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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

MLK'S INFLUENCE REMAINS VISIBLE

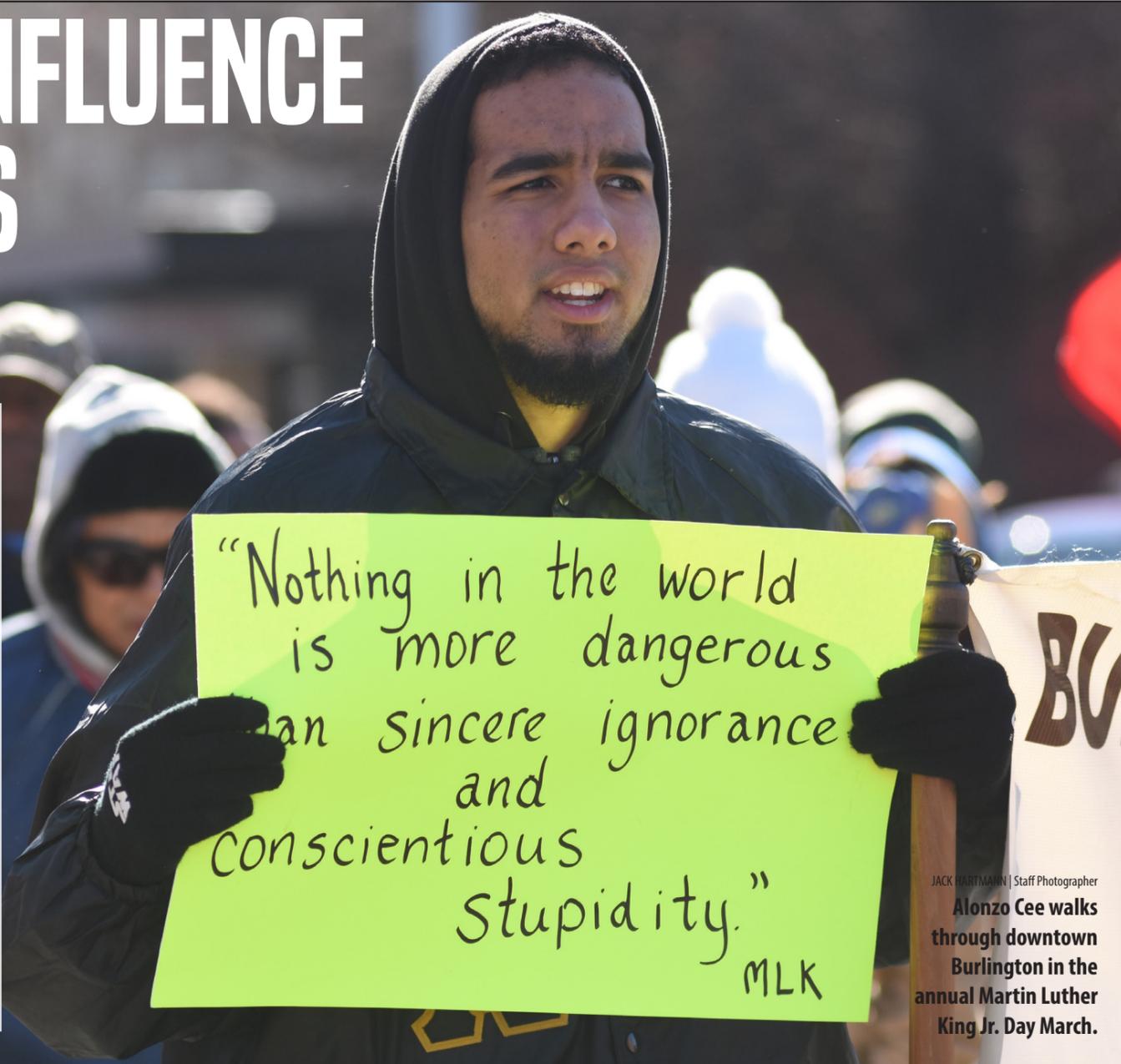
Much progress is still needed to promote inclusivity on campus

Emmanuel Morgan
Assistant News Editor
@_EMorgan704

When James Earl Ray's bullet pierced the skull of Martin Luther King Jr., he inadvertently catalyzed the United States — a nation whose fabrics were embedded with racial tension and hostility — to resolve its differences.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s short life and early death created a rallying cry as blacks and whites labored intensively to create a world where they would not be judged by the color of their skin but by

See **MLK**
pg. 6



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer
Alonzo Cee walks through downtown Burlington in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day March.

Trump, Cruz square off



Heated exchanges highlight GOP debate

Bryan Anderson
News Editor
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NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — Previously having shown friendship toward one another, businessman Donald Trump and Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) found themselves on the attack during the Jan. 14 Republican primary debate.

The GOP debate focused on how each candidate would create a more stable United States.

worth mentioning.

"Back in September, my friend Donald said that he'd had his lawyers look at this from every which way and there was no issue there," Cruz said. "There was nothing to this birther issue. Now, since September, the Constitution hasn't changed. But the poll



Businessman Donald Trump reflects on arguments with Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) during the Jan. 14 debate.

numbers have."

Trump did not take too kindly to Cruz's zinger. He argued Cruz was overstating his popularity and that Trump remained No. 1 in all of the important polls.

"In the last three polls, I'm winning in Iowa," Trump said. "You shouldn't misrepresent how well you're doing."

One of the moderators cut Trump off to ask him why he was raising the issue now for

the first time.

"Because now he's doing a little bit better," Trump replied.

As the debate progressed, the back-and-forth exchanges only became more intense.

Cruz criticized Trump for his close relationship with Democrats and questioned

See **DEBATE**
pg. 4

Alumna performs dream role in 'Wicked'

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor
@courtcamps

Twelve years ago, Ginna Claire Mason '13 saw the Broadway musical "Wicked" with the original cast and immediately fell



Ginna Claire Mason

in love. Today, she takes the same stage performing the standby role of Glinda — her dream role.

"My dad took me to see the show on a business trip, and I was like 'Dad, that's what I want to

do," Mason said. "It's been my dream role since I was young, and seeing that show really pushed me into musical theater."

Mason got married four weeks after graduating, moved to upstate New York and has been working nonstop with au-

See **WICKED**
pg. 15

NEWS



North Carolina small farmers struggling to make a living

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STYLE



"Tapped Out!" premieres on Friday

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Tennis teams open 2016 season

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THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu 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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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.

Corrections policy:
The Pendulum is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online, corrections state the error and the change at the bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact pendulum@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

ONLINE

To read these stories, visit our website www.elonpendulum.com

news

Elon hosts Community Connections forum on race relations

style

An unknown past: Elon adoption stories

sports

Former women's basketball player signs professional contract

GAMES

CRIME REPORT

Jan. 8. MALE FOUND IN DRUG VIOLATION AFTER BEING PULLED OVER FOR A BROKEN BRAKE LIGHT WEST LEBANON AVENUE, N. HOLT STREET, ELON

While conducting routine patrol rounds, a Town of Elon police officer initiated a traffic stop for a vehicle with a defective tail light on South Williamson Avenue.

After approaching the vehicle for questioning, the officer smelled marijuana. The officer conducted a field sobriety test yielding negative results, but after further investigation and detainment, the driver of the vehicle confessed he had a small amount of marijuana in his vehicle. A vehicle search yielded a total of 24.8 grams.

The driver was charged with aggravated possession of marijuana and confined to the

Alamance County Jail under a secured bond.

Jan. 9. AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT RESULTS IN DWI WESTBROOK AND UNIVERSITY DRIVE, ELON

Police responded to an automobile accident and account of personal injury when the two cars collided at the intersection of Westbrook Avenue and University Drive.

One driver was an Elon University student with two female passengers in the vehicle. The other driver was a 30-year-old Burlington male.

The man claimed to be driving south on Cook Road and attempting to make a left turn but did not see the other vehicle on Westbrook Avenue. The male failed a driving while impaired investigation and

was arrested. The Elon students were transported to Alamance Regional to receive medical attention for possible minor injuries.

Jan. 10. OFFICERS SEIZE FIREARMS AFTER ROOMMATE DISPUTE CENTRAL AVENUE, BURLINGTON

A Burlington man was charged with utilizing a firearm in an occupied dwelling after police were called.

Reports say that 37-year-old male Jason Dunn fired a shotgun into the door lock of his house after an apparent argument with his roommate. The argument allegedly stemmed from a disagreement about locking the door.

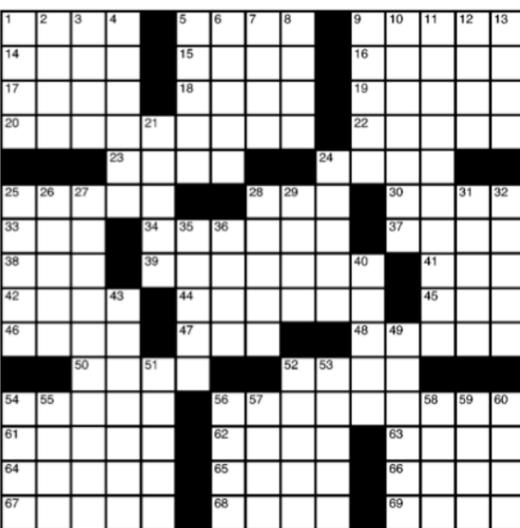
Upon search, officers found and seized four firearms and assorted ammunition from the residence.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Potato bag
- 5 Rod in a grill
- 9 Macaroni shape
- 14 Vintage soda
- 15 Chisholm Trail city
- 16 Red, in roulette
- 17 Mine extracts
- 18 Club used for chipping
- 19 Capital of Ghana
- 20 "Mattress support
- 22 Spoken for
- 23 Skinny fish
- 24 Quick message
- 25 Blue Ribbon beer
- 28 Palm Pilot, e.g., briefly
- 30 Carve in stone
- 33 Attributive menu words
- 34 Parisian partings
- 37 Leave rolling in the aisles
- 38 Sermon topic
- 39 "Light, friendly punch
- 41 Sitter's handful
- 42 What some missiles seek
- 44 Stevenson title doctor
- 45 "I warned you!"
- 46 Gothic fiction author Rice
- 47 WWII espionage gp.
- 48 Bugs and Jags
- 50 "Fire" bugs
- 52 Bourgeoisie and Chablis
- 54 Longstocking of kiddie lit
- 56 Spots for airline magazines ... and, literally, what the first words of the answers to starred clues can all have
- 61 NBA great Shaquille
- 62 Footnote "p"
- 63 Sitter's handful
- 64 Modern mil. treaty violation
- 65 Egg cell
- 66 Humdinger
- 67 Knuckleheads
- 68 Short- or long-sleeved tops
- 69 Marked, as a ballot



By Gail Grabowski and Bruce Venzke

1/11/16

DOWN

- 1 Stereotypical "Dahling!" speaker
- 2 Flight-related prefix
- 3 General Mills brand
- 4 Affectionate greetings
- 5 Marble cake pattern
- 6 Capital on the Seine
- 7 Pic to click
- 8 Grab from the grill, as a hot dog
- 9 Poetry Muse
- 10 Tracks down
- 11 "Wishful lifetime agenda
- 12 Storybook brute
- 13 Withdraw gradually
- 21 "He loves me" piece
- 24 Sounding like one has a cold
- 25 Old Turkish title
- 26 Otherworldly
- 27 "Slapstick slipping cause
- 28 Sneaks a look
- 29 Obligation
- 31 Typical Hitchcock role

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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1/11/16

- 32 Publicizes aggressively
- 35 Martial arts schools
- 36 Currier's colleague
- 40 Backup strategy
- 43 When the big hand is on two
- 49 In working order
- 51 Leans slightly
- 52 Beating around the bush
- 53 Agenda bullets
- 54 Common koi habitat
- 55 Look ... investigate
- 56 Washday woe
- 57 Nesting site, perhaps
- 58 Essence
- 59 Leafy veggie baked for chips
- 60 Gym specimen

DO YOU FOLLOW ELON SPORTS?



THE PENDULUM IS LOOKING FOR SPORTS REPORTERS!

Interested?

Contact Alex Simon:
asimon6@elon.edu or
(336) 278-7247

UPCOMING EVENTS: JAN. 20-24

11:40 A.M. | wInterfaith lunch series
7 P.M. | Catholic Rosary and Mass

20

10 A.M. | Study Abroad Quick Questions Session
7:30 P.M. | Men's Basketball at William & Mary

21

6 P.M. & 7 P.M. | 'Tapped Out!
7 P.M. | Women's Basketball vs. College of Charleston

22

2 P.M. & 3:30 P.M. | Tapped Out!
7 P.M. | Women's Track and Field at UNCG.

23

2 P.M. | Dept. of Performing Arts presents 'All's Well that Ends Well'

24



THE 2016 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



HILLARY CLINTON

Birthdate: 10/26/1947
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Experience: Former Secretary of State
Important Issue: Gun Control
Stance on Education: Cut interest rates on student loans
Quote: "The young people that I talk with are pretty disappointed about the the economic prospects they feel they're facing."



BERNIE SANDERS

Birthdate: 09/08/1941
Birthplace: Brooklyn, NY
Experience: Vermont Senator
Important Issue: Income Inequality
Stance on Education: Make public colleges and universities tuition free
Quote: "This country and the middle class bailed out Wall Street. Now it is Wall Street's time to bail out the middle class."



MARTIN O'MALLEY

Birthdate: 01/18/1963
Birthplace: Washington, D.C.
Experience: Former Maryland Governor
Important Issue: Job Creation
Stance on Education: Expand and modernize work-study programs
Quote: "I'm the one candidate on this stage that actually brought people together to pass comprehensive gun safety legislation."

THE 2016 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



DONALD TRUMP

Birthdate: 06/14/1946
Birthplace: Queens, NY
Experience: Businessman
Important Issue: Immigration
Stance on Education: Cut Department of Education down.
Quote: "Our military is a disaster. Our healthcare is a horror show ... Our country is being run by incompetent people, and yes, I am angry."



TED CRUZ

Birthdate: 12/22/1970
Birthplace: Calgary, Canada
Experience: Texas Senator
Important Issue: Immigration
Stance on Education: Abolish the Department of Education
Quote: "There was nothing to this birther issue. Now, since September, the Constitution hasn't changed. But the poll numbers have."



MARCO RUBIO

Birthdate: 05/28/1971
Birthplace: Miami, FL
Experience: Florida Senator
Important Issue: Immigration
Stance on Education: Reduce burden of student loans by establishing automatic income based repayment
Quote: "This president has consistently underestimated the threat of ISIS."



BEN CARSON

Birthdate: 09/18/1951
Birthplace: Detroit, MI
Experience: Retired Neurosurgeon
Important Issue: Healthcare
Stance on Education: Create a more transparent financial aid process
Quote: "We have the world's best military even though [Obama] has done everything to diminish it."



CHRIS CHRISTIE

Birthdate: 09/06/1962
Birthplace: Newark, NJ
Experience: New Jersey Governor
Important Issue: Criminal Justice
Stance on Education: Expand access to tuition assistance
Quote: "We have the Russians and the Iranians working together [to help Assad]."



JEB BUSH

Birthdate: 02/11/1953
Birthplace: Midland, TX
Experience: Former Florida Governor
Important Issue: Tax Reform
Stance on Education: Drive down costs and hold post-secondary institutions accountable
Quote: "There'll be people who will talk about what they'll do. I've done it."



JOHN KASICH

Birthdate: 05/13/1952
Birthplace: McKees, PA
Experience: Ohio Governor
Important Issue: Finance
Stance on Education: Encourage high school students to finish while reducing tuition of college
Quote: "It's critical for us to be energy independent, and we're getting there because of fracking."



RAND PAUL

Birthdate: 01/07/1963
Birthplace: Pittsburgh, PA
Experience: Former Kentucky Senator
Important Issue: National Debt and Privacy
Stance on Education: Allow college students to deduct their expenses over their working careers
Quote: "We are not any safer through the bulk collection of all Americans' data."



CARLY FIORINA

Birthdate: 09/06/1954
Birthplace: Austin, TX
Experience: Former CEO
Important Issue: Job Creation
Stance on Education: Shrink the Department of Education
Quote: "Buried in the pages of Obamacare are the thousands of pages that nobody bothered to read is the federal takeover of the student loan business."



MIKE HUCKABEE

Birthdate: 08/24/1955
Birthplace: Hope, AR
Experience: Former Arkansas Governor
Important Issue: Religion
Stance on Education: Create more career preparation in college while lowering tuition costs
Quote: "The only thing you can count on with free cheese is it's gonna be a free trap."



RICK SANTORUM

Birthdate: 05/10/1958
Birthplace: Winchester, VA
Experience: Former Pennsylvania Senator
Important Issue: Economic Reform
Stance on Education: Government should be far removed from higher education
Quote: "Stop this idea that everybody needs to have these rather expensive, and I think in some cases unaffordable and unnecessary, experiences."

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Jan. 28

Time | 9 p.m. ET

Location | Iowa Events Center, Des Moines, Iowa

Channel | Fox News

Feb. 11

Time | TBD

Location | Wisconsin

Channel | PBS

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE



DEBATE
from cover

how a Manhattan real estate mogul could possibly be considered a true Republican. He then attacked Trump for being raised on “New York values.”

“Not a lot of conservatives come out of Manhattan,” Cruz said. “I’m just saying.”

Trump then invoked the 9/11 attacks to highlight the spirit and resiliency of the state following the aftermath of the national tragedy.

“The people in New York fought and fought and fought,” Trump said.

Though Cruz and Trump shared some of the more memorable moments of the night, the remaining five candidates — Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, New Jersey governor Chris Christie, former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Ohio governor John Kasich — articulated their visions for creating a more stable United States.

Immigration was perhaps the most divisive issue for the candidates.

Carson proposed gathering a group of experts from other countries to learn more about how to improve the immigration screening process.

On June 27, 2013, the immigration bill passed in the Senate by a final vote of 68-32. The bill provided a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented residents.

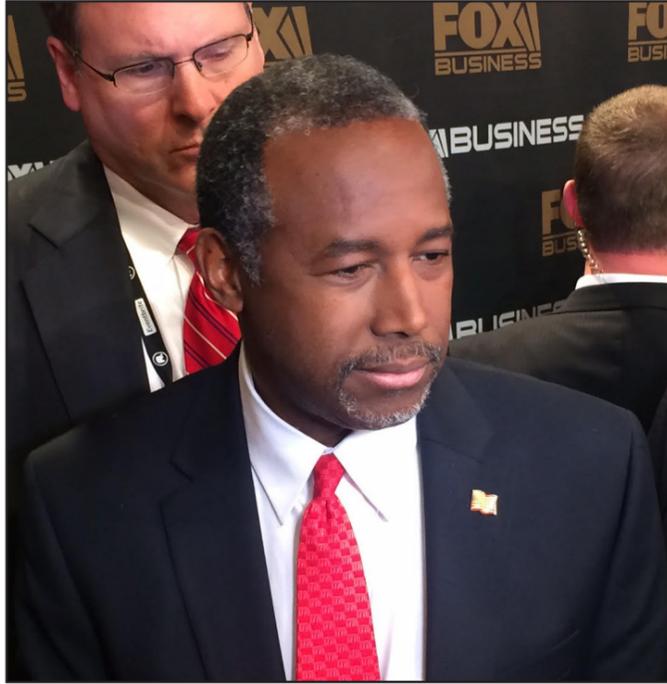
about how to improve the immigration screening process.

Cruz claimed Rubio was not strong on the issue because he was a member of the Gang of Eight, a bipartisan group of eight senators who wrote the 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill.

On June 27, 2013, the immigration bill passed in the Senate by a final vote of 68-32. The bill provided a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented residents.

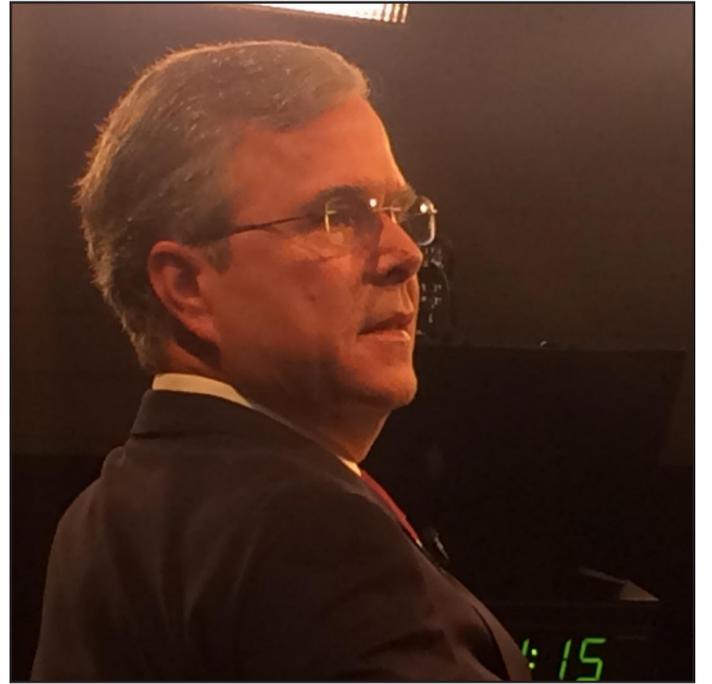
Cruz said Rubio’s amnesty bill expanded Obama’s agenda.

Rubio responded that Cruz has flip-flopped on immigration issue. Cruz replied he is the



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

Carson claims the U.S. military has lost some of its strength with President Barack Obama in power and has damaged its relationships with its allies.



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

Bush said the state of the union under Obama “has been torn asunder,” and came after Trump for his proposal of a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country.

strongest candidate with regard to immigration and he would never support amnesty.

While all the candidates advocated for stronger border control, Trump reaffirmed his position on banning Muslims from entering the United States.

“We have a serious problem and we can’t be the stupid country anymore,” Trump said.

Bush argued Trump’s proposal is “un-American” because it goes against national values of providing immigrants pathway to fulfilling the American Dream. Bush also said a temporary ban of Muslims would alienate the global community and prevent the United States from forming much-needed Arab coalitions to fight ISIS.

“We’re running for presidency of the U.S.,” Bush said to Trump. “This is a different kind of job. You have to lead. You can’t make brash statements.”

Kasich disagreed with banning all Muslims but said he would support a ban on letting in Syrian refugees. Christie agreed Syrians shouldn’t be allowed into the country.

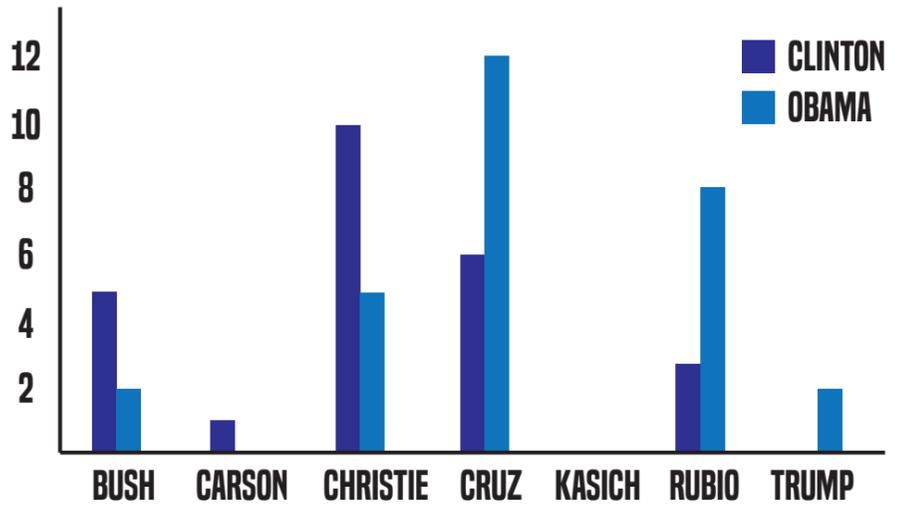
Trump countered that his plan is necessary and that law enforcement officers are afraid to enforce the rules because they fear they will receive backlash for their actions.

“The police are the most mistreated peo-

ple in this country,” Trump said.

With the election year underway and New Hampshire primaries and Iowa caucuses quickly approaching, the candidates await the next debate Thursday, Jan. 28 in Iowa.

CANDIDATES MENTIONING CLINTON AND OBAMA



STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

Undercard candidates discuss education

Huckabee on Sanders’ proposal on free tuition: “The only thing you can count on with free cheese is it’s gonna be a trap.”

Bryan Anderson
News Editor
@bryanranderson

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — Throughout the course of the Jan. 14 Republican undercard debate, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum expressed much opposition against the Obama administration on a host of issues.

While they outlined their visions for combating terrorism and creating jobs, some of the more salient moments occurred in the Spin Room following the debate.

Fiorina, Huckabee and Santorum each highlighted the importance of supporting college students.

Huckabee said he strongly opposed the idea of free tuition because it would devalue the college education system.

“The only thing you can count on with free cheese is it’s gonna be a trap,” he said.

He also noted that Democratic candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), 74, would not live to see the negative effects of his proposal



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum argues students should not pursue colleges that are unaffordable in order to avoid going into debt.

to offer free tuition with a tax on Wall Street speculation.

“He’s not going to be around to see you pay for it,” Huckabee said.

Fiorina explained she thought the key to improving higher education is to repeal the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare.

“Buried in the pages of Obamacare are the

thousands of pages that nobody bothered to read is the federal takeover of the student loan business,” she said. “So it’s the federal government that decides how much you pay on your debt and they decide you’re gonna pay between 4.5 to as high as 8 percent interest on your student loans.”

Santorum took a different approach when the issue of education was raised. He argued

students are pursuing degrees they can’t afford. Instead, they should simply look for schools that will get them to their desired job.

“Go out and get what you need to get you to where you want to go and stop this idea that everybody needs to have these rather expensive, and I think in some cases unaffordable and unnecessary, experiences,” Santorum said.

Democratic candidates hold liveliest debate

Healthcare, gun violence, education major focus at Democratic presidential debate

Staff Reports
@elonpendulum

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley engaged in one of the more vocal Democratic presidential debates thus far in the race to secure the party's nomination on Sunday.

With education and healthcare at the front of the debate, the candidates were more argumentative with one another than ever before. This debate was of particular importance since the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primaries begin before the next debate takes place Feb. 11 in Wisconsin.

"Right now what we have to deal with is the fact that 29 million people still have no health insurance," Sanders said. "We are paying the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, getting ripped off. And here's the important point: We are spending far more per person on healthcare than the people of any other country."

Recent data from the World Bank revealed the United States has the third-highest health expenditure per capita in the world, narrowly trailing Norway and Switzerland.

Clinton argued Sanders wants

"THIS COUNTRY AND THE MIDDLE CLASS BAILED OUT WALL STREET, NOW IT IS WALL STREET'S TIME TO BAIL OUT THE MIDDLE CLASS."

BERNIE SANDERS
SENATOR (D-VT.)

to tear up the Affordable Care Act — commonly referred to as Obamacare — and undo the progress of the past made by former Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

"We have been raising questions about the nine bills that [Sanders] introduced over 20 years as to how they would work and what would be the impact on people's healthcare," Clinton said. "He didn't like that. His campaign didn't like that either."

Clinton claimed Obamacare was "one of the great accomplishments" thus far into President Barack Obama's time in the White House. Sanders responded that he, Truman and Roosevelt wanted healthcare for all people as a right in a cost-effective way.

"We're not gonna tear up the Affordable Care Act," Sanders said. "I helped write it. But we are going to move on top of that to a Medicare for all system."

Though O'Malley fought for



Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley were invited to Jan. 17 Democratic debate.

GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

a fair share of time, several of the most notable moments of the debate resulted from heated exchanges between Clinton and Sanders.

Perhaps the most memorable moment came when Clinton attacked Sanders' voting record on

gun violence issues.

She expressed frustration with him voting against the Brady Bill five times. The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, enacted in 1993, required federal background checks on firearm purchasers.

Sanders said he has a D-minus rating from the National Rifle Association and has always supported instant background checks. He argued Clinton was inaccurately portraying him as an ardent gun supporter.

O'Malley immediately interjected that both candidates have been inconsistent on the issue of gun violence.

"I've listened to Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders go back and forth on which of them has the most inconsistent record on gun safety legislation," O'Malley said. "And I would have to agree with both of them. They've both been inconsistent when it comes to this issue. I'm the one candi-

date on this stage that actually brought people together to pass comprehensive gun safety legislation."

As the debate progressed, education became a more prevalent issue.

"The young people that I talk with are pretty disappointed about the economic prospects they feel they're facing," Clinton said. "So making community college free, making it possible to attend a public college or university with debt-free tuition [are some of my proposals]."

Sanders argued his plan would go even further than Clinton by making public colleges and universities tuition free.

When asked how he would pay for it, he said he'd place a tax on Wall Street speculation and force the wealthy to invest back into the country they have abused in the past.

"This country and the middle class bailed out Wall Street," Sanders said. "Now it is Wall Street's time to bail out the middle class."

He also claimed Clinton was incapable of making the best choices for the country because of her close relationship with Wall Street.

"You've received over \$600,000 in speaking fees from Goldman Sachs in one year," Sanders said. "I find it very strange that a major financial institution that pays \$5 billion in fines for breaking the law, not one of their executives is prosecuted."

The debate then concluded with a discussion on foreign policy and an opportunity for the candidates to address an issue that hadn't been mentioned earlier in the debate.

O'Malley said he would have

the federal government reevaluate its national security defense strategies so that the U.S. forms coalitions and builds allies.

"Over the long term, we need to develop new alliances," O'Malley said. "We need a much more proactive national security strategy that reduces these threats before they rise to a level where it feels like we need to pull for a division of marines."

Sanders agreed there should be comprehensive change in how involved the United States becomes in international issues.

He emphasized the importance of redirecting the military budget to combat terrorism rather than "fight the old Cold War with the Soviet Union."

orities of the defense department."

Clinton argued she would be the strongest candidate on foreign affairs because of her experience working with difficult individuals.

When asked about her relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Clinton chuckled and said, "It's interesting. It's one I think of respect. We've had some very tough dealings with one another, and I know he's someone you have to continually stand up to. Like many bullies, he is somebody who will take as much as he possibly can unless you do."

Clinton currently finds herself well ahead of Sanders in several polls, including a 25-point lead in the most recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. Other polls

"WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT MAKING FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE PRIORITIES OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT."

MARTIN O'MALLEY
FORMER MARYLAND GOVERNOR

According to the National Priorities Project, a national non-profit, non-partisan research organization that makes federal budget information accessible to the public, 54 percent of total discretionary spending in the United States went to the military.

"Very little of that budget — less than 10 percent — actually goes into fighting ISIS and international terrorism," Sanders said. "We need to think about making fundamental changes in the pri-

have a slimmer lead for Clinton around 10 points, according to Real Clear Politics. O'Malley lags well behind Sanders and Clinton, polling around 2 percent.

Though national polls are indicating the majority of Democratic support going to Clinton, Sanders is mounting a comeback in important battleground states. In Iowa, Clinton is leading by an average of four points. In New Hampshire, Sanders is ahead by an average of six points.

Accessing public buses in Alamance County

Link Transit prepares for summer launch

Bryan Anderson
News Editor
@bryanranderson

In 2006, Link Transit Manager Mike Nunn began helping plan a public busing system for Alamance County. Now, the 10-year project is nearly complete and is expected launch this summer.

“What we try to do is to coordinate and communicate with all of our communities in the area,” Nunn said. “There’s over 10 different communities that are all so tightly connected that we want to talk to everyone and see if they were interested before we even began doing planning for routes.”

Public transportation has been a major issue the past several decades in Alamance County. Elon University helped address the issue when it added the downtown service loop in 2010 of the BioBus.

“This route was originally created to provide Elon students with transportation to and from community agencies where students engage in curricular and co-curricular service-learning opportunities,” said Tammy Cobb, assistant director for community partnerships. “However, it has become increasingly popular among Burlington residents.”

The university’s Downtown/East Burlington loop is used today equally by both students and lo-

cal residents, according to Cobb. But the loop has a limited reach as it makes only nine stops and runs weekdays from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Cobb said the route serves an important purpose despite the limited hours.

“Since the BioBus is the only free public transportation in Alamance County, it is particularly important for community members who are unable to afford any other means of transportation,” Cobb said.

Though the downtown service loop supports local residents by getting them to and from different destinations, it has a limited impact for the county as a whole.

Nunn recognized the need for increased access but struggled to secure support from local communities because of high start-up costs.

“It’s an expense and it’s something everybody took very seriously,” he said. “Towards the end, Burlington and Gibsonville just decided it was time to go ahead and move forward to get something started. Those two partners began working about three or four years ago talking more about specifics.”

With support from Burlington and Gibsonville, Link continued to make progress on developing a public transportation system. Link is now in the process of purchasing the necessary equipment for the summer.

Seven light transit vehicles were ordered in December 2015 for \$152,302 each — a slim 1.5 percent increase from its \$150,000 goal. Link is now looking to source bid requests locally for artwork using preapproved graphics.

While much has been done within the past decade, there are still several finishing touches to be made within the next several months.

A marketing campaign recently began in an effort to educate local residents about the summer launch. Print ads are scheduled to emerge in the Burlington Times-News and in the Alamance News this month, along with radio spots. A billboard has also gone up on Graham Hopedale Road.

Part of the marketing efforts for Link have come through Facebook and Twitter. By Jan. 4, Facebook Ads led to 646 website clicks.

“It’s brand new to folks, and we want them to understand what Link Transit is and then how to use it,” Nunn said.

He also noted that several of the questions people have pertain to scheduling times and bus routes. Those behind the transport system have yet to finalize a specific bus route. Nunn expects finalized schedules and maps to be released during the spring.

“We have our general routes determined, but I think once we have specific bus stops and bus times, that’s when everybody’s going to want a copy of the system map or check out the website,” he said.

Though a completed schedule has yet to be released, several important details have been finalized.

Link Transit buses will run Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. They will not operate on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. When buses begin serving passengers in the summer, Link will evaluate the demand for expanding hours into

weekends and holidays.

Fares have also been determined. Regular fares will cost \$1 per ride. Some people are eligible for discounts, including those who are disabled, seniors (60 years or older), students or Medicare card holders. But there will be unique payment options Nunn said first-time riders should be aware of.

Fares must be paid with exact change, a Link Bus Pass or a Transfer Pass. Because drivers won’t carry change, Nunn encourages riders to become prepared. Riders who do not have exact change must buy a pass with the currency they have available.

“We’ll take cash, but we won’t make change on the bus,” Nunn said. “We’ll give you a fare card that has credit on it. If you have a \$5 bill, you’ll put a \$5 bill in and you’ll get a \$4 pass back [if you are buying a \$1 ticket]. That’s one thing we’re going to have to educate folks about.”

The card system is still in the development phase as they are working with the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) to create an all-in-one card where one card will work for accessing both a Link and PART bus.

Nunn hopes he can have one uniform card work outside of Alamance County as well.

“We know we can have one card for PART and for Link but we’re trying to make it where that card can work in Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point and even possibly Triangle Transit,” he said.

Nunn said a lot of interest about Link has come from people looking for employment but wanted to inform the general public

that Link does not oversee the application process.

Instead, jobs will be made available through a private outside service provider later in the year. The service provider is expected to be named in February.

“I get a lot of phone calls,” he said. “The city is not hiring folks for this service. It will be a private service provider and they won’t be on board until March or April. So that’s when the jobs will be available.”

LINK TIMELINE

2006

Link begins process for public busing system

2007-2013

Link works with local government agencies to gauge interest on the idea of creating public transportation in Alamance County

2012-2013

Burlington and Gibsonville move forward to get Link off of the ground

2015

Link orders seven light transit vehicles for \$152,302 and looks to source bid requests locally for artwork

2016

Link works to expand its marketing efforts through social media platforms

MLK from cover

the content of their character.

Yet as the nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day, many African-Americans feel King’s visions for social justice and equality are far from achieved. Elon University is no exception to the ongoing conversations about race relations in the United States.

“For me, Martin Luther King represents a feeling of frustration,” said Jamie Butler, assistant director for Elon’s Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE). “When I read the daily newspaper and go back and read the letter in the Birmingham Jail, it looks like contemporary writing. It brings a lot of anger and sadness to think about how this man gave his life for this cause and we’re still going through this fight today. We’ve come a long way but we really haven’t.”

Though the nation has taken strides since the Civil Rights Movement, many individuals see a parallel between the 1960s and today. As the United States recuperates from a racially-charged 2015 highlighted by acts of police brutality and heated protests, several Elon students believe the national tension and uneasiness has trickled down to their college community.

Senior and Black Student Union President Alexandre Bohannon said he recognizes and appreciates King’s efforts to combat injustice and lead the Civil Rights Movement. Had it

not been for King, Bohannon is not sure he would be attending a predominantly white institution today. But Bohannon also believes systematic improvement is necessary for Elon to ultimately embody the late reverend’s dream of complete racial equality.

“The biggest problem is really a lack of intercultural competency,” Bohannon said. “I’ve seen a lot of people focused on themselves and their particular circle and not about those who are different than them. In my interactions with those people, I’ve had to adapt to what they are and what they may or may not be offended with.”

Intercultural competency is understanding others from different backgrounds. In Bohannon’s four years at Elon, he said he has been the subject of many stereotypes and assumptions simply because of his race. Because of this, Bohannon recommends the university implement more diversity education into its curriculum because it would enable students to have a greater understanding of other groups of people.

“In the job market, intercultural competency is valued greatly, especially if you have to interact with people of diverse backgrounds,” Bohannon said. “If you’ve grown up in

this one-dimensional environment and if you’re not able to interact with someone different than you, you’re already at a deficit.”

With the support of Butler and Bohannon, Elon’s common summer reading for Class of 2019 students was “Why We Can’t Wait” by King. This book was chosen before the eruption of most recent events, which speaks to the cross-generational values King stressed. Jeffrey Coker, director of the Elon Core

“IT BRINGS A LOT OF ANGER AND SADNESS TO THINK ABOUT HOW THIS MAN GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THIS CAUSE AND WE’RE STILL GOING THROUGH THIS FIGHT TODAY.”

JAMIE BUTLER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR CREDE

Curriculum, said he and his team intentionally selected “Why We Can’t Wait” so more students would engage in a dialogue important issues of race relations.

“The Common Reading Committee thought that reading an extended text by MLK would be a mind-expanding experience for Elon students,” Coker said. “The book’s messages resonate strongly with modern events and conditions happening all around us, both in our local community and around the world.”

While Elon promoted the common reading during the summer for freshmen, it has tried to increase dialog about race to the entire university community this Winter Term. CREDE is hosting numerous events for students and faculty to voice their concerns and ideas on how to work through their differences.

But people must take the initiative to educate themselves. Just 30 people attended a CommUNITY dinner Jan. 14 to discuss the issue of inclusivity on campus. Similar to the CommUNITY dinner, only 30 students attended the Jan. 12 “Engaging in Privilege, Faith, and Love,” session — a two-hour event encouraging individuals to openly discuss racial privilege. Elon also had to cancel

its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day march on campus because of the lack of numbers for participating.

Elon can only offer and sponsor such events. It can’t force people to attend.

“In my position, I love advocating for students, but I also talk with students about how to advocate themselves,” Butler said. “Even as a faculty member, I can only go so far.”

Many students are also disappointed in their peers for not doing their part to participate in events hosted by Elon.

Freshman Kenneth Brown Jr., SGA freshman class president, argues that addressing racial issues must be a high priority for students.

“When we talk about this, it’s the same 15-20 people that are always involved in these discussions,” he said. “We need to find a way to get the people that need to be talking about this in the room. These [events hosted by Elon during Winter Term] create an atmosphere where you can say what you feel about these issues. For some people, that is the hardest thing to do.”

King and his followers envisioned a more racially tolerant world through nonviolent protest. He delivered powerful speeches and led marches that shook the country to its core.

He displayed an unusual amount of courage, which ultimately led to his assassination. This unshakable determination and dogged attitude is the type of force many argue is necessary to create a more inclusive Elon.

“Dr. King was one of those people who stood strong in the face of death,” Brown said. “He had to overcome himself if he wanted to be any type of change in this world. If this is our time to change anything, we have to be courageous. If we want to be more of an activist campus, we need to get over ourselves in some aspects, go out on a limb and see where our conversations take us. Some of the greatest things in this world have happened when people said how they really felt and asked how they could change it.”

Study Abroad, Study USA on the rise

Christina Elias
Assistant News Editor
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Elon University's Global Education Center saw a record number of students participating Study USA this Winter Term.

"We had six [courses] this year, three of which were returning courses and three brand-new ones," said assistant professor Mark Dalhouse, director of Study USA. "I have at least two new ones in the offerings for next year, so I'm thinking that we'll stabilize the set around seven or eight courses."

Dalhouse is constantly looking to increase Study USA participation by offering something for students across all majors.

"One of the things I want Study USA to do is branch out and offer options for students from whatever major," Dalhouse said. "It's really fun as director of Study USA, because part of my job is to try to create and dream up new courses."

The Study Abroad program has also seen an upward trend of student enrollment during the winter.

Director of Study Abroad Rhonda Waller said that while there were not many new programs offered internationally this Winter Term, there has been a steady increase in students traveling abroad in fall and spring semesters.

"IN YOUR FOUR YEARS, WE REALLY WANT YOU TO HAVE A GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE."

RHONDA WALLER
DIRECTOR OF STUDY ABROAD

With studying abroad as a core component of the Elon Commitment, Waller explained that her mission is to provide 100 percent access to global engagement opportunities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD LANDEBERG

Students in GBL 207: 'The Trail Starts Here: The Iowa Caucuses' Winter Term class pose with Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

"We're trying to get every student to consider it as a way to enhance their time at Elon and to enhance their degree," Waller said.

Because of major requirements, Waller recognizes some students feel limited and unable to spend a semester in another country. She said Winter Term is a viable alternative for all students.

"We're always promoting Winter Term," she said. "We're not necessarily trying to drive people towards Winter Term. We're just thinking about the big picture and going, 'Hey, in your four years, we really want you to have a global engagement experience.'"

Sophomore Courtney McKelvey is currently abroad in India and will participate in Elon in DC in the spring. McKelvey said Winter Term was the perfect time to immerse herself in a culture completely dif-

ferent than the one she grew up in.

While she plans to do a semester abroad, she might not have had another opportunity to go to India. She said that because full semesters abroad often align with major credits, Winter Term allows students to have the flexibility to study issues outside their majors.

"I'm studying education in India with a focus in science, so as a policy and international studies major it's cool to learn about teaching methods and engage in science experiments with Indian students," she said.

According to Waller, part of the department's success can be attributed to the popularity of the current courses among students and its recognition in various national lists.

For example, in the Open Doors 2014 report, the Institute of International Ed-

ucation ranked Elon No. 1 for the total number of students who studied overseas during the 2012-13 academic year.

"We're really lucky here at Elon to have a culture where students already are really highly aware that study abroad is an option," Waller said.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Study Abroad:

2012-13: 678 undergraduate students

2013-14: 697 undergraduate students

2014-15: 725 undergraduate students

Study USA:

2012-13: 70 undergraduate students

2013-14: 50 undergraduate students

2014-15: 51 undergraduate students

'Burst the Bubble' classes compete for enrollment

Micah Spoerndle
Senior Reporter
@whysheeranidk

Elon University students are taking additional courses outside the classroom during Winter Term. These courses offer no credit and provide no homework. Winter Term "Burst the Bubble" classes allow students to take non-academic courses that pique their interest.

The topics for classes this year range from beatboxing to the Middle East to whiskey. In 2007, the first year of Burst the Bubble classes, students conducted a total of 12 Burst the Bubble classes. This year, there are 26.

Seniors Laura Orr and Dawson Nicholson are presenting about Southern foods in their "Burst the Bubble" class "Biscuits, Grits, and Pecan Pie: Food Made in the South." They were both raised in the South — Orr is from North Carolina and Nicholson is from Tennessee.

During this Winter Term, these two students are teaching eight fellow students how to make traditional Southern dishes.

Students in this class have made butter-milk biscuits, sweet potatoes, baked mac and cheese and green bean casserole.

"I just love cooking and I think at Elon there's not a lot of Southern food," Orr said. "There are plenty of dishes that students can



MICAH SPOERNDLE | Senior Reporter

Seniors Laura Orr and Dawson Nicholson clean up after their 'Burst the Bubble' class called 'Biscuits, Grits and Pecan Pie: Food Made in the South.' They teach fellow students how to cook classic Southern food.

easily make, but they just don't know how to fix them."

This hands-on class not only teaches students how to cook the food but also provides the supplies and equipment for them in the Moseley Kitchen.

Other classes discuss more serious subjects.

Senior Emma Mankin and junior Kyle Porro, representatives from Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge and Success (SPARKS), are holding a class on sexual assault and rape on college

campuses.

Mankin and Porro said they want to motivate students to start a conversation with friends about these topics.

Their larger goal is to remove the negative connotation some people have about taking an active role in sexual activity by being more upfront about communicating expectations and preferences.

A similar class about safe sex was also held last year by Elaina Vermeulen '15 and '15 Matthew Johnston, which attracted more students than this year's class.

"There was more hype around this subject last year, and consent and rape were more of hot-button topics," Porro said.

Lack of participation in classes this year is common, according to junior Aislinn Gherman, who is teaching the Burst the Bubble class, "Psychopathology in Modern Society: Business Leadership and the push for manipulative behavior."

Gherman's class originally had 12 participants sign up before Winter Term began, but only two attended her first class.

Gherman's class takes a psychological and sociological perspective on business leadership, analyzing the growing habit of businesses operating under selfish motives.

Recent cases from companies like Volkswagen, Enron and Johnson & Johnson are presented and discussed in the class to take a look at why unethical business management is growing in popularity.

"This class was more about the intersection of ethics and the businesses that show up all over the news," Gherman said.

She explained her method of teaching through a combination of presenting cases about modern businesses through podcasts like "This American Life," videos like TED Talks and news articles.

Like Gherman, any student has the ability to start a Burst the Bubble class through applying online in November after receiving an email from burstthebubble@elon.edu.

North Carolina's small farmers

Dwindling in numbers and struggling to sustain a living



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

Redbud Farm uses its organic certification to differentiate from competitors. Clay Smith, 70, works about 50 hours a week harvesting his crops in preparation for local farmers markets.

Bryan Anderson

News Editor
@bryanranderson

Nearly every day for the past several decades, Clay Smith of Redbud Farm has awakened at sunrise eager to plant, tend and market his crops. He's 70 now and has witnessed massive changes in farming methods and economics. He's typical in many ways of the farmers who are the foundation of a strong country.

He and others like him are the exception to the rule today — small farmers who believe it is worth the struggle to continue in an agriculture industry in which government, corporations and societal demands are constantly creating new hurdles to overcome.

It is becoming more difficult to recruit young people to meet these challenges. The lack of profits and high start-up costs associated with modern-day farming have contributed to a declining interest in farming for younger generations, according to Smith.

"The average age of a farmer in North Carolina is up in the high 50s," he said. "How much longer do I have? Maybe another 10 years. We'll see. Nobody could do it forever. We need to have more young people coming into farming."

Dwindling interest in small-scale farming

North Carolina agriculture is a

\$78 billion industry that employs 16 percent of the state's work force. However, much of the profits are generated by large-scale farmers. Most individual and family farmers are not reaping the benefits.

The most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture census, reported in 2012, showed a 5 percent decrease in the number of North Carolina farms between 2007 and 2012. Only 43 percent of those farms recorded net economic gains in 2007 and 2012.

Within the last couple decades, the number of North Carolina farms has stabilized around 60,000 after a dramatic decline between the 1960s and 1980s.

Smith's Redbud Farm has been one of the few farms to consistently record net gains. But Smith said his real success is limited by a number of factors.

"Last year, on about three acres of land, we had gross sales of \$62,000," Smith explained. "The operational expenses in terms of seed, fertilizer, pesticide, fuel for the tractor, the irrigation line and infrastructure and the electricity to run the cooler is about \$30,000. So we made about \$30,000. That's not a lot of money."

If you take into account the fact that two full-time workers — Smith and his wife Nancy Joyner — were the "paid labor," their annual salaries add up to just \$16,000 each. That places them firmly below the poverty line.

Yet in terms of total farm revenue they are considered one of the

wealthier North Carolina farms by comparison.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture noted 79 percent of farms recorded less than \$50,000 in revenue.

Ralph Noble, chair of the department of animal science at North Carolina A&T State University, works at the university's farm and offers assistance to small and aspiring farmers. Like Smith, he has witnessed a steady decline in emerging farmers.

"When I started school back in the 1960s, 90 percent of my friends had parents or grandparents who came from farms," Noble said. "Now you can probably go back generations and you won't find them there."

A lack of government programs encouraging young people to get into agriculture is partly to blame, according to Smith.

"There should be more grants and low-interest loans for young people who want to go into farming," he said. "A person coming out of college, tech school or high school is just beginning and doesn't really have a financial nest egg or anything to go out and buy land or buy the minimal amount of equipment that they need."

Cost-share and rebate programs

There are some government rebates and cost-share programs available to small farmers. North Carolina's Small and Minority Farm Program offers assistance direct-

ly to farms with limited resources through outreach and education. It also offers cost-share programs for good agricultural practices, certification and water analysis.

Smith, for example, received two-thirds of the cost of high tunnels for Redbud Farm thanks to a grant issued by the Natural Resources Conservation Services. High tunnels are used as an irrigation system for crop production. This grant helped Smith make improvements to his farm to increase efficiency in growing tomatoes.

But cost-share programs generally require farmers to put up a significant portion of the money. Smith, for instance, provided a third of the cost of building high tunnels. Farmers who can't cover a portion of the costs are unable to install new equipment, which allows wealthier farms to grow much faster than smaller farms.

Universities share best practices

Agricultural colleges and state universities throughout the United States have been offering supportive instructional programs for small farmers for hundreds of years.

North Carolina A&T was founded as a land-grant institution in 1890. The school started on land made available by the federal government for the purpose of making farming accessible to the masses.

"There was a time in this country when most of the education in this

country was for the rich and affluent people," Noble said. "Then there came a point where the government said, 'For us to go forward, we've got to educate the masses.' And so they designated some money and some land for each state to get 30,000 acres of land per congressman in Washington."

N.C. A&T has offered valuable resources to farmers since its early days. One of its primary programs today is demonstration farming.

Small farmers meet with N.C. A&T instructors at demonstration farms to learn how to maximize the potential of their own land. As their farms improve and become exemplary, neighboring farmers can visit their farms and learn about best farming practices. This has allowed the practices taught by N.C. A&T to be shared across all 100 North Carolina counties.

"When people trained by us share with their neighbors, all of their results improve," Noble said. "We're located in the middle of 100 counties. You can't expect people outside of the neighboring three or four counties to take the time to come here."

While N.C. A&T tries to reach a larger target, it remains focused on supporting its surrounding communities through its three to four annual field day workshops. The workshops at its farm help relay information to the state's farmers about how to become more profitable.



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

Smith is among a rapidly declining group of North Carolina small farmers.

Acreage and profits

Noble said some farmers have a misconception that land expansion will allow them to easily generate additional profits because they can increase production.

In reality, land expansion often creates deeper problems, he said, because farmers may not know how to effectively harvest their new land and address new problems as they emerge. This ultimately sacrifices time and attention that could be better spent on existing land holdings.

“When it comes to volume, small farmers are normally at a disadvantage,” Noble said. “A small farmer with limited acreage might try to work more land and then lose money. We work to show him how to get more money per unit and per commodity unit.”

Government and farmer disconnect

Michael Shuman, expert in economics and longtime supporter of the local food movement, helped President Barack Obama draft the Jobs Act in order to stimulate economic growth and increase jobs. But the Jobs Act has faced significant opposition from the Republican Party. Shuman says the deep political division in Washington, D.C., has led to federal programs that are often ineffective at addressing small farming issues.

“State laws are going to be better and more effective than the federal laws because federal law allows long-distance relationships,” Shuman said.

According to Noble, national politicians have become increasingly distanced from agriculture as the United States has become more urbanized.

“When our grandparents were around, a lot of people who were in the legislative branch actually had farm backgrounds,” Noble said. “You had real farmers participating in making rules and regulations for farmers. In this country today about 1.5 percent of us are feeding 98.5 percent. We have farming rules mandated by people who aren’t farming.”

“Their intuition may not be as great. Their understanding is not great. We face challenges because the people who are making decisions for farmers have no idea what farming is like. The disconnect is from the move away from rural areas and into cities.”

Government actions carry significance

While most farmers argue there is too much government regulation, Gerald Dorsett, adjunct professor in environmental science, says it is unfair to categorize regulation as a binary issue.

“A lot of government agencies would have a tendency to say there aren’t enough regulations,” Dorsett said. “The typical farmer is going to tell you that there are. All regulations are not good and all regulations are not bad.”

Redbud Farm underwent an extensive application process to become certified organic, but Smith and Joyner agree regulation of some form is necessary to establish uniform rules and establish reliable small-farm support programs.

“Because we are certified organic, we undergo an annual four-hour inspection to verify that we’re doing what we say we do,” Smith said. “I appreciate that because it gives integrity to the term ‘organic.’ I don’t really have trouble with government regulations. If you’re doing the things you need to be doing, you’re not going to have problems with those.”

Encouraging the public to buy local

The disconnect for farmers extends beyond the government.

Dorsett says one of the first questions he asks students in his community agriculture courses is, “What is farming?” and most people say a farmer’s primary role is caring for livestock. Many students enter his courses unaware of the struggles small farmers face and unaware of the impacts consumers’ behaviors have on agriculture and the people working in the industry.

“If we want to help out the small farmer, we need to become a much more educated society,” Dorsett said. “We have to go back to a philosophy that was strong here until the 1960s: buying local.”

Employees at the Company Shops Market in Burlington work to provide healthy, fresh and local products to customers. The co-op opened in June 2011 with the hope of generating increased revenue for local vendors and changing consumer behaviors to encourage healthy practices.

Company Shops has experienced steady growth since opening its doors, but its progress in competing against local grocery chains such as Harris Teeter, Lowe’s and Food



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

Nancy Joyner packages tomatoes for the Elon’s farmers market. Government assistance has helped Redbud increase efficiency.

Lion and big discount stores such as Walmart and Costco has been gradual.

Company Shops’ 2014 annual report noted a “drawdown on our cash while our current liabilities continue to increase slightly” and concluded: “Both of these trends need to be and can be reversed by increasing sales.”

The co-op’s managers are aiming for additional owners and increased involvement from existing owners. The report noted a disappointing increase in owner spending from 2013 to 2014. In 2013, owner purchases increased \$157,956 over 2012. In 2014, owner purchases increased by only \$8,351 over 2013.

Megan Sharpe, community outreach coordinator for Company Shops, has relied heavily on social media to increase awareness. But she admits there are too many people the co-op has yet to reach.

“We have people living in the apartment building right down the street who still haven’t heard about us,” Sharpe said. “We’re trying to do everything we can to increase awareness. We’ll blast social media and we’ll do emails, flyers and posters. It’s slowly getting out there.”

While Sharpe looks to reach potential customers through visuals, interim general manager Ben Wright relies on interpersonal communication.

Wright and Sharpe argue it is virtually impossible to compete with fast food chains. McDonald’s Dollar Menu currently features a fruit and yogurt parfait, double cheeseburger and chicken nuggets along with much more, whereas the Company Shops deli menu features a variety of sandwiches starting around \$8.

“People eat with their eyes and they eat with their wallet,” Wright said. “It’s a matter of breaking down paradigms with folks and not having to sell them a product but sell them a new viewpoint and getting them to change completely.”

Exploring trending markets is key to small farmer prosperity

Despite the slow progress for many co-op markets in acquiring new customers and in changing

consumer behavior, the demand for fresh, organic local food is gaining momentum.

Consumer demand has grown by double digits every year since the 1990s, and organic sales increased from \$3.6 billion in 1997 to \$39 billion in 2014, according to the Organic Trade Association.

Shuman authored “Going Local” to empower communities like Burlington to revitalize themselves and illustrate how consumers are willing to pay more for quality organic goods.

“People with limited incomes don’t understand the differences between price and value, and frankly, most people don’t understand this difference,” he said. “Basically, no one buys anything simply on the basis of price. If that were true, Starbucks wouldn’t exist. People make their decisions on the basis of value, not just poor people.”

Audience engagement

Although it may be wise for farmers to grow organic goods, it is just as important for them to market their crops effectively.

At Redbud Farm, Nancy Joyner created an email list to garner support and enhance the farm’s rela-

tionship with consumers. She also regularly updates a Facebook page to keep the farm’s followers up to date with the latest crops being brought into farmers markets.

“You can work as hard as you want to but you’ve got to have folks to buy your food,” Joyner said. “You’ve got to pay attention to the relational aspect of getting to know the people.”

Uncertain future remains

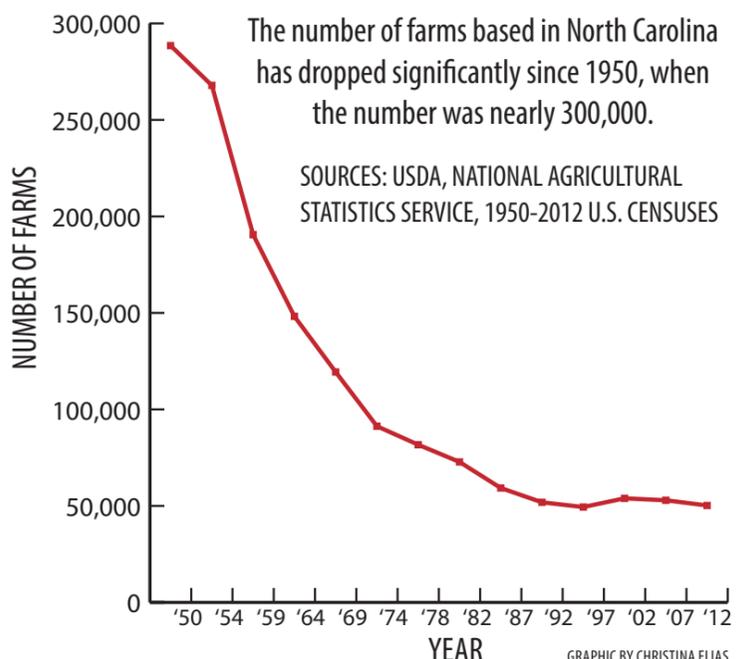
As small farms explore new markets and compete for consumer attention, an uncertain future remains.

The average age of farmers is increasing. The number of small farms is declining. Income inequality is rising. More and more people are moving away from rural areas. Government cost-share programs often require poor farmers to put up money they don’t have.

And despite all these issues, farms like Redbud remain optimistic and look to inspire a younger generation to enter an agriculture industry very much in limbo.

Growing emotional, Smith said, “We want to be an example for young people who think they might want to farm.”

NC FARMERS’ DWINDLING NUMBERS



Elon Cares holds benefit concert

Madison Demmitt
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More than 60 Elon University students and parents gathered inside Yeager Recital Hall Saturday for the 11th annual Elon Cares: Equity Fights AIDS benefit concert.

Directed entirely by Elon students, the program consisted of a variety of vocal and dance performances to help raise awareness and money for AIDS prevention. Funds raised from the concert are going directly to the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, a non-profit organization founded in 1988.

"It's an issue that's still very relevant and close to home for people in this industry, so

"HOW DO I NOT SPEAK WHEN I HAVE A VOICE AND THEY DON'T?"

JACK SMITH
FACULTY SUPERVISOR

that's why it's really important to us," said junior John Henry Ward.

During the concert's two separate acts, 43 performers got up on stage and sang everything from songs from Disney's "Tangled" to numbers from famous Broadway productions.

Between the acts, there was a 10-minute intermission with a raffle to help raise money.

Act two began with a drag performance of the song "Run the World (Girls)" by Beyonce. The number won over a few laughs from students in the audience.

The second act progressed with six more performances highlighted by a solo rendition of Sia's "Chandelier" and a group performance of "Positivity."

Junior Julian Burzynski, assistant director of the benefit concert, said he hoped the performances inspired those in attendance to gain a deeper understanding of the AIDS epidemic.

"The event really helps to bring awareness of how bad it is," he said.

The program concluded with a talk from guest speaker and faculty supervisor Jack Smith.

"I think back on all the kind, generous, giving artists that I graduated with who aren't here and aren't able to speak tonight because of this awful disease," Smith said. "How do I not speak when I have a voice and they don't?"

Smith went on to tell the story of when he first heard of AIDS as a sophomore in high school and how the virus has affected his life as a costume designer in theater.

"You feel helpless like there's not a thing you can do to change any of this," Smith said. "And then something like Broadway Cares comes along so that the world is a better place."

Smith's speech brought him to tears and the audience to its feet.

In 2014, 1.2 million people died from AIDS-related causes worldwide, according to recent data from the United Nations — a 42 percent decline in deaths since 2004. While much progress has been made, Smith recognized those who have suffered and encouraged audience members to appreciate the strides made within the past several years.

"We have come to a much better place, and you all today live in a much better world," he said. "I want you to know that there is a human cost to that. I want you to keep moving forward."



MEGAN KOTTKAMP | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Patrick Mobley performs at benefit concert sponsored by Elon Cares on Jan. 16.

Forum tackles welfare in Alamance County

Madison Demmitt and Michael Somerby
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BURLINGTON — Three weeks ago, Louis Boswell had a home. Now, jobless and all but hopeless, she lives in a cheap Burlington hotel, using her diminishing Social Security payments to keep herself from a life in the streets.

"I am 72. I am a retired senior citizen, but I've worked all my life," Boswell said. "Social Security isn't enough to live on. So I work so that I can keep my car, but working reduces my benefits. And I blew a gasket on the car, so now I can't work. Now, I'm living in a hotel around the corner and I feel trapped."

Boswell, one of more than 100 in attendance at Thursday night's Times-News Community Connections forum at Burlington's Paramount Theater, is representative of the many people affected by poverty and government welfare programs in Alamance County.

Welfare issues were brought to light at the discussion, titled "Re-envisioning Welfare in Alamance County." It was also co-sponsored by the Voices of Welfare project at Elon.

Jason Husser, faculty fellow for civic engagement and assistant professor of Political Science and Policy Studies, moderated the discussion. He was backed by six



HANNAH SILVERS | Managing Editor

Tom Mould, professor of anthropology and head of Voices of Welfare, speaks at Thursday's Times-News Community Connections forum.

other panelists — Allied Churches of Alamance County Executive Director Kim Crawford, Burlington Housing Authority resident Diane Davis, United Way of Alamance County Director of Community Impact April Durr, Elon Professor of Anthropology and Head of Voices of Welfare Tom Mould, Alamance County Department of Social Services Economic Program Services Manager Michelle Poole, Burlington Housing Authority Program Services Director Nikki Ratliff and Open Door Clinic Executive Director

Tracy Salisbury.

"These are topics that are chosen by the community," Husser said. "We really try and get into the weeds of how this issue affects the greater Alamance County."

Husser and the panelists agreed that stereotyping social benefits recipients is a serious issue in gaining public support. The talk was intended to open the door for candid discussion in hopes of debunking some of the myth associated with the community's economic vulnerability.

"I come at the issue as a member of the general public, and see how much stereotyping is done in the media," Mould said. "You'll find that the image of those in need of welfare is different from the statistics. Welfare households, on average, have one to two children and use food stamps for an average of three years."

Many panelists agreed with Mould's call to break away from stereotypes, but also stressed the importance of humanizing those in need of social benefits on the premise they are part of the com-

munity, regardless of socioeconomic status.

"I'm quick to correct people saying 'those people,'" Durr said. "It's us. It's you. It's me. All of us, together, working to solve community problems."

The issue of day-to-day affordability was also discussed by panelists and the audience. The panelists agreed that the majority of people on welfare have jobs, but do not make enough money to sustain themselves.

They feel that the issue here is obvious: People work every day at minimum wage, not even making enough to pay for an average one-bedroom apartment in Burlington.

"In one day, 242 homes had their water turned off in Burlington, making the house unfit for human living," Crawford said. "Maybe we need to raise the minimum wage. People can't afford to live off it."

The statement earned Crawford a standing applause.

A recurring theme was what the average community member can do to tackle the issues of social justice head-on.

Panelists agree the best way to combat poverty is to get involved and then share the stories of the people affected, even if they come from a setting as impersonal as a community event like this one.

"Events like this are important because if one person hears about it, maybe they all will," Crawford said. "It's like a domino effect."

College a breeding ground for religious transitions

Students' faith affiliations evolve over the course of time in college

Lindsey Lanquist and Justin Biegel

Senior Reporter and Reporter
@lindseylanquist and @Justin_Biegel

The car ride wasn't uncomfortable. Instead of being filled with silence punctuated by occasional small talk, conversation flowed freely. College students Cole Hyman and Steven Ebert discussed everything from mutual friends to schoolwork on their brief drive to a local Mexican restaurant.

Hyman was only a few months into his freshman year at Elon University. In high school, his life had resembled a hackneyed movie — he played quarterback for the school football team, dated a cheerleader and spent much of his time wondering how he could be cooler, better. His transition to college seemed effortless. He went out drinking three nights a week and managed to keep his grades up, despite not studying or spending much time on classwork.

Ebert, a senior, had reached out to Hyman at the beginning of the school year. He knew the leader of Hyman's high school Christian ministry group, a group Hyman joined to please his religious mother. Hyman had been reluctant to take Ebert up on his offer, but after growing tired of his shallow, party lifestyle, he figured he might as well and at the least get a free meal.

Their conversation at that small Mexican restaurant was the start of a genuine connection between the two. Talking to Ebert, Hyman saw through the shallow conversations about girls, sports and parties that filled his days, to something he was "longing for without realizing it": religion.

His shift in beliefs reflects a common journey students experience when transitioning into college. Able to consider what they believe independently of their families for the first time, students often find new meaning in religion, leading them to embrace it, like Hyman, or let it move to the back burner of their busy college lives.

Religious transitions: An ongoing process

If nothing else, the beginning of the college experience is marked by novelty and difference. For 82 percent of Elon students it means living in a new state and for 6 percent, living in a new country. It means living on-campus, surrounded by students and away from family, for 62 percent, and it likely means living alone or with peers for the 38 percent who reside off-campus.

Coming to college also brings with it an exposure to a massive and generally diverse student body that — even at a smaller school like Elon, with an enrollment of 5,782 undergraduate students — is more than seven times the size of the average public high school.

Adapting to these changes and accepting the distance from home can be difficult for students, caus-

ing freshman year to be a time characterized by homesickness and struggle for some. For Hyman, this meant breaking down in tears and calling his mother one night in November.

"It looked like I was doing great, but ... I just called my mom and I just started crying," Hyman said. "As humiliating as it is to say that 'I hate this place. I don't like this anymore. This isn't the place for me.' — I just got to this place where it didn't feel right anymore."

"My mom was like, 'You need to stick it out, Cole. I'm praying for you.' At that point, I was like, 'Come on, mom. Are you serious? I don't care.' Honestly, that's what I was thinking. But she was saying I had to stick it out."

A few days later, Hyman decided to take Ebert up on his offer to hang out — something that dramatically changed the course of Hyman's college career. Instead of maintaining the same lifestyle he'd established over those first few months, Hyman began spending his time doing things he found more fulfilling, like building deeper friendships and mentoring students at local high schools.

University Chaplain Jan Fuller said Hyman's journey is not at all uncommon on Elon's campus, or on college campuses as a whole. These moments, she said, are developmental and are entrenched in the factors surrounding the college years: separation from parents, emphasis on critical thinking, challenging coursework and emotional struggles.

"IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS DOING GREAT, BUT ... I JUST CALLED MY MOM AND I JUST STARTED CRYING."

**COLE HYMAN
JUNIOR**

"[This is when] people are beginning to think for themselves. Young men and women are beginning to kind of consider, 'Is this mine? Or is this my mother's or my father's?'" Fuller said. "It's a normal and very natural developmental moment. You leave home. Nobody forces you to do anything. Now you get to think about this for yourself."

Fuller acknowledged the process of questioning and coming to terms with religion can be a threatening one — challenging everyone from the student experiencing the transition to that student's family and friends to religious institutional leaders in that student's life.

Though Fuller has seen some students become so overwhelmed by the dauntingness of religious questions that they resign before resolving their struggles, she

said she's also seen the process be helpful for those who are willing to stick through it.

"We [in this country] haven't taught our children to think about their religion critically. What we've done is we've said, 'Take it,' and we haven't asked them to think about that very hard," Fuller said. "Students get to college, and they have never thought about it ... So rather than — for some people, they dive in, but that's a small minority — most of us then say, 'I'll think about something else for a while, because I don't know how to think about that.'"

'Losing' religion

Though Hyman grew up surrounded by religion, he never felt particularly invested in the Christian belief system. He went through the motions of "being a Christian" — attending church every week and participating in Young Life Christian ministry — but something just didn't click for him.

Now able to reflect on the person he once was, Hyman said he attributes this lack of religious investment to consumption in himself and his ex-girlfriend — someone he said "wasn't a great influence on [his] life." Add to that the fact that the strongest example of a Christian in Hyman's life, his friend's dad, was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease, and Hyman hit what he called the "tipping point."

"It was just hard for me to understand why a guy that claimed to believe in God and all that stuff—why God would let that happen to him," Hyman said. "So that was the point when I said, 'I don't know if this is what I'm going for anymore.'"

Senior Kendall Bair had a very different experience. Bair's parents converted to Christianity when she was in second grade, and their family made a collective commitment to live a Christian lifestyle. That meant praying before meals, attending church every Sunday, participating in youth group, listening to "more wholesome" music and making an effort to invest in their faith. And when it came time for Bair to select a college, she opted for a Christian school — Geneva College.

Being surrounded by Christianity all the time drained Bair and weakened her faith. Her reli-

gion became more of a chore than a choice, and she lost herself in a sea of religious complacency.

"I really enjoyed what I was learning, but there's a certain element of 'you get really bored when you're forced to do it,'" Bair said. "It's no longer like, 'I'm excited about this, because I am choosing to do it.' It's like, 'Oh my gosh, I have to do this every semester.'"

"I have to wake up every day and decide what I believe, rather than just going through the motions because that's what everyone else is doing. And obviously there are times that I question what I believe, but there wasn't space for that at a Christian college. There was no space to ask the hard questions ... when you're in an environment where everyone's like, 'I'm perfect, and I just believe everything blindly.'"

For both Hyman and Bair, a specific set of circumstances led them to stray from their faiths. But for many, "losing" religion is a matter of exercising independence or prioritizing other things. Sophomore Grace Iekel stopped attending mass when she went to college despite her 13-year Catholic school career, because she "wanted to see what [she] wanted to do on a Sunday [instead of] dedicating an hour of [her] life worshiping something that may not even be there."

Fuller said she "took a break" from going to church or participating in religious activities during her first two years of college, simply because that was something she felt she needed to do. She also acknowledged that it may be hard for students to fit religion in at a school like Elon where "everyone has 50 priorities instead of four," but she insisted that those who think it's important will find ways to fit religious practices into their schedules.

Finding or strengthening faith through community

For Bair, renewing her faith meant escaping the complacency by which she felt trapped at Geneva by transferring to Elon her junior year. A new environment gave her opportunities to critically explore her faith and deliberately practice it, which she wasn't able to do within the Geneva community.

"I've gotten to [ask the hard questions] here, and actually I've come right back around to believ-

ing what I believe," Bair said.

She now spends much of her time participating in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, "being poured into" by the other members of the fellowship and "pouring into others" by mentoring younger students.

Community played a significant role in others' faiths as well. For Iekel, maintaining her Catholic beliefs became much harder after leaving her Catholic school.

And Fuller said having friends in the Christian community encouraged her to go to church again and recommit herself to her faith after her two-year break.

For senior Julia David, community made the difference between feeling too awkward to engage in religious conversations and feeling comfortable being herself on a daily basis. David grew up in a Presbyterian household in the middle of "Agnostic Town" — Silicon Valley, California.

"I grew up in an area where atheism was kind of the norm. Whenever I would discuss anything I would immediately get shot down. It is kind of hard to come up against," David said. "I came here, and I had this really cool RA who was very involved in InterVarsity and she was like, 'Well Julia, you're going to come with me.' ... Something just kind of clicked and that's kind of when everything changed."

Now, David participates in InterVarsity regularly and appreciates the opportunities she has to connect with people who have grown up in different religious environments. People who once "seemed very sheltered" to her are now people she regularly interacts with.

"It gave me the opportunity to really understand where they were coming from and to challenge a lot of what they were saying," she said.

And, of course, for Hyman, this sense of community was the product of a conversation in a Mexican restaurant. All it took was one meal for him to realize there were people who genuinely cared how his day was, guys who had fun without drinking and a group of students who invested their time in their faith and in each other.

Ebert paid for that meal and every other meal the two got together for the rest of the year, saying, "Promise me that you will do this for someone too one day."

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LINDSEY LANQUIST
SOURCES: ABCNEWS, HUFFINGTON POST

52% STUDENTS SAID THEY ATTENDED RELIGIOUS SERVICES FREQUENTLY IN HIGH SCHOOL

29% THIRD-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS SAID THEY STILL ATTENDED THESE SERVICES

13% STUDENTS AT FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS RENOUNCED ALL RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

CHEAT
SHEET

Drug problems in NFL



Want a complicated news story explained?
Email pendulum@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

New England Patriots defensive end Chandler Jones (95) is blocked by Miami Dolphins tackle Bryant McKinnie Oct. 27, 2013. Jones was hospitalized Jan. 10.

New England Patriots defensive end Chandler Jones was hospitalized Jan. 10 after suffering a reaction to synthetic marijuana.

The athlete reportedly arrived at the rear entrance of Foxboro's public safety building that Sunday morning, shirtless and anxiously seeking aid from police. Jones was "polite and cooperative," according to a report made by Officer Foscaldo, and was rushed to Norwood Hospital by Fire and Service Paramedics.

Though technically Jones' use of the substance breached none of the NFL's substance abuse policies, it has opened a league-wide debate on what should be done to address the increase in use of synthetic cannabinoids.

What is synthetic marijuana?

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "synthetic cannabinoids refer to a growing number of man-made mind-altering chemicals that are either sprayed on to dried, shredded plant material so they can be smoked (herbal incense) or sold as liquids to be vaporized and inhaled in e-cigarettes

and other devices (liquid incense)."

Related to the chemicals found in marijuana plant species, they are marketed as harmless alternatives to their natural cousin. Despite their legal status, these cannabinoids actually affect the brain more powerfully than those found in marijuana — and with unpredictable effects.

Effects include elevated mood, relaxation, altered perception, psychosis, extreme anxiety, confusion, extreme paranoia and hallucinations. In some instances, the drug proves fatal.

Why synthetic marijuana?

There is widespread belief that synthetic marijuana does not appear on drug tests, an ideal alternative for those under strict substance scrutiny, such as Jones. But this is not necessarily true, proven by Louisiana State University players Tyrann Mathieu, Tharold Simon and Spencer Ware, who tested positive for synthetic cannabinoids in 2011. Regardless, their legal status tempts players to use them, as seen in the case of

New York Jets player Kellen Williams in 2014.

Synthetic marijuana and the NFL

In an excerpt from the NFL's drug policy, the league sets fairly vague standards. According to the policy, players are prohibited from "the illegal use, possession, or distribution of drugs including but not limited to cocaine; marijuana; opiates and opioids; methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA); and phencyclidine (PCP)."

The policy states that players are also prohibited from abusing alcohol, prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs as well. It states that "the use of amphetamines and substances that induce similar effects, absent a verified and legitimate need for appropriate dosages of such substances to treat existing medical conditions, is prohibited."

Given the spike in public popularity, and Jones' recent snafu, the NFL is preparing to take a hard stance on synthetic cannabinoids and make an example of Jones as a reference for future infractions.

Elon Police search West Trolling Avenue house

Officers uncover possession of marijuana during party trash search, no arrests made

Bryan Anderson

News Editor
[@bryanranderson](https://twitter.com/bryanranderson)

Town of Elon Police executed a search warrant Jan. 16 at 309 W. Trolling Ave. after uncovering possession of marijuana during a routine 8 a.m. town ordinance party trash search.

"Every morning, officers come out and look for the town ordinance violations, [including] excessive trash in the yards and they address it by 8 in the morning," said Patrol Lt. Jim Giannotti.

After noticing excessive trash on the West Trolling house's front lawn, an officer approached one of the students in the home and discovered drug paraphernalia on the coffee table. According to Giannotti, the student told the officer he would need to get a search warrant before entering the house.

"The important part was it was a minor violation that turned into having to do a search warrant for minor drug violations," Giannotti said.

While Giannotti could not confirm the identities of the individuals inside the house at the time of the search warrant execution, he said there were students inside. He added no individuals would be arrested at this time.

A police report is scheduled to be made publicly available later this week.

NEWS BRIEFS

New performing arts production premieres Thursday, Jan. 21

Elon's Department of Performing Arts is putting on its production of William Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well" Jan. 21 -24 and Feb. 3-6. Professor Fredrick J. Rubeck, chair of the department, is directing the play, which will take place in the Black Box in Roberts Studio Theatre at Arts West.

The play will be shown 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$13 or free with an Elon ID.

Upcoming winterfaith session to foster discussion of Sikh traditions

From 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. today, members of the Elon community are invited to learn more about the Sikh faith during the latest installment of the Winterfaith Lunch Series. Previous sessions Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 covered Friends (Quaker) and Buddhist beliefs.

The discussion will take place in the Community Life Center at Elon Community Church. Elon students who choose to attend will receive a free lunch. These events are sponsored by the Elon Community Church and the university's Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

Elon announces new director of annual giving

Steve Codner, former associate director of the annual fund at Bucknell University, has been named Elon University's new director of annual giving. He began his duties at Elon Jan. 4.

Codner will lead a team of six people focused on increasing annual giving to the university. His other responsibilities will include reaching out to the Elon alumni community and other demographics with connections to the university.

In addition to his time as director of Bucknell's annual fund, Codner has served as senior manager of annual fund marketing at Bucknell and director of annual giving at Elmira College.

'Tapped Out!' performances Friday, Saturday

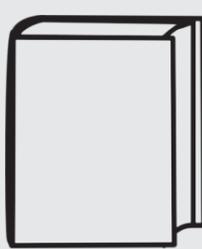
Gene Medler, adjunct instructor in dance will direct faculty and select students in a tap-dancing performance Jan. 22 and 23.

The 2016 Tap ensemble will perform various pieces of tap dance in the Black Box Theatre. The performances will take place at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, then again at 2 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Admission is \$13 or free with Elon ID at the door.

Engage in service during Winter Term

FOUR BRANCHES OF THE ELON KERNODLE CENTER:

 <p>Human Rights Amnesty International</p>	 <p>Affordable Housing Habitat for Humanity</p>
 <p>Mentoring Boys and Girls Club Lunch Buddies Cinderella Project</p>	 <p>Education America Reads ESL Tutoring</p>

Elon University students participate in over 100,000 hours of service.

Elon offers 33 different volunteer programs for students to get involved.

LUCY NORTHUP | Design Editor

HOW WE SEE IT

Students should be using the extra free time they have during Winter Term to engage in service. Through serving our community, we can introduce ourselves to new perspectives and gain a greater understanding of the world we live in.

STAFF EDITORIAL

For many, Winter Term is a time of leisure. Students are only in class for three hours a day, most organizations are not holding meetings and, in general, free time is excessive.

Instead of using this time to catch up on shows on Netflix or taking three naps a day, students should use this invaluable free time to learn more about your peers, your community and yourself by engaging in service.

High involvement in service learning and community engagement is something Elon University has always strived for. The university gives students an abundance of opportunities to get off campus and get in touch with the community, but it is up to students to take these opportunities on.

The Kernodle Center for Service Learn-

ing and Community Engagement is active in creating opportunities for students to get involved in service based on a student's specific area of interest. These different areas of interest include affordable housing, education, mentoring and human rights. Students can participate in service that is linked to their academic discipline, giving them a more hands-on form of education.

Elon also offers a number of study abroad programs during Winter Term specifically tied to service, which are a valuable way to gain both a global experience and complete service simultaneously.

The most beautiful thing about service that many people — especially college-age students — overlook is that we can learn so much about our peers, our community and ourselves while serving others.

Stacey Rusterholz, Campus Kitchen Coordinator for the Kernodle Center, emphasized this fact. Service isn't solely about serving others. Students can actually learn and gain so much by giving back — they just have to try it to see.

"We hope that by serving, students get a better understanding of the community they are a part of," said Rusterholz.

In addition to this, service can give students a better appreciation of diversity and further connect them to those who have had different experiences from them. During this week's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative program, students are invited to "Get On The Bus" to get off campus and engage in service within the community through the MLK Week of Service, sponsored by the CREDE and the Kernodle Center.

On Thursday, Jan. 21, a bus will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. to participate in a Habitat Restore, and on Friday, Jan. 22 a bus will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. to volunteer at the Goodwill Retail Store. Jamie Butler, assistant director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity Education (CREDE),

urges students to get involved with service so they can connect with diverse groups.

"We are all living in this world together," said Butler. "We need to make this world a better place together. For me and as a representative of the CREDE, I am more concerned with students having the opportunity to interact with other students. Service connects people cross-culturally."

This cross-cultural connection is something that is important for Elon students to have. Service is a way to educate ourselves on diverse, underprivileged groups, while simultaneously contributing to a greater cause.

As Winter Term comes to an end, make a promise to yourself and your community to engage in service. Get on the bus this week and learn more about your community. Engage in conversations with those who may be different from you. As Winter Term study abroad applications soon open up, apply for a program with an emphasis on service and service learning. We promise, you will be so surprised to see how much you can get by giving back.

True collaboration in group projects difficult, not impossible

Like many people, I have a strong aversion to group projects. I think we've all had at least one painful experience with group projects during our academic careers.

Obviously there will be exceptions to the rule, but generally, group projects are dominated by the "get-in-get-out" mentality — split up the work at the beginning, each person completes his or her section independently, put each section together the night before it's due and present.

This method may come across to professors as effective in the final product, but could hardly be considered productive in developing an appreciation for collaboration. And speaking broadly, these are still the conceptions of teamwork in the academic sphere that I hold true in my mind. However,

my experiences so far in my Winter Term course this year — "Publishing" — have shown me that strong collaboration is difficult, but not impossible.

Our task for the semester has been audacious and, technically speaking, completely nuts: collectively write a digital book as a

class within three weeks. With only seven students in the class, myself included, I wanted to believe we could pull it off, but I certainly had my reservations. Over the past two weeks of working on this project, though, I believe I've come to learn how true collaboration can be possible and even natural.

Group projects, at their worst, are entirely

too focused on division. The problem is, once certain roles have been distributed, there's often little follow-up. Any problems or concerns a group member might have are often either talked around or completely disregarded.

The problem with many group projects

regularly decide what has been done, what needs to be done and where there might potentially be problem areas.

The reason this type of collaboration isn't utilized more is because it takes a lot of planning and effort to pull off. There's really no room for halfway in this approach — for true success and development, all team members need to be fully invested in making the project not as good as it needs to be, but as good as it can be.

Good collaboration skills, contrary to what you might believe, are extremely important, because they allow us not only to succeed and grow throughout our time in college, but also as we enter our future careers. Although I too remain somewhat bitter over my history with group work, I believe I now have a much greater understanding of how the concept has endured for so long.

Next time you're assigned a group project and you groan a little, consider first what you can bring to your group and how you can improve your collaboration. You might just change your mind.



Tim Melton
Columnist
@elonpendulum

"COLLABORATION AT ITS FINEST IS INCREMENTAL AND INVOLVES CONSISTENT REGROUPING TO DETERMINE THE STATE OF PROGRESS."

Want to share your opinion? Let us know.
Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing
pendulum@elon.edu

THE PENDULUM

Letters must be 350 words or less. Must be signed and submitted in a word document to pendulum@elon.edu. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.

I studied abroad and didn't have the time of my life



Janat Bashir studied abroad with friends last semester in Montpellier, France. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JANAT BASHIR

I know what you're thinking. If, after four months in a beautiful and foreign continent, these are my overarching sentiments, then I clearly did the whole study abroad thing wrong or didn't try hard enough.



Janat Bashir
Columnist
@JanatBashir

It took me a long time to come to terms with the fact that I wasn't having "the best time of my life" during an experience many college kids would describe as "the best times of their lives." I experienced a lot of mental anguish simply over the fact that I wasn't enjoying myself the way I hoped I would or the way I saw others enjoying themselves.

Don't get me wrong. I relish the opportunity to travel and experience new things. Before I left for Montpellier, France, I was excited to enter a new chapter of my life, to gain independence and new worldly views and eat some awesome food. But I did not anticipate overwhelming sentiments of solitude, a lack of personal fulfillment and generally feeling like I was not *carpe-ing* the diem.

I tried my hardest to be excited about everything and everyone around me. I tried to jump at every opportunity to explore the city. I tried to love all the new and strange foods I was eating. I tried to be a person I wasn't so that the people in my small study

abroad group and I would all have the same, awesome experience abroad that people rave about on their blogs and Facebook profiles.

I really tried.

But along the way of trying so hard that I hit a figurative brick wall, I grappled with the notion that maybe I wasn't the same type of person as my peers. Maybe I didn't want to spend every single weekend in another country. Maybe I wasn't interested in eating

"I TRIED MY HARDEST TO BE EXCITED ABOUT EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE AROUND ME."

foods that are weird colors and textures and smells — but that's just because I'm a really picky eater.

If anything I learned from this trip (besides a lot of French), it's that I'm a person who enjoys time by myself. Of course I want to see the world — I just want to see it on my own terms, when not regulated by mandatory Friday-afternoon classes and two-day time crunches. I certainly appreciate tap water and having my own bathroom. My study abroad experience by no means had to be the same as everybody else's — and it wasn't. As hard as that was for me to accept, I eventually did, and I'm a stronger person for it.

Educate yourself on MLK, educate yourself about today

Before taking my Winter Term class this year, IDS224: "Non-Violence and Civil Rights," my classmates and I dreaded learning more about the historic Civil Rights Movement. I didn't believe that I would gain anything new from the class and saw learning the material as an obligation. But, I am happy to say that I was proved wrong — that as I read and engaged, I found there was so



Olivia Ryan
Columnist
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much I still had to learn.

Contrary to my prior belief, the Civil Rights Movement was far more than a

bus boycott and a few marches. Most importantly, the Civil Rights Movement was about more than just civil rights. At its core, the movement was truly about human rights.

I finally understood this when reading the Class of 2019 common reading book, "Why We Can't Wait," for my class. I realized that the civil rights activists were fighting for more than desegregation and the right to vote. They were fighting for the right to simply be seen as human, with the same value of all other humans on this earth.

The right to live is the most basic human right we have. Despite this, it was taken away from American people of color in the early 20th century, and it continues to be taken away from people today through crimes of police brutality as seen in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore and crimes of governmental negligence as seen today in Flint, Michigan.

Opal Tometi, founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, spoke in an interview with Time last year about the importance of recognizing the movement as a human rights movement.

"We understand that the black liberation movement in the U.S. — from its inception as an anti-slavery movement, through the

Civil Rights Era and up to now — has never been only for civil rights," Tometi said. "The movement is a struggle for the human rights and dignity of black people in the U.S., which is tied to black people's struggle for human rights across the globe."

If you look at the Civil Rights Movement as a group of individual, small events, then it is easy to believe that progress has been made. I am not doubting this, but when you view the movement as a human rights one, it is clear that black Americans are simply not granted the same human rights as other Americans.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Even today there still exists in the South — and in certain areas of the North — the license that our society allows to unjust officials who implement their authority in the name of justice to practice injustice

against minorities. Where, in the days of slavery, social license and custom placed the unbridled power of the whip in the hands of overseers and masters, today — especially in the southern half of the nation — armies of officials are clothed in uniform, invested with authority, armed with the instruments of violence and death and conditioned to believe that they can intimidate, maim or kill Negroes

"IT IS CLEAR THAT BLACK AMERICANS ARE SIMPLY NOT GRANTED THE SAME RIGHTS AS OTHER AMERICANS."

with the same recklessness that once motivated the slaveowner. If one doubts this conclusion, let him search the records and find how rarely in any southern state a police officer has been punished for abusing a Negro."

It is unacceptable that this quote reads as if it were taken out of a newspaper today. This type of reality cannot stand as a cultural norm, or something that we never plan to change.

So, Elon students, I have two challenges for you. First, view this fight as one centered around human rights. Try to make the goal bigger, dare to be bolder. And second, educate yourself further on King's fight. Read "Why We Can't Wait" — go beyond what you learned in the classroom. More than 50 years may have passed, but you will be surprised by how relevant his teachings still are.

We are more than just likes

Elite Daily editor Tyler Gildin wrote, "Growing up, two phrases were used to describe your affection: You 'liked' a person, or you 'liked-liked' a person."



Jessica Rapfogel
Columnist
@elonpendulum

skills in the process.

Thanks to social media platforms, especially Instagram, acceptance is now determined by a number. "Like" no longer refers to one's affection for another person, but rather affection toward one's picture.

"Like" has lost its depth and has become a superficial term centered on the click of a button.

Vulnerability surfaces when a picture lacks likes. We fear our social status is at risk, so we delete it before others notice. We question ourselves, desperately searching for what went wrong. We let the fact that people did not double-tap our picture define us. How can we

expect people not to judge us based on numbers if that's how we judge ourselves?

Gaining confidence and social status has become a science. One of my friends even deletes posts that don't get 75 likes in 30 minutes.

"WE LET THE FACT THAT PEOPLE DID NOT DOUBLE-TAP OUR PICTURE DEFINE US."

We time our posts around when our followers are most likely watching. Another student advises to avoid posting mid-day,

as more people are on their phones in the evening after completing the day's obligations.

When we stop and think about our online behaviors it sounds a little crazy. When did our social status stop being defined by our actions and start being defined by our accounts? When did our filters become more influential than our personalities?

We are no longer being true to ourselves, but instead to our followers, constantly worrying about how we appear to them.

We edit our pictures to make our faces thinner, our stomachs slimmer and our butts bigger. We distort ourselves to the point where the person in the picture no longer matches the person in the mirror, all in hopes of meeting society's unrealistic standards and finally feeling as if we belong.

We can't post a picture before it goes through Skinny App, Perfect 365 and any other editing application stashed in our smartphone. But if we don't post a picture of our night out, did it really happen? Even in a room with our closest friends, you are only having fun if your 800 followers know about it.

We are college students. We've shared our toys, endured our dreaded awkward stages, and survived the ridiculous — but ever-present — high school drama. We persevere, we mature and we work to make a difference. It's time we recognize who we are, embrace our diversities and learn that we are way more than just a number.

WICKED
from cover

ditions and shows. She performed in the national tours of “Flashdance” and “Newsies” and in “Duck Commander Musical” in Las Vegas.

Making her Broadway debut

After auditioning for ‘Wicked,’ Mason had a series of callbacks — one of which consisted of an a cappella work session over Skype while she was visiting her family in Nashville — before booking the role. She experienced quite a bit of nerves throughout the process.

“I think with any audition there should always be a healthy amount of nerves because that means you care about it, and for me I really cared about ‘Wicked’ because it was my dream role,” Mason said. “There was definitely a significant amount of nerves, but you push through that and use it to fuel your performance.”

Since booking the role two months ago, Mason had two weeks of rehearsals and has been on stage five times as a standby role. Mason does not perform every night but is “on call” backstage, and is the first person to go on if Glinda can’t perform or something goes wrong.

Mason still finds playing her dream role surreal.

“I remember my first perfor-

mance coming down in the bubble, which is how Glinda makes her entrance, and I still couldn’t believe I was doing it,” Mason said. “When I did it I thought it would sink in, but honestly it hasn’t yet. It’s such a whirlwind.”

Since Mason is often “on call” watching backstage, she needed to get creative on developing and preparing to play her character. Without being on stage every night, it is harder for Mason to make the same discoveries from audience reactions.

Instead Mason develops her character by watching someone else do it on stage, practicing on her own or rehearsing with the Elphaba standby.

“The girl who’s playing Glinda, Kara Lindsey, is such a phenomenal actor, performer, woman and comedian that I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to watch her every night,” Mason said.

Mason believes that as a standby she can’t do a completely different version of Glinda and needs to execute the role in a similar way so she doesn’t throw everyone else off on stage. But, she does still put her own twist on the role.

After landing the role, Mason immediately moved to the city and loves being able to establish a life outside the show compared to moving frequently with national tours.

“Touring productions are great for the entire country to see Broadway quality productions but I think there’s something special about being

on Broadway,” Mason said. “It just feels like it’s the top, the ultimate.”

Mason is in love with New York and all it has to offer. She also loves the Elon community there and the ability to see her former classmates perform.

Preparing for the stage

Through auditioning Mason has learned to overcome rejection by understanding that even though an audition is going well, there are still a lot of talented people in New York going for the same role.

Often times, she said, actors don’t necessarily fit the role — they could be too short, too tall, too fat or too skinny — so there are many factors out of their control.

“It’s important to remain sane,” Mason said. “You prepare your best and go into the room, leave everything on the table and then get ready for the next audition because if you obsess over every audition you would drive yourself nuts.”

She does this by preparing for the next audition on her bus ride home to upstate New York and keeping an audition journal filled with feedback from various auditions.

Mason accounts part of her success to Elon’s musical theater program, which gave her the opportunity to find an agent and perform in shows like “Crazy for You,” “Hair” and “110 in the Shade.”

She also believes Elon allowed her to develop herself as an actress by becoming involved outside the musical theater program.

“I think Elon’s program is so strong,” Mason said. “I love that Elon is a liberal arts school with conservatory-style training. I think it’s great that you’re studying math and science and psychology right alongside singing, dancing and acting because I think well-rounded people make well-rounded performers.”

By taking classes outside of the musical theater program, Mason believes students are more prepared to play roles like a doctor or psychologist because often times they will not be playing the role of an actor.

While at Elon, Mason was taught by Catherine McNeela, professor of performing arts who at the time was

head of the musical theater department. She felt that McNeela helped her grow as a performer.

“The very first day I taught her voice she announced to me that her goal was to be Glinda on ‘Wicked on Broadway,’” McNeela said. “I said, ‘Oh my God, dream big. Let’s get to work.’ She’s a very hardworking student, really genius in spirit and that combined with hard work got her far.”

McNeela believes that Mason’s success comes from not only her talent, but mostly from her hard work and generous spirit.

Bringing it full circle

Though Mason has only performed the role a few times, she has received ongoing support from friends, family and fans.

On Dec. 22, Mason’s mom arranged for McNeela and other friends and family to attend one of her shows, filling up the center of the theater sporting pink boas and ties — Mason’s favorite color — as a surprise.

Mason was shocked as she saw a sea of pink support as she entered the stage

coming down in the floating bubble.

“I was sitting in the sixth row center,” McNeela said. “It was surreal because her role is huge. She was fabulous. I laughed, I cried. It was incredible.”

Mason has also watched many aspects of her life come full circle as she plays the role that encouraged her to pursue musical theater.

For example, when Mason first met Kennedy Caughell ’12 her freshman year, they sang “Defying Gravity” together in Yeager Recital Hall. Since then it has become their dream to play Glinda and Elphaba together.

Though they are not performing together, Mason was there when Caughell got the call that she was cast as the Elphaba understudy on tour, and the two hope they will perform the song together someday.

They continue to support one another, and Caughell even took an unpaid personal day from the tour to fly to New York and see Mason perform on Broadway.

“It’s been sweet to encourage each other of following our dreams,” Mason said. “It’s pretty cool to make your Broadway debut and getting to play my dream role.”

“IT’S PRETTY COOL TO MAKE YOUR BROADWAY DEBUT AND GETTING TO PLAY MY DREAM ROLE.”

GINNA CLAIRE MASON
ELON ALUMNA ’13



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GINNA CLAIRE MASON
Ginna Claire Mason, right, was surprised when her friend Kennedy Caughell ’12, who plays Elphaba’s understudy on tour, came to her show.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GINNA CLAIRE MASON

Ginna Claire Mason signs autographs after performing as Glinda in ‘Wicked’ on Broadway. She has been on stage five times in the past two months.





Going Greek: Mykonos Grill

Lea Silverman
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Six years ago, Steve Papakostas saw that there was a gap in the variety of food available to the Burlington community. There were plenty of American food restaurants and chains, but nothing that resembled the food that Papakostas loved to make.

Living in Kernersville — which has a large Greek community — Papakostas noticed the absence of Greek food in Burlington. So Mykonos Grill, a restaurant also found in Gibsonville, Salisbury and Concord, made

another home in Burlington.

Patty McCauley, a Burlington native who had never eaten Greek food before Mykonos Grill, has been working at this location since it opened and has moved up to the role of manager. In that time, she has watched the restaurant transform from a small, casual Greek restaurant to something much more to the Burlington community.

Though the menu hasn't changed much, the food has been in such high demand that the original space the restaurant occupied was not able to accommodate all of the customers who flocked to try the newest fad on the Burlington restaurant circuit.

Most food trends fade out, but for Mykonos Grill, the hype continues to this day.

"We took over the space next to us last year because we were getting more business than our building could physically handle," McCauley said. "It has helped tremendously. We are still filling it up. It is wonderful."

The physical space of Mykonos Grill is split into two sections and has a very casual feel. The space is set up like a classic New York deli, with a counter that patrons walk up to order at and plenty of booths and tables to fill the space. But at Mykonos, there are flavorful souvlaki and tzatziki sauce instead of thinly sliced deli meats and brown mustard or mayo.

During lunch hours, everyone from construction workers to lawyers look to Mykonos Grill to enjoy the flavorful grilled Greek food. McCauley said though the crowd that comes into Mykonos varies, everyone has something in common: they are looking for some good food.

"We get a mix of everyone," McCauley said. "We do get a lot of Elon students, mostly at nights and on the weekends. We do get people even from Graham and Greensboro coming in. We see everybody."

Other than just a few menu additions, like calamari and a fried cheese appetizer called saganaki, Mykonos Grill has stuck to its roots with Greek classics like gyros, souvlaki and baklava.

"Mykonos is conveniently close, and unlike a lot of restaurants in Burlington, their food is light, nutritious and unique," said sophomore Molly McAdam. "Their spanakopita is truly delicious."

GUIDE TO GREEK CUISINE

Baklava: a phyllo pastry filled with chopped nuts and soaked in honey

Moussaka: combination of baked eggplant, potato, tomato, zucchini and spiced ground beef

Saganaki: a fried cheese appetizer made in a special type of frying pan

Souvlaki: chunks of meat, usually pork or chicken, that are grilled and served in a pita with tzatziki sauce

Spanakopita: a phyllo pastry stuffed with spinach and feta cheese

Tzatziki: a sauce made of yogurt, cucumbers, and garlic, with some olive oil, salt and sometimes lemon juice and dill

Mykonos Grill is proud of the reputation that comes from the quality of its food. The restaurant focuses on providing a "taste of Greece" in a fresh and healthy way.

Mykonos Grill, located on 2253 S. Church St., Burlington, is open 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The lunch crowd makes up a majority of their customers as there are different lunch combinations offered every day.



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor

A classic gyro, a thin sliced blend of beef, lamb and spices in a pita with tzatziki, is found at Mykonos Grill.

'Luctus: A Teen Drama' where people are people

Allie Dietz
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The past year saw changes and advocacy for gender equality and acceptance, a topic largely hidden from the public dialogue until now. With public figure Bruce Jenner making her transition into Caitlyn and Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds provoking the conversations of gender-neutral names by naming their daughter James, gender is becoming more of a hot topic.

At Elon University, students, using their classwork and campus resources, have brought a great deal of visibility to the forefront of equality, with a prime example being "Luctus: A Teen Drama," a YouTube show created by senior Valerie Reich and junior Darius Moore.

The show was written so that the main characters were scripted using gender-neutral names like Charlie, Noa, Alex, Jamie and Riley. The creators felt this was a way to build the characters' true selves, allowing them to develop as people regardless of their gender. These unisex names do not strike a masculine or feminine connotation.

Reich said she and Moore went into writing the script with the same idea that "people are people," and by assigning non-gender specific names they were able to look at the characters without preconceived notions of how they should or should not act based on their gender.

"Luctus" is filmed on campus with juniors George Whitaker and Fergie Philippe-Auguste and seniors Caleb Albert, Monica Poston and Kelsey McCabe as the main charac-

ters. The pilot of the show, the only episode out, centers around on the lives of these five students at fictional Luctus University.

To create the first episode, the cast spent a while developing their characters and becoming comfortable with one another.

"We spent a few days on set, which was unusual for me since I'm used to sets only being four hours," McCabe said. "This extra time really helped us become familiar with our characters and build relationships with the other cast and crew members."

Reich said the main goal going into the pilot was to make it as dramatic as possible. This whole episode is filled with relationship and friend drama to make the plot relatable to students.

"There's a scene I have with George Whitaker, talking about mixed vibes from crushes that we've all felt," McCabe said. "The fact that George's character felt the same way made me connect with the gender neutrality concept. Anyone, regard-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VALERIE REICH

Juniors Fergie Philippe-Auguste and George Whitaker play characters with the gender-neutral names Riley and Jamie.

"SUBCULTURES SHOULD MAINTAIN THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL CULTURAL IDENTITY, BUT OVERALL WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE A MORE INCLUSIVE HUMAN POPULATION."

VALERIE REICH
SENIOR

less of gender, can go through the relationships and issues we face in this show."

Historically, gender has been the

basis on which societal structures are formed. With this new gender-neutral naming, some social structures are straying away from the norm and are allowing gender to be a less significant feature of a person. This is something that "Luctus" creators

were aiming for — to have characters whose names did not have to conform to restrictive stereotypes.

Though this trend of neutral

naming seems to be a new movement, Michael Giordano, a psychotherapist and licensed clinical social worker from Washington, D.C., who specializes in gender identity, calls it a newer cultural phenomenon and suspects it's been around for a long time, but has been kept very quiet and private.

The gender-neutral trend can give people a kind of non-restrictive independence that gendered names do not.

Giordano thinks the idea of "Luctus" is fascinating and original.

"I haven't heard of anything like it," he said. "I suspect it would be of comfort to gender-neutral people who feel alone as well."

Helping to eliminate these preconceived notions about who a person is and what he or she stands for is something the show's creator Reich wanted to bring to the forefront. This story line opens up dialog in so

many other areas — the idea of gender-neutral naming is the first step to reassuring people to have the courage to be true to themselves.

"Subcultures should maintain their own individual cultural identity, but overall we should strive to become a more inclusive human population," Reich said.

Giordano agrees that in the face of a judging culture, belief in oneself is something to be admired.

Focusing on her goals of equality, Reich is hoping her story "Luctus" will open doors for gender-neutral people, to help others understand the challenges and help gender-neutral people not feel so alone.

As of now, a second episode has not been shot.

"This was one of my favorite projects I've worked on at Elon and it ends on such a cliffhanger," McCabe said. "I hope we get to continue working on this project."

New year, new 'Tapped Out!'

Lucia Jervis
Senior Reporter
@elonpendulum

Elon University's annual tap performance "Tapped Out!" is back with surprises and rhythms from all over the world. This show has several tap pieces, each telling a different story and evoking different feelings within the audience.

The show is directed by Gene Medler, adjunct instructor in dance, who choreographed two pieces in the show. But different from other years, students this year also choreographed some of the numbers.

Dancers were chosen for numbers by taking into account their different strengths.

"The show just forms itself," Medler said. "It's a resolve of the different likes and dislikes and desires that the dancers bring to the show. I have a preconceived idea of what I want to do for my two dances. We don't really say, 'This is our show and this is how it's going to go.' We kind of find out who we have and we mold the show from there."

The dancers of "Tapped Out!" are both new and returning performers. Junior Dan Lusardi has been invited by Medler to perform in "Tapped Out!" for the second time. He has been tap dancing since he was 11, and even as a musical theater major he still manages to take one of Medler's tap classes every semester.

Lusardi is choreographing his own piece for the show. Using the song "Something" by The Beatles, he took aspects of the classic-rock

hit into a song he can tap to.

"It's cool because I just took the baseline and then some of the drums," Lusardi said. "It's very rhythmic. Maybe that will be the highlight of the show, but no promises."

Each number has a different tone, even the two numbers Medler choreographed, the opening number has Peruvian and Cuban rhythms whereas the other is a bebop piece.

Senior Jillian Hannah believes the first number will captivate the audience. The dance follows the rhythm of a Cajon, a wooden drum.

"We split into three groups and we're each tapping a different rhythm," Hannah said. "My group starts and we do this one rhythm, and then we bring it all together and do it all at the same time."

There will be some audience interaction throughout the performance so the audience feels a connection with the dancers.

During the last number, the dancers will teach audience members a simple tap dance so everyone can participate.

"At the end we always do the shim-shim which is that one tap dance that anybody who's ever taken tap knows," Hannah said.

Hannah believes this interactive number is just as good as the challenging opening dance because it brings everyone together.

"I love that we finish with the shim-sham," she said. "Honestly, I think it's the greatest part of the show, because like here we are doing all this crazy stuff, and then you finish it with the dance that every-



Senior Rachel Ingersoll rehearses her number for 'Tapped Out!' with director Gene Medler for their show starting Friday, Jan. 22.

body learns and that everybody knows."

According to Lusardi, this performance is completely different from all of the other dance shows at Elon.

"It's the only thing like this on campus all year," he said. "It's just really cool how much work they can all get done in just two and a half weeks. I hope it impacts the audience. Maybe it will inspire someone to take a tap class. It's not too late to start. I just hope that they gain an appreciation for the art form because it's hard. It's hard work."

Shows will run Friday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Saturday Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.



Students rehearse the tap numbers they choreographed themselves.

Winter Stock Theater presents Shakespeare's problem play

Alexandra Schonfeld
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With its premiere only days away, the cast and crew of this year's Winter Stock Theater production of William Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well" is making the final touches to bring the classic play to life.

"All's Well That Ends Well" tells the story of unrequited love and what a young woman is willing to go through to win the love of her life.

Each year, Elon University's performing arts department offers the course "Winter Stock Theater," which combines both a class and preparation for the full-length show.

The actors are cast before November so they have time before the rehearsal period to memorize lines. Actors have been working eight hour days since the start of Winter Term.

"All's Well That Ends Well" is one of Shakespeare's lesser-known works, which director Fred Rubeck, professor of performing arts and chair of the department of performing arts, said has worked to the actors' advantage.

"It's kind of cool to think about one of the most famous playwrights and bringing one of his lesser known pieces to life," Rubeck said. "It's the kind of freedom that gives us because it doesn't carry all the same baggage that the more famous ones do. We've been able to make it our own."

The script has not been changed aside from some line cuts, which most directors do when working with Shakespeare to adapt it for modern audiences.

Instead of completely changing the litera-



Winter Stock Theater's 'All's Well That Ends Well' is set in the early 20th century instead of the 1600s.

ture, Rubeck has chosen to set the play in the early 20th century in Europe between World War I and World War II.

This change will be reflected in the set and costumes the actors wear.

"The play has a lot of issues about men and women and women's rights, so the idea of early 20th century and women's rights and suffrage has become a lot more of a hot button topic around the world, which made it a decent time for the show," Rubeck said.

Senior Hunter McCormick, who plays The Countess, one of the leading roles in the show, said the alterations allow the audience to connect more with the story.

"The great thing about Shakespeare is you really can change it and it just adds to the interest of the audience seeing the play and to the interest of the actors doing the play," Mc-

Cormick said.

Junior Olivia Richardson, who plays Helen, the heroine of the play, said the adjustment takes one of Shakespeare's more difficult plays and makes it less complicated.

"The language is a little bit more difficult, the story is a little more complicated than usual," Richardson said. "Moving it up in time brings it more into the now."

"All's Well That Ends Well" is considered one of Shakespeare's "problem plays" because it is neither a comedy, romance or tragedy — it falls somewhere in between. This ambiguity brings about many questions that many playwrights oftentimes just hand over to the audience.

"We found very human flaws among the whole cast of characters," Rubeck said. "Here's a young woman who is in love with a young

man who doesn't love her back and the ends to which she goes to win him. Some of the things we look at and say, 'Well I'd have you at the judicial hearing board' because it's stalking and things like that from a modern viewpoint. While you root for her, you think, 'Well, that's kind of creepy.'"

Usually by the end of a play, the audience understands the moral of the show. But "All's Well That Ends Well" is more perplexing.

"This one you get to the end, even the title, the idea of the ends justifying the means is a really questionable viewpoint," Rubeck said. "That's a very modern sensitivity to leave those loose ends and allows us to talk about what happened and what it meant, rather than wrapping it up in a neat, little package."

The unusually restricted amount of time the actors were presented with to prepare for this show did nothing but heighten the experience for both actors and director.

"I think the work just has to happen faster, and we have to trust each other more that there was work done before coming into rehearsals," Richardson said. "But I think it's a great experience to do it at such an accelerated pace because you're there and you're in it everyday, which is every actor's dream — to be doing that and not anything else."

Though the show has been more difficult than previous Shakespearean shows, the cast and crew tackled the challenges.

"[It's] a problem play," Rubeck said. "But I hope we enjoy the problem."

Performances will be on Jan. 21-24 and Feb. 3-6 at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Black Box in Roberts Studio Theatre.

One last chance to travel

Students choose to spend part of senior year abroad

Miranda Siwak
Senior Reporter
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Senior Sydney Harris arrives at The Oak House and immediately goes to order a cup of tea. Sipping it, she notices how it in no way compares to afternoon tea she had daily during her past semester in London.

Harris was one of more than 100 Elon University students studying at the Elon Center in London, England, as part of Foundation for International Education's (FIE) international study program in the fall. Harris was one of only a few seniors in the entire Elon program — almost everyone else was a sophomore or junior.

"One of the reasons I went to Elon was study abroad, and I would have regretted not going," Harris said. "I knew it would be an experience that I'd love. I knew I had to take a fifth year and I knew I'd still have senior spring and time left after returning."

Though Elon's Study Abroad online application allows seniors to apply, there is a stigma of studying abroad for a full semester during senior year and missing out on part of the last year at school.

"I think it's the social norm to go abroad as a junior," Harris said. "It's the year you are established at school and could leave and then come back to friends and have a year of final growth, while senior year is focused more on postgrad. The mindset of seniors is looking ahead and enjoying the now. Study abroad is a new experience, and senior year is about finishing what you already started."

For Harris, the timing just worked out for her to study abroad during her senior fall, as she spent Winter Term during her junior year on the GBL 262: "Gutenberg to Web" program to London, Germany and Prague. Another senior, Lane Deacon, chose the Elon in London program during her senior year as well to live in a new culture and explore Europe and England.

"I really wanted to go abroad because I had never been out of the country before," Deacon said. "I chose London from the options because it offered an internship. I didn't know if I'd be able to fit it in and graduate on time, and then I applied and got in."

When participating in an Elon program, many of the students know several friends going — people to travel to new places and to room with. But, since the program is mostly sophomores and the juniors, several of the seniors come in without knowing other students younger than them.

"I came in not knowing anyone, which is different from juniors and sophomores, who come with their class," Harris said. "I wanted to keep an open mind because I realized that I was missing part of my senior year. I wanted to make sure my experience was worthwhile and I wanted to make friendships and connections with

people I hadn't before."

Once abroad, students become closer as they experience living in a city, a new country and living on their own. Strangers become flatmates in a foreign country.

For Deacon and Harris, it was comforting to meet people and make friends to help make their global experience worthwhile, especially coming in without knowing other students from other studies or classes.

"Going in, I was nervous because I didn't know anyone going and I did random for my roommates," Deacon said. "When I was there, I made some really good friends and we bonded. Age wasn't really a factor that much over there."

One of the major reasons that deter students from studying abroad as a senior is the fear of missing their last semesters at Elon and the traditions held on campus. But, if studying abroad and traveling is truly a passion, the benefits can outrank any longing for one last memory on campus for one semester.

Instead these traditions are traded for a new experience.

"I was really worried when I first left about FOMO (fear of missing out), and there were times I saw things my friends posted online, but I think my experience abroad outweighed my nostalgia for Elon," Harris said. "Living abroad you get to embrace a culture than if you are just visiting and are able to gain a global perspective. The little things I missed out on like the N.C. State Fair, but I got to go to Italy for fall break, sacrificing the smaller things for newer experiences."

As a senior, Deacon admits that age is not a factor in anything between participants, except she had more previous work experience for an international internship.

"You don't have to be a sophomore or junior to travel," Deacon said. "I'm going to travel for the rest of my life. I think I had more fun studying abroad than I would have if I stayed [at Elon] my senior year. I know I had a total blast in London for four months and I wouldn't have traded

it for anything."

Though she missed her friends, who she now has one semester left with, Deacon was able to keep in touch with them through Skype and Facebook, so it wasn't unbearable.

Harris, though currently a senior, plans to take a fifth year at Elon to finish up her studies. Her decision to study abroad did impact her reasoning to stay at Elon for an extra year. But for her, studying abroad was worth missing one semester on campus.

"If I graduated in four years, I still would go abroad [my senior year]," Harris said. "Ultimately, I would have wanted to sacrifice one semester at Elon for a trip abroad. If I didn't study abroad, I wouldn't stay an extra year, but it's definitely worth it."

During her fifth year, Harris plans to travel again for Winter Term, either on a winter program or independently. Deacon said it doesn't matter when you go abroad, as long as you make the time to at some point because it is such a unique experience.

Harris said how going abroad as a senior isn't ideal, and it's nice to be able to have

more time at Elon to be with your new friends that you traveled internationally with. Going abroad with a school program has given both new and lifelong friends something that occurred as they embarked on new adventures together.

"I think the experience I had was more than I could ever ask for and the people I met made it so much greater," Harris said. "I became closest with other Elon people and being also able to see the London, experience from a Londoner perspective enhanced my semester abroad."

Studying and traveling abroad seem to be well worth the semester away from campus, even if it's during senior year. It is the chance for an adventure of a lifetime and to explore new cultures and new locations — one last memory of college that will be impossible to forget.

"It makes the last year of college awesome," Deacon said. "I'd recommend going abroad any year, it doesn't matter when as long as you go. It does suck that I made all these great friends and now I have to leave — if you go as a junior, you'll get more time with them. I'm lucky to have gone abroad anyway."

"IT MAKES THE LAST YEAR OF COLLEGE AWESOME. I'D RECOMMEND GOING ABROAD ANY YEAR, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN AS LONG AS YOU GO."

LANE DEACON
SENIOR



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LANE DEACON

Though she missed a few Elon traditions, senior Lane Deacon does not regret studying abroad last fall.

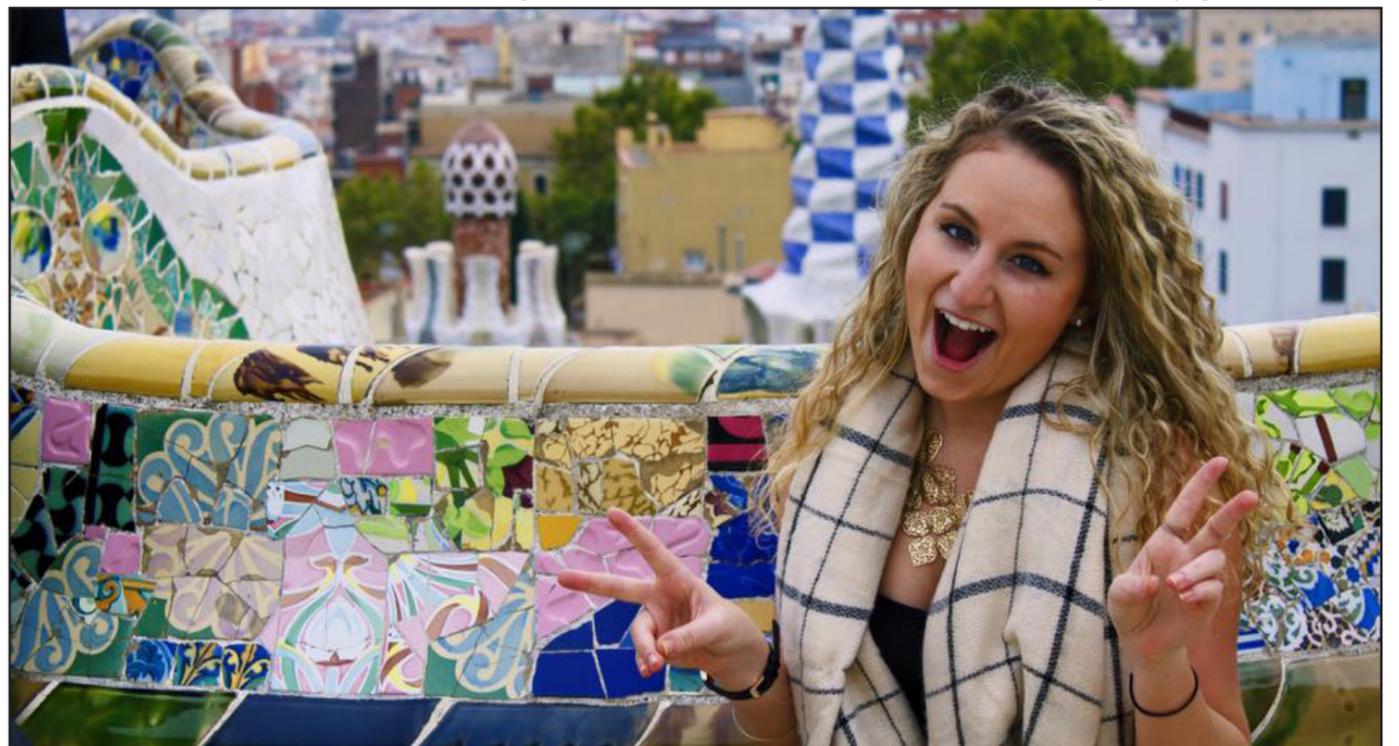


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LANE DEACON

While abroad in London the fall of her senior year, Lane Deacon had the opportunity to travel to other foreign cities like Barcelona.

With stout preparation, freshman sees success

Santa Ana's brilliant high school career prepared him for quick success at Elon

Alex Simon
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Elon University men's basketball coach Matt Matheny finished his interviews after the team's Jan. 9 loss to Hofstra University just more than 20 minutes after the game ended.



Steven Santa Ana

Matheny walked out of the interview room and was greeted by one of his team managers catching shots and passing to an Elon player, still wearing his game shorts and undershirt.

Freshman guard Steven Santa Ana was back shooting, focusing particularly on the corner in front of the Elon bench. Santa Ana missed two shots late in the game against Hofstra from that corner, both of which would have pulled Elon tied to or ahead of the Pride. Taking those late-game, high-pressure shots brought a smile to Matheny's face — even if he missed them.

"You love it," Matheny said. "When he took the shots in the corner, I was thrilled — not at all surprised, because he's confident — because I know he's taken that shot hundreds of thousands of times. We know how hard he works, and when a guy works that hard, you give him a lot of freedom."

Santa Ana only scored four points against Hofstra, down from his back-to-back career-high nights against Drexel University (18 points Jan. 2) and James Madison University (19 points Jan. 7), both wins. The shots after the game come out of a deep-rooted competitive nature that drives Santa Ana.



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Elon freshman guard Steven Santa Ana drives to the hoop against Hofstra University Jan. 9. Santa Ana scored a career-high 19 points Jan. 7 at James Madison University.

"I don't know if the shots come out of a love of basketball or the hate to lose," Santa Ana said. "I don't like to lose at all. I want to do everything I can to make sure me and my team don't lose. That means getting up extra shots to compete at the highest level."

Spotted early by a familiar face

Santa Ana played for Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte, but his talent was evident before he even got to high school.

Ardrey Kell coach Mike Craft said he first heard about Santa Ana from a familiar figure.

"Coach [Bob] McKillop at Davidson [College], a la Coach Matheny who was on staff at Davidson when Steven was in seventh grade," Craft said. "Coach McKillop texted me after a camp

and said, 'Steven Santa Ana is going to be a nice player for you at Ardrey Kell.' And he was only in seventh grade."

Craft then saw Santa Ana himself in eighth grade and immediately recognized his ability, bringing him onto the varsity squad as soon as he got to the school. Santa Ana became a starter midway through the season, with one game in particular standing out to Craft.

"He scored the last nine points in a game, and he hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left to win the game in a Christmas tournament at Bojangles Coliseum," Craft said. "We had been down six points and he scored three the old-fashioned way, hit a three, and somehow we got the ball back, and he hit a three in the corner to win the game. Kinda knew then that he was special."

Blossoming into a high school star

Santa Ana missed one game throughout his four years at Ardrey Kell, even though Craft said he tried to play in that one game as well. After riding the ups and downs of being a freshman on varsity, Santa Ana shined his sophomore year, averaging 18.4 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. He was named Player of the Year in the 4A Southwestern Conference in 2013.

Craft recognized multiple traits in Santa Ana that made him stand out from the beginning.

"Physically, he had a lot of grinding to do, but skill-wise, playing hard, and his sixth sense about basketball — his basketball IQ is through the roof — and his competitiveness is something I don't think I've ever seen in a kid, and I've been coaching 26 years," Craft said.

Santa Ana continued to play well his junior year, averaging 17.5 points per game and placing second in Player of the Year voting. He was

named to the All-District and All-Conference teams.

Last game leaves lingering pain

The three years of quality play led to the best season in school history in his senior year, as Ardrey Kell went 28-2 on the way to a state championship game appearance. In Santa Ana's four years at the school heading into the final game, the Knights had won 84 games.

Against Garnet Magnet at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Dean Smith Center, Santa Ana played the game of his life, scoring 33 points in the second half en route to a 44-point performance, breaking the record for most points in a state title game.

"Everything that he got was in the flow in the game and within our system," Craft said. "I didn't realize that he had 44 — I knew he had a bunch, but I didn't know it was 44."

Santa Ana shot 13-26 from the field (5-13 from deep) and 13-15 from the free throw line, but don't remind him about his strong individual performance.

All he cares about is the result of the game, which was a 70-64 loss for the Knights.

"The team lost," Santa Ana said. "At the end of the day, I don't have a ring and it's an 'L' in the books, so ... that's it."

Deciding on Elon

Despite the sour ending, Santa Ana's was named All-State, All-District, All-Conference and 4A Southwestern Conference Player of the Year. Craft doesn't hold back when talking about his departed star.

"Best player we've ever had," Craft said. "He's a Knight. He's a Knight forever."

Santa Ana committed to Elon in September 2014, before his senior

season. For the coach who recognized Santa Ana's talent all the way back in seventh grade, the process of getting Santa Ana to Elon was enjoyable.

"It was fun to recruit Steven and to watch him in his high school career," Matheny said. "His team was expected to be very good — and they played in a lot of big games — and to watch him play in those big games and perform well or to perform adequately and willingly was enjoyable. I knew he would bring that type of confidence and aggressive mentality to Elon."

Matheny was in attendance at the state championship game and saw the culmination of the recruiting process unfold in the final high school game.

"It was great to be there when he has a game like that on such a big stage," Matheny said. "We had already signed him and we knew he was coming here, so we had confidence in his talent. But as we got to know him, we found out that he fits here. He's an Elon man. He's a good person first."

Santa Ana got to play his first collegiate game for Elon in his hometown, playing 12 minutes for Elon at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

"I had a lot of people in there," Santa Ana said. "I had a little extra nerves — first college game, not knowing what to expect on top of playing back in the hometown."

Santa Ana didn't score in the game, one of only two such games this season. He's averaging 9.1 points per game through 19 games, and the total has steadily risen during conference play. This comes as no surprise at all to those who see him most often, like Matheny.

"He works — the more you work, the harder you work, the more confidence you get," Matheny said. "He's in the gym all the time, even after games. He works hard, and as a result, he's very confident."

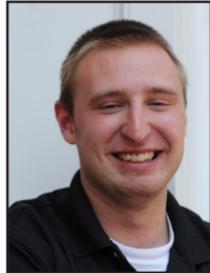


ALEX SIMON | Sports Editor

Santa Ana prepares to shoot 20 minutes after Elon's 80-76 loss to Hofstra Jan. 9.

With youth, Elon poised for postseason run

The Elon University women's tennis team may not look experienced just by glancing at its roster.



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist
@T_Hamzik

There's just one senior and one junior.

But five vital sophomores return, and the Phoenix figures to be in the top tier of Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) teams once again.

Last year, in its inaugural campaign in the league,

Elon secured the No. 3 seed in the CAA Tournament and advanced to the semifinals before falling to No. 2 seed College of Charleston, 4-1.

While Barbora Lazarova, a key player on that team, is gone, the Phoenix returns its five other singles starters — four of those being sophomores.

Last year, freshmen accounted for 48 of Elon's 62 singles victories.

Kirsten Ward and Olivia Lucas, Elon's No. 1 and No. 2 players from a year ago, are set up for a run at CAA Player of the Year nods.

Sophomores Erica Braschi and Kamilla Beisenova and senior Taylor Casey also return to the lineup for the Phoenix.

"They're one of the hardest-working teams I've coached since I've been here," said head coach Elizabeth Anderson.

The frustrating part about the CAA not having a regular season schedule is the fact that there isn't a concrete way to measure one's team against the rest of the league.

Elon plays six of the other seven CAA teams — all besides Drexel University — so there's some indication, but not much, especially with the games sprinkled throughout the year.

This makes it difficult to gauge how the team is doing in relation to the league, considering each team might be playing different levels of competition.

Regardless, Elon should be in good shape. The Phoenix plays four Atlantic Coast Conference teams, including three of the first four matches of the year.

After playing four straight CAA teams in late March and early April, Elon finishes its regular season against East Carolina University, South Carolina State University and the University of South Carolina Upstate. Those last two should be sure-fire wins entering the CAA Tournament, when Elon needs to be playing its best.

"There's a lot of little goals that lead up to that," Anderson said.

It's incredible to think there aren't any big pieces left from the 2014 team that made the Cinderella-esque run through the Southern Conference Tournament to earn an NCAA Tournament bid. Casey was on that team, but she was not a starter.

But with the foundation in place now, notably with Ward, Lucas, Braschi and Beisenova, another NCAA Tournament appearance might not be far away.

Women's tennis carries big expectations



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elon sophomore Erica Braschi prepares to return a volley during the Elon Invitational Sept. 11-13. Braschi finished runner-up in the top singles bracket.

Jordan Spritzer
Assistant Sports Editor
@JSpritzerPro

*Experience for sophomores
and winter Puerto Rican
practices give
team big
aspirations*



The Elon University's women's tennis team will look to reap the benefits of its baptism by fire for its top three freshmen last season. Now-sophomores Olivia Lucas, Erica Braschi and Kirsten Ward return more seasoned with a combined 32 singles matches under their belts in Elon's debut season in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

"Our freshman class in general did a good job staying competitive with tough teams last year and now that's a huge benefit because now coming into this year we have that experience," Braschi said.

Braschi went 13-4 in singles play last season, playing mostly out of the No. 3 and No. 4 slots. The Dorado, Puerto Rico, native also impressed during the fall season, reaching the final of the "Phoenix" singles flight of the Elon Fall Tennis Invitation in September 2015.

Braschi brought some of her teammates with her to Puerto Rico over winter break, where they were able to get in some last-minute preparations before the start of the regular season.

Head coach Elizabeth Anderson said Elon's freshmen didn't play or act like rookies last season, as they grew more mature as the season progressed. Anderson noted the team's decision to practice on their own in Puerto Rico over break speaks volumes about the team's ambitions.

"Those are the truly good teams, the ones that work hard when the coach isn't necessarily there," Anderson said. "They're one of the hardest working teams I've coached since I've been here."

Senior Taylor Casey is not shy about speaking openly about the team's goals.

"I want another [conference championship] ring on my finger before I graduate," she said. "It's something we talk about often and it's a goal we're ready to achieve."

Casey was a sophomore on the 2014 team that won the Southern Conference

tournament as the No. 4 seed, defeating the top two seeds Furman University and Samford University en route to the title.

As the lone senior remaining, and one of just two upperclassmen on the roster, Casey has emerged as one of the team's leaders.

"It's nice to come into my own and to be a leader on the team," she said. "On and off the court, I am able to be a leader and help them with things they may not have seen before."

Casey finished last year with a singles record of 11-6. After playing six of her opening nine matches at the No. 6 singles position, Casey became a staple at the No. 4 or No. 5 slots later in the year.

Casey arguably played her best tennis in doubles, chalking up an 18-3 record playing mostly at No. 3 doubles. Fifteen of those wins came with Braschi as a partner. Braschi said it's no secret that her doubles partner is one of the hardest working players on the team.

"As a co-captain, she's brought a lot of motivation to the team," Braschi said. "She's a very good leader and does a good job keeping things positive and getting us motivated for matches."

Casey is the only player remaining on the Phoenix team from the last time Elon hosted a conference tournament — the SoCon tournament in 2013. Elon shut out its two opening opponents before losing to College of Charleston in the final.

Casey acted as doubles specialist in her rookie season, earning second team All-SoCon honors with teammate Briana Berne '13.

Anderson said she's been toying with the doubles teams with the goal of having three solid pairings across the board.

"Doubles has been a big point of emphasis for us," she said. "If we can win a lot of doubles points, that helps in momentum situations when you get to conference tournaments."

Even without conference play in the regular season, Anderson still scheduled six of the eight CAA schools, including a weekend trip to Harrisonburg, Virginia in early April to face James Madison University and Towson University.

"The biggest thing for me when scheduling was to make sure our schedule was strong enough that it can help us get better and continue to improve to get ready for the [conference] tournament," Anderson said.

The Phoenix opened the season Jan. 10 with a 6-1 loss to No. 4 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Changes all around at start for men's tennis

Jordan Spritzer
Assistant Sports Editor
@JSpritzerPro

The 2016 Elon University men's tennis team has a fresh slate.

With six new freshmen and the addition of transfer junior Petar Tomic from Auburn University, the Phoenix has only two returning upperclassmen. The two — senior Robert Lindgren and junior Chris Humphreys — have been named the co-captains for the season.

Lindgren said he's beginning to embrace the new role of being captain.

"Maybe I'm not the most natural [leader], but I definitely try to be more outgoing and telling the guys about how it is," he said.

Head coach Michael Leonard said Lindgren can learn from earlier team leaders such as Cameron Silverman '14 and Stefan Fortmann '15.

"He's had a chance to see a lot of the other guys who graduated do it, he knows even if it's by default, he's got to do it," Leonard said.

Lindgren's inconsistent play mirrored the Phoenix's up-and-down 2015 season. The Bastad, Sweden, native finished the spring season with an 8-13 singles record and 7-11 in doubles. Lindgren was named Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Player of the Week March 11 with straight set wins at the No. 3 singles position against North Carolina Central University and Georgia Southern University.

International flair

Three of the six freshmen hail from overseas. Salvador Mijares, from Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, and Felipe Sarrasague, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, arrived as recently as this month, just 10 days before Elon's first match against Duke University.

Lindgren, an international student himself, said he spends a lot of time answering questions on life in the United States, spanning from becoming a more confident English speaker to selecting the right cell phone service provider and plan.

"They've never been to the U.S. really," he said. "They don't know a lot about college tennis or studying at a university."

Leonard said he's excited about the upside of his young team, but said he won't know for certain what kind of expectations to set before



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Junior Chris Humphreys steadies his racket and focuses on a return in a match against George Washington University March 15. Elon lost 4-3.

they get used to the spectacle that is a duel match.

"You can't emulate that," he said. "We can talk about it all they want, but until they see it and hear people yelling, there's coaches on the court, and it comes down to your match and there are people on both sides screaming [they won't know], because it's not like that in junior tennis."

Earning the captaincy

Leonard said Humphreys' evolution as a leader is also noteworthy. He said he wouldn't have named him or Lindgren captains for the sake of naming captains if they didn't earn it.

"[Humphreys'] one of those guys who's changed drastically from where he was when he first got here," Leonard said. "He's earned that right to be a captain."

Humphreys went from no role in his freshman year to a more limited role in his second season at Elon. The Albuquerque, New Mexico, native emerged as one of the Phoenix's better doubles players in addition to playing over the senior players at the lower singles positions later in the year.

Humphreys reached the final of the "grey" singles flight at the Wolfpack Invite Oct. 25.

He partnered with Tomic in doubles throughout the fall, where they also reached the final of "white" doubles flight at the Wolfpack Invite.

A new veteran

Leonard said he expects Tomic to be one of the team's best doubles players, in addition to bringing in some much-needed college tennis experience. Leonard said Tomic did not arrive ready to go this past fall, citing a decline in confidence during his final days at Auburn. Though, Leonard thought Tomic was playing his best tennis at the end of the fall season and expects him to contribute in both singles and doubles.

"Singles-wise, he just needs to get a couple wins under his belt, to where he can get his confidence back," he said.

Tomic said Humphreys and Lindgren did a good job making him feel comfortable at Elon — a far cry from a powerhouse athletic program out of the Southeastern Conference.

"I was never materialistic. Yeah, the facility and equipment is a little different, but at the end of the day it comes down to how you play, who you're with. Ultimately, are you satisfied here or not?" Tomic said.

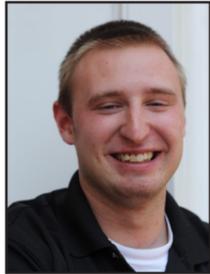


FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Robert Lindgren goes up for a serve in an Elon tennis match last season.

More questions, uncertainty than ever before for Elon

With all the usual questions surrounding the start of the season, the Elon University men's tennis team doesn't lend many answers.



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist
@T_Hamzik

Of its six singles starters from a year ago, only senior Robert Lindgren and junior Chris Humphreys return, and the six freshmen on the roster leave a lot of uncertainty for the Phoenix.

All that considered, it's hard to put an appropriate weight of expectations on the team that lost

in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Tournament semifinals last year.

Lindgren's had success — he was a second team All-Southern Conference singles player in 2014 and has a career spring doubles record of 31-24. He also won his singles match against College of William & Mary, the eventual champion, in the CAA Tournament last year.

Humphreys and redshirt freshman Neal Port have never been anything more than role players.

But that's pretty much all Elon knows about its team.

To make matters crazier, Elon announced the addition of three new players 10 days before its first match.

"It's going to be a challenge, but we have

a lot of talent coming in," Lindgren said. "The new guys are very humble. ... They're hungry for success."

It'll truly be trial by fire for a lot of newcomers, as three of them are international players, too.

Elon challenges itself with its schedule, playing three Atlantic Coast Conference teams in the first month of the season. That sets a high bar for success, but it also means it might take a while to figure out lineups and roles for the freshmen.

"They have to create their own experiences this season and then learn from those to gain experience for the conference tournament," head coach Michael Leonard said.

The roster turnover makes the 2014 Southern Conference Tournament

Championship seem like a long, long time ago. It's not like last year, when the Phoenix lost its first six matches and Leonard could draw on experiences from the previous season.

It's an entirely fresh slate, which can be good if there was turmoil in past seasons. It's also a bit scary considering all the uncertainty.

With that, it'll be a challenge for Leonard. He's tasked with acclimating this young group and prepping them for some high levels of competition right out of the gate.

As he said, it's all about being ready for that conference tournament.

Will Elon be?

Add that to the list of questions the Phoenix needs to answer.

THE
PHOENIX
FOCUS



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

MEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS

 Jan. 15
1-6 

 Jan. 17
2-5 

Home Jan. 23
10 a.m. 

Home Jan. 23
1:30 p.m. 

WOMEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS

 Jan. 10
1-6 

Away Jan. 20
3 p.m. 

Away Jan. 23
Noon 

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS

 Jan. 15
78-85 

 Jan. 17
31-74 

Home Jan. 22
7 p.m. 

Home Jan. 26
7 p.m. 

STANDINGS

	Overall	CAA
Hofstra	13-3	4-1
James Madison	11-5	4-1
Delaware	9-7	4-1
Drexel	7-9	3-2
William & Mary	11-5	2-3
Elon	9-7	2-3
Northeastern	7-9	2-3
Towson	5-11	2-3
C. of Charleston	6-10	1-4
UNCW	5-11	1-4



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS

 Jan. 14
82-91 

 Jan. 16
65-64 

Away Jan. 21
7 p.m. 

Home Jan. 23
7 p.m. 

STANDINGS

	Overall	CAA
James Madison	14-5	4-2
William & Mary	12-5	4-2
UNCW	12-5	4-2
Towson	13-6	4-2
Hofstra	12-6	4-2
Northeastern	12-7	4-2
Elon	12-7	3-3
C. of Charleston	10-7	2-4
Drexel	3-14	1-5
Delaware	5-12	0-6



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Women's soccer team publishes book

Team documents March 2015 study abroad trip to Costa Rica in "Through The Lens," edited by 4 players, professor

Alex Simon
Sports Editor
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The author of the latest book to make headlines on campus is certainly unusual: the Elon University women's soccer team.

With the help of Tom Arcaro, professor of Sociology, senior midfielders Samantha Burch and Taylor Glenn, junior defender Erin Tanhauser and former soccer player Mikayla Shaw were published as editors for "Costa Rica Through The Lens: Reflections From Elon University Women's Soccer," in which the team documents its experience

from its March 2015 study abroad trip to Costa Rica.

All of the proceeds from the book go to a scholarship that will enable a future student-athlete to study abroad.

"Well, Dr. Arcaro asked our team who wanted to volunteer to have a book-publishing experience and spearhead the book process by prompting the teammates to think critically about the trip," Burch said.



Samantha Burch



Taylor Glenn

"The four of us were really interested in improving our writing skills and learning about the book publishing process."

Burch, Glenn, Tanhauser and Shaw are the four listed on the cover of the book, which is available on Amazon.com in both paperback (\$25) and digital purchase via Kindle (\$5). The idea for the book came out of the early class meetings in December 2014.

"We all decided that this would be a great way to give back to the university and to give back to Elon athletics, to show that there was a return of investment on this experience," Burch said. "Elon University is obviously renowned for global education, and it was a privilege to be able to go as a student-athlete."

Burch is a Spanish minor, as was Glenn until she found out she learned better through immersion than in the classroom. Glenn's previous experience studying abroad in Peru her sophomore year helped her see the importance of the experience for the team.

Her previous time in Peru also gave Glenn a chance to understand how "pura vida" (pure life) is embodied every day in Costa Rican culture.

"Costa Ricans know how to live — they know how to treat the earth — and I feel like them treating it right allows them to reap the benefits of tourism," Glenn said. "They're such down-to-earth people. They have fun but they're responsible. It was a very cool atmosphere to be around — you didn't feel the hustle and bustle of what you get here at Elon."



Erin Tanhauser

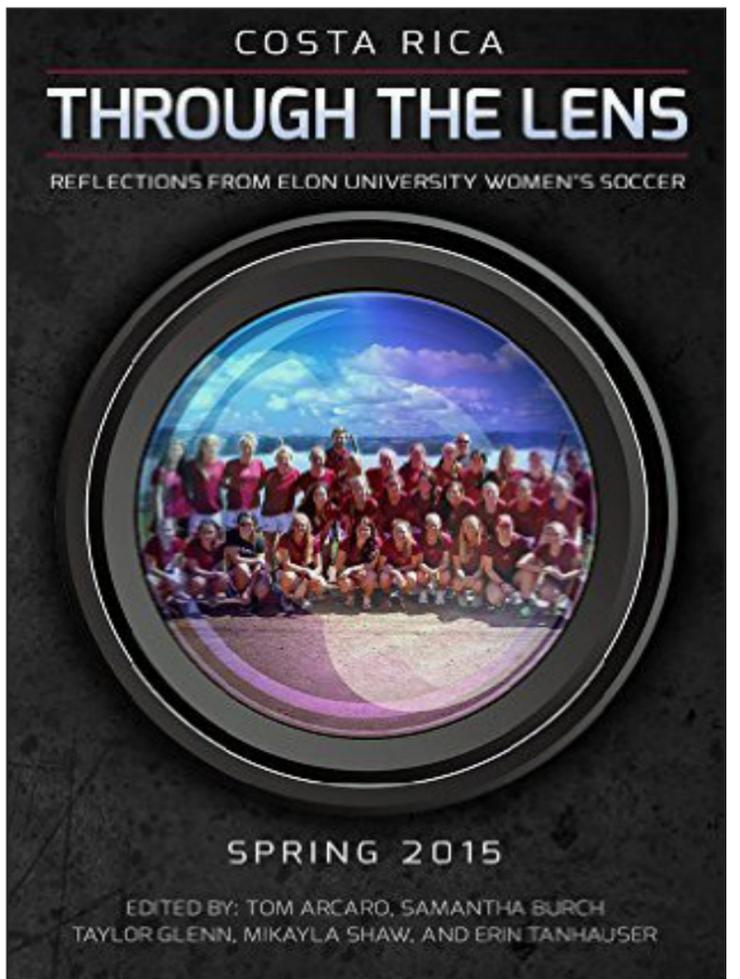


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

The cover of "Through The Lens," the book the women's soccer team published in 2015.

"Honestly, if I feel like I need a pick-me-up, I might go back to Costa Rica because you can't not be happy when you're in that country."



Mikayla Shaw

The publication date was Aug. 22, 2015, even though Elon did not announce the publication until Dec. 15. For Glenn, the

publication of the book, and her title as editor, gave her some familial bragging rights.

"I'm the oldest of five kids, and my little sisters are super good at soccer," Glenn said. "I'm always hearing it from my dad, 'Oh, they're so much better than you.' This, this and that — we're such a competitive family."

"Now, I'm like, 'Well, they didn't publish a book.' I have this one-up on them now, and I'm sure they'll publish five because my little siblings have to always beat me."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

The women's soccer team poses for a photo after a practice in Costa Rica in March 2015.

Williams '15 receives national academic athlete award

The former defensive back is one of 52 named to the FCS ADA Academic All-Star Team

Alex Simon
Sports Editor
@alexsimon99

Miles Williams '15 didn't get a phone call. He didn't receive a letter or read an email.



Miles Williams '15

All-Star team through social media.

"I was coming back home and I looked on social media and someone tagged me in a post," Williams

said. "Someone said 'Congratulations' to me."

Williams is one of 52 winners of the 18th annual award, announced Jan. 8, 2016. The former Elon University football defensive back graduated from Elon in May, 2015, but stayed for another semester as a graduate student to use his final year of eligibility.

"It's a recognition that he certainly is deserving of," said Elon head coach Rich Skrosky. "And when you think about an [ideal] student-athlete, he is the epitome of it."

"He has great leadership and his passion is the greatest thing about him."

The honor comes to Williams after he achieved a 3.55 GPA as a human services studies major. He was a two-time captain for the football team, starting all 11 games in 2015 and playing in 43 games over his four years of eligibility.

Even though Williams produced solid schoolwork during his time at Elon, the honor caught him off guard.

"It was a little unexpected," Williams said. "I didn't know I was in



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Miles Williams '15 smiles with his family during Senior Day ceremonies Nov. 21. Williams is one of 52 winners of the FCS ADA's award.

the running for the team or how it's chosen."

Yet the honor is still something he doesn't take lightly.

"Accolades aren't anything I strive for, but I just try to be myself," he said. "To be able to be credited for the hard work I put in the classroom, as well as on the field, is special. And to be the first defen-

sive player to do it for Elon is cool for me."

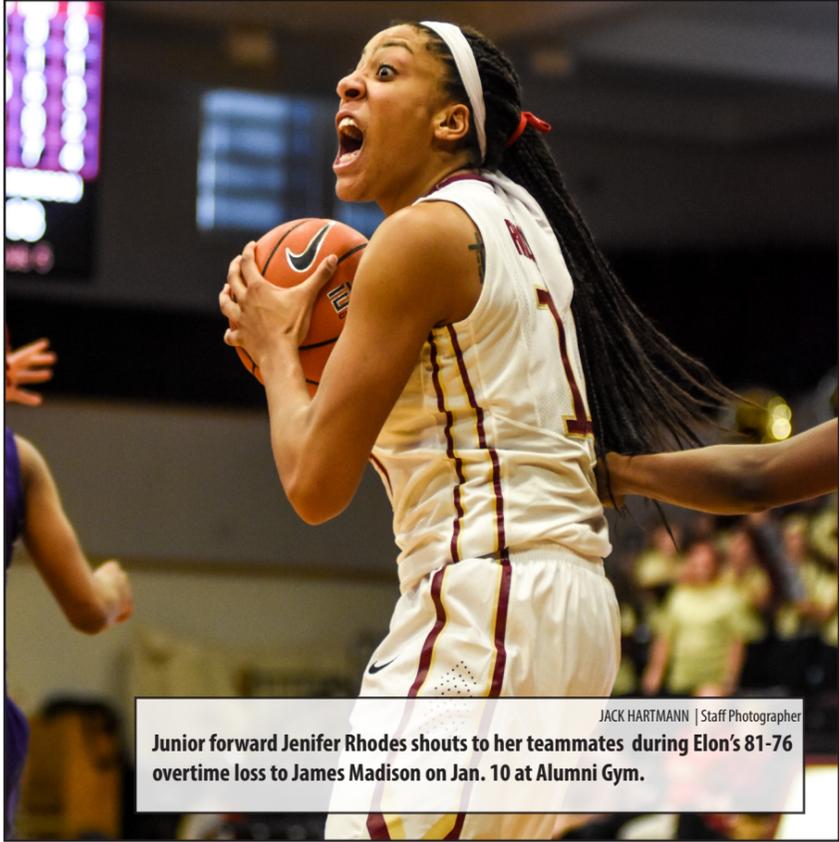
Williams has moved on from Elon, leaving the state and heading north at the end of the fall semester. He is currently working as a teaching assistant at a school on the south side of Chicago.

He left a lasting impression on his former head coach, especially

with his performance on the football field in the final games at Elon and as a leader off of the field.

"His best games were maybe the last three games of the season," Skrosky said. "You could tell it meant a lot to him. To be recognized [for off-the-field] as well — and that's a pretty distinguished list — we're proud of him."

TOP PHOTOS



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer
Junior forward Jenifer Rhodes shouts to her teammates during Elon's 81-76 overtime loss to James Madison on Jan. 10 at Alumni Gym.



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer
Junior guard/forward Christian Hairston drives to the basket during Elon's 80-76 loss to Hofstra on Jan. 9 at Alumni Gym.



MEGAN KOTTKAMP | Staff Photographer
Elon students perform inside Yeager Recital Hall Jan. 16 for the 11th annual Elon Care: Equity Fights AIDS Benefit Concert.



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer
Alamance County community members gathers for annual march in Burlington to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.