

THE PENDULUM

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Under the Oaks

From Convocation to Commencement: A look at the graduating Class of 2015



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JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KYLE HOGANSON

An open letter to the Class of 2015

With each school year that passes at Elon University – I have one left before I'll follow you



Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

Under the Oaks – the time between move-in weekend and Commencement seems to get shorter and shorter. Do you remember that time? Do you remember

when, not-so-long ago, you entered the halls of Carolina and Smith, Danieley and Colonnades, grinning with an infectious short of nervous excitement that spread contagiously from ear to ear?

I'm sure you remember Old Staley and Harden and some long nights split between Taphouse and Sandy's. All gone. During your time as an undergraduate, you've watched the world change, and you've watched your university change with it. Your incoming class stood 1,417 strong. The Class of 2018 brought with it 80 more students, for a total of 1,497, and the fall's incoming freshman class is larger still.

Each year, too, has brought more challenges. Some would call them burdens. Your freshman year, a massive hurricane wreaked havoc on your move-in weekend. Your sophomore year, the Olympics were grimly overshadowed by a troubling global economy and the outbreak of civil war in Syria.

Your junior year, debates over gay marriage intensified and started an ongoing conversation on campus. Your senior year, a sustained movement for racial equality has sprung up on the heels of documented issues of police brutality toward minorities.

You've been challenged, and that's been hard. You've begun to think about things in a new way – more deeply, with more thought and sensitivity. You've developed complicated opinions on difficult issues, and those have changed over time. You've laid the foundation for the person the "real world" will know you as, and that's no easy feat.

Elon is growing physically, sure, but that's just the tip off the iceberg. Comparing the university

from what it was 15 or so years ago – a smaller, regional college – to what it has become – a well-known university with a host of successful programs – is much more than apples and oranges. It's a whole different kind of conversation.

You've grown, too. You've grown a lot. Your graduating class boasts an impressive resume that is a direct reflection of what you've accomplished in four (for some of you, less, some maybe a little more) short years here. That Fulbright-earning, Peace Corp-admitting, job-grabbing, connection-making pedigree you've developed says a lot about who are and what you care about.

Don't stop caring. Don't stop. College graduation can be a

bittersweet time that may border on melancholy for some of you. The closest friends you've ever had are all splitting up, bound for New York City and Los Angeles, Raleigh and Nashville, other continents and beyond.

And it's all happening so painfully fast. Sometimes, a cliché or two isn't the worst thing in the world, so please permit this one: don't treat this as an end. Treat this as the start of something that is terrifyingly wonderful.

Channel that anticipatory freshman-year spirit. Go out and fill the world with as much promise as you've packed to the brim of this campus. We'll miss you, – we'll miss you a lot – Class of 2015. Elon is better for having known you.

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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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What time is the continental breakfast?

The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. in Scott Plaza and ends at 8:45 a.m. All guests should plan to be seated Under the Oaks by 9:00 a.m.

Q: What time should graduates arrive?

Graduates participating in Commencement Under the Oaks should arrive at Jordan Gym no later than 8 a.m. Graduates should be dressed in their caps and gowns when they arrive.

Q: What happens if it rains the morning of Commencement?

In the event of rain, Elon will move Commencements into Alumni Gym. The Rain Plan will be implemented and two separate ceremonies will be held. One at 9:15 a.m. for Bachelor of Arts degrees and the other at 1:15 p.m. for Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. It is the responsibility of the graduate to give their rain tickets to those that will use them this morning.

Q: Are tickets required to attend the ceremony?

No, tickets are not required to attend the outdoor ceremony. The ceremony Under the Oaks is open to as many guests as you would like to invite.

Q: How long is the Commencement ceremony?

The ceremony, including the academic procession and recession, will be approximately three hours and conclude by 12:30 p.m. This is the ending time for the Under the Oaks outdoor Commencements.

Q: Are professional photographs available?

Yes, a professional photographer will take photos of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. Photo proofs will be available online within 48 hours. GradImages is Elon's official commencement photographer. Ordering will be available online.

Q: How can I order Commencement on DVD?

Elon will offer a professional video of the 2015 Commencements. They will be available for purchase for \$20 and must be ordered by June 30, 2015. There will be a table set up behind the Commencement seating with more information on the DVDs. They can be ordered online or by mail.

Q: Is water available during the ceremony?

Water stations are located behind the seating Under the Oaks. You are welcome to refill your own water bottles.

Q: Where are the restrooms?

There will be air-conditioned comfort stations at the back of the seating area. Additional restrooms are available in Alamance, Long, & Mooney buildings. There will be restrooms available for special needs guests on the first floor of both McEwen buildings.

Q: What type of aid is available for hearing assistance &/or translation?

There will be a limited number of hearing assistance devices and Spanish interpretation devices available at the Information table this morning. There will also be a sign language interpreter near the stage during the Commencements.

Q: Where do I meet my graduate after the ceremony?

A reception for graduates will be held around Fonville Fountain (same location as breakfast). Signs for each of the academic degrees/departments will be placed above the reception tables located in Scott Plaza. Please plan to meet your graduate near the sign of his or her academic major. A special reception for international students and their families will be held in the Isabella Cannon Global Education Building on the third floor.

Q: Where do graduates pick up the oak sapling?

Oak saplings will be given out to the graduates in front of the Powell building. Alumni association information will also be available at the same time.

Q: Where do I get my sticker that says "I'm a Proud Parent"?

You can pick up these stickers at the information tables and the alumni tables around Fonville Fountain.

Q: Where are the First Aid station and Commencement Communications center?

Commencement Communications, Campus Police and First Aid are located under the tent between Whitley Auditorium and the parking lot.

Q: Where is the lost and found?

During the ceremony, lost and found items should be taken to the information table at the back of the Commencement site. Following the ceremony, lost and found items will be taken to Campus Security in The Oaks.

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

Contact Patti Gibbons, associate director of cultural and special programs, at pgibbons@elon.edu.

For additional information, visit the Commencement page on Elon's website at www.elon.edu/e-web/news/commencement

THE HONOR  SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI
CONGRATULATIONS!

The Elon University chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi would like to congratulate the following new initiates who were selected to membership from the top junior, senior, and graduate students. Faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify for initiation into the Society. Elon University's newest initiates were recognized at an induction ceremony on April 27. Provost Dr. Steven House gave the opening remarks and Associate Provost Dr. Connie Book delivered the keynote address at the ceremony.

Let the love of learning rule humanity.

WWW.PHIKAPPAPHI.ORG

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Phoenix under construction

Campus gains square footage with upcoming construction projects

SUMMER 2015

Arts West Music Production

Estimated completion: Early July 2015

7,000 square feet of space in Arts West will be renovated this summer. In addition to renovation plans, 4,000 square feet of classrooms, studio recording spaces and faculty spaces will be added to the existing building.

Carlton

Estimated completion: Fall 2015

Before the GEC moved to the third floor of Global Commons fall 2014, the center was housed in a space on the first floor of Carlton building. Over the summer, the space that was formerly home to the Global Education Center (GEC) on the first floor of Carlton building will be converted to a student gathering and study space. The space will be able to reconfigure and hold 40-50 people for a film showing or speaker.

Daniel Commons

Estimated completion: Fall 2015

An estimated 4,500 square feet will be added to Daniel Commons in Danieley Neighborhood. The new space will include offices for Residence Life and a large gathering space that can be divided in half for classes. The existing space in Daniel Commons that holds residence life offices will be renovated this summer and converted to a space for an Einstein Bros. Bagels.



Danieley G and Danieley H

Estimated completion: Fall 2015

Beginning late May, construction crews will begin to enclose the breezeways on the first floor on Danieley G and Danieley H. The process of enclosing the entrances to the Danieley building flats began summer 2014.

Danieley Recreation Center

Estimated completion: Fall 2015

The Danieley Recreation center is a 15,000 square-foot recreation building that, when completed, will include a gym with two basketball courts, a fitness area and offices for Campus Recreation. The center sits behind Danieley Center flats H, I and J.

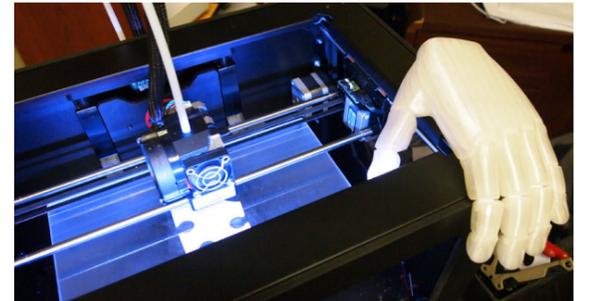


Makerspace

Estimated completion: Fall 2015

The lobby of Colonnades E, Harper Hall will look different when students return to campus in the fall. This summer, work will begin to construct a Makerspace in the existing lobby of the residence hall. According to Elon Technology's website, makerspaces in the residential campuses will "significantly enhance Elon's campus by providing student access to an innovative and strategic informal learning space."

The site also said students will be able to use the innovation station to create a wide variety of projects, such as screen print a T-shirt, draft a product prototype, design and print 3D objects, code a mobile app, launch a camera into space and build a scrap metal windmill.



Powell

Estimated completion: Fall 2015

A partial renovation will be done to the space that housed admissions before the offices moved to the Inman Admissions Welcome Center February 2015. Faculty offices and a student gathering space will now occupy the existing space.

Moseley Center

Over the summer, a space adjacent to the Student Professional Development Center (SPDC) will be renovated into a presentation space for the SPDC. The space formerly housed Office of Admissions employees and student workers until they moved into the Inman Admissions Welcome Center in February.

FUTURE ADDITIONS

School of Communications

Estimated completion: August 2016

The first stages of the 14 month construction project to add more than 60,000 square feet to the existing School of Communications building will begin in late May after graduation ceremonies are completed. The construction project will begin with the placement of construction fences around West parking lot, where the new addition is set to be located.

The new addition will feature a two-story building with a large media innovation lab and four additional media labs, three classrooms, seven student engagement spaces, 29 faculty offices, the dean's suite, and the 250-seat Turner Theatre. In addition, it will also include a new pavilion that will house a media analytics lab and an Imagining the Internet center.



Elon recently began the programming phase for three new projects. The expansion locations have not yet been determined. Below are the three projects, according to university architect Brad Moore, that are in the preliminary planning phases:

- Convocation Center
- Additional space for the business school
- Additional space for the sciences

The Pendulum spoke with Brad Moore, university architect and director of planning, design and construction management, to compile information on the university's summer construction plans and future additions.





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From Ferguson to O'Kelly

Have Elon's events discussing racial bias worked?



Students gather at the front of Moseley Center to express their feelings towards the statement, "Black Lives Matter."

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Max Garland
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's discussion of race for the 2014-15 academic year began in August with the national story of Ferguson and Michael Brown. It closed May 12 with a rally for respect and racial equality on its campus.

Racial activism was present on campus throughout the year. More than 200 people were a part of a "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" group photo in August. A silent protest was staged for racial equality in December during the annual Luminaries celebration. The first part of Elon's "The N-Word Forum," an interactive discussion on the racial slur, was held April 30.

Recent incidents of racism both locally and nationally spurred marches, forums, vigils and speeches at Elon this year — but according to Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life Joel Harter, these times aren't any different than the past.

"There have been a lot of discussions about race here recently, but I wouldn't say this year has been any worse in terms of racism," Harter said. "It's just that now these incidents are getting more attention."

There is an increased campus focus not just on the incidents, but also on the creation of university responses to the incidents.

The most recent occurrence of racial bias this year — including racial slurs directed toward a black student January 21 and another yelled from a moving car April 22 — marked the sixth reported racial slur in less than four years and built into the inception of the rally.

Minority students expressed concerns in April about the lack of response from the university in regards to these incidents of racism and the protests in Baltimore, according to Carla Fullwood, associate director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE).

"The Truitt Center started connecting with organizations like the SGA, Greek Life and the student body in general because of the undertone of racism here," Fullwood said. "They were answering the question of, 'What can we do?'"

Harter said the accumulation of reports of racial bias on campus created a need for an event that would end spring semester on a hopeful note. The Rally for Respect and Racial Equality, which took place May 10, was the event chosen.

"Our intent with the rally was to make it the first step in seeing a change in campus culture," he said.

The rally was different than past campus events regarding racism, because it was a student body-led initiative to change the campus culture instead of something exclusive to campus organizations.

The response to the rally's announcement was positive, according to SGA executive president Avery Steadman. But not all of those who supported it may go on to actively participate in campus conversations about race.

Steadman and Harter both agreed that the main hurdle for Elon in the eradication of discrimination is the lack of dedicated activism from the student body's white majority.

"We need to challenge white students to be a part of these events," Harter said. "A lot of people are being silent allies about these issues, but that's not going to create change. Building relationships and crossing lines are really important for what we need to do."

Freshman Giles Roll, who helped plan the rally, said he hopes it will create accomplices out of allies.

"In planning for the rally I've seen a lot of passion and frustration out of students," he said. "We want this to open up an organic conversation for all students about race."

While the topic of race at Elon hasn't reached many direct conversations, one smartphone app is already buzzing with discussion about it

that disproportionately affect black people," one Elon-based Yik Yak post read. "It's not to diminish the value of all lives."

Besides addressing the Yik Yak discussion, the vigil's purpose was to show solidarity to community members with family in Baltimore, according to Harter. It connected the national issue of Freddie Gray's death to the feelings of the Elon community.

Earlier in the year, Elon responded to another instance of alleged police discrimination and the riots that formed as a result.

The beginning of the fall semester featured a panel discussion on police shooting an unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri, and a "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" group photo.

The Ferguson panel featured five Elon faculty members who discussed the shooting and the reaction to protests in the city, as well as words from Ferguson native and Elon junior Mia Watkins.

"I feel like the Ferguson discussion was a great event, but honestly I don't think the people who needed to be at the discussion were actually there," Roll said. "There were a lot of similarly minded people there, and that dis-

faculty members making the same silent statement for a brief moment in time.

"In light of recent events in Ferguson, we would like to show that Elon does not tolerate social injustice, and that we are accepting of all races, gender and all types of sexual orientation," said Alpha Phi Alpha chapter president Justin Pierce in an E-Net article about the photo. "We want to show our community that Elon is a place where we all belong."

Looking ahead to the future

The Ferguson panel, group photo and Tuesday's rally, along with other events focused on racial issues such as the April 30 N-Word Forum, show Elon is making an effort towards giving minority students a larger voice, Harter said. But many are wondering if these events can be improved.

"Elon still needs to erase the cultural ignorance that a lot of students still have," said senior Clarisse Abayisenga. "It's like two separate worlds here. There's the white Elon, and then there's the other Elon. They need to educate students about different cultures and openly accepting different people. Right now they still sweep things under the rug."

Campus-wide discussions of race are difficult to create due to worries of sensitivity, Steadman said.

"Students here are so scared of stepping on each other's toes or saying the wrong thing," she said. "That's putting us further behind. Elon as a whole needs to speak up about issues of race instead of avoiding the topic."

Despite the lack of conversation, Harter said there are positives going forward for minority groups on campus, specifically with the growing role of CREDE in inclusion efforts.

"CREDE is a phenomenal resource," he said. "They are doing great work here with organizing and helping out with these events. Programs like the N-Word forum have been happening all year. Students of color still feel like they're not being heard, but what the CREDE is doing right now is exciting."

ELON DOES NOT TOLERATE SOCIAL INJUSTICE . . . WE WANT TO SHOW OUR COMMUNITY THAT ELON IS A PLACE WHERE WE ALL BELONG.

JUSTIN PIERCE
ALPHA PHI CHAPTER PRESIDENT

'Black Lives Matter' becomes a catalyst for conversation on Yik Yak

Conversations about Elon's racial climate have already been happening through the anonymous social media app Yik Yak after phrases such as "Black Lives Matter" were written in chalk across the campus.

"A few people were confused about 'Black Lives Matter' and made posts about changing it to 'All Lives Matter,'" Steadman said. "No one's going to debate that all lives do matter, but that's not the issue right now."

Harter said several Yik Yak users posted smart responses to the 'All Lives Matter' discussion. He opened Elon's May 5 Vigil for Baltimore by showing the posts on the app about "Black Lives Matter."

"Black Lives Matter' is a statement designed to draw attention to the inequalities

discussion needs to happen more with those who aren't going to any of these events."

More awareness needs to be raised about future events discussing race, because many Elon students have not had the experience of being a minority, freshman Alonzo Cee said.

"I'd say people are unaware here because of all the privilege," he said. "There are a lot of white kids here with a lot of money and privilege, and the money that they have creates an opportunity for racial disparity."

Cee said more widespread events at Elon addressing the topic of race are necessary to improve the campus climate.

"I don't want to use the word ignorance, but a lot of people here haven't had the experiences we've had," he said. "That's why continued conversation is so important."

The "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" group photo was the opposite of the panel discussion, with few words and a focus on 200 students and

Correction:

In the May 6 edition of the Pendulum, the article "Campus fed up by racism, not giving in" incorrectly stated the position of junior Danielle Williams. She is the president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) at Elon University, not the president of the Panhellenic Council (PHC). The article also miss-attributed the following quotation: "It's sad that I can honestly be afraid to walk home, just because someone might say something to me." The quote should be attributed to Danielle Williams, not Randy Williams. The Pendulum regrets the errors.

TOP 10 STORIES

1 National events spark conversations and statements

Protests against police brutality and racial discrimination have shaken the United States since the shooting death of an 18-year-old unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri by a white police officer last August.

Other recent incidents of alleged police discrimination include the death of Eric Garner after being held in a chokehold by a police officer last July and Freddie Gray sustaining a spinal cord injury in April while in Baltimore police custody and dying from it later that week.

Members of the Elon community have responded to demonstrations taking part across the nation with their own activism. Elon's Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. organized a group photo of community members taking part in the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" movement during the height of the Ferguson protests. In December, students took part in a silent protest during the annual Luminaries celebration.



Students silently protested acts of racial inequality during the annual Luminaries in December. HALI STEWART | Staff Photographer

2 Greek life undergoes a year of additions, suspensions

The Greek community underwent many changes during the past academic year, beginning with Sigma Pi, Epsilon-Theta chapter's three-year suspension for hazing in November. The chapter submitted an appeal for the suspension, which the university denied.

The Epsilon Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was suspended indefinitely for hazing allegations in February. A month later, Elon, in conjunction with the national office of Pi Kappa Phi, closed the chapter until January 2017.

In other Greek life news, Chi Upsilon Sigma, Elon's only Latina sorority, emerged on campus in February and will begin its formal recruitment process in the fall.

5 Solar panels bring added income to university



Solar panels were installed on Loy Farm during spring 2015. JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Back in March, Suntuity, a solar power generation project managing company based in Holmdel, New Jersey, began installing 9,900 photovoltaic solar panels on 10 acres of Elon-owned Loy Farm.

The energy generated from the solar panels is not intended to go to the university, though. Elon will gain from the project through the income received from leasing the 10 acres of Loy Farm.

It is estimated that by the end of the month, the solar panels will officially be generating power into a grid that connects to the railroad tracks by Williamson Avenue, producing 4,500 megawatts of electricity annually—enough to power 415 homes in the surrounding area.

4 ISIS increases power and reach



Bassel Korkor, U.S. counsel to the Syrian's Coalition's Washington and United Nation's offices, spoke Feb. 25. JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), an extremist terrorist organization, has garnered attention around the world with targeted attacks towards the Iraqi and Syrian governments and its desire to establish an Islamic caliphate in the Middle East. The group has been held responsible for numerous human rights violations, including torture, mutilation and the persecution of minority groups.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Many rallied around The Oak House, a locally owned coffee shop, when it was announced that Starbucks would be coming to campus fall 2015. Since the petitions, Elon announced they were pausing plans to bring the franchise to campus.

3 Starbucks brews controversy

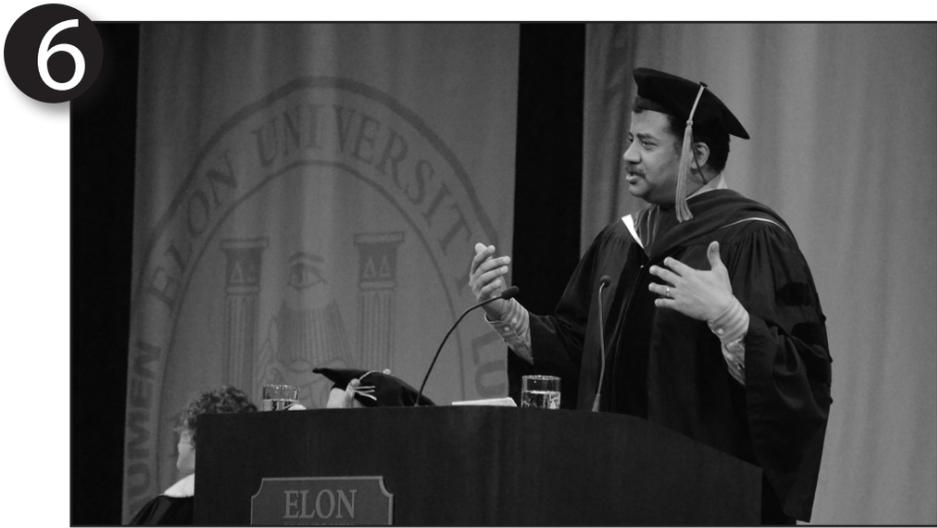
An Elon University May 1 announcement that Starbucks would be coming to campus fall 2015 stirred controversy amongst students, faculty and community members.

Widespread grassroots opposition in favor of local businesses like The Oak House — an independently owned coffee shop and bar — followed the announce-

ment and prompted a petition of more than 2,500 signatures to keep downtown Elon filled with local businesses, not large franchises like Starbucks.

Two weeks later, Elon announced it was putting a pause on plans to bring a Starbucks to campus, saying it needs more time to develop a "more comprehensive" plan for the area's future.

IES OF 2015



Neil deGrasse Tyson spoke at Elon's Spring Convocation April 2.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

6 Neil deGrasse Tyson speaks at Spring Convocation

Neil deGrasse Tyson, the executive editor and on-camera narrator for the four-time Emmy Award winning show "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey," visited campus April 2 and delivered the Spring Convocation address. In the

more than one hour speech "The Sky Is Not the Limit," Tyson emphasized that school should train students to be curious, not worry about grades. "You can define yourself by your grades but later on no one else will," Tyson said.

8 Ebola strikes Africa

More than 11,000 deaths were reported in the 2014 outbreak of Ebola, which was concentrated in the sub-Saharan African countries Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Four cases of the virus were reported in the United States, one

of which resulted in the death of a Liberian man who traveled to Texas. Liberia's Ebola epidemic officially ended on May 9. Fewer cases are being reported in Sierra Leone and Guinea.

10 Brian Williams suspended from NBC Nightly News, continues relationship with Elon

NBC suspended Nightly News anchor Brian Williams six months for a misrepresentation of events during his coverage of the Iraqi War.

Williams said during a January broadcast that an RPG hit the military helicopter he was traveling in and had to make an emergency landing. The soldiers who piloted Williams' aircraft said no RPGs were fired, and damage only occurred to a helicopter ahead of theirs, a half-hour ahead of Williams' flight. He later apologized for the

mistake.

Williams is on Elon's School of Communications advisory board and donated to the fundraising campaign for the new communications buildings. The Jane and Brian Williams Studio, a building to be constructed as part of the expansion, will open in the fall of 2016. Dan Anderson, Elon's vice president of university communications, said to the Burlington Times News that Williams' relationship with Elon will continue.

7 Quake strikes Nepal

Earthquakes in the south Asian country of Nepal flattened entire villages April 25 and left more than 8,000 dead.

Elon University held a vigil at Numen Lumen Pavilion April 27 to pray for victims and community members affected by the disaster. Shortly after the quake, Elon students started Elon for Nepal, an aid-based organization to raise money and supplies for the victims.

Two weeks later, another earthquake hit the country, injuring more than 1,000 people.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal April 25, leaving thousands dead and cities destroyed.

9 Donations to Elon increased in 2014-15 year



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Elon Day, a celebration of the university's birthday, brought more than \$700,000 in donations.

The 2014-15 year marked a successful year for giving for Elon, beginning in December 2014 when Dwight and Martha Schar, P'16 and P'19, pledged \$12 million towards the expansion of the School of Communications and a new multipurpose convocation center. Their gift will allow Elon to begin preliminary planning for the convocation center, which according to The Elon Commitment

Plan of 2009, is a 5,000-seat multipurpose center whose location has not yet been determined.

Elon students and alumni from around the globe gathered together in person and on social media March 10 in celebration of Elon Day, which raised more than \$702,000, resulting in Elon's largest day of giving in history.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Brian Williams, Elon's 2013 commencement speaker, found himself in the January 2015 headlines after admitting to misrepresenting a series of events during his Iraqi War coverage.

Elon Academy makes college possible for low-income students, raising more than \$2 million in scholarships



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS.

Deborah Long, former director of the Elon Academy, congratulates a past graduating class for being accepted to colleges, including Elon University.

Morgan Smith
Senior Reporter

Within the past year, Elon Academy has helped its 20 high school seniors receive more than \$2.58 million in scholarships to schools in the US, mostly in the North Carolina area.

A college access program for low-income high school students in Alamance County, Elon Academy motivates participants and provides them with the guidance they need in the lengthy college application process. Almost all members of Elon Academy are the first in their families to move on to post secondary education.

For the program's next, its seventh, year, it received 140 applicants for only 25 spots. This year, though, the class of 20 represents schools from all over the Alamance/Burlington area.

Although these seniors are participating in Elon Academy, Jenni Johnson, Elon Academy assistant director of senior support and student life, wants to point out that they're "regular students."

Many of the students in Elon Academy are at the top of their class, but Johnson said there is a mix of achievement within the groups, with some having more academic success than others.

Despite the fact that participants span a vast academic range, they share a common denominator.

"Just about all of them have in common that they're the first in their families to go to college," Jones said. "That's one thing that really binds them together."

Senior Sandra Flores, also a member of Elon Academy, knows that without the Academy, she wouldn't be in college.

"Elon Academy completely changed my life," Flores said. "They helped me be successful. I'm the first person in my family to go to college."

Like Flores, many other program participants have Elon Academy to thank for their many successes.

This year has been particularly successful for Elon Academy students. Members have been accepted to a total of 50 colleges and universities, along with being the first students to break the two-million mark in merit scholarships.

Most Elon Academy students attend public institutions in North Carolina: this year, four students will be going to University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and three going to Appalachian State University. In addition, one Elon Academy student will be attending Elon University as a Watson and Odyssey Scholar.

Not only is this year's Elon Academy group academically successful, Terry Tomasek, director of Elon Academy, describes them as "resilient."

Although she can't provide specifics, Tomasek said that, within the past year, many students have experienced dramatic life experiences.

"These are situations that would have knocked many of us on our cans," Tomasek said. "But being the students that they are, they persevered. These are young people who have worked their way up to this point in their lives, and when several of them hit some pretty significant bumps in the road, they didn't stop."

In addition to student developments, the program, itself, has undergone numerous changes, as well.

"The most prominent change is that we have a new director," Johnson said. "Terry is doing an excellent job adjusting and reforming the program."

Elon Academy also has a new staff member, Princess King, in addition to their new building. Once stationed in Powell House, the program switched to the School of Education hub, Mooney, to join the Center For Access and Success in the fall of 2014.

"It's been a good change," Johnson said. "It's a central location for our college scholars

so we see more of them now."

The new location is assisting Elon Academy with their mission.

"We're continuing to deepen our relationship with Elon, the local community, and our students," Tomasek said. "Being in the heart of Elon's campus really helps with that."

Tomasek foresees more changes for the future of Elon Academy, especially in the area of community connections.

"We talk a lot about how we can partner with our local community," Tomasek said. "We want the ripple of Elon Academy to be felt by more students."

Senior Desmond Harrell thinks that community outreach will further strengthen Elon Academy.

"Keep going, don't stop, and stay passionate," Harrell said. "The passion everyone involved in the program has motivates their students more than they'll ever know."

Although Elon Academy can't accept more students as a practical matter of funding, both Tomasek and Johnson are beginning to work with the Alamance Burlington School System to spread the mission of the Academy.

"In five years we hope to be fully involved with ABSS," Tomasek said. "We'll better understand how to meet the needs of our local young people. We know more now than we did before, but there's still a ways to go."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS.

Elon Academy is a program providing academically promising high school students with leadership development and necessary skills for pursuing a college education.

Sapling show sibling bond beyond graduation

Danielle Deavens
Senior Reporter

After her brother's graduation from Elon University, Melissa Benedetti never had to think where she would put her sapling when she chose to attend Elon. Her brother's sapling sits in an area where the two played together as children.

"My parents said the moment that I accepted to go to Elon, that they would plant mine right next to his," Melissa Benedetti said. "It's sort of the designated 'Elon area' in our backyard."

She's expecting to plant hers there as well.

Vince Benedetti ('09) gave his parents full control over having his sapling near their home. He felt they had earned that right.

"If it wasn't for their love and support and money my time at Elon would not have been possible," he said. "I felt it belonged to them as much as it did to me."

Melissa Benedetti is one of three Vince Benedetti's saplings will grow together, a symbol of their special bond as Elon alumni. This symbolism is not lost on their parents.

"My parents have a large wooded back yard and could've planted the sapling among the dozens of other trees in back of their property," Vince Benedetti said. "Instead, they chose to plant it in a wide open space just outside of their kitchen window."

Vince Benedetti is also pleased with the significance of the trees

to his sibling bond.

"Everyone has always said Melissa and I are the same person," he said. "These days I take that as quite the compliment. It will be wonderful to see the two trees growing next to each other for years to come."

For their parents, the saplings will be a source of both pride and relief — Melissa Benedetti is the last child to graduate.

"After I graduate they are, one, very excited for me to graduate so they can stop paying tuition, and, two, so they can move on with their lives," Melissa Benedetti said.

Their parents plan to stay in their childhood home for a few more years, waiting until their three young adults are financially stable. Until then, the saplings will be a constant reminder of fond memories as children and Elon students.

For now, when the two return home for family gatherings or to pay a visit to their parents, they can remember their growth.

"It's seen from our kitchen windows, a place that we look out from every day," Melissa Benedetti said. "I didn't know time would fly by so fast, but this is a great way to keep Elon with me after I graduate."



How to care for your sapling

- 1 Choose a sunny, safe and open site for planting.
- 2 Dig a hole deep enough for the taproots.
- 3 Transplant your oak.
- 4 Cage your tree to protect it from animals.
- 5 Irrigate trees in dry weather.

GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

Crafty graduates leave their final mark

Miranda Siwak
Senior Reporter

At Commencement May 23, one thing will make senior Kelli Anne Gecawich easy to find among the crowd of maroon gathered under the oaks: her graduation cap.

"I put in the four corners words that I've

learned, that deal with what I hope to do after graduation," Gecawich said. "I would like to work with survivors of sexual assault. It obviously has some stuff to do with Elon because that's where I'm graduating from, and there's going to be some gold and sparkles on it."

As the members of this year's senior

class wrap up their final days as students of Elon University, many are using their grad caps as one last collegiate crafting project that will reflect their past four years while looking toward their futures.

Gecawich has chosen the phrases "empower others," "believe in yourself," "speak up for those who have lost their voices" and "support survivors" to express her values and beliefs and the lessons she learned in her studies as a human services major.

"I'm a crafty child by nature," she said. "I like to paint on things. I've always wanted to [decorate my grad cap] since I found out it was a thing and was pretty popular here at Elon."

Elon seniors use the canvases of their blank maroon caps to show off their personalities by referring to their majors, experiences at Elon and passions. To stand out, students will use paint, sparkles, jewels and permanent markers. Gecawich said using paint and glue work best, because stickers will fall off.

Gecawich won't be the only one wearing a flashy cap. Senior Emily Ice is planning to decorate hers as well.

"It's always been something I wanted to do to show who I am," said senior Emily Ice. "I'm kind of a nerd, and I really love the show 'Castle,' and I wanted to bring that in, and it goes with my criminal justice minor."

Ice is using the "Castle" quote, "The last thing you want is to look back on your life and wonder, 'if only.'" She plans to add the show's iconic "A" into the word 'grad' at the

bottom of her cap to display both her obsession and her minor.

"Ever since I heard the quote, it's something that's really resonated with me," she said.

Gecawich thinks several crafty students will decorate their caps for graduation day as well. Last year, many students incorporated Disney, Harry Potter and Elon images, as well as monograms, sparkles and inspiring quotes.

Ice sees these decorated grad caps as mementos.

"I saw several people that decorated theirs in all sorts of quirky ways last year," Ice said. "It was something I didn't do in high school, but I wanted to do. It's only for one day, and then I will hang it up and have it as a reminder. I don't want one with florals or one that's too busy. I think it's more fun and unique to you when you use a quote."

Ice said her "Castle" quote is her mantra for her post-graduate future. She likes how having it on her cap will serve as a reminder of her goals and perspective on life.

While it is a relatively new trend among Millennials, decorating grad cap has become a graduation staple for students to show off a piece of themselves and celebrate their final moments as college students.

"I think it's a very neat tradition, not something that's been around for a while," Ice said. "It's a neat way to personalize your graduation and stand out in a sea of maroon and gold that looks the same and to show your personality."

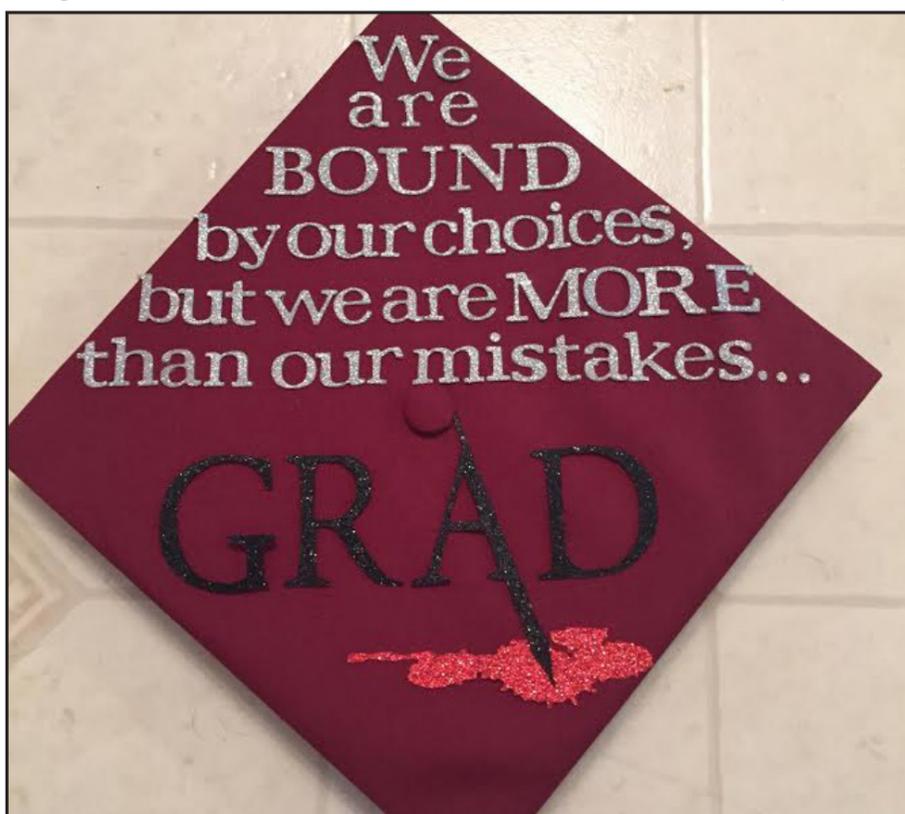


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EMILY ICE

Senior Emily Ice's graduation cap was inspired by a quote from the television show 'Castle.'

Taking EDM by storm

Gaining momentum, Elon graduate signed to Lollapalooza



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Recent Elon University graduate Tyler Marenyi, who is better known by his stage name, NGHTMRE, runs in the same circles as artists such as Skrillex.

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

From fiddling with Garage Band in an Elon University dorm room, Tyler Marenyi '13 – better known by his stage name, NGHTMRE – has from a home base in Los Angeles built an international following in the electronic dance music industry.

Though the young graduate majored in finance and picked up an accounting minor, Marenyi grew disillusioned fast with his studies, which started to feel like a whole lot of going through the motions for the aspiring musician.

“Every day at the end of class I was like, ‘I just want to go back and work on music,’” Marenyi said. “I don’t care about any of this stuff.”

A semester abroad in Florence, Italy, junior year brought the music producer his first slice of success. A single he recorded in Italy was picked up by a small London record label.

“I was still kind of doing it for fun, but this

gave me a thought that this might actually work out,” he said.

Marenyi was right. NGHTMRE’s Facebook page as of publication has more than 114,000 likes, and his Twitter handle has almost 10,000 followers. He counts Skrillex, perhaps the best-known modern artist in the electronic dance music industry, as an inspiration and a friend.

At Ultra Music Festival in March, a weekend-long annual music festival in Miami, Florida, that attracts hundreds of thousands of attendees, Skrillex closed a thundering set with NGHTMRE’s latest single, an unidentified trap single with heavy doses of darkness.

The single, which NGHTMRE said is set to be released through famed artist Diplo’s Mad Decent label in early June, is a reflection of the Elon graduate’s selective strategy when it comes to labels and disseminating his work.

In a changing music industry that is shifting more online with streaming services such as Sound Cloud and Spotify eating up

progressively larger chunks of the sales market, artists have had to adapt to different means of getting their music out there. Traditional labels, built on decades of connections within the music business, are losing some ground in EDM.

It can be difficult for new or emerging artists to draw the attention of a major label such as Mad Decent or Mau5trap or Fool’s Gold or Ultra Records, Marenyi said. It’s why the emerging EDM sensation has uploaded the vast majority of his tracks onto services such as Sound Cloud, for free.

“It’s sort of useful to go to labels ‘cause all of them have such connections that they’ve been building for 50 years,” he said. “So if they’re going to put you on and really, really promote you then you’re probably going to make it. It’s so much more bureaucratic.”

Though he’s not making money up-front on the affair, NGHTMRE said he would rather pick up new fans that will support him as he continues to grow, as opposed to picking up a few easy dollars now.

He’s thinking for the long-term. And he’s having some fun while he’s doing it.

“I make whatever I want to make, then I pick the right stuff to release with the brand,” Marenyi said. “I feel like if you have a strong enough image, and as long as your music is consistent, you can have whatever you want.”

The brand of NGHTMRE has required careful crafting and heavy maintenance on social media. Though Marenyi started both efforts more or less alone, he has brought along some help in the way of a recently hired manager who is working to solidify branding and social media usage for the young artist.

With his striking black and white logo and the connotation of the name itself, Marenyi

worries some that NGHTMRE can come across as too dark and moody and brooding. The kind of music he most loves to create, on the other hand, consists of lighter, more upbeat California-style vibes, he said.

“We want to do a little bit of a juxtaposition thing, because the name is NGHTMRE, but it’s melodic and happy music,” Marenyi said. “We’re trying to brand it as this cool, West Coast, minimalistic-type brand, versus being like a scary, evil nightmare type thing.”

He’s quite the image conscious artist. Taking care to avoid posting any content that supports drugs or too much partying, the performer said he knows that the price of fame comes with an obligation to be a role model, especially for younger fans.

In recent years, the EDM scene has been plagued with reports of drug abuse and fatalities, often a result of a long and untangled history with the drug MDMA, commonly referred to by its street name, Molly. In August 2014, 19 concert-goers were hospitalized and two died from the Mad Decent Block Party, a two-day EDM festival at Maryland’s Meriwether Post Pavilion that is sponsored by Diplo’s label, The Baltimore Sun reported.

But he places a premium over individual accountability as opposed to going after the culture of the industry, which he describes as a close-knit group that is like “thousands of the very best friends you’ve ever had.”

“There’s going to be drugs,” Marenyi said. “It sucks that that happens, and obviously you would never, ever want it to happen to anyone, but people have to take responsibility for their own actions. I never would want to be the person advocating for something like that.”

NGHTMRE DREAMCATCHER TOUR					
4/23	SANTA ANA, CA	YOST THEATRE*	6/07	BRISBANE, AUS	BISCUIT FACTORY W/ COOKIE MONSTA, TUNICASE, & BOONBOE CANNEL
4/24	MIAMI, FL	SPACE W/ SLANDER	6/12	SYDNEY, AUS	CHINESE LAUNDRY W/ BEAR GRILLZ
5/02	NEW YORK, NY	WEBSTER HALL*	6/13	SUNSHINE COAST, AUS	THE HELM AT THE WHARF TAVERN
5/06	SEATTLE, WA	FOUNDATION*	6/14	ADELAIDE, AUS	ZHIVAGO*
5/08	PORTLAND, OR	WHISKEY BAR*	6/17	DETROIT, MI	ELEKTRICITY*
5/13	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	EPR*	6/21	LAS VEGAS, NV	ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL (EDC)
5/28	MILWAUKEE, WI	MIRAMAR THEATER*	6/26	HOUSTON, TX	STEREO LIVE W/ SLANDER
5/30	ORLANDO, FL	GILT*	7/03	DALLAS, TX	LIZARD LOUNGE
6/06	PERTH, AUS	AMBAR*	8/02	CHICAGO, IL	LOLLAPALOOZA

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

NGHTMRE’s “Dreamcatcher Tour,” which is happening now, will bring the emerging artist across the United States to some major electronic hotspots.

NGHTMRE

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Branding has proven to be a challenge for Marenyi, whose persona of NGHTMRE tends to evoke dark imagery. His favorite songs, he said, tend to have more of a relaxed, happier West Coast vibe.

Letters to the Class of 2015

Dear Seniors, Dear Graduates,

You likely won't remember this. Four years ago, in August, you and I met for the first time at opening convocation. I was coming to be your Chaplain but was finishing up my work at another University. In my beginning blessing over you under the oaks, on the Friday evening of move in because we were dodging a hurricane, I reminded you that you came to Elon University in a very auspicious moment, between an earthquake and a hurricane. Do you remember that? I claimed that you might be prophets.



Jan Fuller
University Chaplain

In many sacred traditions, nature's events of power signify and mark special souls, leaders, and prophets. In those traditions, the prophet doesn't so much foretell the future but perceives the stark reality of the present while also perceiving given the vision of God for what might be, a transcendent view of what the future could hold. The prophet holds together what is and what could be in a hopeful, and—sometimes—painful tension. These days are full of that tension for you.

Maybe you didn't feel like prophets then, maybe you still don't.

This weekend marks the Jewish Holy day of Shavuot, which commemorates God's giving the Ten Commandments to God's people, 50 days after the Passover and Exodus. It signifies a change in the relationship of the people of Israel and God. First they were freed from slavery. Now they are asked to become a people who serve God. You are about to

be free from the constraints of your University, classes, schedules. As you enter the workforce, or spend quality time with your families, you will also be choosing what and whom you will serve, support, be indebted to, or follow. What values, commandments, or rules will form the structures of your lives and service?

This weekend also marks the Christian feast of Pentecost in which God's Spirit surprised the followers of Jesus by giving them abilities they did not know they had. As the Spirit came to them, they were suddenly able to communicate in languages they did not understand, to speak good news to people they did not know. Pentecost is the celebration that reminds Christians that anything is still possible, and that there will be surprises in store. Surprises are just that—unimagined. These days are a call to watch carefully to see where the holy shows up, to perceive where you are being called, and to open yourselves to inexplicable powers and abilities of which you never knew you were capable.

As you stand on the edge of tomorrow, and the future you've been dreading or dreaming about, you hold together in your mind's eye the world you know and the world you hope to find out there. You stand in the prophet's moment, as one on might stand on the top of Mt Sinai surveying what is before you. None of us can yet imagine what the next months will hold for us. It is going to be new, surprising, and perhaps not at all what we had imagined. And yet, ironically, you are also going to create it as you go. What you do out there has every potential to change the course of history, and to make the world a different place. What do you want the world to be like in 20 years? How do you want to change our culture, education, social services, or politics? What imprint do you hope to make on life as we know it? You will be inventors

and journalists, artists and writers, politicians and ministers. We expect that your Elon education gives you the tools and wisdom to make the world better: to cure diseases, to challenge exclusion and inequality, to imagine solutions for poverty and homelessness. In other words, we hope that you will heal the earth and make it a better place for all creatures, and humans too. It will be up to you, now, singly and collectively, to build the world you want, the society we need, the justice we yearn for, the equalities and inclusions we can only dream about. How will you contribute?

The future you are moving toward has not yet been imagined. You have been given the gifts to envision a world you want to live, work, and love in. How will you make it happen? It won't all be a surprise. Some of it is already in place. You have training, gifts, and values. You are ready.

We send you out from Elon to be earthquakes and hurricanes, to tear down what no longer serves the human race, and to shake what needs adjusting. We also send you as prophets who see what it might mean to nurture the earth and all its creatures, to serve and build the common good, to be friends of the Holy One by whatever name you use, to extend a hand up to those in need, and to be the presence of divine love wherever you go. We send you as evidences of hope in this world, inviting you to surprise us all with good news, to teach us of the wild heart of the universe, God, and the power of love. We believe in you!

Be well, go in peace and blessing, and stay in touch.

Chaplain Jan Fuller
Jfuller3@elon.edu

Four years...where have they gone? Just the other day you were a first-year student starting out in a new place, meeting any number of other first years whom you had never seen or heard of till then.



Raghuram Tadepalli
Dean of the Spencer
and Martha Love
School of Business

Now, you are ready to graduate with a degree from a fine university with bright prospects for success and a full circle of friends -- some of whom will be life-long ones. What's there not to be happy and proud of?

Indeed, your future is now in your capable hands, for having completed your degree requirements you are now about to start the next phase of your education in that world-class university called "The University of Life." Believe me the University of Life can provide you with all kinds of thrills and chills.

The key is to know that beyond your degree you have a set of skills -- you can work well with others, you can write and speak well and most important of all you can handle uncertainty and ambiguity. In fact, uncertainty and ambiguity are going to be present all the time going forward. Disappointment too. How do you deal with them? The key is not to make work and the work place the center piece of your life.

Pick a social cause and volunteer. Or pursue hobbies. Or play sports. Or adopt a pet. That will give you an outlet and you will meet a whole lot of people like yourself. That in turn will expand your group of friends. When you think about this, isn't that what Elon is all about? Certainly the academics are important, but if there is one thing uniquely powerful about the Elon experience it is all the activities that you participated in outside of class.

You will hear a lot of well-meaning people say "follow your passion" and as nice as this sounds, I can tell you that the first few years in your first job, your main tasks are to watch, learn, follow directions, and build your set of accomplishments. This takes a lot of commitment and self-discipline. In spite of showing commitment and self-discipline, sometimes things won't work out the way you hoped they would. Don't feel sorry for yourself. Pick yourself up with the help of your family and friends and know that thrills and chills are part of life. Much has been given to you till now but in the University of Life, you have to earn everything yourself. As you leave Elon University remember our very best wishes are with you. Make us proud but more importantly, make yourself and your loved ones proud. Long live Elon!

Dear Members of the Class of 2015,

Congratulations on this great accomplishment and welcome to your family and friends. Today, many of you will walk across the stage, shake President Lambert's hand, and receive a degree from one of the 42 majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. It is my hope that you will take many wonderful memories with you as you transition from being our student to being our alumnus. I want to share three thoughts with you as you prepare to enter the world as an Elon graduate.



Gabie Smith
Interim Elon College Dean

You are ready!

Faculty and staff have helped to prepare you for the world that awaits you. You have the skills that are necessary for success both in your profession and in your personal life. There is great demand for people who have strong critical thinking and communication skills, as well as the ability to solve complex problems. The education you have received in the Arts and Sciences, both through your chosen field of study and the core curriculum, have prepared you in just this way. Over the last four years, you have also been challenged to discuss differences and embrace discoveries. We have asked that you explore the world -- from your local community to communities across the globe -- always with the intention of improving the lives of others. As you enter the next phase of your life, it is our hope that you will continue to challenge yourself and find ways to contribute meaningfully.

You will fail!

If you go forward with an Elon drive for new experiences, then you won't always play it safe. There will be plenty of opportunities for failure -- and that is a good thing. When you arrived on campus four years ago we watched as you jumped into many, many new experiences. You've stretched yourself through your coursework and through your participation in undergraduate research, internships, leadership, study abroad and service learning. One lesson we hope you have learned from your deep commitment to the Elon Experiences is that perseverance leads to success.

You will always be a Phoenix!

Last month we hosted the Elon College Distinguished Alumni Award ceremony. Each one of the award winners summarized how the experience of being a student at Elon affected their lives in complex and enduring ways. In discussing her journey after graduation, Julie Dyke Ford '95 (an English major who is now on the Engineering faculty at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology) spoke of the powerful influence that faculty mentoring had in shaping her life. We hope to have that same impact on each one of our graduates. As you walk across the stage today and begin your transition from an Elon student to an Elon alumnus, recognize that those mentoring relationships don't end. We would love to hear from you and continue to learn and grow together. We wish you all the very best as you take on new challenges and adventures.

Best wishes,
Gabie Smith

To the Class of 2015,



Sarah Paille-Jansa
Senior Class President

We have experienced a lot of strange weather in our four years at Elon. If you recall, when the Class of 2015 had their first-year convocation, it was moved from Saturday morning to Friday evening as the East coast was bracing itself for a hurricane. I remember crying in the car on the way from Atlanta lamenting that I was driving literally and metaphorically into a hurricane. Together, we have endured storms and we've also experienced sunshine. We experienced ice storms that caused power outages and falling trees, and also spring Elon days with the bluest skies and the hottest sun. Weather comes often unexpectedly. And in some ways, so did Elon. I think many Seniors share the sentiment that we didn't know Elon was what we needed until we got here.

Congratulations to us. I'm filled with bittersweet gratitude to be graduating with you all. Our community of students is simultaneously impressive and interesting. And it's no argument that we are an impressive bunch. Elon has given us all the tools and skills that will be invaluable in the future: whether that's a job, graduate school, or something else entirely. What I am most thankful for is my experiences that have made me a more interesting person. I hope you all strive for the experiences that challenge you and make you better. I hope that in any way, small or large, we can stay connected and continue to contribute to this community we've built together. I wish you good health, good lives, and sunshine. It's been real.

'I Travel Light' brightens up research

Senior's fiction novel to incorporate physic theories, Lumen Prize

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor

A black hole emerges on the side of a college campus. An antimatter disease causes those infected to suddenly disappear. A girl can run at the speed of light.

These scientific phenomena are the premise for Elon University senior Brianna Duff's novel and Elon College Fellow research and Lumen Scholar project, "I Travel Light." As a double major in physics and English with a concentration in creative writing, Duff wanted her research to combine both her passions, and she found a way through writing a science-based novel.

"I knew I wanted to do something with both my majors," Duff said. "This gave me the ability to teach something about physics but still allows for fiction to dominate."

Breaking down the science

"I Travel Light" was inspired by "Einstein's Dream" by Alan Lightman, a fictional collection of stories about Albert Einstein as he formulates his theory of relativity. Duff was fascinated by the idea of teaching science simplistically through a broader, fictional story.

The genre is known as science in fiction, which has similar fantastical elements as science fiction but uses science to back up the story's elements instead of simply imagining them. To make sure she had all the facts straight, Duff spoke with various physics professors, learning new information in the process.

"With the physics, I want to stay true to it while keeping it entertaining and understandable," Duff said. "You have to iron things out."

But Duff manages to use concise, seamless language to incorporate the physics theories into the storyline.

Terms like spaghettification — the process of extreme stretching that objects theoretically undergo once they pass a black hole's event horizon — are included throughout the book, educating but not overwhelming Duff's young audience.

"I'm writing for young adults by using physics, so I don't want to overwhelm the reader with too much symbolism or complications," Duff said. "I use the science as metaphor."

The book was originally going to be a



COURTESY OF ELON COMMUNICATIONS

Senior Brianna Duff wrote the science in fiction novel "I Travel Light" with assistance from her Lumen Prize mentor, author Drew Perry.

collection of short stories, that began with the idea of someone running at the speed of light, but it grew into one seamless novel that incorporates multiple physics ideas.

"[Her father and I] read the first draft loved it, loved the ideas," said her mother, Marla Duff. "We like the different storylines and each have our favorite parts. They all connect, and they all have different personalities. It's definitely going to speak to different people."

She said her daughter wouldn't have started a vast project like writing a novel so early in her life without the opportunities Elon has presented her, and added that it's been exciting to watch her form the book.

Duff is a recipient of the Lumen Prize, which awarded her a \$15,000 scholarship and made writing the novel possible.

With the scholarship, Duff has been able to travel to various book festivals and readings to learn about writing for young adults. She has also had the opportunities to speak directly with authors, including her inspiration, Lightman, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"It was one of the best days of my life," Duff said. "I talked to him about putting

correct science to fiction. The whole research process is figuring out how to write a novel. I learned about what kind of writer I am."

While she was studying in Florence, spring of her junior year, Duff had the opportunity to go to Switzerland and visit the European Organization for Nuclear Research, commonly known as CERN. There, she spoke with researchers and a science communication expert about taking a big idea and putting it to layman's terms.

From this research, Duff was able to transfer the story in her head to paper.

Writing and revising and revising

While Duff has been published in *Colonnades Literary and Art Journal* and has written short stories for an online magazine, this is the largest literary project she has undertaken.

Writing "I Travel Light" has been an extensive, two-year-long process for Duff. After researching, she wrote hours on end during the summer and then went back later to edit. Although she does not believe that schedule is the most sustainable process for writing, it worked out best for her academic schedule.

After she finished writing for the day around 7 p.m., she read young adult novels to help find a voice for her characters and improve her own writing.

"You constantly have to read," Duff said. "Once you start writing for a while and you get the voice, then you have to go back and fix the voice. It's figuring out how they speak."

During her final year at Elon, Duff has spent her free time and entire Winter Term editing and revising her novel with guidance from research mentor Drew Perry, published author and associate professor of English.

"I think it's incredible," Perry said. "It's incredible to have a complete draft and entire novel as a undergrad. She's written a book about the way we break and bend, and it's lovely. She's wanted to write for young adults, but I think it speaks to everyone."

Perry told Duff when a voice wasn't strong enough, if a metaphor should be fixed or if the science was confusing. Duff

took this criticism and applied it to new drafts as well as making her own edits.

Throughout the year, she spent her time going over plot points, character voices and general edits, sometimes throwing away and rewriting 200 pages of work. On a time crunch to get the novel done before graduation, Duff said catching up was difficult.

Although Perry and other authors told Duff how much editing goes into a finished novel, she was still hoping it wouldn't be the case.

"I don't think I realized it would be extensive, but I knew it was going to be extensive, if that makes sense," she said. "You think 'this won't be me because I'm a good writer,' but it happens with all of us."

Presenting her findings

Currently, "I Travel Light" is about 230 pages long. Although the novel isn't finished, Duff has done a few readings of sections and said she has received good feedback from those who attended.

Her next step to finish the novel is to completely edit her second draft before she works on a third draft. From there she hopes it will be finalized enough to do more specific copy editing and go line by line to make sure everything sounds right.

Eventually, she hopes to get it published.

"I hope she gets a chance to revise it and finds a publisher," Perry said. "She's so on fire she'll be able to do anything she wants to."

After graduating, Duff will be taking a summer publishing class at Columbia University. She hopes to work for a publishing company in New York City and possibly write another science in fiction novel.

Although science and creative writing are not typically considered complimentary, Duff has found a way to weave her two passions together.

She said the entire process has taught her about who she is as a writer and as a physicist. Because she did not take specific classes on black holes or antimatter, Duff went out of her way to educate herself so she could correctly include these themes.

"I wouldn't be the writer I am today without physics," Duff said.



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Student internship conversions

Seniors receive full-time job offers from internship employers

Lauren Phillips
Assistant Style Editor

Before returning to Elon University at the end of last summer, Rebecca Stoddard received a full-time job offer from GE Capital, the financial services unit of General Electric. She accepted the offer the Monday before her senior year officially began.

Stoddard, a finance major with minors in math, accounting and economics, spent the summer between her junior and senior years interning with GE Capital in Connecticut. She received the job offer for a 2-year rotational program about a week after the internship ended.

“At the beginning of the internship, they said they were going to give full-time offers to 50 percent of their intern class,” she said. “So throughout the summer, you’re obviously trying to perform well because you wanted to be the top 50 percent.”

Many seniors in Elon’s Love School of Business, like Stoddard, receive job offers from employers with whom they previously interned.

“It’s what we call conversion,” said Lauren Duffy, associate director of corporate and employer relations at the Love School of Business. “Does that student have an internship, for example, the summer of their junior year, and then convert it to a full-time job following graduation.”

Duffy, who works with Elon’s Student Professional Development Center (SPDC), said it’s probable that employers will offer full-time jobs to interns.

“It makes the most sense for [employers] to extend offers to students who already have experience with the company and have proven that they have the right work ethic, that they are the right fit in the company culture,” she said. “It’s good for the student, and it’s good for the company.”

As some rising juniors and seniors prepare to begin their summer internships, Duffy recommends they take a good look at the company with which they are interning.

“I think [interns] need to have a vision of, ‘Is this a good place to begin a career?’” Duffy said. “Do I like this culture? Do I enjoy working for this supervisor? Is this supervisor the person who would be my

boss beginning this job? Do I like living in this city? Do I like my coworkers?’ They’re interviewing the company too, and I think they need to take that really seriously and be thoughtful and mindful about that process.”

Stoddard agreed.

“You’re definitely looking to make sure that you like the company [and] they like you,” she said. “It’s a two-way street where they really want to have the best incoming class that they can get, so they’re recruiting you, as well.”

Weighing options

Students who receive full-time job offers from their summer employers face a difficult decision — they must choose between accepting this early offer and waiting to see what other offers they may receive during the school year.

“We’re seeing more students come back in August with reported job offers,” Duffy said. “Other students may get an offer and want to see what else is out there for them, and they just need to be very transparent with the employer and negotiate a timeline.”

spring 2015, employers give students until October 31 or March 31, respectively, to accept or decline an offer. The policy also gives students three weeks after the date of the written offer to make a decision, if that date came after the October or March decision date.

“Most competitive companies know that if they want to secure the top talent and if they loved working with [a particular intern] over the summer, [then] they need to go ahead and give them a competitive offer before they get back and other employers can get their hands on them,” Duffy said. “We’re seeing a lot of our students with high GPAs, students with really competitive internships, know exactly what they’re doing after graduation in August, September, October.”

Duffy said the SPDC is willing to help students consider their options and accept the offer most appropriate for them.

“We look at every student like they’re an individual, and we want them to sit down with a career adviser and talk through this job offer and acceptance process because it can be really overwhelming,” she said. “I think a lot of our students think, ‘How do

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF DURING YOUR SUMMER INTERNSHIP

- Is this something you would want to do after graduation?
- Do you like your supervisor?
- Would you be working with the same team as a full-time employee?
- Do you like the location?
- Do you like the company culture?

LAUREN PHILLIPS | Assistant Style Editor

ing a job offer from another company.

“I really loved the teams I was working in,” he said. “And a lot of my coworkers were phenomenal, but I didn’t really want to base it on the personnel, because accounting has a very high turnover. I kind of knew before I got the offer that I was going to take a look around and see what else was out there.”

Segal, after carefully considering his options and meeting with the SPDC, ended up accepting a full-time position with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Duffy recommended students take a hard look at their options before passing up on an offer.

“I think some of our students always think the next best thing might be coming around the corner,” she said. “At some point, you just have to make the best decision that you can with what you know. What you don’t want to do is miss the opportunity to accept an offer and then not get any other offers and then be scrambling.”

Segal agreed.

“It was nice to know that, if I came up short, that I still had an offer,” he said. “But I didn’t take that offer for granted.”

Duffy also said students should not retract job acceptances.

“We expect Elon students who have committed to a job offer to consider that offer binding,” she said. “You don’t want your first impression in the professional world to be one that shows that you might not be as reliable or follow through on your commitment.”

Differences across disciplines

Duffy, who works primarily with the business school, said accounting and finance companies recruit early in the school year, as do most employers who offer leadership development programs or have structured programs for new hires. But, she added, other schools have different processes.

“If you look at communications, it’s more of an in-time offer, so they have this opening and they make an offer,” she said. “That can happen throughout the spring and throughout the summer after graduation. A lot of our communications students need to move to the city, whether it’s New York or LA, to actually get the job.”

Regardless of when they begin recruiting students and offering jobs, Duffy said all employers want the same thing.

“The reality is, companies want good talent,” Duffy said. “There are exceptions, but by and large most companies want students that can communicate well, that are willing to work hard, who are honest, who have had dynamic experiences and can come in and hit the ground running because they’re willing and ready to work.”

“IT MAKES THE MOST SENSE FOR [EMPLOYERS] TO EXTEND OFFERS TO STUDENTS WHO ALREADY HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE COMPANY.”

LAUREN DUFFY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND EMPLOYER RELATIONS

Elon’s on-campus recruiting policy requires employers who want to work with the SPDC and attend on-campus recruiting events to give students time to consider their options and make educated decisions. This policy mandated that, for fall 2014 and

I know in August what I want to do next May? And so we really in the Student Professional Development Center just try to talk it through, because it’s not the same for everyone, and the best decision for that student is really unique to that student.”

Senior Kevin Amaya, a double-major in international business and marketing, accepted a full-time offer from GlaxoSmith-Kline this past December, which he said was his best option.

“At the time, I was interviewing with other companies,” he said. “I had other job offers lined up as well, but it came down to choosing which one was the best fit for myself.”

This perspective also helped Stoddard decide to accept her offer.

“I knew I was going to accept immediately,” she said. “I waited a few days [before accepting] simply to fill out paperwork. I know, just being in the business school here, what opportunities I might get, and I knew that GE was going to be more competitive than the other ones.”

Some students, after interning with a particular company for a summer, decide that company or type of work isn’t for them. Duffy said this is normal.

“Say you intern somewhere your junior summer and it’s not the right fit,” she said. “That’s okay, too, and there are plenty of opportunities when you come back your senior year to explore and interview and sort of discover what might be best for you next.”

This was the case for senior Richard Segal. Segal, an accounting and finance double major and a former business manager for The Pendulum, received a job offer from Ernst & Young, where he interned the summer before his senior year. But Segal ended up accept-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY REBECCA STODDARD

After a summer internship with GE Capital, senior Rebecca Stoddard accepted a full-time job offer.

Elon seniors, alumnus receive *Current Fulbrighters share experiences,*

Lauren Phillips
Assistant Style Editor

Kyle Whitaker '14 spent spring 2013 studying in Florence, Italy. His relatively short time there inspired him to apply for an opportunity that would take him halfway around the globe, to Kuala Lipis, Malaysia, for his first year out of college: a Fulbright grant.

"That semester was my first time living abroad," Whitaker said. "I knew almost instantly that I would not be done seeing the world when it came time to leave."

After speaking with Elon University's Office of National and International Fellowships, Whitaker decided to apply to the Fulbright English Teacher Assistant (ETA) Program, one of three grants offered by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

"It would allow me to travel and teach, two things I'm passionate about," Whitaker said.

In spring 2014, Whitaker and five other Elon seniors received Fulbright ETA grants, putting Elon third in a ranking of U.S. Master's institutions producing the most Fulbright students. The six recipients in 2014 also set Elon's record for Fulbright grants.

Julia Okada '14 was another grant recipient. She applied to teach in South Korea and was placed in Mokpo, where she is teaching at Yeongheung Middle School. Okada, like Whitaker, wanted to spend some time abroad after graduation.

"Going into senior year of college, I had already decided that I didn't want to immediately start work in the states after graduation," Okada said. "I wanted to take a year or two living abroad, learning from people different from me and growing as a person."

Irreplaceable experiences

Okada arrived in South Korea July 6, 2014, with Mat Goldberg '14, another Elon Fulbrighter. Most grants only last one year unless they are renewed or extended, which is an option in few countries. Though the Fulbright South Korea Program allows grants to be renewed for up to 3 years, Okada decided to return home after this year. Her grant will end July 17.

"I've definitely learned a lot about teaching practices and education policies that are both beneficial as well as detrimental to student learning and growth, which was my goal," Okada, a former Elon Teaching Fellow, said. "But on a more personal level, I feel like I've grown into a more independent, confident person."

Upon arriving in South Korea, Okada, Goldberg and 78 other new ETAs began a six-week orientation. During this time, they were assigned their schools, took Korean language courses and attended workshops to learn teaching techniques, transportation tips and how to interact with their host families, among other important skills.

In mid-August, Okada began working at Yeongheung Middle School, where she works with students aged 12-15.

"I was really taken aback by just how different school culture was in [South] Korea from the U.S.," Okada said. "I knew there'd be differences, but you can't really be ready for it until you get there."

The large class sizes — on average, 36 or 37 students in each class — and strict staff hierarchy in her new school were challenging for Okada. But she said there were positive surprises, too.

"Another more pleasant surprise about the school culture was the relationship between student and teacher," she said. "[South] Korean middle-school students are in class most of the day, so they form very strong bonds with their teachers. It's surprising and touching to have many of my students ... look to [me for] support, even if I only feel like a guest in their country."

Whitaker, whose program didn't begin until January 4, 2015 and will end November 2, shared Okada's surprise when he arrived in Malaysia.

"Everything about Malaysia surprised me upon arrival," he said. "I didn't expect Kuala Lumpur to be quite so massive, I didn't expect that Islam would play such an important role in so many of my interactions here and I certainly didn't expect that rice would actually be eaten with every meal. All of my expectations of Malaysia were so far from the reality of my experience, which has really made for an interesting past couple of months."

Whitaker teaches at SMK Padang Tengku, a public secondary school with a student body of about 800 students aged 13-17. He lives in Kuala Lipis, about 20 minutes away from the school and about three hours north of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

Whitaker, like Okada, appreciates the strong relationships he has developed with his students.

"My role as a mentor with my students is coming into focus more and more every day," he said. "So many of the students I work with are just incredible. They have been welcoming to me in ways I never expected, and they continue to go out of their way to say hello to me [and] to teach me a little bit of Bahasa Melayu [their language] every day."

While his students have been more than willing to help him, Whitaker said it has still been a challenge to navigate expectations about language, race, religion and gender while he acclimates to Malaysian culture.

"Being an American in Malaysia comes with a lot of preconceived notions," Whitaker said. "Figuring out how to talk openly and honestly about my own life and the lives of those I'm surrounded by has been a fascinating and rewarding, if not occasionally frustrating, process. It's helped me understand more about what genuine cultural exchange really looks like."

Okada said her favorite part of being an ETA has been getting involved in her community, both through volunteering and through getting to know other ETAs, her fellow teachers, her host family and her students.

"You come to a foreign land alone, and you're just so humbled and grateful to people who welcome you into their hearts and homes to give you a chance to be a part of their family and community," she said. "That's what really sticks with you. The greatest experiences in Fulbright really do come from the people you meet and the friendships that you make."

Okada hopes to eventually attend graduate school and earn a degree related to education reform, policy and management, so part of her motivation for applying for a Fulbright ETA in South Korea was to learn about teaching.

"South Korea is consistently internationally ranked as having one of the best educational systems in the world, so I was curious to see what exactly schools there did to make their learning institutions so highly regarded," she said. "Also, [South] Korea has a huge international teaching community, with people from all over the world coming to be a part of and learn from the [South] Korean education system. So in [South] Korea, I wouldn't just be learning from [South] Korean teachers, I would have access to resources from all of the world that could help me become a more effective educator."

Whitaker chose to apply to teach in Malaysia because it was unlike any of his previous experiences.

"Southeast Asia was never on my radar, and I knew that the opportunity to teach and live in a place like Malaysia would be challenging and would force me out of my comfort zone post-graduation, which is what I was looking for," he said.

After their yearlong grants end, Okada and Whitaker will both be leaving their host countries. Okada will join AmeriCorps — a national community service organization — for the 2015-2016 year. Whitaker isn't sure what his plans are, though he hopes to eventually become a university administrator.

"It's all up in the air right now, but I'm playing with a few ideas," he said.

Whitaker still has several months left in Malaysia, but he said he's already getting a good idea of what he'll take from this experience.

"I think the most important thing I've learned being here so far is that our world desperately needs genuine, well-meaning and intentional cultural exchange," he said.

Okada had advice for future Fulbrighters.

"Keep an open mind," she said. "Have a positive attitude and prepare to be challenged and grow as an individual. It will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It certainly has been for me."

The newest Fulbrighters

As Elon's newest Fulbrighters prepare for their grants to begin, this advice will be much appreciated.

This year, three current Elon students and one alumnus received Fulbright grants: Senior Omolayo Ojo will be an ETA in France; senior Christine Fortner will be an ETA in Thailand; and alumnus Jason Waterman '14 will be an ETA in Malaysia.

This year's fourth recipient, senior Mary Rouse, will attend graduate school at Royal Holloway, University of London, to



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KYLE WHITAKER

Fulbrighter Kyle Whitaker '14 is teaching English in Kuala Lipis, Malaysia, until November with an English Teaching Assistant grant.

U.S. Fulbright Program grants offer advice to newest grant recipients

earn a Master's degree in political communications, specifically Media, Power and Public Affairs. She will also continue the research she began as an Honors Fellow and Lumen Scholar.

"Part of my thesis was analyzing the strategic narratives of political elites, but focused on the Cold War," Rouse, a political science major, said. "What I'll be looking at at Holloway is also strategic narratives, but of the special relationships between the U.S. and the U.K. So I'm using a similar method of analysis but on a different topic."

Rouse will be going to the U.K. under a Fulbright study/research grant that will pay tuition for the yearlong Master's program, with an additional stipend for living expenses.

Fulbright study/research grants are different from ETA grants in that recipients are earning degrees, not teaching. These grants are more focused on intellectual exchange than cultural exchange and are more academic than experiential. Additionally, according to Rouse, fewer people apply because study/research grants are more limited in choice of country than ETA grants.

Rouse chose to apply for this particular Fulbright grant partially because of her previous experience in London, where she studied abroad for one semester in her junior year.

"I wanted to go back and have another experience, sort of a real British university experience," she said.

Rouse also wanted to keep her post-graduate options open.

"Going into my senior year, I kind of had the idea of putting as many irons on the fire as possible," she said. "I wouldn't close any doors, I would just apply for a number of things and then see what shook out at the end of the year."

She added that her experiences with undergraduate research prepared her for her research abroad.

"For this type of grant, I don't think I could be successful if I hadn't done research that Honors and Lumen required," she said. "Doing those sorts of projects and working in those classes gave me a lot of research skills that really helped. I don't think I would have been successful if I hadn't had those things."

Once her grant ends, Rouse isn't sure of her plans, though she may extend her grant period. She said she would like to end up at the U.S. Department of State or a similar organization at some point, working in some capacity with foreign policy, international affairs or public policy.

"I'm not closing any doors right now," she said. "It's kind of open."

The Fulbright Program

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program has since granted awards to approximately 325,400 people from the United States and its partner countries. It is the world's most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program, with goals of promoting international partnership and mutual understanding.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs administers Fulbright with the assistance of the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). More than 155 other countries around the world have their own Fulbright programs.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest exchange program in the country. It provides opportunities to perform international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and primary and secondary teaching in more than 140 countries to students and young professionals who are U.S. citizens. Currently, the program awards approximately 1,900 grants each year.

Fulbright's U.S. Student Program offers three types of grants: Study/Research, ETA and Travel. It also has special programs, which include the Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship, the Fulbright-mtvU Award and the Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship. Applicants can apply to countries that fall into eight different regions: East Asia/Pacific, Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Middle East/North Africa, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Western Europe and the Western Hemisphere.

"Fulbright is a beast," said Sarah Lentz '13, who serves as the associate director of national and international fellowships at Elon.

Lentz and Janet Myers, director of national and international fellowships and professor of English, serve as Elon's on-campus contacts for the Fulbright program.

"Currently enrolled students, by Fulbright's standards, have to apply through their undergraduate institutions," Lentz said. "All students who are interested in applying for a Fulbright go



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JULIA OKADA

Julia Okada, pictured here with her host family, has been living in Mokpo, South Korea since August 2014. Her grant ends July 17.

through us."

Lentz and Myers' role is to guide students through the Fulbright application process and help them be as competitive applicants as possible. Lentz said they prefer to meet with students interested in applying to Fulbright or another fellowship as early in the student's college career as possible to discuss the student's opportunities and methods of maximizing the student's competitiveness.

"For the English Teacher Assistantship, we recommend that students build on their experiences working with youth through various capacities," Lentz said. "Fulbright is much more concerned with the preparation of the candidate than GPA."

She also said ETA grants are the most popular among Elon students, and that Elon students have a record of being highly successful in receiving these grants.

While Lentz prefers to meet with students early, she said students need to be serious about applying by the end of their junior year.

"Junior year is when you want to start thinking seriously about, 'What are my qualifications? Which Fulbright grant should I pursue?'" Lentz said. "And that is when we begin to meet with students one-on-one, talk about their interests and their goals and try to steer them toward the right Fellowship or, in this case, the right Fulbright grant."

Though the application process is highly structured and rigorous, Lentz and Myers are there to help students every step of the way.

"The process itself really forces you to reflect on your experiences up until this point and to share what we like to call your 'intellectual biography' of what are the experiences, both academic and personal, that have led you to pursue this Fulbright grant," Lentz said.

To adequately prepare students, the Office of National and International Fellowships distributes a detailed timeline to students outlining the various internal and external deadlines of the process. This timeline and the internal deadlines require applicants to submit their written application materials — a statement of grant purpose and a personal statement — to Lentz, Myers and Elon's Fulbright Campus Committee several times before they are submitted to Fulbright.

The first deadline of this process is June 1 of the summer before applicants' senior year, when an intent to apply is due.

"Elon does an excellent job of making sure that its ap-

plicants are competitive and well-prepared," Whitaker said. "Which meant I had to start the process at the beginning of the summer, almost as soon as I got back from Florence."

The next step in the process is an essay-writing workshop in the first week of the school year, after which applicants meet individually with either Lentz or Myers to revise their essays each week until mid-September. Near the end of the process, the Fulbright Campus Committee, which is composed of faculty and staff, reviews the essays to provide extra perspectives.

"It's such a subjective process, so we like to have as many eyes on those essays as possible," Lentz said.

In mid-September, applicants submit their nearly finished applications to the Committee and participate in on-campus interviews. Questions during these interviews are geared toward the feasibility of the students to succeed in a foreign country. After interviews, students have about one week to make final adjustments to their applications before submitting them to Fulbright on the final external deadline.

"First of all, that process makes it so that you know your application inside and out," Rouse said. "So if you get an interview, you're able to talk about everything, and you're competent in what you've talked about because you've reworked it and restructured it."

Okada added that it's important to remain positive during the process.

"Get ready for a long and challenging application process," she said. "But have confidence in the unique thing you have to offer the program and communicate that in your application."

After the final deadline in October, applicants must wait until the end of January to find out if they are semi-finalists, then until April or May to find out if they received a grant. From beginning to end, Lentz said, the application process is about one year long, with a highly challenging two-month period.

But, she added, the process shouldn't discourage students from applying.

"You're not going to receive a Fulbright if you don't try," she said. "So if you're passionate about this opportunity, it's worth your time."

Whitaker agreed.

"If you're applying or considering applying, don't be afraid of the process," he said. "It can be daunting at times, but the chance to have an experience like this is worth every second you spend agonizing over that personal statement."

TOP 10 Moments

1 Luis Vargas earns All-American honors



FILE PHOTO BY CHERYL TREWORGY

Luis Vargas, a senior cross country long distance runner, became the program's first All-American at the NCAA Cross Country Championship men's 10K race. Vargas got off to a quick start during the 10K event and sat in 11th place through the first 3,000 meters. Although he fell to 38th by the 8,000-meter split, he hustled to crack the top-30 and finished 25th with a time of 30:45.

His performance capped a season of dominance. Vargas won all of his six meets prior to the NCAA Championships. He was selected as the Southeast Regional Athlete of the Year and Colonial Athletic Association Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Year. At the league meet, Vargas set a school-record time of 24:11:37 in the men's 8K race.

2 Women's Track and Field wins CAA Outdoor Championships



FILE PHOTO BY TIM PALMER

The women's track and field team faced unfamiliar opponents as it entered the CAA Outdoor Championships. But dominant performances from a talented group of athletes led the Phoenix to six event wins and a first place team finish.

Sophomore distance runner Kimberly Johansen was a major contributor, and won the

800-meter and 1500-meter runs. The Phoenix also took first in the discus throw, heptathlon, 400-meter hurdles and 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Elon finished with 150 points, beating out host College of William & Mary, which finished with 134.5 points.

5 Softball gets walk-off to sweep UNCW and earns bid in CAA Tournament



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Sophomore Carey Million delivered in pivotal situations to help propel the softball team to a CAA Tournament bid and series sweep against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Million hit a game-winning home run May 1 to give the Phoenix a trip to the conference tournament. Fans gathered to Hunt Softball Park May

2 on Senior Day and received a special treat with a dramatic come-from-behind win.

Senior Aly Quintana hit a home run in the bottom of the seventh to send the game to extra innings. With the Phoenix carrying all the momentum going into the next inning, Million got a walk-off homer to secure a No. 3 seed for Elon.

6 Men's basketball upsets UNCW on Senior Night



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

On paper, men's basketball did not have a good chance of beating UNCW on Senior Night. UNCW defeated Elon 82-65 earlier in the season and was at the top of the CAA standings, but the Phoenix pulled off a 74-55 upset.

Leading 37-22 at halftime, the Phoenix never looked back. Junior guard Tanner Samson led the offensive charge with 19 points and helped lead his team to its 19-point win, the team's largest of the season against a Division I opponent.



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

9 Nathan Dean sets school shutout record for men's soccer

While the soccer team's season ended early, one player made a lasting impact on the program, senior goalkeeper Nathan Dean, who was stellar in front of the net.

On Oct. 11, 2014, he earned his 23rd career shutout for Elon, breaking the previous record held by Clint Irwin, who is currently the starting keeper for Major League

Soccer's Colorado Rapids. Dean played and started all 19 games this season for the Phoenix and recorded nine shutouts.

In his four seasons at Elon, he posted a 45-21-10 record, earned 25 shutouts and averaged less than one and a half goals allowed per game.

in Elon Athletics for 2014-2015

3 Women's Basketball advances to WNIT

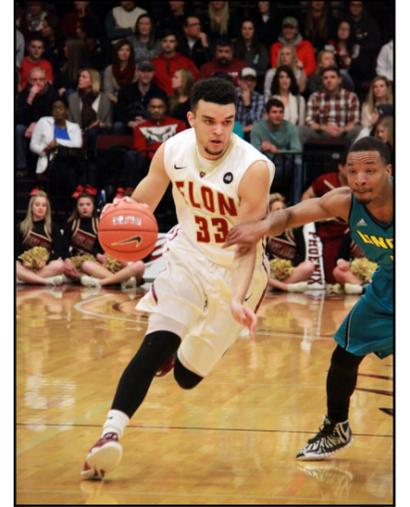


FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

The women's basketball team played inconsistently during the season, but after a difficult 63-60 loss to the No. 1 seed in the CAA, the Phoenix proved it could compete against the best. It advanced to the WNIT

for the first time in program history. Elon lost 69-47 to Georgia Institute of Technology in the opening round of the WNIT.

4 Three players earn CAA Rookie of the Year honors



FILE PHOTOS BY ASHLEY KING

Freshman basketball guard Elijah Bryant, freshman women's lacrosse midfielder Stephanie Asher and freshman women's golfer Heather Munro received CAA Rookie of the Year honors.

Asher had a breakout season. She scored 44 goals and made 10 assists during her freshman campaign. In her first college game, she scored five goals against Kennesaw State University. Later, she set a career-high of six goals at Stetson University.

Bryant was a major contributor for the Phoenix, averaging 14.2 points per game. On Jan. 3, Bryant scored a career-high 32 points. He and Asher are the first players in their respective program's history to be named Rookie of the Year.

Munro tied for second in the CAA Championships after holding the lead following two rounds of play, leading her to receive CAA Rookie of the Year accolades.

7 Stefan Fortmann earns CAA Player of the Year honors for men's tennis



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

No. 1 singles men's tennis player Stefan Fortmann had an impressive season against tough opponents. After winning eight of his final 10 matches, Fortmann earned the CAA player of the Year title.

The senior lost four of his first five singles

matches but persevered through challenging opponents. He also competed in doubles with senior Brian Kowalski. Fortmann finished the season 13-7 in singles and 14-5 in doubles. Half of the 12 total came against ranked opponents.

8 Baseball takes two of three games from No. 22 UNCW



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Elon baseball faced a formidable No. 22 UNCW April 24-26 and took two of three games in its pivotal CAA series. Though the Phoenix pitching staff was not fully healthy at the time and relied on unfamiliar faces to pitch, the team showed it could excel against tough opponents.

The offense highlighted the weekend as Elon outscored UNCW 29-20. Sophomore Nick Zammarelli went

5-for-7 in the April 26 doubleheader, earning him CAA Player of the Week honors. Other batters dominated throughout the three-game series.

Austin Leeney, a junior catcher who entered the weekend with no hits in previous 10 at bats, went 5-for-9 (.556) against the UNCW Seahawks in his three starts while senior infielder Casey Jones went 7-for-12 (.583).

10



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Women's tennis "Fab Five" has stellar season

After capturing a Southern Conference title, advancing to the NCAA Tournament last season and losing its top three seniors, the women's tennis team came into the 2014-2015 season with high expectations from an inexperienced group of players.

But five freshmen — Erica Bra-

sch, Bailey Edwards, Bridget Liddell, Olivia Lucas and Kirsten Ward — formed the "Fab Five" and dominated. Freshman Kamilla Beisenova was added to the roster in January.

Braschi was just one of the stellar group of freshmen. Alternating between No. 3 and No. 4 when playing

singles, she finished the season 13-4. When playing doubles, mostly with junior Taylor Casey, she went 16-2. Ward and Lucas alternated in the top two singles spots. Lucas ended her singles season having won seven of her last eight matches while Ward won six of her last seven.

Where are they now?



Welsford Bishopric
Graduation Year: 2014
Major: Finance

“The only way to be certain that you can get the job you want after graduating is to start chasing it as soon as you figure out what it is.”

After graduating from Elon University, Welsford Bishopric '14 landed a position as an Investment Banking Analyst for Bank of America Merrill Lynch's Leveraged Finance group — the job he wanted following graduation.

According to Bishopric, the key to getting the perfect job after college is starting a career search early and putting forth the necessary effort.

“Work hard in college, but take advantage of freedom that you have while at Elon,” he said. “By this, I don't mean take more naps and watch more Netflix.”

Bishopric was heavily involved during his time at Elon, especially as a member of the Student Government Association. He also worked with the Love School of Business Case Competition team.

Although Bishopric has a time-consuming job as a first year banking analyst and has little time for outside hobbies, he enjoys his job.



Jonathan City
Graduation Year: 2010
Major: Computer Information Systems

“Historically, you would begin work with one company and stay with that company your entire career. I think this is beginning to change with my generation.”

Jonathan City '10 works with Tryon Solutions, a Supply Chain Software company based in Raleigh, where he implements and maintains warehouse management systems for clients all over the world.

City urges students to pursue jobs that pique their interest and avoid ones that become tedious.

“If you do not like your job, leave your current job,” he said. “There are plenty of jobs out there, and there is no need to be unhappy with what you are doing 40 hours a week.”

He was a member of the Elon College Follows, the Mu Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Student Union Bard and Association for Computing Machinery while he attended Elon. These positions taught him to follow through on his promises no matter how small the task.

The key to enjoying a job is finding a balance between work and leisure. For this reason, he plays golf and attends concerts when he gets the chance.



Meredith City
Graduation Year: 2014
Major: Elementary Education

“If you don't have a passion to do it, you see it as more of a job. When you really have a passion for what you do, going to work every day is exciting.”

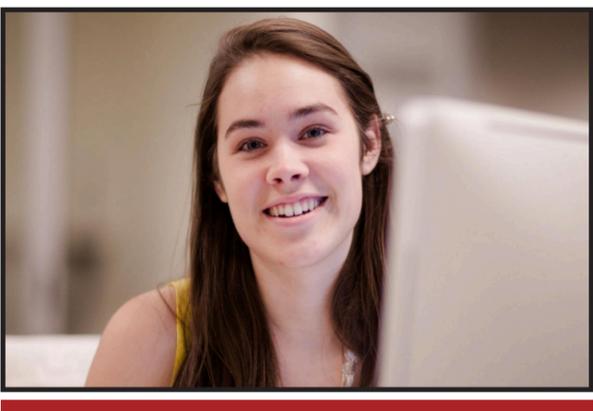
Before enrolling in Elon University, Meredith City '14 knew she wanted to become a teacher. Her experience in the Teaching Fellows program and in student teaching led her to a position as a first grade teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School.

City's passion for teaching developed at a young age.

“I knew since the moment I walked into kindergarten that I wanted to be a teacher,” she said. “I just felt [my teacher] was the greatest person ever.”

City was attracted to teach at a location where her communication and compassion skills could be exercised — a place like Hillcrest, which is a Title I school, a school with at 75 percent of students on free or reduced lunch.

She also works as the director of youth activities at Alamance Country Club. When she competed in high school athletics, she was disappointed by the low turnout. This inspired her to support other athletes later in life. City remains involved on Elon's campus by attending football games.



Kassondra Cloos
Graduation Year: 2013
Major: Journalism

“Make sure that you're prepared for anything and that you could be a good problem solver. You're gonna need to work with all sorts of people.”

Kassondra Cloos '13 serves as the nighttime public safety reporter for The Gazette, a daily newspaper in Colorado Springs. From crime to weather, she writes on a wide range of topics.

Cloos knew she wanted to focus on print journalism because it allows her to be in-depth in her reporting.

“I really like to write, and I've always felt print journalism gives a lot of opportunities for investigative reporting,” she said.

While attending Elon University, Cloos served as a copy editor and news editor for The Pendulum. In her freshman and sophomore years, she participated in Model U.N. She also worked as a librarian in her junior and senior years. She learned the value of networking with students during her college years through her involvement in several co-curricular activities.

She enjoys writing articles for The Gazette because she is surrounded by the state's gorgeous scenery. Her love for hiking and traveling led her to accept a job with The Gazette.



Darien Flowers
Graduation Year: 2013
Major: Political Science

“Pick a side even if that means which party you disagree with less. Own that that is your ideological preference because that will give you more opportunities.”

Darien Flowers '13 didn't envision working for a senator from Louisiana, but his interest in politics is allowing him to gain hands-on experience with the political process.

He had an internship with John R. Kasich, current Governor of Ohio, before becoming a legislative aid for Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy. Flowers encourages students to get involved in political campaigns and seek similar internships to the ones he accepted.

“Get internships with your member of Congress, your senator, even all the way down to your city councilperson,” he said. “There are so many different levels of government and politics for us to be in.”

According to Flowers, Elon prepared him well for his career. The emphasis the university placed on experience led him to participate in several activities and work with numerous on-campus organizations. He was involved in SGA, Model U.N., the Epsilon Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi and College Republicans in college. Flowers said these experiences helped him adapt to an ever-changing environment.



Lindy Terry
Graduation Year: 2014
Major: Special Education

“I would say use your professors and your teaching fellow advisers. They can be your best friends.”

Special education was a huge interest Lindy Terry '14 pursued at Elon University. As a Teaching Fellow, she gained hands-on working experience. Her passion for devoting attention to young students led her to a position as a kindergarten teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School.

Terry enjoys her work because she is able to provide support to students enrolled in a Title I school.

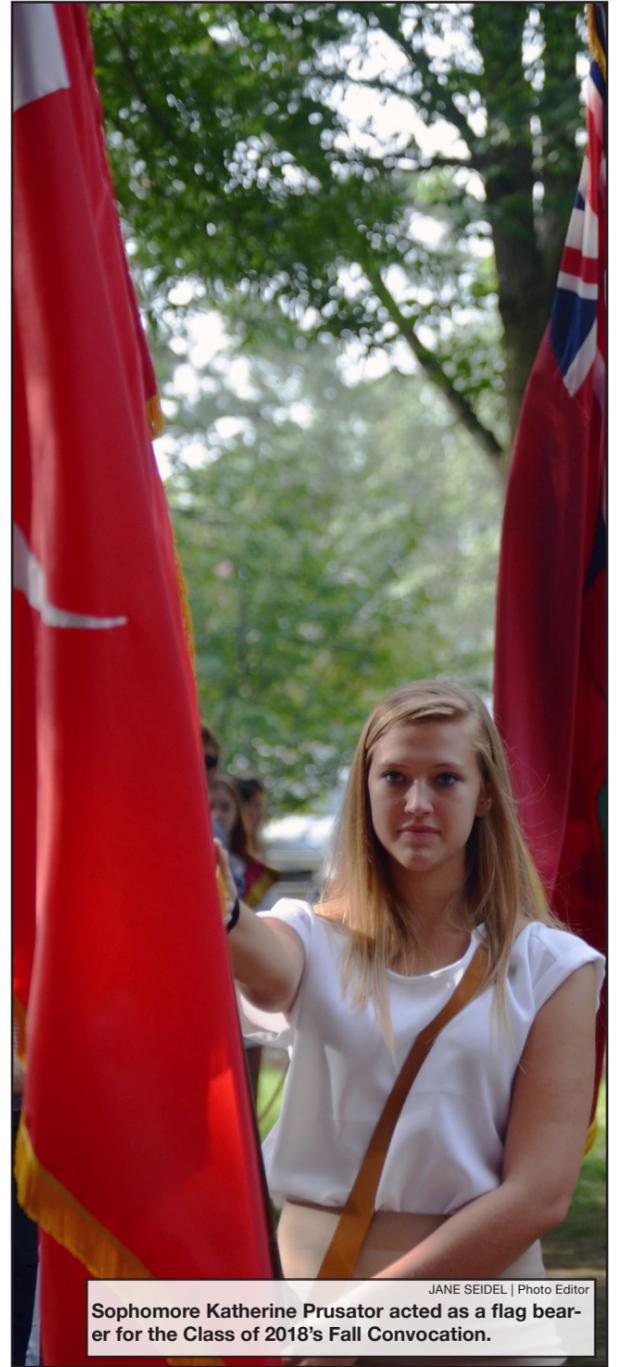
As an Elon student, Terry participated in the Iota Psi chapter of Alpha Chi Omega and the all-girl cheerleading team. Her interest in dance has continued in her postgraduate career — she is going to be helping lead a Burlington middle school dance team.

Terry said her main challenge since graduating has been learning how to manage her time and not overextend her schedule. She said the challenge lies in finding a balance between work and relaxation and saying “no.” Terry recommends current Elon students develop lasting relationships with professors because her mentors helped her get a teaching position at Hillcrest.

Top Photos of the year



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Students took part in a campus-wide "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" movement during a college coffee in September.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Sophomore Katherine Prusator acted as a flag bearer for the Class of 2018's Fall Convocation.



HALI STEWART | Staff Photographer
Ashtin Gill, a member of Elon's varsity cheer team, was crowned Homecoming Queen during Elon Homecoming in October



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Students, faculty and staff participated in Elon Day's Global College Coffee in Alumni Gym March 10.

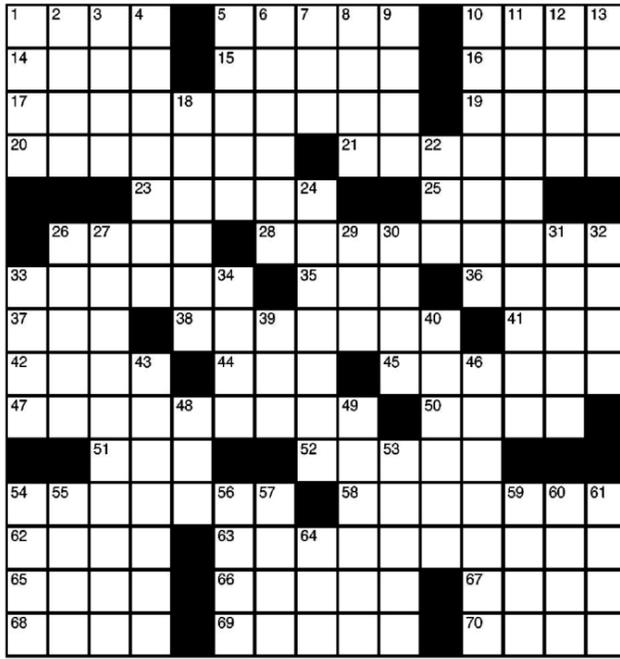


JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Neil deGrasse Tyson spoke at Spring Convocation April 2.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Elon students participated in the annual Holi festival on Young Commons April 17.

- ACROSS**
- "Shake a leg!"
 - Deprive of one's nerve
 - noire: dreaded thing
 - Sharpen
 - Herman's Hermits frontman Peter
 - Skip over
 - Cash source, redundantly
 - Gull relative
 - Sweet-talk
 - Ethiopia neighbor
 - Refine, as ore
 - Flirtatiously shy
 - Half of sechs
 - 17-Across access code, redundantly
 - Speaks too well of oneself
 - Sign before Virgo
 - Spanish explorer Hernando de ___
 - Compact submachine gun
 - College entrance exam, redundantly
 - "I thought so!"
 - Tennis great Lacoste
 - Apt. coolers
 - Large ___ Collider: particle accelerator
 - Adobe file spec, redundantly
 - Author Rice
 - Empties (of)
 - Frequently, in poems
 - Drivel
 - Dickens miser
 - Gracious
 - Berth place
 - PC linking system, redundantly
 - Los Angeles-to-Phoenix direction
 - Novelist Jong
 - Lip balm additive
 - Things to connect
 - First name in TV talk
 - Longings



By Gareth Bain 5/26/15

- DOWN**
- Wad of tobacco
 - Clothes closet pest
 - "You can count ___"
 - Luthor and Zod, to Superman
 - Ben or Sam
 - Like vague hints, usually
 - "Little ol' me?"
 - Author Rice
 - ___do-well
 - Bell-___: flared pants
 - Manicurist's buffer
 - Run out of gas
 - Sicilian volcano
 - Opens the door to
 - Post-op setting
 - Attacks, knight-style
 - Slept for a bit
 - Amazonian ecosystem
 - Alumna bio word
 - Small snack
 - Cultural values of a group
 - Colorful horse

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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- Tupperware sound
- Florentine farewell
- German coal region
- TV musical comedy that ended in 2015
- Film buff's sta.
- British peer
- Mammoth-preserving locale
- Tree trunk
- Serious attempts
- Dianetics creator ___ Hubbard
- Wane
- Endures hardship to make, with "out"
- Oklahoma native
- Hypnotic state
- Zero, in soccer
- "In other words ..."
- Risked a ticket

Top Tweets



Elon iMedia
@EloniMedia- May 21
Kimmy Schmidt said 'I can do anything for 10 seconds.' We can do anything for 10 months." @hlkean #ElonGrad



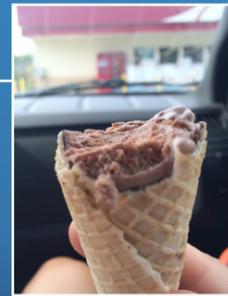
Meghan Mahoney
@News_Craig - May 21
"Celebrate the moment, thank those around you, reflect on yourself, think differently, find work that suits you." -Craig Waller at #ElonGrad



Brandon Joyner
@BrandonJoyner07 - May 16
It feels so surreal that this time next week, I'll be an #ElonGrad. I'm extremely thankful. God is good. #Elon15



Kate Phinney
@kbphinney- May 16
Post-workout. Pre-dinner. You only college once. #ElonGrad



Your time with **THE PENDULUM** doesn't have to end here.

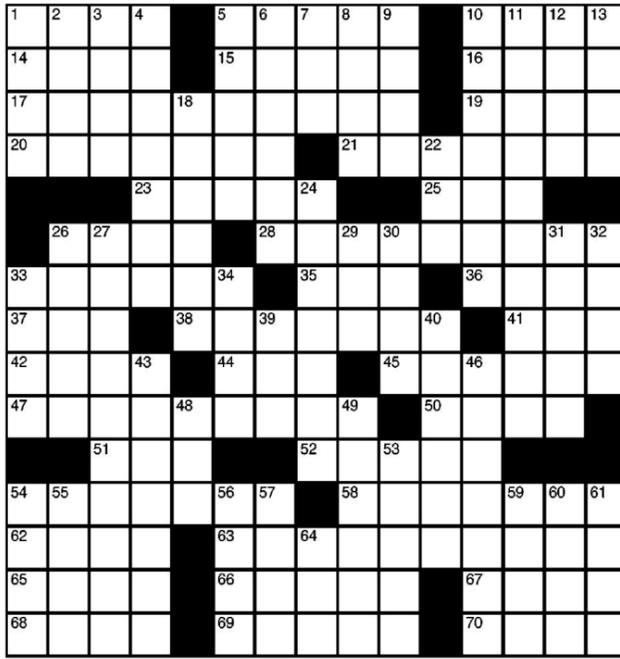
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