention



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Sarah Henson (16, left and bottom right) and Kendall Ballotti (26) are two of the three starting defenders for the Elon University women's soccer team. Elon has six shutouts so far this season.

Nathan Smith  
Senior Reporter

### Learning new positions

The past two seasons have told different stories for the Elon University women's soccer team. The 2013 team scored twice as many goals as it allowed, collecting 56 goals and surrendering 28 in the 22 matches the team played.

But in the 2014 season, its inaugural in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the Phoenix scored 14 goals and allowed 34 in the 17 matches the team played last season, not giving up many more goals than the previous year, but scoring quite a bit less.

Through its first 11 matches of the 2015 campaign, though, the Phoenix has outscored its opponents 17-8, including six shutouts.

"It's been a two-year shift," said head coach Chris Neal. "Although we're scoring more goals this year [than last year] — realistically with this conference switch — with the quality of these teams, we're not going to put up those same numbers, at least not [in] the first couple of years."

For Neal, the success Elon has so far this season is the result of a new mindset around Rudd Field, where the team now focuses on defense first.

"There's definitely a defensive shift, there's no doubt about it," Neal said.

A unique element about the defensive success this season for the Phoenix is the rotation of the players defending. The backline for the Phoenix defense is generally a three-person line that includes junior Kara DeGuisto, junior Sarah Henson and sophomore Kendall Ballotti. But only Ballotti is labeled as a defender on the official roster — DeGuisto and Henson are tabbed as midfielders.

DeGuisto, who had played primarily as a midfielder during her Elon career before this season, wasn't new to defending, but she definitely had to retrain herself to think in that mindset.

"We had video sessions to get me more accustomed to playing center back because of positioning and moving and things like that, because it's not the same as being a midfielder — you can't mess up as much," DeGuisto said.

In the beginning of the season, DeGuisto worked with her coaches to become a major piece of the defensive wall for the Phoenix. So far, she is second on the team in minutes played behind Ballotti, the other center back.

Henson also had to learn how to be a defender, but she had a different learning curve than DeGuisto.

"I love playing outside back

and being able to get forward, which is one of the things we focus on as a team," Henson said.

Among the defense, Henson is typically the most likely to push up the field — she has been involved in set pieces and corner kicks much more often than her defensive counterparts. It wasn't very difficult for her to figure out, but she admitted that there's a balance to it.

"I mean, you just have to read the situation," she said. "There's not always a chance to go forward but when you do have that opportunity Coach Neal wants us to go forward and created a chance on goal if we can, just affect the game but be smart at the same time. When the opportunity presents itself, you have to make something happen."

### 'As many shutouts as possible'

Before the season started, Neal researched CAA history and found a common trend.

"The traditional Colonial Athletic Association regular season champion gives up eight or less goals in the league," Neal said. "If we can do that, we have a good chance of winning the league."

Shutouts, while difficult to obtain, are the easiest path to this magic number of eight goals — and the Phoenix has already had more shutouts through 11 matches (six) than it did all of last sea-

son (four), which speaks volumes about the team's commitment to defense.

"That's definitely one of our goals — as many shutouts as possible," DeGuisto said. "We're also focusing on not giving the ball away in our defensive third because obviously, we're the last line of defense and you can't make as many mistakes back there. We pretty much focus on controlling the ball and keeping it moving."

"Our team goal is 10. It's not good enough until we get 10, but I think we can do it."

Henson agreed and definitely thought shutouts were attainable for the Phoenix.

"We've really decided to hunker down and just refuse to let anything get by us," she said. "We've had some mental lapses during the game, and when we figure out how to just not let those happen and play the full 90 [minutes], I think we'll be able to get our shutouts."

### Early success, developing chemistry

The results of Elon's two conference games were promising even without victories, which includes a shutout of the reigning CAA champions (a 0-0 draw against the Northeastern University).

"I mean, the expectation is to win," Neal said. "We saw long

spells in each one of those games where we looked incredibly capable of winning those games."

He also noted the growing chemistry between DeGuisto and Ballotti.

"Kendall's the big kind of bruiser type that wins the ball in the air and provides the height, and Kara's got the coverage," he said. "She's the speedier technician and she's really comfortable with the ball, so they're a good complement for each other right now."

Junior goalkeeper Taylor Mohr appreciates the help of the backline. She said a good relationship is essential for a goalkeeper and defenders, and the team's success thus far can be attributed to that.

"Honestly, it's basically defending the danger zone area," Mohr said. "The more they defend it and get to it, the less I have to do and it makes my life so much easier. Communication is very huge for a goalkeeper. You have to talk."

The chemistry between the backline and its keeper is a key part of the defense and might be what they are most proud of so far.

"It's very good having a good relationship both on and off the field — it's the key to our success," Mohr said. "If I didn't care for these girls like I do, I don't think we would mesh well and play as well as we do on the field."

# Top Photos



NADIA NOBREGA | Staff Photographer  
**Loy Farm offers tours to Elon University faculty, staff and students.**



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer  
**Morgan Maner (2), Ebony Scott (8), Catherine Head (7) and Sydel Curry (1) high-five before Elon's game against Towson University Oct. 4.**



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor  
**Kathryn Thompson, Acorn Coffee shop employee, receives a GoFundMe donation for a trip to Disney World.**



# Top Tweets



**Only At Elon**  
 @OnlyAtElon — Oct. 4  
**BREAKING: That tree.**



**Blaine Williamson**  
 @blainemarie\_ — Sept. 30  
 When Piper Kerman comes to speak at Elon and you give up your ticket to **WORK WOW I HATE BEING AN ADULT**



**Elon Gossip Squirrel**  
 @xoGossipSquir! — Oct. 2  
 To the chick who jumped in the big puddle instead of walking around it like everyone else, you are winning at life. **XOXO, Gossip Squirrel**



**Lauren Cook**  
 @WhutsCOOKin — Oct. 1  
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