

Elon alums become part of magical cast in Broadway production

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Volleyball looks to gain experience from non-conference play

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THE PENDULUM

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Students weary of Physical Plant backlog

Emergency response system exists for pressing problems amidst 'typical' congestion

Michael Bodley
News Editor

A Physical Plant work request backlog has left Elon University students scattered across Danieley Center frustrated by failing facilities ranging from interior flooding to mold-covered ventilators.

It's a recurring problem, one not uncommon to the beginning of the school year when the requests start pouring in, said Paul Holt, maintenance control manager for Physical Plant.

From 2012 to 2013, Physical Plant received 24,260 work orders — a number this school year has already exceeded with 26,460 requests placed so far.

Dubbed a "beginning of the year bottleneck effect" by Holt, students who have been living with the lingering backlog have been



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

The Danieley Apartments have been a focal point for Physical Plant work requests so far this year.

less than content.

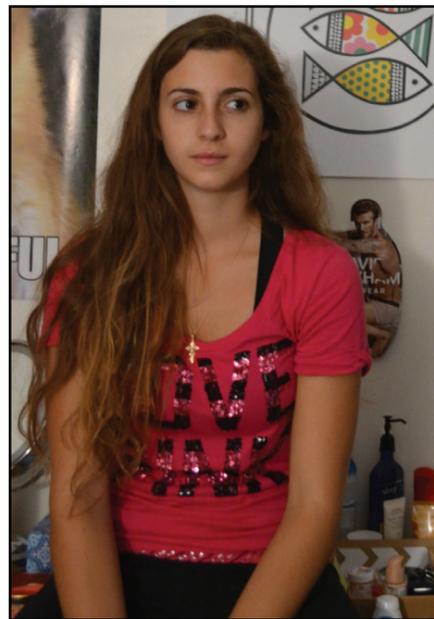
Sophomores Emily Rawls, Bettina Geissbuehler, Francesca Collins and Doriana Moody moved into a damp Danieley C apartment that smelled of dead fish — a stench later attributed to mold covering the aging apartment's air filters.

"When we moved in, there was this funny, nasty smell for a long time, and we couldn't figure out what it was," Rawls said, adding that a hint of mold on the side of her dresser provided a clue. "Some things are very strange here."

The strangeness continued for the four friends. As the mold continued its slow, unchecked spread, they noticed other apartment ailments — a certain steady dripping within a bathroom wall and other little alarm bells.

After three work requests sent online to Physical Plant, Geissbuehler — who is allergic to mold — gave up and called. The next day, a worker showed up and fixed the filters, advising the four to stay on the lookout for signs of the mold's return.

They aren't the only Danieley residents who have run into problems.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Sophomore Francesca Collins lives in a Danieley C apartment that has seen its fair share of problems.

Senior brings Active Minds to Elon, seeks to raise depression awareness

Morgan Abate
Senior Reporter

Depression claimed her prisoner and made her bed the cell.

She missed countless classes she cared about immensely. She just couldn't get herself out of bed.

Her friends surrounded her in the hopes that she would pick her back up.

One year later, senior Emilia Azar is back on her feet, sprinting ahead with an idea to help draw attention to the more than 1,000 student suicides committed on college campuses annually.

Thanks to Azar's efforts, Elon looks to become the 399th chapter of Active Minds to raise awareness of mental health issues and to erase its surrounding stigmas,

pending approval by the Office of Student Activities.

"There's a need for people to be aware that mental health issues are very real," said Paul Fromson, professor of psychology.

Active Minds was created in 2002 at the University of Pennsylvania by then-junior Alison Malmon whose brother had suffered from severe schizophrenia and committed suicide. Since her first efforts twelve years ago in Philadelphia, Malmon's idea has spread to college campuses across the country fostering open discussions of mental health issues.

In July, while reading *Cosmopolitan* in a nail salon, Azar stumbled across an article about young women starting nonprofits, with one of them being Active Minds.

"As I read through the description ... it really spoke to me. I researched it, and I was hooked," she said.

According to Fromson, whose research focuses on emotional disorders, students need to talk about mental health and to understand that no one is immune to these disorders.

"Throughout the interview process [for the executive board], I was surprised at how many people told me about their issues or past issues," said senior Emilia Azar, now pending president of Elon's Active Minds chapter. "[The stigma] is going to be easier to break than we realize."

During her sophomore year at Elon, Azar was diagnosed with general anxiety disorder, a mental disease that causes peo-

See *ACTIVE MINDS* page 2

Study abroad, Study USA grow, attract students from all majors

Morgan Abate
Senior Reporter

Seven years ago, 12 Elon University students approached Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Connie Book requesting transfer credit through an Ithaca summer program in Los Angeles.

The next summer, Book and a team of professors piloted Elon's own summer program in Los Angeles.

"When students were reflecting on these experiences, we realized that many of their observations were the same as when students study abroad," Book said.

Elon in New York City started two summers later in 2010 with only 20 students. The following year, the program amassed 80 applicants.

By 2012, these two programs had seen such tremendous growth that Book knew they were here to stay. Study USA acquired its official title that summer.

Study USA continues to grow at Elon — 11 percent of last year's graduating class participated in a Study USA program. This semester, 386 students have taken their studies outside of Elon, which is the highest number to date.

The Elon Centers in London and Florence, Semester at Sea, the CIEE Business and Culture program in Barcelona, Spain and the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS) have all seen significant increases in participation since last fall.

"It's an indicator that there's a strong program in place and that our students are coming back and sharing that with friends and faculty," said Paul Geis, associate director of study abroad.

There have been instances, though, when programs could no longer accommodate the amount of Elon students applying and enrolling in them, Geis said.

Even without those cases, the Isabella Cannon Global Education Center never slows down. The staff is constantly looking into new offerings for Elon students to choose from as well as to accommodate varied interests, especially in languages.

"We're looking into new options in Spanish, German, French and Arabic," Geis said, "especially for students with no experience in the language."

Students who study Italian at a more advanced level should be on the lookout, too. According to Geis, soon there could be more opportunities to study in Italy outside of Florence.

This semester also marks the inaugural semester for the Elon in New York City program. It follows three years of successful summers in New York City and

See *STUDY ABROAD* page 2

Campus Safety and Police focus on preventative technology



Campus Safety and Police, located in Oaks Commons, are working hard to keep students safe. One new precaution they are taking this year is wearing body cameras to record what happens around them. KAITLIN DUNN | Assistant News Editor

Kaitlin Dunn
Assistant News Editor

After a relatively restful summer, Campus Safety and Police are getting back into the swing of things with new equipment, enforcing old policies and keeping students safe.

The biggest changes in regards to law enforcement on campus are the body cameras that Campus Police and Security officers wear now. They record everything that happens around the officers. There is a limited number of cameras, so they are given out on a first come, first serve basis to officers. According to Captain Vickie Moehlman of Campus Safety and Police, the cameras are very visible and students should have no trouble being able to tell if an officer is wearing one.

"This is something that all of our officers are very excited about," Moehlman said. "It's something that's for the safety of our officers and all the students and citizens around."

The cameras are meant to keep impartial eyewitness accounts, so officials later on can see what happened at the scene of a crime or accident.

Junior Amy Counihan is skeptical about the practicality of the cameras.

"Whenever I've had to call campus police because of an incident, it's because they weren't there, and as soon as they go there, everyone stopped what they were doing," Counihan said. "On the off chance they happen to be there when something happens, they'll be useful, but I feel like that just doesn't happen very often."

Senior Shannon TEMPLAK is also hesi-

tant about the cameras because of lack of information.

"It sounds like an interesting idea, but I feel like there should have been some sort of email letting students know that now they are wearing cameras. There definitely should have been better communication about it," TEMPLAK said. "I feel like there isn't much point to wearing the cameras. We already have so many cameras around campus, and it would have been better to put cameras up in areas that don't have any."

Nothing major has happened yet, according to Moehlman, but she is sure the cameras will come in handy soon. Traffic accidents often happen in front of officers and the cameras could assist officers in describing the scene.

The most significant event to happen so far this school year that Campus Safety and Police dealt with was when lightning struck Oaks E Sept. 3.

The lightning entered through a dryer vent to Room 302 of the building, setting off the sprinkler system. According to Moehlman, the strike affected the power in the building and did not trigger the fire alarm system.

Campus Police responded immediately to the strike and made sure that everyone evacuated the building safely and worked throughout the night monitoring the situation.

Junior Meagan Schrock, a resident of Oaks E, was reassured by the Campus Safety and Police presence that night.

"We were kept well-informed and I felt completely confident in Campus Police's ability to keep us safe," Schrock said.

"This situation could have gotten really crazy, but I thought they handled things in a very calm and organized way."

No injuries were reported and all residents were relocated that night as a safety precaution. Moehlman was not aware of any damage to student belongings from the sprinkler system.

Other than dealing with the aftermath of the lightning, Moehlman said that they've mostly been dealing with routine business. One of their biggest initiatives, which started last year, is a push to get students' bikes registered with Campus Safety and Police and to crack down on bike theft.

"The unique thing about registering is that you've given law enforcement a big step ahead if something bad happens," she said. "Everyone's bike has a serial number on it, and if it does get stolen, it makes it that much easier for us to find it."

Counihan has had her bike on campus for the past two years, but was not aware that she had to get it registered until recently.

"They definitely did not publicize that information enough," she said. "Everyone knows you have to get your car registered or you'll get a parking ticket, but nobody ever told me I had to register my bike too. I don't want to get trouble for not having it registered."

Moehlman said that when it comes to bicycle theft, it is easy to take a bike when it's not locked up and never put it back.

"If someone's walking home at night and finds a bike, they just decide to take it and ride it home and then the owner doesn't know what happened to it," she

said. "We find this is usually the case, so usually what happens if the bike is registered is that we find it and we can contact you."

Campus Safety and Police also has a supply of heavy-duty bike locks to give away to students at no cost. They ordered 180 locks last year and have given away around 160.

Bikes parked outside of designated areas — such as railings, stairways and gazebos — are subject to confiscation. All bikes left on campus past Commencement are subject to the same.

According to Moehlman, bike thefts have gone down since they started the bike lock program. So far this school year, there has only been one bicycle theft on campus, and the bike was not locked at the time.

"It's a good program and it's definitely shown a reduction in larcenies," she said. "It affects the crime rate because people know that campus police are paying attention to bikes."

REGISTERING A BIKE

Students looking to register their bikes can visit www.elon.edu/safety and fill out an online form.

The traffic office is located in Oaks Commons at 416 N. Williamson Avenue.

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
336-278-5555

STUDY ABROAD

from cover

two popular spring semesters in Los Angeles.

Six Elon students are currently enrolled in the program, taking classes at Marymount Manhattan College, interning in the city and living at the 92nd St. Y, a world-class cultural center that has played host to some of the most beloved artists, writers, thinkers and leaders. Student also has an Elon alumnus mentor who helps them network and learn the layout of the city.

Through the partnership with Marymount, Elon students can choose from a variety of classes and transfer the credits back to their Elon degree, which, according to Book, is one of the most difficult aspects of studying at other universities.

Part of the challenge for Study USA in particular is attracting students from different majors across campus. To combat this issue, the staff moved their offices into the GEC, and the university hired Mark Dalhouse as the director for Study USA.

Dalhouse envisions a much bigger program in New York City, with the

ability for students to intern in international diplomacy, global health and NGO development.

Much of this semester, though, will be dedicated to advertising and marketing the semester in New York City across campus, he said, including thorough information sessions. The advertising for this fall semester started too late last year, resulting in low application and participation numbers.

"New York is such an international city," Dalhouse said. "Elon talks about global citizenship, and it is the place where you have the opportunity to prac-

tice it, see it and live it."

Book is confident that Dalhouse can further grow and improve Study USA and its opportunities for students. "There is something very powerful about offering these types of programs," she said. "They can offer the same cultural learning as study abroad."

They can also serve as a first step for study abroad, especially for students who have not traveled.

"A student can spend a summer in New York City and say 'I survived New York City, now I'll go to Italy,'" Book said.

ACTIVE MINDS

from cover

ple to worry excessively. The following fall, she decided to study abroad in Costa Rica, in the hope that it would alleviate the anxiety that had taken control of her life.

"I thought by being in this country that is known for being a very relaxed country, it would just change everything," Azar said. "And I was wrong."

While abroad, Azar said she experienced symptoms of her anxiety when she had no reason to worry. She longed for peace and relaxation. Instead, she encountered the exact opposite, and her anxiety worsened into something else: depression.

And the whole time, she felt alone. "It's hard because you hate hearing that your best friend feels like they're ashamed to say something," said senior Kim Owens, who lived with Azar during her battle with depression.

To Azar, Owens and her other roommates were the best support she could have asked for. They would ask to borrow clothes to get her out of bed, and send her inspirations pictures and text messages throughout the day.

"They didn't pity me; they didn't try to save me," Azar said. "They empowered me to save myself."

Now, she seeks to save others through Active Minds.

When she discovered that Elon did not have a chapter on campus, she reached out to friends, sorority sisters and professors for physical and emotional support.

Owens jumped behind Azar 100 percent. "This [organization] is something different," she said. "It focuses on a specific need, which is the ability for students to know they are not alone."

Though the organization is not yet official, the executive board has already started planning for the semester.

The group plans on collaborating with the Global Education Center to create workshops for international students regarding mental health, and to better prepare students when going abroad for culture shock.

Azar stressed that while Active Minds wants to help students, it is not a support group.

"This is not a group where people sit around and talk about their issues," she said. "We are the proactive side of it."

Even so, Azar and her team do plan on working with Anita Smith from the Elon counseling department to encourage students who need help to use their services. They are also looking into new ways to market counseling to students, change the stigma of counseling and make students more comfortable with the topic.

"We hope that Active Minds will engage our professional staff in Health Services, Counseling Services and Health Promotion to become aware of professional resources that exist on campus and in our community around mental health issues," said Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of Student Health and Wellness, in an email.

Theatrical design major Cody Schmidt reached out to Active Minds when he heard about it.

For his capstone project, the senior is putting on the play "Frozen." The play delves into the topic of mental illness through four characters with varying degrees of mental instability.

Active Minds plans to help market the play



Senior Emilia Azar is smiling more often now, under the spark of an idea that looks to become a reality. RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

for Schmidt through social media. During the show days, Active Minds will distribute information packets about mental health and resources available on campus, with all proceeds benefiting the Elon chapter's parent organization.

"I want to raise awareness across campus," Schmidt said. "Theater is meant to reach out to everyone. It does comment on human nature, and that's what I want to let the campus see."

But Azar said that she wants this organization to go beyond just mental health.

"I want to make this club not only about mental health, but about holistic health, con-

necting mind, body and soul," Azar said. "Because when those three are in balance, that's the best."

Fromson, the faculty advisor for Active Minds, said it takes committed leaders like Azar and Owens to make such an organization possible.

"Emilia has been able to put together a group of very committed and talented people who are going to take the reins," he said.

Azar is determined to change the stigma of the mental health culture at Elon.

"Everything in college goes back to your mental health," she said. "If you lose your mental health, you lose everything."

COUNSELING SERVICES

Students seeking counseling can contact Counseling Services at 336-278-7280.

Appointments can be made during normal business hours.

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

After business hours, students are encouraged to contact Campus Safety and Police.

DANIELEY

from cover

a speedier remedy: FIXIt, a Physical Plant Initiative to contact the department 24/7 in the event of an emergency. In such a situation, Elon University Campus Safety is supposed to respond immediately and determine the appropriate response.

Postcards for the program were distributed to freshmen in all residence halls with directions and contact information. Physical Plant has also made it a point to further educate faculty and staff on how to report a problem themselves, without having to wait for someone else to do it.

Physical Plant's 197 full-time employees always have their hands full at the beginning of each school year, Holt said. But that doesn't mean the quick solution is more hires because the new employees would be nonessential in slower times for requests, when the school year moves into full swing.

"Just because of the bottleneck, if you hire folks [who] have the experience they need, you're talking about a whole lot of money to get those folks," Holt said. "It's hard to say you get them temporarily and then go back, because you can't pay manpower like that the whole year ... it would be too much in the leaner times."

The opening of new buildings and residence halls — such as the Global Neighborhood — has added strain to the existing workforce. Physical Plant employees, according to Holt, must work out the hiccups that come with any new structure.

"As far as residence areas, there's quite a bigger piece there because we've got more people putting in work requests," he said.

Sophomore Ryan Finn, a Danieley E resident and neighbor of Rawls and the others, is more frustrated by what he says is an Elon attitude to build new buildings instead of ren-

ovating existing spaces, forgetting about the old in an embrace of the new.

Finn's troubles — a fidgety lightswitch, a stop-and-start sink and a temperamental shower — pale in comparison, he said, to others living with mold or other apartment ailments.

Though he's not happy about the deteriorating condition of his apartment, the sophomore doesn't blame Physical Plant for his troubles.

He's upset with the university. "I don't really blame these guys," he said.

"It's not their fault the school chooses to build a new admissions center rather than improve on Danieley."

The university's budget is a yearly balancing act, according to Holt, who has participated in the procedure in years past. He said it's easy to assign blame and that everyone can't be happy in a school with thousands of students, faculty and staff.

"[The administration] looks at each budget year and determines what the needs are, and I would say that's at this point that the administration feels we've got to put the bal-

ance in everything, together with academics," he said.

Not satisfied with her Danieley experience thus far, Rawls thinks a quick glance around campus at the "glamor" of the Oaks and the Global Neighborhood proves more could be done for the students living on the outskirts near Lake Verona.

"It's just the little things," Rawls said. "But then you look at it, and yeah, Danieley's older, but you clearly could have fixed some of these problems or prevented them from happening to begin with."



Newer than the Danieley Apartments, the Danieley Flats have held up better over time than their neighbors, prompting less Physical Plant requests. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

NC expected to lose movie, TV productions with incentives cut

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

Over the summer, North Carolina's General Assembly cut the financial incentives for production crews that film in the state. These cuts could impact the availability of film jobs in North Carolina, which is bad news for the more than 1,000 students at Elon University studying communications.

North Carolina has had incentives in place since the 1980s and in 2010, increased its reimbursements for film crews to 25 percent of all their expenses. As a result, the state had one of the largest incentive packages for film crews in the country.

Since the raise in 2010, North Carolina has been the backdrop to movies such as "The Hunger Games" and "Iron Man 3," and television shows such as "Homeland" and "Under the Dome."

"There've been 800 productions in the last 30 years, and to think that's all going to go away in one sweep of the political pen is daunting for future filmmakers and for the state as a whole," said Paul Castro, assistant professor of communications at Elon and a former professional screenwriter.

With North Carolina's new budget,

\$10 million is set aside for incentives, with a \$5 million cap per production. Elon professors with a background in the film industry like Castro and Doug Kass, an instructor in communications, said the cuts will drastically affect the state's production.

"Hollywood is filled with businesspeople, and they're going to go where business is best. If they can get a better tax break in Louisiana or New York or Connecticut or California or New Mexico or any of the other states with better breaks, they're going to go there," Kass said.

While states like Wisconsin have cut film incentives in recent years, others such as New York and Louisiana have made sure to increase or at least keep them at normal levels. California is even considering quadrupling its film incentives.

With so many states after film productions, Kass said North Carolina will lose out if all the state has to offer is its visuals.

"If you look at 'Homeland,' you wouldn't look at that and say 'Oh, that's definitely North Carolina,'" he said. "Other shows will have a similar issue. There's few landscapes in North Carolina you couldn't find elsewhere, and there's

lot of states with better tax breaks."

The producers of "Homeland" have already announced that new seasons will be filmed in South Africa instead of Charlotte. "Under the Dome" has been shot in Wilmington, and producers have not said whether future seasons will continue to be shot in North Carolina.

Legislators in the General Assembly who pushed to get rid of the incentives, like House Majority Whip Mike Hager, said the incentives were giving away too much state money that could be better spent in other parts of the state. Kass said the way a production's financial impact in a state is calculated is not accurate.

"They can count the number of hotel rooms, they can tally up the number of restaurant bills and gasoline bought for the time that production is in town," he said. "But they don't look at the possible long-term benefits of having films or TV shows shot in a town. How many tourists come to see those places over a period of time? There's no mechanism to count that."

A study at North Carolina State University on the impact the incentives had on the state, commissioned by state film commissions, showed that in 2012, the incentives led to the creation of more

than 4,000 jobs and had a net contribution to the state of more than \$25 million.

"When the Hunger Games came to North Carolina, it created 300 carpenter jobs alone, and they were all local to North Carolina," Castro said.

He also pointed out that there are now many film production companies all over the state that will be affected by the cut and will have to redefine, relocate or shut down.

"If productions are not coming to North Carolina, and there are companies that support those productions exclusively, then obviously they are going to have to leave, and a lot of people are going to lose their jobs," he said.

If incentives come back, Castro said it may not suddenly bring back production. As he put it, crews and companies have families and other concerns to keep in mind. Moving back across the country is not "as simple as flipping a switch," and companies may wait to see if the incentives in North Carolina will be stable.

Kass had a somewhat different view.

"Basically, Hollywood is business and they're going to go to wherever they can make the most money," he said. "If the [incentives] come back, production will come back."

Cheat Sheet: Ebola virus outbreak



Want a complicated news story explained?

Email pendulum@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet

By the News Editors

With the number of people infected with Ebola climbing past the 3,000 range, misinformation and fear about the disease can spread rapidly, especially since health workers infected with Ebola came to the United States for treatment. At this critical time, it is important to clearly state the facts about the disease and its current outbreak.

Specifically, the disease featured in the news is *Zaire ebolavirus*, the most deadly of the five Ebola strains. Although the Center for Disease Control estimates the death rate from this strain at 79 percent, and previous outbreaks have had a mortality rate as high as 90 percent, current numbers are not that high. Of the West African countries currently experiencing the Ebola outbreak — Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal and Guinea — Liberia has the highest mortality rate at 58 percent.

While Ebola has no cure, treatment regimens to keep a person continually hydrated are effective at preventing death. The problem is that in the countries currently experiencing the outbreak, the resources to combat the disease are not in place. Ebola typically only affects central African countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and surrounding countries.

The World Health Organization (WHO) noted that, at the outbreak's onset, there was only one doctor available per 100,000 people in Liberia. As more than 150 health workers have been infected in the region, the capability to combat the spread of Ebola has shrunk along with them.

WHO itself has been less effective in curbing this Ebola outbreak than in recent years. The global financial crisis in 2007 resulted in the agency's funding shrinking and long-term employees be-

ing cut, particularly those with experience in working with Ebola patients.

In the United States, targeted resources were able to keep the two health workers who became infected with Ebola while treating the disease stable. People across the country have gone to hospitals to get tested for Ebola, but all cases have come back negative. While the disease has spread quickly in West Africa, it is not easily transmitted if the proper infrastructure is in place.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids and organs. While Ebola is commonly described as a disease that causes profuse bleeding from all orifices, this only occurs in around 40 percent of cases. The main affliction of Ebola is a severe fever ending in multiple organ failures. Past outbreaks have been hard to predict. From 2008 until now, there have been no reported deaths from Ebola, and from 2011 to 2013, there were only three reported cases of Ebola infection.

This lack of immediate experience, especially in the areas currently dealing with the disease, may be in part contributing to the current fears. Liberia in particular has seen violence sparking over the infection, as guards shot a teenager trying to get through the checkpoints in the country's quarantined capital, Monrovia. Liberia's Daily Observer newspaper also reported that one of the country's colonels gave an order to shoot people crossing from Sierra Leone to Liberia at night.

Travel around West African countries is more common than in central African countries where Ebola has typically appeared. This not only makes the disease spread more easily, but has created additional issues as cities and countries attempt to quarantine one another. A lack of transportation has also led to slower food shipments, causing prices to skyrocket where families already spend the majority of their income on food.

Groups in Liberia attacked health fa-

cilities and took supplies, including mattresses covered in potentially infectious sweat and other bodily fluids. Reporters said many of those who raided the facility were chanting messages relating to Ebola being a hoax, either by Western countries to further impose their control on African nations or by the African countries themselves in order to secure more aid funding.

Currently, vaccines and other treatments that may slow the spread of Ebola — most notably a serum known as ZMapp — are being developed and tested. It is not yet known how effective any of these treatments will be.

As the largest Ebola outbreak in history continues to grow, with WHO officials expecting thousands of new cases in the next few weeks, understanding the facts about the disease can be one of the best preventive measures and can turn the panic over the outbreak into intelligent, necessary decision-making.



Efforts to develop a vaccine or cure for Ebola sped up after two American health workers contracted the virus and were returned to the United States. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Latest LLC looks to facilitate creativity off-campus

Cameron Saucier
Senior Reporter

Creative thinkers, authors and playwrights are joining forces in Elon University's remodeled, partially off-campus Living Learning Community (LLC).

The Art and Culture Shop LLC aims to help students develop their artistic interests by surrounding them with other creative people.

"I like the community atmosphere," said junior Frankie Campisano. "There is always an instant group when you need it."

Campisano signed up for the learning community with six of his friends.

"One of my roommates does directing while two others do some producing and acting," he said. "Everyone fills a niche."

The art-centric LLC helps students like Campisano collaborate with their peers, providing an environment that connects individuals with varying artistic skill sets.

"It's literally set up as a house, with kitchens and shared living space in addition to the performance space," said Laura Arroyo, associate director of residence life for residential education. "It's very

conducive to creating a familial setting of living and learning."

The LLC is located on the second floor of Virginia Hall and also in the off-campus Trollinger House, which has undergone major renovations in the past year.

"[The Trollinger House] has been redesigned and updated," Arroyo said. There is a newly renovated and painted space with a coffeehouse feel for live music performances, art shows, photography and gallery work and poetry readings."

While the Art and Culture Shop LLC is partially housed in an off-campus building, it's not the only LLC in this situation.

"The Art and Culture Shop has been housed within the Trollinger House for a number of years, and it's one of the few that exists in a university-leased building," Arroyo said. "We have one other community that exists in a space such as this." It's joined by the Catholic Newman Center LLC in Holland House

The revamped Art and Culture Shop LLC is a product of the university's renewed effort to foster the intellectual climate on campus.

"All LLCs help foster a greater con-

nection to intellectual dialogue on the Elon campus," Arroyo said. "Each LLC has a faculty adviser specific for that LLC, and students are brought together under a common theme or major so that they can deepen their learning both in and outside of the classroom."

The community is also closely tied to Limelight Records, a student-run record label company.

"There are numerous students involved with Limelight living within the LLC and they also have their office on the second floor," Arroyo said.

And for students that desire a touch of extra freedom without feeling isolated, the Trollinger House LLC provides just enough space to make students feel close to the central campus.

"The Art and Culture Shop LLC setup is a good alternative for second-year students who are looking for independence, while also remaining close and connected to campus," Arroyo said.

The Trollinger House is considered part of the Historic Neighborhood that surrounds Elon's campus. The house will be included in all neighborhood events, so students will still be a part of other community activities, Arroyo said.

SUB branches out from typical Midnight Meals

Kimberly Honiball
Senior Reporter

Midnight Meals, a Thursday night tradition for Elon University students, continues this year, albeit with a facelift and some fresh ideas to co-sponsor more events.

The event, hosted by the Student Union Board, has been held for more than 10 years.

"The cool thing about the event, in comparison to our other weekend events, is that the SUB executives have a hands-on role in it," said senior Daniela Nava, vice president of operations for SUB.

Midnight Meals is offered every Thursday night from 11 p.m. to 12 a.m., with the exception of bingo nights, which start at 10:10 p.m. and are co-sponsored by the Residential Student Association.

Bingo is one of the more popular forms of entertainment at Midnight Meals.

"Some people are very loyal and we see them at every Midnight Meal and other times there are new faces," said senior Kyle Koach, president of SUB.

Because of the successful partnership with RSA, SUB is branching out to other organizations. They are planning to work with cooking club, RSA, a cappella groups and the larger Alamance County community.

"It's SUB's way of promising the student population that we will always be there as friends and programmers to provide an alternative form of entertainment for the night," Nava said.

These events offer free food, games, prizes and the opportunity to make new friends or connect with old ones.

"It was an opportunity for suite bonding," said freshman Mary Stuart McGuire, resident of HBB.

The event's success has led to some coming back year after year.

"I came to the events involving a cappella groups last year because it was free and there was food and good entertainment," said sophomore Sarah Wright.

In addition to Midnight Meals, SUB also holds SUB Live for comedians and musical performances, on Friday nights, and SUB Cinema on Saturday nights.



(From left to right) Frankie Campisano, Amy Hannah and John Martin make use of the common space in Trollinger House.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Double major students will now receive two degrees

Kimberly Honiball
Senior Reporter

This spring, students graduating from Elon University with two majors will receive two degrees as part of the Two Degrees Policy.

Rodney Parks, registrar and assistant professor of human services science, came to Elon in January 2013 from the University of Georgia, where two degrees are offered for double majors in different schools.

"I'm probably the reason for [the change]," Parks said. "My argument was that it could be a disadvantage to our students because they will potentially change jobs very often when they leave higher education."

Previously, Elon students who were double majoring would have to choose one degree, either a B.A., a B.F.A., a B.S. or a B.S.B.A. This became confusing when students would choose to get their degree as a Bachelor of Fine Arts for majoring in theater arts and then have biology listed as their major.

"It looks strange on a transcript and diploma," Parks said.

Elon also prints the graduating students' majors on the degree, which is rare for universities.

As of now, six seniors are earning two degrees at commencement for the Two Degree policy.

"I was completely overjoyed when I found out about the initiative because I feel like if you've put this much work into two degrees, why not be awarded two degrees," said senior Ann Marie Nunnelee, majoring in exercise science and public health. "It feels good to know your hard work is paying off."

Nunnelee was the first student at Elon to be cleared to graduate and receive two degrees at graduation this coming May.

Other students are indifferent to the decision.

"I'm undeclared right now, but I was planning to declare as a double major anyways," said sophomore Joseph Del Vecchio, majoring in media analytics and marketing. "For me personally, it is more about just learning two different disciplines than earning the two degrees."

Nunnelee affirmed that students shouldn't major in two departments just because they can get two degrees.

"There's a difference between majoring just to get the two degrees and being passionate about what you're getting the degree in," she said.

Although some students feel that way, faculty and staff suggest that students invest in the two-degree program early on.

"I encourage students in Elon 101 courses to take advantage of the two-degree policy by mapping out their four year plan," said Parks.

Some students have trouble fitting two majors into their schedules, even with proper planning.

"The only reason I'm double majoring is because I came into Elon with a ton of credits from high school," said Del Vecchio. "If I just wanted to do marketing, I would be done after my first semester of junior year."

Parks encourages students to take advantage of smaller credit classes to fill up the 18 hour class requirement per semester.

"Every credit that you take will count towards the 154 hour total," he said. "It fits with the philosophy of academic rigor that is important to Elon and the faculty."

A student pursuing two majors is a new

phenomenon within the last 15 years, according to Susan Patton, senior associate registrar. Patton also said she hopes the change enhances clarity.

"The main reason for the change is that we feel every student needs to correctly show all their credentials for future employees," she said. "Before, it was misleading and didn't make sense."

To approve these changes, the registrars office worked with the Academic Affairs Advisory Council, the Provosts Office and administrators all over campus. At the end of the planning process, it was presented to the faculty who had to vote on the policy.

"It was overwhelmingly passed," Parks said.

Although students can now earn both degrees, they still must choose a primary degree for when they walk across the stage at graduation.

There will be more information available about the program at College Coffee and the Registrar's Office is available for any questions.

"We look forward to handing Dr. Lambert two degrees to represent double majors in two different degree categories at commencement this year," Parks said.

Dog days aren't over for Elon geese

Courtney Campbell
Senior Reporter

It's Sunday morning, the air is cool and the geese of Lake Mary Nell float lazily on the water. This peace doesn't last long though. The black-beaked birds are about to be disrupted by a new occupant: Border Collies.

The dogs dive into the water, eyes locked on their targets. In less than five minutes, the geese take to the sky in search of a Collie-free zone. The lake is empty, and the dogs are done for the day,

set to return again tomorrow for another wild goose chase.

"They have been a problem on and off," said Tom Flood, Elon University's associate director of Physical Plant and director of landscaping and grounds. "Every year, the geese become residents. They've grown and grown and grown to be about 50 or 60 [in numbers] with increased droppings and grass destruction."

In response to the growing geese population, Elon has contracted with Goose Masters, a local company specializing in the control of these pesky birds. The com-

pany's owners, Gwen and Kent Kuykendall, have been training Border collies for the past 20 years.

"It is a control mechanism with the use of Border Collies," Gwen said. "Everything is very safe. Geese are federally protected. That's why PETA endorses the use of Border Collies. [The dogs] are happy to merely stalk, like a cat stalking its prey."

After about two years of training, the dogs are ready to hit the field. Unlike other herding dogs, Border Collies have an approach that drives the birds into flight without disturbing other inhabitants.

"They know what to do," said Timmy Hammer, Goose Master dog handler. "I just holler the directions at them, and they follow. It's their natural instinct to herd these birds."

And as long as there are geese, Goose Masters will come.

"Geese are very smart," Flood said. "If you pulled up in a blue truck at the same time every day, they'll fly away and come back. Goose Masters understands where they can park to have the element of surprise."

Even though the Border Collies are the best available method of control, they don't always work.

"It is the most successful approach of geese removal," Gwen said. "That being said, it is still only a control method. We can't guarantee that they'll never see the birds again. We can guarantee that [the

geese] will not hang around day in and day out."

It can be especially difficult to remove the geese from Elon's campus. Not only is there fine grass for the geese to munch on, but there are also generous students slipping the birds delicious snacks which is a luxury unique to their on-campus spot.

"[Human feeding] is the most difficult thing we run into," Gwen said. "We cannot combat that."

Elon has considered other options to remove the geese, including putting string around the water and letting the edges of the water grow into wild areas, but all to no avail. Administrators also tried Goose Masters' herding approach with a dog of their own in years past, but couldn't afford it.

"Now that we have a service that is close, it is the best choice," Flood said. "Considering the costs from the damages of droppings and to reseed and grow grass, it's really not going to cost that much."

Despite the Elon administrations measures and repeated Goose Master visits, these geese are not leaving without a fight.

"They are survivors," Gwen Kuykendall said. "They are going to figure out ways to counteract our actions. We need to be more determined to get them gone than they are to stay there. We need to out-determine them."



COURTNEY CAMPBELL | Senior Reporter
Tex, a wet-nosed Border Collie, swims in Lake Mary Nell last Sunday to herd Elon's geese.

TRUE LIFE: Sophomore starring in MTV's title show

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

The week before classes resumed this fall, Elon University sophomore Chann Little was back-to-school shopping and spending time with family like everybody else. The only difference between Little's end-of-summer routine and every other Elon student's is that his outings were being documented by an award-winning MTV crew. Little is the star of an upcoming "True Life" episode.

Chann is an overachieving sophomore who juggles multiple jobs, has received several awards and maintains a near-perfect GPA. He even won a car for charitable deeds. What's behind Chann's success? His mother.

The topic of Chann's episode will be, "True Life: I Have a Pushy Parent."

The popular MTV show provides, according to the show's webpage, "a window into the struggles, hopes and dreams of young people" by featuring the stories of real individuals and their "true lives." With thousands of viewers all across the country, the opportunity to be featured on the show is rare.

When Little saw the "Pushy Parent" banner over the episode's casting call, he immediately pictured his mother.

"Basically, if you have a parent that pushes you to be successful and lives vicariously through you and your grades to make sure you're gaining the marks and staying on top, then you're qualified for the episode," Little said. "So I immediately sent them an email describing my story and my relationship with my mother."

After producers responded enthusiastically, Chann and his mother, Tonya Little, went through an extensive interview process. They were approved.

One of Chann's friends, sophomore Daniela Sostaita, said her immediate reaction was excitement.

"Being on such a popular show is a big

deal," she said. "Because I know him well, it's weird to think that everyone else is going to see his life the way I do as one of his close friends."

Chann's mother, featured alongside her son, said she was initially hesitant about the casting decision.

"After prayer and consulting with the producers, it seemed like a great opportunity," she said.

Though the title of the episode includes the word "pushy," Chann said the producers emphasized they would paint Tonya in a positive light.

"They were not trying to portray her in [a way] that would hurt her image.

"I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT SOME REALITY TV IS GOOD."

**CHANN LITTLE
SOPHOMORE**

They said they would not cast her as an over-controlling parent that is a dictator over [her] child's life, but as a caring parent who wants the best for her child," Chann said. "After we saw what kind of people [the True Life crew] were, we really trusted them."

The filming began a week before Elon reopened for classes and involved crewmembers visiting the Little residence for 10 hours a day.

"For that one week, they filmed me hanging out with friends, attending family functions, dinners and even shopping for school," Chann said. "It was complicated at times because we had to get approval to film from people every time we went

somewhere."

One of the major obstacles Chann faced was having to schedule out his days in advance to ensure that the crew was getting good film.

"It was challenging to constantly stay busy. They didn't want to film you just [laying] around and staying on your phone, so I had to schedule out my days and give them a list of the places I intended to visit beforehand," he said. "Sometimes, when we wouldn't get approval from the places I listed, I would have to change my plans."

Chann stressed he had to inform the crew of the activities he planned to engage in, conversations were never staged nor scripted purely for filming purposes.

"If we had a conversation and they didn't catch it, they'd ask us to redo it, or they would also ask us to stand in a certain position for camera angles. But apart from that, the conversations were genuine, actual words said by me, my mom and my family members," Chann said.

Because of his constant interaction with family members, Chann added the journey strengthened their relationships.

"Usually, whenever I'm home I'm just getting rested and preparing for another school year. But because this time I was constantly interacting with people around me, I became a lot closer to my mother," he said. "The things we talked about were not necessarily conversations we had before or have on a daily basis, but it was nice having them and it forced us to put away all the distractions and deal with everything going on in our relationships and ourselves."

Chann said he hopes the episode will give young people the confidence to talk to their parents about their life plans, and that their parents will be able to respect their goals.

"I would rather have a parent who is excessively involved and cares about me than a parent that isolates [herself] from my achievements and doesn't care about anything I do. If my mom didn't ask me

questions about my decisions, then I don't know where I would be today," Chann said.

Tonya added Elon students and young people in general could learn from the relationship she shares with her son.

"A parent that pushes their child to accomplish their dreams is a good thing. I want him to be his very best, so I am going to push him to his fullest potential," she said. "I love my boy, and now the world gets to see it."

Filming will proceed when Chann returns home for Fall Break. With the show potentially airing in February, Chann is excited to share part of his life with the nation and hopes the episode will be well-received.

"I just want people to know that some reality TV is good, and they really care about presenting the true stories of people," he said. "That's why the show is called 'True Life.' There's nothing fake about it. It's genuinely my life just summed up in an episode."



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Chann Little, Elon sophomore, will star in MTV's "True Life."

Cinderella story: Elon alumni make Broadway debut

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

Elon University music theater alumni Michael Callahan and Sean Ronayne, both class of 2013, wanted to make it together on Broadway, but neither expected it would happen so soon. The former classmates are co-stars once again in the ensemble of the Tony Award-winning "Cinderella."

Both had been auditioning for the national tour as well as the Broadway cast for months, until slots opened up on Broadway. Callahan and Ronayne are both part of the show's ensemble. The former plays the Raccoon/Driver and is the understudy for one of the show's newest characters, a rebel named Jean-Michel, and the latter is the understudy for Prince Topher.

Ronayne was elated by the chance to perform on the Broadway stage.

"It's nice to finally focus on what I want to be doing," Ronayne said. "It's been crazy emotional, but I'm so excited. I'm working with people I've listened to on albums, people I look up to. It's so surreal."

Ronayne and Callahan's vocal coach, Elon Professor April Hill, expressed her delight at having two former students debuting together.

"It is pretty exciting," she said. "They were in the same class and had the same instructors. They are both hardworking and beautifully talented."

Unlike Elon shows, where Ronayne and Callahan learned the show with the

entire cast from the beginning, the actors are, as Ronayne puts it, "placing [themselves] in a machine already running." Callahan explains the small-scale rehearsals were more relaxed compared to the high intensity of the actual performance.

"Rehearsals were very laid-back," Callahan said. "I worked one-on-one with the dance captain for about two weeks before joining the show. The difficult part came soon after. My first time doing the show with the entire cast was my first night performing. It was terrifying. Everyone was extremely helpful, but nothing can prepare you for entering a show with 20 other people."

Hill, said she is not surprised by her former students' success, especially so early on. She said the intensity of Elon's music theater department gives the students the ability to succeed.

"The Elon program is very demanding," Hill said. "They basically train as triple majors in voice, dance and acting, much like in a conservatory setting. They do so many things, staying on top of the liberal arts requirements and rehearsals, that they develop stamina and have to work hard."

Callahan and Ronayne's friendship began long before their four years at Elon. The two met while participating in the Broadway Theater Project in 2008 before reuniting as classmates at Elon. Ronayne says having a familiar face in the cast has made the adjustment that much easier.

"It is so nice," Ronayne said. "We are some of the younger ones [in the cast], and we're both making our debut. He re-

lates to everything I'm going through, and that makes me less nervous and self-conscious. We can talk to each other, and that's a smoother process."

Both alumni said their success in the show is largely credited to the training they received while they were in Elon's music theater department.

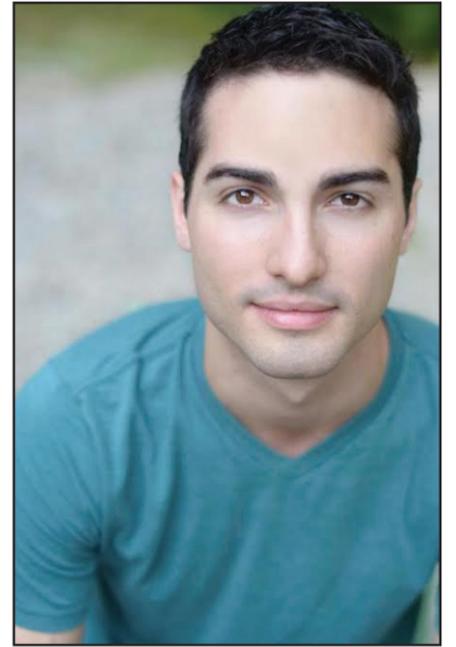
Ronayne added his training at Elon is what helped him get to auditions in New York City.

"I know what I need to do to take care of myself and prepare for auditions," he said. "They've given us a solid technical basis to jump off. Everyone [in this indus-

try] knows that Elon alums will be prepared and ready to handle anything."

Callahan and Ronayne are now living out their dreams of performing on a Broadway stage, and they said trusting yourself and your abilities will grant you the opportunities.

"You can't compare your path to someone else's," Callahan said. "Everything happens to you in your own time. It doesn't make you more or less talented than those around you. Performing and auditioning is more of a mind game than anything else. It's about keeping your mind and spirit in the right place."



Sean Ronayne and Michael Callahan, Class of 2013, made their Broadway debut together in "Cinderella."

Seniors launch feminist literary magazine

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

Two Elon University seniors launched their own online literary publication called The Fem Lit Mag. Rachel Lewis and Autumn Spriggs, both members of Elon Feminists for Equality, Change & Transformation, wanted to create an outlet for feminist voices to be heard.

The idea for the magazine had been brewing for a while. This summer, Spriggs and Lewis corresponded via Facebook and Skype. During one of their conversations, they discussed the feasibility of creating an online feminist magazine.

"I think it was exciting and scary, but we were confident that it would work," Lewis, who manages social media and web design, said.

On July 1, they activated a Twitter account for the magazine and began posting on a regular basis.

"It just started as a 'Let's just do it,' kind of thing," Spriggs, the editor-in-chief, said.

After they decided to treat the project as a serious undertaking, Lewis and Spriggs corresponded on a daily basis to get it going.

As of Sept. 5, they have amassed 242 followers. Then they began actively

searching for volunteer staff members in July and finalized their hiring decisions in August.

Lewis specifically reached out to women who strongly identified with feminism during the search for staff. They have accepted an all-female staff including a fiction editor, a non-fiction editor and a poetry editor.

Elizabeth Purvis, poetry editor and Elon alumna, said she hopes the magazine facilitates a community of like-minded writers.

"I hope The Fem becomes a safe, inclusive journal that publishes great literary work that's been rather traditionally underrepresented," Purvis said.

The goal of The Fem Lit Mag is to validate others' experiences through publishing their writing.

Lewis is aware that some may not be comfortable sharing personal encounters, but she hopes that The Fem can encourage them to open up about their life experiences.

Spriggs and Lewis established their identities as feminists in early college. After taking a gender studies course, Lewis felt her voice was heard and began to become more involved with Elon Feminists.

"It's important for me to find spaces where I'm not being cut off," Lewis said.

"The thing about feminist spaces is that they're often very safe places."

Lewis took Spriggs to an Elon Feminists meeting, and the message resonated with her as well.

With Elon Feminists, they both found their voices and sought to help others speak out on feminist issues.

Spriggs and Lewis acknowledged that feminism has changed over the years. They said equality has not yet been reached, and our society tends to ignore those issues.

They also agree that the subtleties and off-hand remarks they've encountered in their own experiences are what triggered their need for a feminist outlet.

"The fact that we need feminist writing shows that it's something we need to talk about," Lewis said. "I think you see a lot of white, male voices represented."

"I want to convince people that their voices are being heard," she said.

Spriggs and Lewis plan to continue this project after they graduate. They have already included it in their post-grad plans and intend to expand The Fem and reach a large audience as it continues to develop.

"I hope to get a lot of voices from all over the world," Spriggs said. "I hope people reading our magazine listen and don't just read the words on the page."

Raleigh hosts music festival

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

Just an hour and a few dollars away from Elon University, music fans from across North Carolina flocked to Raleigh for the city's Hopscotch Music Festival Sept. 4-6. For five years, the festival has brought some of the most prominent names in music to the state's capital — some of them for the first time.

North Carolina is not particularly known for its music scene, but at this year's Hopscotch, Durham's Toon & The Real Laww opened for hip-hop legends De La Soul, Raleigh's Lonnie Walker opened for indie-rock heavy hitters St. Vincent and Spoon, and Chapel Hill's Valient Thorr opened for punk pioneer Death and metal stars Mastodon.

North Carolina music wasn't only on display at Hopscotch's City Plaza main stage. During the day, local record labels and promotion companies held free shows to highlight local bands and artists. Even without a pass to the festival, visitors in Raleigh could listen to new Merge albums at a local bar one day, and hear established acts like Hammer No More The Fingers the next.

Weather also remained a challenge for Hopscotch this year, as it had been in years past. As the late summer heat stirred up all kinds of storms, Thursday's headlining shows in the open City Plaza suffered.

But in the following days, Raleigh's streets and music-friendly bars were packed with fans, just as eager to see North Carolina locals like See Gulls and TOW3RS as they were big stars like clipping. and Jamie XX.

For a few nights in Raleigh, excitement could be found around every corner, whether it was a musician making innovations at Irish bar Tir Na Nog or a dance party on Martin Street.



Elon Seniors Rachel Lewis and Autumn Spriggs started The Fem Lit Mag to create an outlet for feminist literature.

PHOTO FROM THEFEMLITMAGAZINE.WORDPRESS.COM

Service above sisterhood

Office of Greek Life to educate women before recruitment



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

Interested students speak with members of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority at the Org Fair on Sept. 5.

Though it may be only the second full week of classes at Elon University, Greek life is back in full swing. Sororities have begun their weekly chapter meetings that include the process of training their sisters in recruitment policies and practices.

Sorority recruitment does not officially begin until January 2015, now is the time when many first-year female students begin learning about the different sororities at Elon. Although there are many beneficial aspects to joining a sorority, those wishing to go through the recruitment process should be fully aware of all that is expected of a member of Greek life.

With roughly 55 percent of women on the Elon campus affiliated with Greek life in some way, Elon faces realization it needs to add more sororities to accommodate the growing numbers of those involved. Before they move in that direction, the Office of Greek Life and the Panhellenic Council plan to teach potential recruits about the whole package of what it means to be Greek.

By better educating women about life as a

sorority sister. It is well-known that sororities offer a platform from which women can meet other like-minded women and make Lifelong connections. However, other aspects of sorority life are less known by many going through recruitment.

The fact that the Office of Greek Life is making an intentional effort in seeking to inform this year's recruitment class about what it means to be in a sorority is exactly what was missing from the recruitment process in past years. The office has made efforts to educate women about what it is like to be a member of a sorority in the past, this new initiative should better prepare women for Greek life.

This winter, women going through recruitment will know that there is more to being in a sorority than simply making new friends. Academics is another focus of Greek life that is not always at the forefront of the discussion when talking about sororities. Everyone involved in a sorority is held to a certain standard, which is dictated by both

Elon and the organization they get invited

to join. In order to participate fully in Greek life, one must maintain consistent academic success.

Another major aspect of being involved in a sorority is philanthropy. All of Elon's sororities work with charities and focus a great deal on philanthropic work. Such work is a true time commitment in addition to academic expectations.

The Office of Greek Life encourages and reminds all those who wish to go through the process to keep an open mind while meeting with the various organizations. With that being said, it is possible for potential new members to educate themselves about the process beforehand so that there will be no surprises after bid day.

The hope is that through this new educational initiative led by the Office of Greek Life the hundreds of women who go through recruitment will know exactly what will be expected of them. According to Greek life directors here at Elon, since 2009, the involvement in sororities has skyrocketed. Across the country, more and more women are choosing to go through the recruitment process and get involved with a certain sorority.

The Office of Greek Life has said that this more aggressive educational process will cut down the numbers of those going through the recruitment process while increasing the knowledge of what is expected of a sorority member.

Elon's decision to modify the recruitment process instead of creating a new sorority and building a new house in the Loy Center is a wise plan. The addition of a new organization would be costly. This new educational effort led by the Panhellenic council should cut down the number of women involved in the process.

Not only is this plan financially beneficial to the university, but it is also beneficial for all the sororities on campus, because they are now choosing from a better-educated group who know what it means to be in a sorority.

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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Future of discrimination in America not black and white

There are some who would claim we have come a long way in the name of racial equality in the United States, and they would not be entirely wrong.



Tim Melton
Columnist

After all, the very notion of having an African-American as the president was once considered radical. It's been nearly six years since Barack Obama took the oath of office. Still, the events that transpired in Ferguson, Missouri last month, in which an unarmed

black teenager was killed by a white police officer, show that we are still placing too much emphasis on what makes us different.

National Geographic recently published an article entitled "The Changing Face of America," in which data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau on multiracial people and multiracial marriages were used to predict the look of the average American citizen by the year 2050. The results showed that because of the increasing number of interracial marriages, the majority of Americans in 2050 would have light to dark brown skin.

Before discussing the implications of the study's results, we must consider whether or not the Bureau's data is reliable. Although the Bureau has been gathering information on multiracial Americans since 2000, there have been indications of some mixed people

choosing to identify themselves differently, perhaps to avoid unfair discrimination.

This is yet another deprecating result of racial divisions in America: the flat-out rejection of one's heritage in order to maintain the idea of the "perfect American." In addition, familial and geographical influences can also become factors in how one identifies.

Just as there are those who deny their lineage, there are just as many who openly embrace their multiracial status. There certainly must be some pride in identifying oneself as the result of social progress.

If the U.S. Census Bureau's information is legitimate, and the future of America relies on equality for all races, what kind of implications does this open to how we'll see race in the future?

The author of the National Geographic article, Lise Funderburg, theorized "if we can't slot people into familiar categories, perhaps we'll be forced to reconsider existing definitions of race and identity." Considering how this change is expected to slowly take place over the next four decades, could we see something as socially rooted today as racism simply fade away?

If prejudice survives in the future, it will likely not be based on the color of one's skin, but there is the distinct possibility that we will still search for a way to distinguish one group of people from another. The more I hear about cases similar to Michael Brown, the more I believe that we are inherently discriminating people. We keep talking about

how much progress we've made in mending racial scars, and how we can do even more, and yet it never feels like anything is really accomplished. This is not to diminish the truly amazing strides we've made in breaking down the walls between different peoples. But it just feels like we sometimes fall a few steps back.

As hard as it is for me to find common ground in the midst of the issue, all is not lost.

Perhaps the notion of darkening skin colors is in the distant future, but what matters today is our choice to acknowledge what's different. By valuing what keeps us together, we don't have to wait for our physical appearances to catch up. This is not to say that we should attempt to forget or deny history - rather, we should embrace it and use it to change the present for the better. Perhaps we can more easily accept a future without black and white.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The shooting of Michael Brown has caused a wave of protests across the country.

Female empowerment videos more than a fad

In the past few months I've noticed that female positive videos have been popping up frequently. It's fantastic to tell a girl she's beautiful as she is and that she is strong and brave. However, this streak of female empowerment feels closer to a passing trend than a message that really should be regularly broadcast.



Erin Valentine
Columnist

Recent videos have been making the rounds on social media. From Colbie Caillat "Try" to John Legend's "You & I (Nobody in the World)" to the "Like A Girl" campaign, the message is a great one – women are great the way they are. This message is wonderful and true and underrepresented.

The first video to really make its way through the social media worlds was the Always Feminine Products campaign in late June called "Like A Girl." The video showed young girls that haven't been phased by the stereotypes of how girls "should be." Women, men and boys were asked questions about how a girl runs, fights, etc.

When asked to run like a girl, older participants ran with their heels kicked up and their arms flailing. When a young girl was asked to run like a girl, she ran like she was coming up on the finish line at a marathon. The campaign showed that young girls look in the mirror and see strong females full of potential and motivation, not always what the rest of society believes.

In both Caillat and Legend's music videos, females were portrayed as flawless without makeup. Caillat touched on the subject of liking who you see in the

mirror instead of being concerned about what others see. Legend's video showed that females are complex and their beauty comes from within.

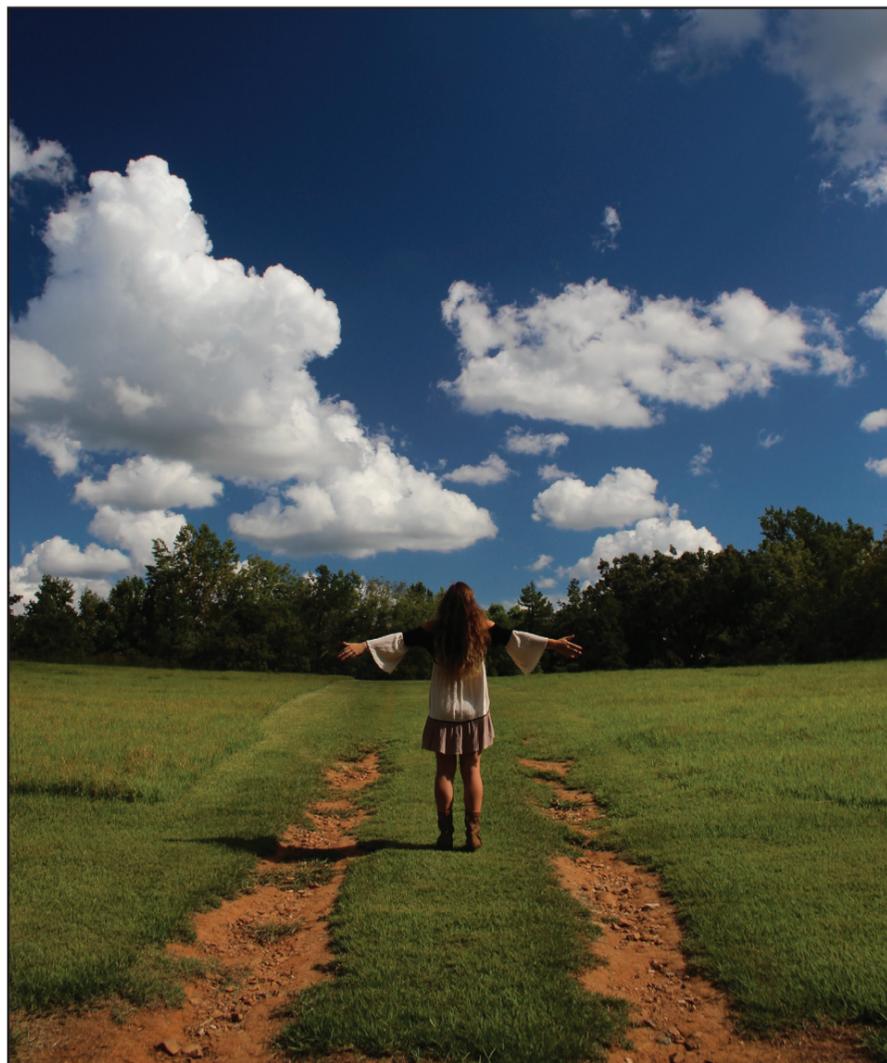
More music videos and campaigns followed shortly in the following months, ranging from empowering videos to those of a less sincere nature.

My concern with this most recent surge is that some of the message is getting lost in being a passing trend or a way to raise view counts online. While it's impossible to know what the true intentions are behind the empowerment videos and campaigns, the videos still convey an important message out to the media consuming public.

Female empowerment is a subject that should go further than a passing summer interest. It's an issue that should be circulated on social media on a regular basis. We still see news stories where it seems that equality of the sexes is downgraded. As we take a few steps forward, we also take a couple steps back.

Recently, Sofia Vergara, known for her comedic role on *Modern Family*, had a bit of a controversial moment at the Emmys when, during a speech by a Television Academy chairman on the diversifying of Hollywood, she was put on a revolving pedestal in full display of the audience. While her heritage and background do highlight diversity in the film industry, her appearance caused some stir about her sex symbol status being highlighted and used instead of simply showcasing her diversity.

The female positive campaign is a multilayered issue. Changing the path for women involves changing people's mindsets now. These social media campaigns and videos show that empowering women is a successful message that is well received. As we evolve as a society, so should the mentality of female stereo-



ERIN VALENTINE | Assistant Opinions Editor
Female empowerment videos exploded this summer thanks to a campaign by *Femine Products*.

types.

According to the Confidence Coalition, females earn only 76 percent of their male counterparts' salaries, and while they make up more than half of the population, women hold less than a fifth of the seats in Congress. We create new technology faster than we can advance the

equality of people.

All of today's living generations have been exposed to varying levels of female empowerment. For the sake of continuously educating new generations and old, female empowerment campaigns should continue and not be forgotten as a fad of the past.

College transition has been a challenge worth experiencing

Since we first arrived in high school, it has been ingrained into our minds that grades are synonymous with success. After



Bryan Anderson
Columnist

all, high academic performance is how most students got accepted into Elon University. As an incoming freshman I've noticed many of my peers struggle to adjust to a college where engagement and on-campus involvement are equally or more highly valued

than grades.

Earlier this week, I went to talk with Philosophy Professor Amy Glaser about an interview assignment for my Ethical Practice class. Upon arrival, I noticed one student deeply concerned about getting an A. "What do I need to do, what are you looking for and how can I get a good grade," she asked. While Glaser admitted that those questions were understandable, she pushed the student to challenge her outlook on academics.

"I think students have grown up in a system that places value on a narrow set of skills, [such as] pleasing others and following directions" Glaser said.

As a first year student from California, I have found it challenging to accept the fact that college courses at Elon shift focus from lecturing and memorizing to engagement. In my four years in high school, I'd be surprised if even one-fourth of my classes included a participation grade. In retrospect, I feel as if my high school stamped students out on a conveyor belt.

When employers are considering applicants, it is important to consider how we will be evaluated. While I recognize certain professions are naturally selective and primarily focus on student performance inside of the classroom, there is a lot to be said for co-curricular activities.

I heard a speaker from the service learning department explain that there's an Experimental Learning Requirement transcript available for students to record their co-curricular activities that meet the university's requirement.

I then listened to a speaker from the Student Professional Development Center

discuss the necessity of completing the College to Career program.

Finally, I attended the Organization Fair and met with several organizations. Instantaneously, I realized that there is so much for me to do beyond the classroom in so little time.

How can I participate in media organizations that conflict with one another? Is it possible for me to take conversational classes in El Centro de Español when I have three classes that same day? When talking with Dr. Richard Landesberg about some of my ambitions, he said the following: "When do you plan on sleeping?"

Although academics seldom interfere with my outside activities, it seems that freshmen students like me are being overwhelmed by academics. When I hear students talk about a horrible paper they still have to write, I cringe inside because there is so much more to this university than homework.

At the end of the day, I like to think that the discussions inside the classrooms shape who we are and how we think critically about any given subject. Our contentment no longer comes from a 4.0 GPA. Rather, success is the product of the interactions we have with others.



Students make use of the newly renovated main floor of Belk Library. There, tutoring and writing center services are offered.

Elon not shaken by losing skid



Since beating Jacksonville State 2-0 in its season-opener, Elon has now lost four consecutive games where it has scored just one goal. Last year, Elon scored in all 22 of its contests.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Jordan Spritzer
Senior Reporter

The Elon University women's soccer team kept its composure despite struggles to open up the year.

After beating Jacksonville State University 2-0 in its season opener, the Phoenix has lost four straight games.

"Four straight losses is something we're not used to," said Elon head coach Chris Neal. "The only way to get out of a rut is to keep working harder and take the opportunities when they present themselves."

Elon's been outscored 13-1 in the four losses, namely a 5-0 loss to Clemson University.

"Obviously it's a disappointment, but we'll get there," freshman Sydney Schilling said.

Neal said he doesn't believe the team lacks the skill to compete. Rather, it's a combination of different circumstances that has kept the team from producing more positive results.

"We're playing well in certain spells and not playing well in other spells, and things just don't seem to be going our way," Neal said. "When you're not playing your best for 90 minutes, and things don't seem to be going your way, that's a bad combination."

The Phoenix fought hard in its losses to ranked opponents Clemson and West Virginia University, but losses to in-state rivals Appalachian State University and High Point University stung Neal the most. Elon lost 3-1 to Appalachian State Aug. 24 and 3-0 to High Point Sept. 5.

"The High Point game was very similar to the App State game for me in how it went down. The games were pretty even until they scored," Neal said. "Even in the High Point game, we were putting them under a lot of pressure the last ten minutes. We just couldn't get that game-tying goal."

The Phoenix was unable to equalize and even found itself conceding twice while on the hunt for a goal. But Neal said he thought

the first half was where the Phoenix failed to capitalize.

"We had two great chances to go up in the game against High Point 1-0. One clanged off the underside of the crossbar in the first half and the other was saved brilliantly by the goalkeeper," Neal said.

He added the team has the leadership to right the ship.

"I wouldn't say the team is getting down, but there's certainly a level of frustration involved," Neal said. "The captains are doing a good job focusing on the process of getting better each day and doing the small details, and hopefully, things will click."

Neal has been tweaking with the lineup and on-field personnel throughout the season and admits it's still a work in progress.

"We're still going to experiment with not only player personnel, but with the rotation patterns, phases, first phase, second phase, maybe even a third phase until something clicks," Neal said.

Neal said players have responded well to the squad's rotation, and he doesn't think players have been affected by playing out of position.

"We've got good soccer players who are quite versatile," Neal said. "We're not going to over-read into things and look at stuff like that. Right now we're just looking for the right fit."

Of 13 goals conceded by the Phoenix, 11 have come in the second half, but the team's second-half strugglers can't be blamed on a lack of fitness.

"It's easy to look at the second half box score and say we've given up a lot of goals in the second half so fitness must be an issue, but I'm really not convinced that's the case at this point," Neal said.

He remains focused on preparing the team for the start of the conference season and is busy looking for solutions rather than asking more questions.

Salazar's hot start provides offensive spark for Phoenix

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

Junior forward Miguel Salazar spent the majority of his first two years on the Elon University men's soccer team as little more than a secondary offensive option behind the team's headline-grabbing stars.

But that didn't bother Salazar.

He knew his value was as a steady presence in the defensive midfield, where he would roam the field and disrupt the opponent's possession to help Elon's back four quell attacks on their final third.

"My priority has always been defense first and attacking second," Salazar said. "My main job is to defend in the midfield, not to go forward. I don't want to attack and be caught too high and not be able to recover in time to defend."

He used his first two years to absorb as much as he could from the leaders in front of him, knowing that their experience was invaluable for a player still adjusting to the college game.

"Every day they came into practice and worked hard," Salazar said. "Even if it wasn't their best day, they always had the right mentality and the right attitude, and it showed the rest of us how they expected us to play."

This year, Salazar has played second fiddle to no one. He scored two of the team's four goals through its first three regular season games, plus its lone goal of the preseason game against the University of South Carolina.

In 2012, his freshman year, he learned under the tutelage of then-senior forward Chris Thomas, the 2012 Southern Conference Player of the Year, who scored a nation-best 23 goals and was named a Hermann Trophy semifinalist, and then-senior midfielder Gabe Latigue, who supplied five goals and six assists that year. Together, Thomas and Latigue led the Phoenix to its second straight Southern Conference title and second consecutive berth into the NCAA tournament.

All the while, Salazar, still adjusting to the college game, fit nicely as a complementary piece in the midfield for his more recognizable teammates up front. He tallied 19 starts and was rewarded with a spot on the Southern Conference All-Freshman team.

In 2013, with a year under his belt, the Guanajuato, Mexico native started 20 games and tallied three assists. He was overshadowed by then-senior midfielder Daniel Lovitz — now a member of Major League Soccer's Toronto FC — and then-junior forward Jason Waterman. Together, Lovitz and Waterman carried the team to a third straight conference title and first ever NCAA tournament win, while Salazar again contributed in the defensive midfield.

Salazar said his increased offensive production is because of his greater understanding of his role in the offense.

"I had to learn my role on the team," Salazar said. "[As a freshman], I had to learn to go forward at the right times. I had to learn when to go [forward] and when to stay back



Salazar has scored two of Elon's goals through its four games this season. The Phoenix is 2-2.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

[in midfield]."

Head coach Chris Little, who coached Salazar as a freshman in 2012 when he was an assistant under former coach Darren Powell, said he is not surprised at all that Salazar's offensive potential is beginning to show. It is his commitment to his craft, Little said, that has allowed him to break out.

"He's always had a lot of offensive talent," Little said. "One of the things he worked on was getting forward and attacking, and he's done a great job developing that part of his game. His two goals have been a testament to that hard work."

His emergence has been vital, as most

of Elon's other weapons, other than juniors James Brace and Nathan Diehl, who scored the other two goals, have yet to find the back of the net.

While it'll be tough for him to continue the pace he started the season with, Little said he hopes Salazar can remain a solid option in support of Waterman and Brace, should the two forwards need help.

"We've been looking for where we can get goals from. We can't be reliant on our forwards," Little said. "We've challenged our guys to produce, and Miguel has taken that challenge to heart and stepped up and given us what we needed."

Volleyball tournaments help Elon develop stamina

Upcoming Elon Sporting Events

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Men's Soccer vs. Florida International
Rudd Field
7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Men's Tennis at Duke Fab Four

Women's Tennis at Elon Invitational
Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

Men's Golf at Tar Heel Intercollegiate

Women's Soccer vs. Coastal Carolina
at Wilmington
5 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Men's Tennis at Duke Fab Four

Women's Tennis at Elon Invitational
Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

Football vs. North Carolina A&T
Rhodes Stadium
6 p.m.

Men's Golf at Tar Heel Intercollegiate

Cross Country at Elon Invitational

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

Men's Tennis at Duke Fab Four

Women's Tennis at Elon Invitational
Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

Men's Soccer vs. West Virginia
Rudd Field
7 p.m.

Men's Golf at Tar Heel Intercollegiate

Women's Golf at William & Mary Invitational

Women's Soccer vs. Francis Marion
at Wilmington
12 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

Women's Golf at William & Mary Invitational

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Women's Golf at William & Mary Invitational

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

Chanelle Smith knows she'll be tired come Saturday night.

But that's what comes with the standard three-games-in-two-days tournaments that kick off the college volleyball season.

Teams typically play in tournaments for the first three or four weekends of the season prior to conference play. The tournaments usually involve one game Friday night, one Saturday morning and another on Saturday night.

Playing more games makes for a weekend jam-packed with volleyball, but the tournaments help foster a tough mindset for what ends up being a marathon of a season.

"Just playing in three games, it's knowing that we're going to be tired," said Smith, a senior outside hitter for Elon University. "You have to be mentally tough, because they're going to be close games. When you're just physically tired, you have to have the mentality that the ball's never going to hit the ground."

Elon opened its year with a three-game home tournament Aug. 29-30, playing the University of Maryland, San Jose State University and Liberty University. The Phoenix spent Sept. 5-6 at the Kennesaw State Owls Invitational in Kennesaw, Georgia. Elon played Kennesaw State University, Purdue University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Since it's early in the season, Elon head coach Mary Tendler will use the tournaments to get prepared for the Colonial Athletic Association slate and to see which lineups work best. And the mindset is a little different than conference games, too.

"The focus more is on our side, compared to later in the season when we have two matches a week, and we're in the conference where we put more emphasis on what the other team is doing," Tendler said. "Right now we're just trying to get better on our side. We're still trying to compete, we're still trying to win every match we play, but we're more focused on our side at this time of the year."

The travel aspect of the tournaments comes into play as well. For the Kennesaw State tournament, Elon traveled to Georgia on Thursday and returned after its game against UNC Asheville on Saturday night.

In all, Saturdays are long days. Elon typically has a pregame meal before its first game, plays, then rests while scouting the other teams.

"It kind of depends, but for us, we try to stay off our feet a lot of the time," Smith said. "Right when we get done with pregame meal, we go back to the hotel and sit with our feet up. It's a long day, I'm not going to lie."

The tournaments provide time to be exposed to different opponents and their styles of play, experience that could come into play down the road. When Elon played seventh-ranked Purdue in Kennesaw, it was the first time in the Phoenix's Division I era that it competed against a nationally ranked opponent.

The Boilermakers swept the Phoenix, but going up against a team with that kind of talent and watching them throughout the weekend was something Tendler said she was excited about.

"The opportunity to play against a team of that caliber, and not only play against them, but [we were] able to watch them against the other teams," Tendler said. "It's good for our team to develop and see that competition so no matter what happens in conference this year, we've probably seen it. No matter how big a player is from a CAA school, we've seen it already in our nonconference matches."

Scouting the opponents is one big reason



Elon currently sits at 2-4 on the season after hosting a tournament to begin the season and traveling to Kennesaw State last weekend. The Phoenix will spend its next two weekends at Campbell and Wake Forest

"It's one thing of watching them on film or having a coach tell you what a team does, but when the players sit down and take notes and get to see it for themselves, they have a whole different perspective," Tendler said. "It's good that they're taking ownership and wanting to see what the other team does."

Entering the Kennesaw State tournament, Elon was focusing on improving its offense. Tendler said she liked what the team showed in its opening weekend, especially blocking and defense, but that it needed consistency.

Elon saw sophomore outside hitter Kayla Agae step up during the weekend, tallying a career-high 15 kills in a five-set loss to UNC Asheville. She had seven kills against Purdue and eight in a five-set victory against Kennesaw State.

Offense is critical for Tendler throughout these tournaments so that there isn't too much pressure put on the defense to score points off serves.

"It just felt like there were a lot of times Coach Mary would push that we need to put the ball down because there were a lot of long rallies, and that just makes us tired in general," Smith said. "She was saying that we need to find a way to terminate, whether we're going against a small block or a big block. If we have long runs like that every single game, we're going to be drained by the third game."

Smith said she thought the opening weekend was a good sign for the rest of the year. Elon lost a competitive four-set match to Maryland, beat San Jose State in four sets and was swept by Liberty. The season-opening match against Maryland gave the team a big spark for the weekend as a whole despite not winning.

"I feel like, out of all four years I've been here, that's probably the best we've started off," Smith said. "In general on the court, we

stands were saying how different our team looked on the court, just the demeanor on the court when we were up or down."

With two more weekends of these tournaments, Elon has plenty of time to make more adjustments and learn more about itself.

That's what Tendler likes, especially at this point in the year.

"Physically, we're prepared for it," she said. "Mentally, we just started the academic year so usually there's a little less requirements for them academically. It's a good time to have a lot of matches, but still not miss a lot of class."

Volleyball Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Volleyball vs. High Point
Alumni Gym
7 p.m.

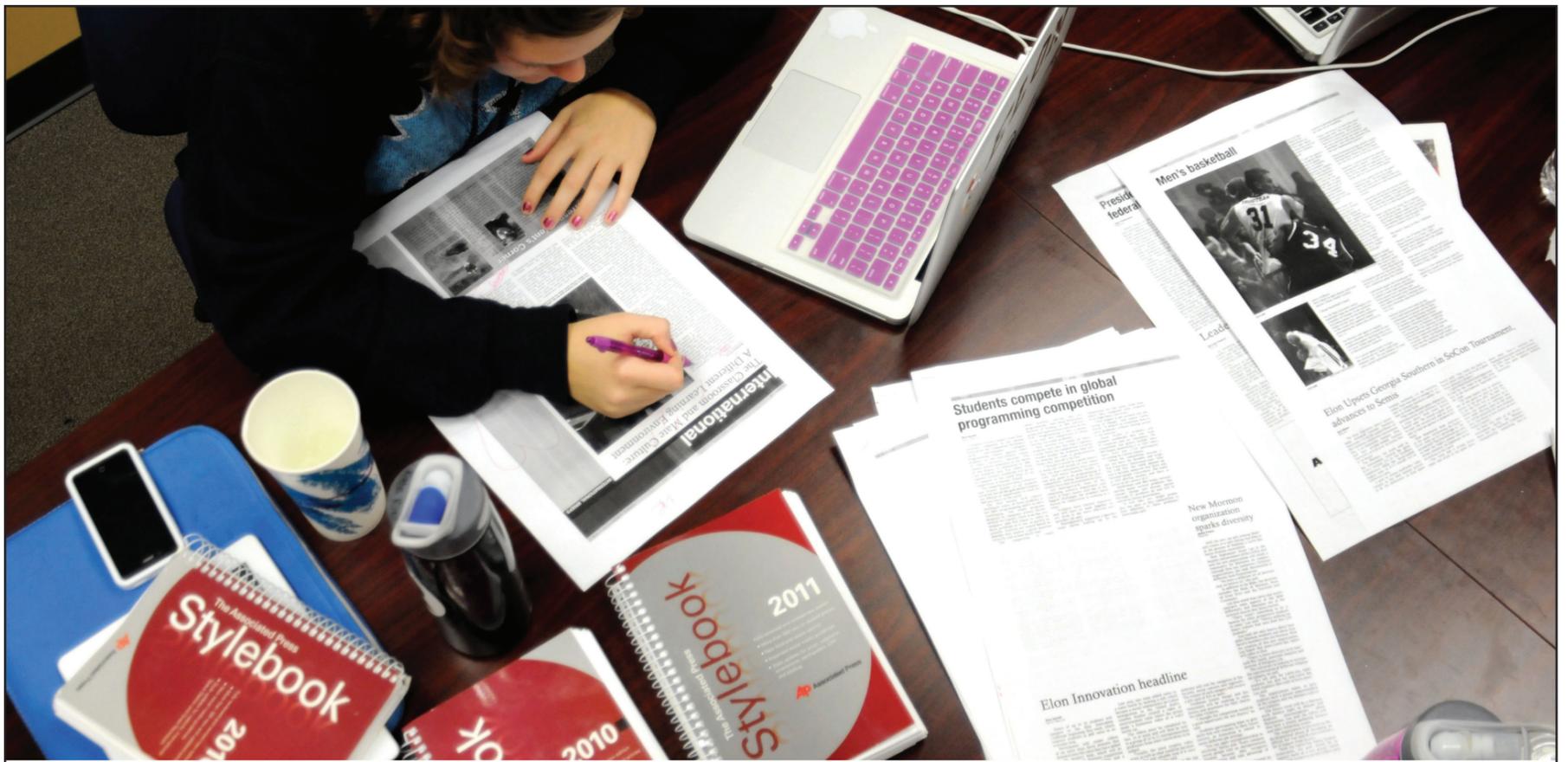
FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Volleyball vs. North Florida
at Campbell
4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Volleyball vs. South Carolina
at Campbell
10 a.m.

Volleyball at Campbell
7 p.m.



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