

FATHER AND SON PAY IT FORWARD WITH COMPUTER REPAIRS

Family duo makes computers for those who can't afford them >> PAGE 11

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO OLD THINGS

The Mill at Gibsonville features innovative art >> PAGE 9



THE PENDULUM

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Plans are currently underway to offer an eating option for students in Lindner Hall, a location that some say is more convenient for residents in the Academic Village. Feasibility studies will be conducted and data collected to assess the exact location and nature of the area. Currently, there is a possibility that students will swipe their own Phoenix cards, rather than having an attendant present to ring them up.

SGA, faculty develop plans for eating options in Lindner Hall

Rebecca Iannucci
Copy Editor

Preliminary plans are being made to establish an eating option in Lindner Hall, according to Alison Morrison-Shetlar, dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences.

"There are many aspects that need to be considered before a proposal goes forward," Morrison-Shetlar said. "Not all buildings are suitable for food services."

But some say food services are lacking in the Academic Village.

"All areas of campus have a viable eating option based on their geographic area, except this one

area of campus," said sophomore Darien Flowers, speaker pro tempore of SGA.

The location of the Academic Village can cause inconvenience, Flowers said, because students must go to Moseley Center or McEwen Dining Hall if they want something to eat.

"Geographically, we're trying to make sure that students have the most options available to them, based upon where they are on campus," Flowers said. "Lindner is the biggest of the Village buildings. We want to be serving the largest amount of students that we can at any point in time."

Morrison-Shetlar agreed that

building choice is vital to the service's success.

"Location, location, location is very important, and that is why feasibility studies are important," she said. "We have just started to look at the possibilities and to seek data."

But some students feel that eating options may not be necessary everywhere on campus. Freshman Audrey Horwitz said the distance from the Academic Village to a nearby dining facility provides a change of scenery.

"Varsity and McEwen are close enough, and although not terribly convenient, I like leaving the building and grabbing a snack as opposed to

Proposed food in Lindner

- What: Food vendors, similar to those in Octagon Cafe
- Where: Lindner Hall
- When: TBA

just walking out of a classroom," she said. "While working on a group project in Lindner last semester, it started snowing. We drove to Acorn, and it was a nice break from our project."

Morrison-Shetlar said she recognizes this potential for eating

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Elon Community Church breaks ground on new structure

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Buildings often mean more than wood and nails. For Edith Brannock, 91, the Elon Community Church Parish House holds memories of Sunday school, years singing in the church choir and generations worth of Christmas pageants.

A member since 1929, Brannock is the church's longest standing parishioner and has been active for more than 80 years. She witnessed the construction and use of the Parish House and stood among the other congregation members to say farewell to the historic structure.

"I hate to see it go," Brannock said. "But I know it's necessary."

Members of the Elon Community Church, United Church of Christ



MELISSA KANSKY | Assistant News Editor
Representatives of the ministry of Elon Community Church break ground for a new fellowship building.

congregation gathered to honor the history of the church's Parish House and to celebrate the groundbreaking

ceremony for the church addition at noon on Sunday.

"And as we say goodbye today, we say goodbye with a great deal of joy, joy of what is about to unfold," said Rev. Randy Orwig during the groundbreaking ceremony.

The building was knocked down Monday and construction of the new structure is projected to begin May 1.

"We understand that new life is always happening around us, new life is always taking place and just at this moment we come to a beginning again," Orwig said.

He invited six individuals whom he said represented the ministry aspects of the church to dig where the church addition will be located. All present had the opportunity to shovel the ground as well. Children, parents and older

members of the church participated in the ceremony.

"It served its generations," said George Troxler, chairman of the building committee.

The Parish House originally existed as a World War II army base chapel in eastern North Carolina in 1943. After the war, it was dismantled and reassembled in Elon in 1949.

"While the Parish House has tremendous historic value, it bothers me to tear it down," Troxler said. "But it would require major work to repair."

Elon Community Church voted March 6 to demolish the Parish House and construct a new building in its place



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FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON ELON NEWS, VISIT WWW.ELON.EDU/PENDULUM

Businesses in downtown Elon cater creatively to customer base of students

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Owners of businesses in downtown Elon must think strategically about how their shops will rely on the support of mainly college students, with fewer than 12 spaces available.

Shops that have maintained a presence on the block for several years, as well as those that are new to Elon, all have one thing in common: to provide different products and services to Elon students and community members.

Justine Duszlak, owner of Mynt boutique, has been in business in downtown Elon for seven years. Duszlak said her Lebanon Avenue business knows its target customers and what to offer them that they can't get anywhere else in the area.

"We get all sorts of people," she said. "Whatever you carry, whether it be food or clothing, you need to do your research. We carry some brands that aren't even available in Greensboro."

Beth Kelley, employee at All That JAS on Williamson Avenue, said the Greek-inspired store is also a destination spot.

"People travel up and down I-40 because our store is very unique," Kelley said.

Although Elon students make up the majority of the store's customer base, All That JAS has expanded beyond the local area, making the shop popular with other schools



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Currently, there are 12 spaces available for businesses in downtown Elon. The university is working to increase the commerce there, and has contacted more than 40 businesses about the possibility of coming to the area.

in North Carolina. Students from UNC Wilmington to Appalachian State University come by the store to shop for apparel and accessories that are offered at few other places in the state, Kelley said.

Paige Sigmon, a student at High Point University, frequently drives to All That JAS so she can have a more personal shopping experience for her Greek apparel.

"I'd rather not do the shopping online," Sigmon said. "I like to have personal

service and would still drive 45 minutes for it — even if weren't necessarily located at another university."

These two businesses in particular, because of the unique nature of their merchandise offerings, said they are successful beyond their business with Elon students.

The newly-opened Local Yogurt, a frozen yogurt shop that features fresh fruit toppings from area farmers, is one of three locations by the same name in the state.

Each shop, including those in Greenville and Durham, is located in college towns and mainly serve students.

"Most of our customers are Elon students," said Natasha Whitby, employee at Local Yogurt in Elon. "I worked here a few days over spring break — it was just dead. I don't think the Elon and Burlington community really knows about it."

Because Elon's emphasis on sustainability is not necessarily shared by most in

the surrounding community, Whitby said many people might not understand why Local Yogurt is different from other ice cream and frozen yogurt stores.

The Elon Town Center, which is currently being constructed beside Acorn Coffee Shop, will feature the university's Barnes & Noble bookstore, The Pendulum office and two additional businesses.

No decisions have been made concerning which other businesses will occupy the space in the Elon Town Center, according to Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology.

To increase commerce in the downtown area, Whittington said the developer and the university have approached more than 40 businesses, including clothing stores, food venues, jewelry stores, drugstores and services, such as dry cleaning.

Sophomore Genevieve D'Cruz said she would like to see a more practical store, such as a drugstore or small grocery store.

"I don't have a car on campus," she said. "If I run out of shampoo, I'd like to not have to run to downstairs Colonnades and pay \$7 for a bottle of shampoo."

The two new businesses to be housed in the Elon Town Center will be determined in late spring or this summer, Whittington said.

Elon follows sustainability plan, stays in full bloom for spring

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Spring is finally here, and Elon University's campus is bursting with color.

While it may seem the flower display beds across campus change often throughout the academic year, they are only changed twice.

"We change only the annual flower display beds, and that is twice a year, planting the winter annuals in October and the summer annuals right after commencement in late May or early June," said Tom Flood, assistant director of Physical Plant and director of landscaping and grounds.

Early spring at Elon is not a changeover season. Although campus looks different than it did during the winter months, the flowers currently blooming on Elon's campus were planted in October and November. But many students do not realize this.

"It seems as if new flowers and plants are planted every few weeks on campus," said sophomore Hayley Robb. "The campus always looks so fresh and cleaned up. I had no idea they only plant new flowers twice a year."

Tulips are spring-blooming perennials, and although the landscaping team plants the bulbs in the winter months, the tulips do not bloom until spring.

Landscaping is a primary factor in establishing the image of the university. It assists in supporting Elon's national image of excellence and must be kept attractive



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Groundskeepers consider the landscaping of Elon to be a significant factor in developing the university's image.

in order to market the university.

"The reality is that many people's judgment of the university is supported by the appearance of the landscape and the buildings," Flood said. "The landscape is the cover of the book called Elon."

Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions, agrees with Flood and said the appearance and landscaping of the campus are what visitors first comment on when they visit the university.

"The physical nature of the campus is very, very powerful," Zaiser said. "The campus always moves people beyond words."

Despite the myth that the grass at Elon is painted, it stays so green because of

overseeding. "Although rumor may have it, we do not paint the grass," Flood said. "We overseeded the grass last August and early September in order to thicken up the grass and create an everlasting green color."

Elon's landscapers maintain the campus' image while following the sustainability plan in every way possible, Flood said.

Storm water is captured in Lakes Mary Nell and Verona, which are in turn, the campus' main irrigation systems.

Leaves and grass clippings are ground up and used for compost, which has many uses in the landscaping on campus. Some of the compost goes into the flowerbeds,

while some is also taken and turned into fertilizer.

The campus' landscapers use a slow-release fertilizer to fertilize main campus twice a year.

"We have a landscape management plan," Flood said. "In return, we have no leaching, no run-off and we're using the absolute minimum amount of fertilizer we can possibly use."

While many people who visit campus fall in love with its environment, once they experience Elon even more, they soon learn that the inside is as good as the outside, Zaiser said.

"Once people see that the buildings and grounds are well cared for, they eventually learn that the people are, too," Flood said.

ECC bids farewell to historic structure

ECC from PAGE 1

There were two dissenting votes of the 108 votes cast.

"We talked about demolishing the Parish House quite a few times over the past 10 years, and we really exhausted our efforts in renovating the Parish House and restoring it as much as we can," said Monica Nicholson, office manager at the Elon Community Church. "We've done the best we can to keep it here as long as we could, but it has become too much to maintain."

The current structure is approximately 2,000 square feet and will increase by 1,800 square feet.

"The church is growing, and also the community is growing," Nicholson said. "The current building we have is just not big enough. We are a very green congregation, and it is not meeting those needs any more."

In order to be more energy efficient, the building will contain a two-stage heat pump and LEED lighting. The new building will also include a banquet room, a stage, a full service kitchen, storage space, three classrooms and an elevator.

"It will be easier for our older and handicapped members to access both the new building and the church building," Nicholson said.

The new facility will better suit the various organizations that use the church, Troxler said. Elon organizations and Cub Scouts currently use the church for philanthropy events and meeting space.

She hopes that the addition will foster a greater connection between the church and the university and the church and the community, she said.

"I think it will set a foundation for the spirit and growth in the church," said Earl Danieley, Elon Community Church member since 1948.

Proposed cigarette tax may help keep campus smoke-free

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

A recent North Carolina tax proposal would increase the current tax on cigarettes of 45 cents per pack to \$1 per pack. If approved, the new policy may limit smoking on Elon University's campus.

Elon's senior staff recently reviewed the institution's smoking policy and decided against banning smoking on campus starting in the fall. Instead, they decided to increase educational efforts about smoking and tobacco use.

"The proposed tax does not play a role in the administration determining a smoking policy," said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, "but it may have an effect on an individual's choice or frequency of smoking."

Sophomore Caitlin Wang Fleisig, an occasional smoker who purchases one pack of cigarettes a week, said she has lowered her weekly budget of

\$5 to \$6 for cigarettes because of a dwindling bank account.

"The tax is not something that I'm not actively displeased about," she said. "And actually, as of late, I've been trying to cut back on my smoking anyway, so it might actually be a good thing. My bank account is running very low, so money is a huge deterrent from buying cigarettes. If I weren't trying to quit, I think I would be a little bit more upset about it, but to me, at this point, it doesn't really mean that much."

The Office of Substance Education is collaborating with the University Committee on Alcohol to decide which campus locations will be designated as smoking areas.

Sophomore Ben Soldate said he favors a smoke-free campus but is content with having specific areas designated for smokers.

"I'm just tired of having smoke around when I'm walking to class," he said. "One or two areas for smoking would be OK as long as they are isolated and

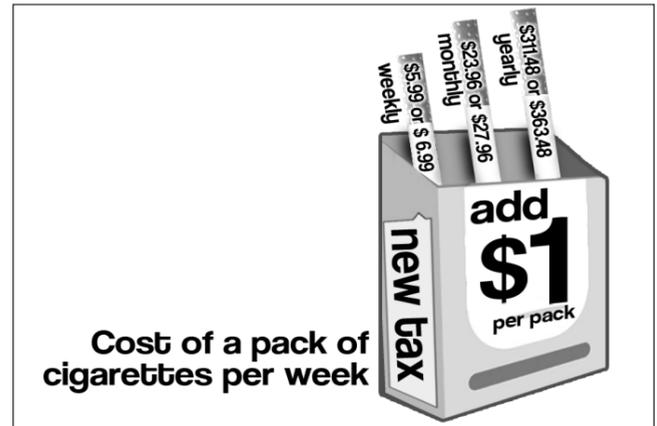
away from building entrances. That's my big problem, but I want people to actually follow the rules, too."

But junior Allie Brewer, also a nonsmoker, said she thinks the rights of students who smoke should be respected, even though she would personally like to see a smoke-free campus.

"Many students are on campus for long periods of time, and most smokers I know need various smoke breaks throughout the day," she said. "Making the campus smoke-free would not be fair for these smokers who need these breaks throughout the day."

Wang Fleisig said she believes designated smoking areas on campus are beneficial because they permit equality for both smokers and non-smokers.

"I live off-campus, so designated areas are not that big of a problem for me," she said. "But, I would've been upset about a smoking ban on campus completely because I



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

think that's an infringement on the rights of the smokers who do go to this school. But, I think designated smoking areas are completely fair, and they're something that I would try to abide by while I'm on campus."

Jackson said there are also plans to work with other departments to offer smoking cessation programs, create awareness of the smoking

policy campaign and educate students on the health effects of smoking and other forms of tobacco use.

In turn, he said the departments hope these measures will lead to students making more informed decisions about tobacco while also choosing to help reduce nonsmokers' exposure to second-hand smoke.

Safe Zone to make Elon a more LGBTQ-friendly community

Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

The proposal to implement a Safe Zone program at Elon University was recently approved and may start this fall.

Safe Zone, which is already popular on many other college campuses, is designed to support members of the LGBTQ community on campus by providing training to faculty and staff members.

Currently in its planning stages, the program was proposed by Ann Cahill, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Leigh-Anne Royster, coordinator for personal health programs and community well-being.

A specific format for training and marketing has not yet been defined, but traditional programs have involved giving trained faculty members some form of identification, such as a pin, plaque or sticker.

"If a student had questions, were writing a paper, were exploring something personally, were in a same-sex relationship, something like that, then they could feel confident in knowing what kind of training that person had,"

Royster said.

Participation in the program will be voluntary and it has not yet been determined whether students who want training will be able to be accommodated.

Members of the Elon community will be able to take advantage of specialists to discuss topics relating to the LGBTQ community.

"The presence of a Safe Zone program speaks a commitment on behalf of the institution," Cahill said, adding that such a program would demonstrate Elon's dedication to treating all students equally.

College campuses are often categorized with positive, null or hostile climates toward LGBTQ issues. Although Elon has not experienced a great deal of violence or discrimination toward LGBTQ students, Cahill noted there is also little

celebration of gender and sexuality diversity, meaning Elon has a null, or neutral, climate. Studies have shown that LGBTQ students' perception of null campuses is not much different from

their perception of those that are hostile.

Safe Zone has the potential to make Elon a more LGBTQ-friendly campus because it may persuade some closeted students to come out, Cahill said.

On campuses where more students are open about their sexuality and gender

identification, other students tend to have much more open attitudes toward the LGBTQ community. In turn, more students will come out, ending a vicious cycle.

"Outing is very personal," Cahill said. "You cannot be fully-fledged as a member of the community when a huge part of your identity remains secret."

"Outing is very personal. You cannot be fully-fledged as a member of the community when a huge part of your identity remains secret."

-ANN CAHILL
DEPARTMENT CHAIR OF
PHILOSOPHY

While Royster and Cahill both said there was little explicit opposition to the proposal, some faculty members voiced concerns that Safe Zone would alienate members of the Elon community who do not respect LGBTQ rights.

But Safe Zone will be an optional program that provides training to those interested in acting as resources for students and faculty looking for support or information.

"If you don't get Safe Zone training, it doesn't mean you're not supportive," Royster said.

Many interested faculty and staff may find they do not have time in their schedules for the training, she said.

The lack of a Safe Zone logo should not be interpreted as hostility toward the LGBTQ community, according to Cahill.

"We don't want people getting the training to be coerced," she said. "That would do more harm than good. It all depends on how the community interprets and understands the logo. If it means 'I'm nice to LGBTQ students,' we're in trouble. Knowledge and expertise are much different from being kind. Being an LGBT ally demands more than mere kindness."

Student to be released from hospital despite head injury

Anna Johnson
Editor-in-Chief

Elon University junior Brittney Williams is expected to be released from the rehabilitation center of the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC after a car accident that left her with a bruised lung, fractured skull, two breaks in her pelvis and cuts on her face.

Williams is doing much better and is progressing surprisingly well, her mother, Wander Hayslett, said.

"She is a strong young lady," Hayslett said. "She is a mover and shaker and she's just giving God the praise for giving her another chance."

After dropping her mother off at work, Williams hit a curb, overcompensated while steering and hit a mailbox and telephone pole, Hayslett said. It was early in the morning and Hayslett said she believed



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Elon University junior Brittney Williams is scheduled to be released from Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC after sustaining multiple injuries in a recent car accident near her home.

Williams was still tired.

Matthew Clark, associate professor of biology, knows Williams well and went to visit her Saturday.

He was able to spend the entire day at the hospital and her entire family was there, he said.

"Brittney is an amazing lady and we were caught off guard when we heard the news," Clark said. "She is an amazing lady dedicated to the Biology

department and shown in class as one of your top students."

Senior Brittney Jones is Williams' roommate and close friend. While Jones has not been able to visit Williams, she was able to speak to her roommate on the phone.

"She is one of the strongest people I know and she always has a smile on her face," Jones said. "She sounds like she is doing much better and thankful to be alive."

Possibility of new dining option in Lindner Hall being discussed

LINDNER from PAGE 1

options in Lindner to fail.

"Students and faculty might not use the resource, and so it is an expensive mistake," she said. "These types of services are not easily moved, once established."

But Flowers said he believes the service will likely succeed based on the popularity of Java City, a small cafe located on the second floor of Koury Business Center. That success has great potential to filter into other academic buildings, he said, and there is a precedence for success for a new option in the Academic Village.

If eating options are created within the Academic Village, they will be similar to the grab-and-go selections offered at Octagon Cafe, according to Flowers. Breakfast items will be available at the beginning of the day, while salads, fresh fruit and wraps will be available during lunch and dinner hours.

But it is still unclear as to how these food services will be monitored. There is a possibility students would be responsible for swiping their own Phoenix cards, as opposed to an attendant swiping

for them.

"I'm fully confident in the rest of the student body to abide by the honor code and conduct themselves in a manner that's appropriate," Flowers said.

Ultimately, though plans for these eating options are still in the early stages, Morrison-Shetlar said food always has the potential to connect students, faculty and staff.

"It builds contacts and promotes interactions that might not occur in other parts of campus," she said. "People gather around food and coffee and tea, and it provides a community."

MORE ONLINE NEWS

Would you be in favor of a dining option in Lindner? View other students' thoughts and leave a comment on our website.

<http://bit.ly/TPOfoodatlindner>

KASSONDRAS CLOOS | News Editor

Panelists criticize media portrayal of atheism

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Cecil Bothwell, Cecile Holmes and Yonat Shimron shared anecdotes and experiences pertaining to the portrayal of atheism in the media Monday for the second annual Religion and Media Conference. Tom Arcaro, sociology professor, moderated the conversation.

Bothwell, Asheville city councilman, represented atheism while Holmes, University of South Carolina journalism professor, and Shimron, News & Observer religious reporter, voiced the media perspective.

"When I vote for someone I don't think about what they believe in faith," Bothwell said. "I think about what they believe in terms of public policy."

Nevertheless, North Carolina's State Constitution indicates in Article 6, Section 8 that denial of there being an Almighty God provides reason for disqualification from public office. Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Maryland and South Carolina State Constitutions have similar clauses as well.

Bothwell became the subject

of a national news story because of his refusal to say "so help me God" when sworn in as city councilman. He replaced the famous saying with the phrase "solemn affirmation."

"I've looked long and hard now by how much our public policy is dictated by religious beliefs," he said.

Religious language asserts the nation's international position as well, Bothwell said. "Under God" was inserted into the pledge of allegiance as a way to position the United States opposite those considered godless communists.

Cold War policies contributed to a negative stigma concerning atheists, he said.

The U.S. Supreme Court determined school prayer unconstitutional in the 1960s, further developing the negative connotation, Holmes said.

"Again you see the position of atheists having to go against so many trends and defend themselves," she said.

The Supreme Court ruling suggests that atheists challenge American traditions, Holmes said.

"The nation is struggling to accommodate non-believers in a respectful way when living

in a culture that is religious," Shimron said.

Accommodating non-believers includes providing adequate media coverage for atheist organizations, she said.

Atheists rarely appeared in newspaper stories prior to the attacks on Sept. 11, Shimron said, but now she reports on atheist activity frequently. News & Observer's front-page story described The Triangle Free Thoughts Society's plight to construct 12 billboards throughout the Triangle area that contain positive messages about free thinkers.

Free thinkers include atheists, agnostics and groups of non-believers, Shimron said.

"I see atheists becoming much more aggressive, much more bolder, sometimes even brazen in their efforts to seek public attention," she said.

Bothwell attributes the popularity of social media to an increase in acceptance of atheism.

"I don't know if the media can encourage the shift," she said. "I don't know if that is the media's role. I think the media can do a better job uncovering what might solidify and underscore



KRISTEN CASE | Photographer
From left to right: Tom Arcaro moderated the panel, which included Cecil Bothwell, Cecile Holmes and Yonat Shimron. This was the second Media and Religion Conference at Elon.

the trend."

Religious Writers Association developed a website to provide religious reporters with historical documentation and information about atheists.

The website helps reporters frame stories with nuance and intelligence, Holmes said.

Although journalists remain more neutral in their portrayal of atheists, according to Shimron, she predicts that over time pop culture will cultivate a greater acceptance of non-believers.

Bothwell identified a similarity between the changing portrayal of atheists and the media's presentation of gays.

"There is a parallel, a good connection at least, in coming out as a homosexual and coming out as an atheist," Bothwell said.

He reflected on the level of prejudice toward non-believers and expressed a level of hope despite the criticism he received as an atheist city councilman.

"When I was your age I was optimistic that things would change by now," he said. "But looking back things have changed. They just go very slowly."

The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, School of Communications and "Better Together" sponsored the event.

Elon Poll seeks to measure pulse of N.C. public opinion

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Three times per semester, the Elon University Poll releases results based on surveys with North Carolina residents. It is recognized as the "poll of record in North Carolina," but what is the actual methodology behind this collection of public opinion?

First started in 2000 by a team of faculty members, the Elon Poll is now run by director Hunter Bacot, associate professor of political science, who has worked to focus the poll on North Carolina public policy issues.

"Bacot and I are students of North Carolina policy," said Mileah Kromer, assistant director of the poll. "We follow legislation and have a good sense of the general political climate."

Both are responsible for finding suitable topics and composing questions, often bouncing ideas off each other.

The final step involves bringing questions to public opinion polling classes at Elon to review questions and propose improvements, Kromer said.

"They can say what's not right, point out things," she said. "Nine out of 10 times we'll take the corrections, the more

eyes the better."

The overarching goal, she said, is that the questions mean the same thing to everyone, no matter who reads them.

The poll, which is open to all North Carolina residents, not just those who vote, provides a voice for those who might be unable to reach polling centers.

"Just because you don't vote doesn't mean you don't have an opinion," Kromer said. "Representatives represent everyone, not just those people who vote."

The main goal of the questions is to discover the full perception of residents regarding a specific number of topics, Kromer said.

"An example of this were questions about the death penalty, which we asked people three to four different ways," she said. "There were different iterations around the same policy."

At times, the results have affected state legislation, including policies about smoking in public and texting while driving.

"Bacot and I read the legislation to ensure it accurately portrays policy," Kromer said. "We have to write questions in a way people can understand."

The set-up of the poll works to prevent bias from influencing the results, Kromer

said. The Elon Poll is fully funded by the university and, as an academic institution, it has no tie to consulting groups.

"It is a way for President Leo Lambert to engage the people of North Carolina," she said. "There is no pressure from the Elon administration or from outside sources."

There have been instances where organizations dispute the numbers released from polls, Kromer said.

One such example came from the John Locke Foundation, an independent, nonprofit think tank that publishes the monthly Carolina Journal newspaper, which covers state government and legislature in North Carolina.

David Bass, associate editor of Carolina Journal, recently wrote a blog post on the website regarding Elon Poll results released Feb. 28. The post compared poll results from the Elon Poll and the Civitas Institute, a conservative group that does polling and legislative analysis in Raleigh, about a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

"I think what's important to point to is the phrase that would appear on the ballot for people to vote in favor or

against," Bass said. "The phrasing in the bill is a lot closer to that in the Civitas poll."

The Elon Poll found that 56 percent of North Carolina residents oppose an amendment "that would prevent any same sex marriages." The Civitas poll, from last April, found 70 percent of respondents in favor of an amendment "defining marriage as an act between a man and a woman."

Bass said there is an obvious difference in phrasing.

"One is negative in terms of prevention and the other is positive in terms of what it would be defined as," he said. "Just on that basis, you're going to get a different result."

When there is the perception that rights are being taken away, a negative response is much more likely, Bass said.

"I know there was a big splash about this shift in public perception about the issue and so I looked at the phraseology, behind the initial layer," he said.

According to Kromer, there is no perfect question.

"We probably have different goals than other organizations, which is the dissemination of public information," she said.

Sesno encourages accountability in today's media

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Frank Sesno never intended to be a journalist, but years after he began collecting newspapers at a young age, he admits he was "meant to do this."

Elon University welcomed Sesno March 29 as the keynote speaker for a two-day conference about media and politics, addressing the struggles and importance of accuracy in today's media.

As a former correspondent and Washington bureau chief for CNN, he has been on the front line of defining moments in world history.

He witnessed former president Ronald Reagan bellow, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." He stood on the tarmac when American captives exited an airplane after the Iranian hostage crisis. And he interviewed former president George W. Bush after the attacks on Sept. 11 when Bush suggested the Middle East could be remade, starting with the nation of Iraq.

He began his presentation with what he said he considers a dire warning about misinformation of the public.

"In a sea of information in which we now exist, we are adrift in ignorance," he said. "Never has the country faced such challenges. We've always operated in a complicated world but now everything moves so unbelievably fast."

Despite the extensive engagement of the United States in world events, Sesno characterized Americans as a "shockingly insular people." And, according to Sesno, the consequences can be serious.

"If you are misinformed, you're not just misinformed in an isolated place," he said. "You're liable to make decisions based on bad information."

Sesno added that more people have more access to more information than ever before in human history.

He cited information from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, which releases reports about the state of news media. According to the data, newsrooms have shrunk by 30 percent in the past 10 years as every news platform saw a decline in audiences, except for the Web.

"What that means for newsrooms is that we have fewer people doing more work and less editing, working more rapidly and trying to be an expert in more areas," he said. "This is the recipe for a problem."

As a result, the possibility for error is not only easier, but also less penalized, subsequently doing greater damage, he said.

"It tarnishes the reputation of the news organization, misinforms people and undermines what sense of credibility we have left in journalism," he said.



CAITLIN O'DONNELL | News Editor
Sesno, a former correspondent for CNN, spoke at Elon as part of a conference about media and politics.

Although he admitted that journalism will change and look different in coming years, it will not go away.

"We will still look for professionals to help us sort through a mountain of often confusing data that exceeds our own personal experience or expertise," he said. "News organizations should be pressured to be responsible, accurate in getting and disseminating credible information and in telling us how they do it. They should live by the same amount of transparency as every other institution they cover."

In the ever-changing and fast-paced

structure of today's journalism, he encouraged the adoption of what he calls the "language of live."

"It is a language that is happening so fast that we cannot catch up, we can't bring together the words that are spoken and events that have taken place, they are out of sync," he said. "It's the dangerous time between when events take place and when we know what happened. We must build in the recognition that events are changing and we don't know everything."

The curiosity inherent to human nature will not lessen, he said, but media must find a way to monetize it without compromising values.

"I believe with all of this information, we'll see our way through it," he said. "Technologies change, speed intensifies and then we adjust. It's never a one-way street and requires work by all of us to catch up."

Sesno currently serves as director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University.

He is also the creator and host of Planet Forward, a web-to-television show on PBS, featuring video submissions about environmental issues. A video submitted by four Elon students called "Recycling the Digestive System" was selected as one of the final 14 videos for the special.

U.S. intervenes in Libya in unprecedented decision

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Libyan rebels have recently followed the example of many of their other Middle Eastern neighbors and revolted against an oppressive government. Dominating the news for several weeks, the violent military actions against civilian rebels ordered on behalf of Col. Muammar Gaddafi have been the cause of much heated debate in the Western world: to intervene, or not to intervene?

On March 17, despite arguments that the United Nations has not previously intervened during similar situations, the UN Security Council voted in favor of creating a no-fly zone over Libya to prevent Gaddafi from attacking civilians from the air.

The resolution also allowed any necessary measures to be taken to protect civilians, resulting in air strikes from the United States.

Brian Digre, professor of history at Elon University, said the UN-sanctioned intervention was a human rights issue and that the United States is not at war.

"The Libyan government was on the verge of suppressing rebels with a great deal of brutality," he said. "There was cause for humanitarian intervention. It was supported by the Arab League and the United Nations."

Several nations abstained from the vote to intervene in Libya, including China and Russia. Russia has since criticized the United States' actions, claiming they have gone too far.

"It's generally very difficult to get the UN Security Council to sign off on a humanitarian intervention," said Sean Giovanello, assistant professor of political science. "Both the Russians and the Chinese are not prepared to sign off on anything like that. They don't like the idea of the international community establishing a



Libyan rebels, seen gathered at the front lines near Port Brega, are largely untrained. Many have died in violent clashes with the Libyan army, directed by Col. Muammar Gaddafi, whose regime has lasted more than 40 years.

precedent that the international community has the right to intervene in sovereign states."

What Libyan protesters are currently facing is a much different scenario from what was witnessed in Tunisia and Egypt, Digre said. While Egyptians did face some opposition, the turnover of power in these countries was relatively bloodless, he said.

"Tunisia and Egypt had repressive governments but when confronted, the leaders gave way," he said. "It doesn't look like the rebels, on their own, have the ability to overthrow Gaddafi."

President Barack Obama gave a speech Monday, March 28 to inform the American people about the motivation behind intervention.

"Gaddafi declared that he would show 'no mercy' to his own people," Obama said. "We knew that if we waited one more day, Benghazi, a city nearly the size of

Charlotte, could suffer a massacre that would have reverberated across the region and stained the conscience of the world."

Calling the situation in Libya a "civil war," Giovanello said he is not sure what will happen, but said the rebels do not seem likely to let the government win.

"I could see it lasting a good amount of time unless Gaddafi decides to leave the country," he said. "Usually civil wars only end when one side defeats another or there's an intervention that gets between them."

Although Libya is on the other side of the world, Giovanello said students, as global citizens, should care about the events that unfold.

"If anything you have military personnel at risk in part of the world and they're fighting and potentially dying for something the government deems important," he said. "As citizens, we should care."

Syrians join Middle Eastern in protesting governments

Sylvia Ohanyan
Reporter

Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, decided to lift the state of emergency after a week of protests from the Syrian people and the resignation of the presidential cabinet.

The state of emergency, which has been in effect since 1963, bans public gatherings, restricts media content and allows for the surveillance of citizens considered threats to the state.

Although many other Middle Eastern governments have recently faced uprisings, the recent anti-government protests in Syria have come as a surprise to Syrian Elon University freshman, Nada Azem.

Once the riots began in Egypt, Azem said she thought they might happen in Syria, as well. Though the Syrian people trust al-Assad, they want action and change, she said.

"Al-Assad is capable of making change and the people know that," Azem said. "Syrians have great respect for him and do trust him. But, how can you change a system that's been there for so many years?"

Following the example of Egypt's recent protests, thousands of Syrians have gathered in the cities of Damascus and Daraa demanding more freedom. In order to quell the protestors, al-Assad freed 200 political prisoners.

Syria's secret police force has usually crushed any disturbances before they escalated, said Rudy Zarzar, professor of political science. Anyone suspected of speaking out against the state immediately went to jail.

"Egypt was the trigger," Zarzar said. "This is a movement by the people against the government. Middle Eastern people have suffered under disastrous regimes and the educated youth cannot be fooled anymore and are demanding democratic rights and better living conditions."

The uprisings in Egypt had a profound effect on the citizens of Syria, said Michael Skube, professor of communications. Although social media is more effective where there is censorship, it is hard to fully understand the impact of social networking in Egypt and Syria, he said.

"The discontent has been boiling for a long time in the region," Skube said. "It was only a matter of time before the bubbles

came up, and that's why the situation erupted over night. At this point, any change would have to be from within."

Azem and her family moved from New York to Damascus when she was 4 years old. When the government closed the American high school she attended, Azem had to finish her education in Beirut, Lebanon.

Syrians are used to war because of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Azem said, but she still feels at home everywhere in Syria.

"When I walk in the streets I feel safe," she said. "There's so much history and the people who live here have done so for hundreds of years. Our whole country is such a great community, and Syrians are very patriotic. Globalization stops in Syria. There's no McDonald's and things have been the same for hundreds of years."

Although she does not know what is going to happen in Syria, Azem, a human services studies major, wants to return there to improve their educational system.

"My generation wants to remain in Syria," she said. "I want to learn as much as I can from the outside, but I want to go back. I need Syria."

Calendar: April 6-12

APRIL 6

* Spring blood drive
* Michael Chitwood, guest reading: 7:30 p.m., Isabella Cannon Room
* Wednesday Night Catholic Mass: 7:30 p.m., Holt Chapel

APRIL 10

* The Elon University Camerata featuring Sharon LaRocco: 3 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
* W.E.B. DuBois Oratorical Contest: 7:30 p.m., Moseley Center 215

APRIL 7

* Convocation for Honors, moderated by NBC's Brian Williams: 3:30 p.m., Alumni Gym
* Critiquing media messages about sex, gender & brain differences: 7 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

APRIL 11

* College Athlete to Career Athlete: 7 p.m., Duke 101
* JUBILEE: 7:30 p.m., Irazu
* Ally Appreciation Open Mic Night: 7:30 p.m., Trollinger House

APRIL 8

* Special Olympics Alamance County Spring Games: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Belk Track
* Midnight meals with Jacob Danieley: 11 p.m., Irazu

APRIL 12

* College Coffee: 9:40 a.m., Phi Beta Kappa Commons
* The Silk Road: Discovering China's Religion and Art: 5 p.m., Lindner Hall 102
* Suffering and Sensation: 7:30 p.m., Isabella Cannon Room

APRIL 9

* Elon Opera Workshop: 7:30 p.m., Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Burlington
* SUB Cinema shows The Dilemma: 8 p.m., Young Commons

For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.

NEWS BRIEFS

New study abroad programs added for Winter Term 2012

Spots are still open for four of the new study abroad programs starting January 2012. New programs include India/Dubai: Business & Culture of the Indo-Gulf, Mexico: The Maya Prophecies for 2012 in Cultural Context, Stewardship in Puerto Rico: Land, Travel & Action and Business & Culture of Vietnam.

Applications are available online through the website for the Isabella Cannon International Centre.

Elon applies for acquisition of former IRS building in downtown Greensboro

Elon University recently submitted an application to take over the former IRS building in downtown Greensboro, located on Washington Street from the police department headquarters.

The Greensboro police department has also applied to take over the building. If chosen by the federal government, the police administration, evidence storage and patrol division will all be transferred to the new location.

The building is 94,000 square feet with about 200 parking spaces.

Blue lights, hair show support for autism awareness

Blue lights at Elon University are part of an effort by Autism Speaks U Elon to spread awareness about autism. The organization has also partnered with Design Forum Salon on E. Trollinger Avenue to offer \$15 blue hair extensions to students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout April.

Elon School of Law hosts Moot Court Competition

The inaugural Billings, Exum and Frye National Moot Court Competition was held April 1 and 2 at the Elon University School of Law. David Gergen, chair of Elon Law's national advisory board, gave the keynote address.

Competitors were judged on the quality of their appellate brief as well as their oral arguments.

Each team participated in a minimum of four rounds and argued a hypothetical issue before a panel of jurists, legal scholars and attorneys.

The competition honors three distinguished lawyers from North Carolina including Rhoda Bryan Billings, James Exum, Jr. and Henry Frye, all of which has served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina as well as other positions within the legal profession.

Winners at the competition were Joy Foglietta and Bennett Lessmann of the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center.

Young Alumni honored

Elon hosted the first Top 10 Under 10 banquet April 2, honoring 10 outstanding graduates from the past decade.

The award was created by the Young Alumni Council, which advises the Alumni Association and university on programs for young alumni and current students.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni could nominate any alum. The award recognized young alumni doing outstanding things in their personal lives and their community, or those who stayed heavily connected to the community.

Editorial

Standing behind the Virginia Tech fine

Almost four years ago, Virginia Tech student Seung Hui-Cho shot and killed 32 students and faculty members in the most tragic massacre to ever occur on an American college campus. He then killed himself.

Last week, Virginia Tech received a \$55,000 fine, the maximum amount permitted under the rules of the Clery Act, legislation that outlines a college or university's obligations in reporting a crime to those on campus.

The fine was issued by the U.S. Department of Education. In the handing down of the decree, the department said, "Virginia Tech's violations warrant a fine far in excess."

It was more than two hours after the first shots were fired that students were notified, and in a vague manner at that. It was not said that the gunman was still unidentified or that he could still be at large on campus. Students and faculty were allowed to roam on a large campus with no warning about the possible dangers they faced.

Virginia Tech campus police argue that the initial shooting, which occurred around 7:15 a.m. in a coed dorm, was thought to be a domestic violence incident, and that is why the alert wasn't issued sooner. The school has also argued that the Clery Act doesn't define the "timely manner" in which incidents must be reported.

Most would argue that a body count of 30 would indicate that the "timely manner" came and went.

To a university the size of Virginia Tech, the \$55,000 is negligible. According to the Virginia Tech Foundation, as of June 30, 2008, the total value of its endowment was in excess of \$500 million. This is where we hope the funds for that fine will come from, not the pockets of students, the ones who the university really owes.

What isn't negligible is the lasting effect this tragedy continues to have at Virginia Tech and college campuses across the nation. Virginia Tech showed us all that "fear the worst" is often the

best policy when addressing campus crime. "Better safe than sorry" isn't just a foolish mantra for the fearful, it is a rallying call for security and police forces across the nation.

It is a claim that the safety and well being of potential victims are far more important than the inconveniences of thousands of people about a threat.

While we are certainly not advocating yelling fire in a crowded theater, or inciting unnecessary panic, we are suggesting that calmly mentioning "Excuse me, but there is a rather strong smell of smoke coming from somewhere in this establishment," is a worthwhile venture.

So forget about the fine, forget about the ridiculous court battles over phrases like "timely manner" and instead focus on the real issues of the Virginia Tech tragedy: lives of bright and innocent people that can never be replaced, and a lesson for the thousands of institutions out there that was learned in far too harsh a manner.

Is N.C. moving forward or stuck in the past?

The law is a complicated, many-headed beast that is constantly growing and moving while being attacked from all sides. The law in North Carolina is no different.

Currently, the General Assembly, with a Republican majority, is dealing with proposed legislation that is anything but progressive. It is focusing on certain issues while the larger problems, like the economy, seem to be falling by the wayside.

One of the bills before the N.C. Senate that seems to be more of an ideological distraction than a move toward the betterment of the state is the Defense of Marriage Act. If passed, this legislation would create a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. One of the sponsors of this is state Sen. Rick Gunn, who represents our own Alamance County. As students in a university openly supporting diversity, going out of our way to deny rights to people is foolish at best.

In the state House, representatives voted on a bill that would legalize carrying concealed weapons in public parks, greenways and restaurants where alcohol is served. Since all Elon students visit these sites during their four years here, we should all be concerned.

There are some proposed laws we should all get behind, though. One law would double the amount of solar power used statewide. Another would ensure

greater government transparency. We should hope for the quick passing of these measures because they help us, as a public and as residents of this state.

Just because you don't call Elon your permanent home doesn't mean you shouldn't be concerned about what is going on here. You are part of the Elon community and that community is part of

something much bigger.

So pay attention. Follow the news that affects this town, country and state you call home for nine months of the year, four years in a row. If we, the next generation, don't step up and participate in some degree of civic engagement, then what hope do we have for our future, here, and across the country?



RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | Opinions Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this letter concerning awareness about date rape and alcohol abuse at Elon. This is a topic that is kept mostly under the radar, and is rarely paid much attention to. Women both at Elon and around the country have little awareness about what sexual abuse (either physical or verbal) actually is. Sexual abuse is defined as "the forcing of unwanted sexual activity by one person on another, as by the use of threats or coercion." Sexual abuse may include anything from a simple catcall on the street to something as serious as rape.

On Elon's campus, drinking has reached extreme measures. During the three years I have attended Elon University, I have received countless e-mails from Smith Jackson, and even one from Leo Lambert, discussing the seriousness of binge drinking and its consequences. Adding to the matter, Greek Life plays a huge role on Elon's campus, thus leading to greater opportunities to engage in dangerous drinking behavior.

In late September of this year, The Pendulum reported a date rape arrest that was made against freshman Nicholas Pacella. The article left out the name of the victim, but due to

rumors and gossip, it wasn't long before other members of the Elon community were able to find out who she was.

I know that one of the most important jobs of a journalist is to inform their public on news they may have otherwise been oblivious to. However, I ask that in such delicate cases as these, The Pendulum first contact the victim before publishing anything to the Elon public, receiving consent to print the story at all.

College is a hard time for anyone, especially when trying to adjust to new surroundings freshman year. Rape is a traumatic experience, and one that many would choose to keep private. To know that their story would immediately be accessible to the Elon community may scare other victims of abuse away from going to officials.

I ask that The Pendulum and Elon's leaders discuss a new agreement, giving victims the choice of whether their stories are printed in ink or not.

Sincerely,

Meghan Delaney
Class of 2011

TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be emailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244. Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

There are always more opinions to be found on the blog. Just go to www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

To read more staff editorials, columns, letters to the editor and cartoons, visit The Pendulum website and click on the Opinions tab

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and emailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by email at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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Opinions

Can Obama's education reform help the U.S. 'win the future?'



Rebecca Smith
Columnist

The current Elon University freshman class was only nine years old when the U.S. government enacted the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). For all of the students who went to public school, nine out of their 13 years of education were measured as part of NCLB. President Barack Obama has recently launched an education reform that will end this act and bring in a new system of measuring success.

It can be argued that students currently enrolled at Elon found success with this program and have tested fairly well in order to get to where they are now. But did the No Child Left Behind Act have anything to do with their success?

NCLB requires that states develop assessments in basic skills to be given to students in certain grades. The act does not assert a national achievement standard, but instead standards are set by each individual state.

Having varied standards is one of the many problems with No Child Left Behind. Statistics from the U.S. Department of Education show about 69 percent of fourth-grade students tested as proficient on North Carolina's reading tests, but only 32 percent of students tested as proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

As students get older, the gap gets even bigger. More than 80 percent of 8th grade students tested as proficient on the North Carolina's test from the 2008-2009 school year, while only 36 percent of the same students were labeled proficient on the 2008-2009 NAEP.

On March 13, the Obama administration released its blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) after discussing this plan in the 2011 State of the Union address, where Obama introduced the phrase "win the future."

The administration has created a new goal, to

be accomplished by 2020, aiming for the United States to once again lead the world in college completion. During the next nine school years, the same amount of time the current freshman class studied under the No Child Left Behind Act, the current administration plans to drastically change the national school system and move past the more than 10 countries that have higher rates of college completion.

One of the biggest changes the blueprint mentions is that schools will be measured by student growth and progress. Under NCLB, schools were only measured by proficiency. A school that was making progress could still be considered failing.

This new program also plans to look beyond assessments to measure student accomplishment by taking into consideration things like attendance, conditions for learning and course completion.

I applaud the administration for wanting to alter a program that is dependent on standardized testing and test results, especially test results that are not even standardized from state to state.

But I am not sure this new plan looks promising. The proposed blueprint mentions that high school exit exams and college placement exams should be aligned. This could improve the problem of standards differing from state to state, but it is not a set plan for standardization.

Most importantly, I wonder if replacing one type of standardized tests with another type of standardized test is the right answer. There will be more funding involved — \$123 million in competitive funds to support innovative academic programs and encourage graduation.

But the schools that currently have the most innovative programs and the highest graduation rates are probably the schools where many in the Class of 2014 came from, schools that have not changed much from No Child Left Behind, with students who would probably enroll and graduate from college anyway.

So will Obama's new plan really help us "win the future" or will it just continue with the future that would already exist? The education program needs more than just new tests that are tied to funding. That has already been attempted by past administrations, and it is time for something new, something that actually looks to the future and not the past.

Banning cell phones won't solve the problem of distracted driving



Anna Johnson
Columnist

Despite what North Carolina legislators may think, banning cellphone use while driving will do little to decrease traffic accidents.

This proposed law would make it a misdemeanor to talk on the phone while driving unless the driver is using a hands-free device. Anyone caught using a cellphone without a hands-free device will face a \$100 fine.

The law does not apply to law enforcement, emergency vehicles and anyone dialing 911.

While legislators may have residents' best interests at heart, they are attempting to pass a law that will not prevent accidents and is simply unenforceable. It's a waste of legislators' and law enforcement officers' time. It also places unnecessary restrictions on people in their own vehicles.

The Highway Loss Data Institute shows that while many drivers use their cellphones while driving, there is no evidence to suggest that using a hands-free device is safer than a regular cell phone. In the same study, it was found that the number of accidents

did not decrease in states where hand-held phones are banned.

North Carolina already bans hand-held cellphone use while driving by anyone under the age of 18. Additionally, a universal texting ban went into effect across the state in 2009. The Highway Loss Data Institute found most individuals ignore texting and talking on cellphone bans, or say they are not informed about the laws in their own state. Another study showed that many felt these laws were not enforced and continued the illegal actions.

Cellphones are not the problem and are not the cause of accidents—distracted drivers are the culprits. How is talking on a cell phone any different from reaching to change the radio station, adjusting the coordinates on a GPS device, fumbling for a napkin while eating in the car or talking to a passenger? It's not.

If lawmakers really want to curb the number of accidents caused by distracted drivers, then punish distracted drivers. A blanket law banning cellphones is not the answer. Instead, give law enforcement officers and the courts the power to truly punish distracted drivers after an accident, instead of imposing a slight slap on the wrist.

If a nonessential action caused an accident, the driver should suffer harsh penalties. Only this will bring about a decrease in the number of accidents across North Carolina.

ASK AN ALUM

Jessi Dexheimer



Jessi Dexheimer graduated from Elon in 2009 with a degree in journalism and international studies. She works for AOL's advertising .com and lives

in the Financial District in New York City.

Q: You live in Manhattan, one of the most expensive cities to live in in the United States. How did you find housing that is not too expensive and that suited your needs?

A: I was living in Baltimore when I found out I had gotten this job in New York City — eight days before I was supposed to start. Honestly, the real estate market in New York is like nothing else. It's extremely fast paced and cutthroat, and at a point, it's not just about what you want, but where will accept you and how quickly you can give them a check.

Q: How did you find roommates?

A: I had been planning to live with a friend from Elon, but at the last minute, the situation fell through. We already had found a great apartment, so instead of starting from scratch, I put an ad on

Craigslist to find a new roommate who was interested in living in the same area as me. It wasn't what I had planned, but it worked out great.

Q: What are some tips for college students who will be looking for housing in big cities like NYC?

A: Your first apartment is not going to be anything like you're expecting. Don't move to New York City and expect to be able to afford something like the apartments from Friends or Sex and the City. You can find a great apartment, you just have to be willing to compromise a little. It's all about a trade-off.

Also, be willing to think outside of the box, whether by living with strangers, converting a home office in to a bedroom or living in one of the outer boroughs or even New Jersey. One thing that is very, very common in NYC is paying to have temporary walls built in your apartment.

Q: How did you choose where to live? Were you able to find a place near work?

A: I moved here and figured out which neighborhoods were within commuting distance, then which of those were realistic price-wise and then just tried to see where would let me move in first. I live almost three miles from work, but it's only a 10-minute subway ride. I can get almost anywhere in Manhattan and

even Brooklyn in less than 30 minutes because of all the major subway lines.

Q: Do you know any good resources for finding housing and or apartment-mates for college students post-graduation?

A: There are so many people moving to the city every day and they all need a place to live, so ask your friends, family, coworkers, acquaintances, really anyone, if they know people looking for a roommate.

Look on Craigslist or do a Google search for roommate-matching websites, just make sure you check out people before you meet them in person. You can also find an area that you love and then ask brokers or landlords in the areas if they know of anyone in the building looking for a room. I know people who found apartments just by walking in to the building and asking if there were any openings.

Q: What is more important for students: going to a city they want to live in and find a job, or a job in a less-than-desirable city? What did you do?

A: I think New York is very unique because there is so much competition, not only for apartments but for jobs, too. That's why a lot of people quit their jobs, sell their cars, move to New York and then look for jobs; it works out, and they get great jobs they wouldn't have been considered for otherwise.

I was lucky because I had a job before I moved here, but I know just as many people who moved and found a job once they were here. You can always fake it by finding a friend who lives in New York City and using his or her address on your resume before you move here.

My current job isn't exactly what I want to do in the long term, but I wanted to move to NYC so badly that I would have worked anywhere. In the end, it was a trade-off for me between professional and personal fulfillment, and I decided I wanted to live in my dream city more than I wanted to have my dream job, at least for now. It's different for every person so you just have to decide what is most important to you.

Compiled by Bonnie Efird, Features Editor

Have a question about life after Elon?

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Style

The Mill at Gibsonville ‘recycles part of the South’ through art and furniture

Ashley Fahey
Copy Editor

Starting up The Mill was a way to preserve the traditions of family and of Gibsonville's local culture for owner Chris Smith.

The Mill at Gibsonville specializes in home furnishings, accessories, creatively designed pieces, antiques and consignment furniture. It is located in the former Liberty Hosiery Mills building on Eugene Street, which opened in 1890 as the Gem Cotton Mill. The historical nature of the building is a large part of the original conception for the store.

"It is a family-owned mill," said Smith, the owner of the store. "I think people like the venue and coming back to their roots."

The historic mill has been in the family of her husband, Jim Smith, for generations and was the perfect place to open the store. One of the biggest objectives for the store is to breathe life into the history and culture of Gibsonville, according to Smith.

"Gibsonville is a very vibrant community," Smith said. "There is a lot of history and I have a lot of passion for the historical mill. I didn't want it to get sold. I wanted to do something with it."

Smith started The Mill to share her passion with the local community and to illustrate the charm of Gibsonville through the dynamic artwork showcased.

She brought together a team of talented individuals, both locally and from out of town, to create a lively showroom filled with one-of-a-kind pieces of art and furniture.

"We started the showroom first, which is a collection of recycled pieces and faux finish pieces that we recycle," Smith said. "As we grew, we found several local people that had artistic backgrounds."

One of the concepts behind the work showcased at The Mill is called upcycling, a process that produces original works from unexpected objects.

"You take something that's not intended for that purpose

and you make it into something else," said Geoff Sutton, one of the artists featured in the store. "Parts you wouldn't think have any other purpose are sold as art."

Some of the upcycled pieces in The Mill include guitars made out of cigar cases and walking canes made from tobacco sticks. Additionally, Sutton said many of the pieces had a faux finishing.

"If you faux finish something, you have to sand it down and know the pattern," Sutton said. "People like it because there's no two pieces alike and everything's going to be different."

The Mill is made up of art and furniture that have been the artists' creations from start to finish.

"We do everything: custom woodwork, painting, refinishing furniture and so on," said Brad Brown, another artist featured at the store. "Our most popular items are benches, the canes and dolly carts."

Although The Mill opened in June 2010, it has already seen success in the small town. It is the only store of its kind in the area, according to Sutton.

"I think it's the only place in the area that has the quality of artwork that works for what we make," Sutton said. "We're still getting out there. It's not completely popular yet, but that takes time."

The next step for The Mill is to refurbish the back portion of the store, Smith said, who has a distinctive vision.

"We want that to be an industrial process, where we want to make a shabby chic college venue," Smith said. "We're calling it 'The Rose Collection.' I picked that because Gibsonville is the town of roses."

Smith is looking to get more visitors into the store in addition to smaller projects, such as updating their website. But the biggest goal for Smith is to bring the charm of Gibsonville culture alive through art.

"It's just like recycling part of the South," Smith said. "There is so much to be said for this little town."



ALL PHOTOS BY MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Throughout The Mill, the artists' work is displayed in creative ways, usually arranged with furniture also for sale.



Left: Hand painted and handmade art is very common at The Mill.
Above Right: There is one artist who specializes in fire extinguisher lamps.
Bottom Right: The Mill at Gibsonville features antique and unique art.



Junior offers to build, fix and create custom desktop computers

Rebecca Iannucci
Copy Editor

Most children like to play with Barbie dolls and G.I. Joes. Junior Matt Forsberg liked to play with computers.

"You think about kids taking apart Lego blocks. I used to play with the computers," Forsberg said. "It obviously wasn't a good computer, but it was something you could take apart."

Now, Forsberg is using those skills to build and fix desktop computers for Elon students.

According to Forsberg, who used to work at Campus Technology, many companies charge rates that are not necessarily accurate for the work that is being done. Although he does wish to make a profit, Forsberg said he cares more about the customer's knowledge.

"There's a level of awareness that I wish more people would have about computers, essentially," he said. "Most services try to exploit the common user. I feel like people need to try to learn the technology that they're surrounded by more, because the more you know, the more money you can save."

Forsberg began his business at Elon during his freshman year, but ran a similar business at home in Hebron, Conn., prior to college.

"I had a few customers that said the rates I was offering were a lot cheaper than what other people might be offering," he said.

Customers must pay for the parts used in the computer, which can range anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000, according to an

E-Net ad posted by Forsberg, he charges an additional 20 percent of the total cost of the computer for labor. Customers can pay as little as \$600 for a custom-built computer.

But Forsberg said he finds a bigger market for fixing computers at Elon, rather than building them.

"This isn't a big video game school," he said. "Here, people are fine with laptops, and the laptop does whatever they want. People like that level of comfort, so building computers is not as popular here."

After tinkering with desktop computers for several years, Forsberg built his first rudimentary computer at 13 years old. By age 15, he was building consumer models using parts purchased from the Internet.

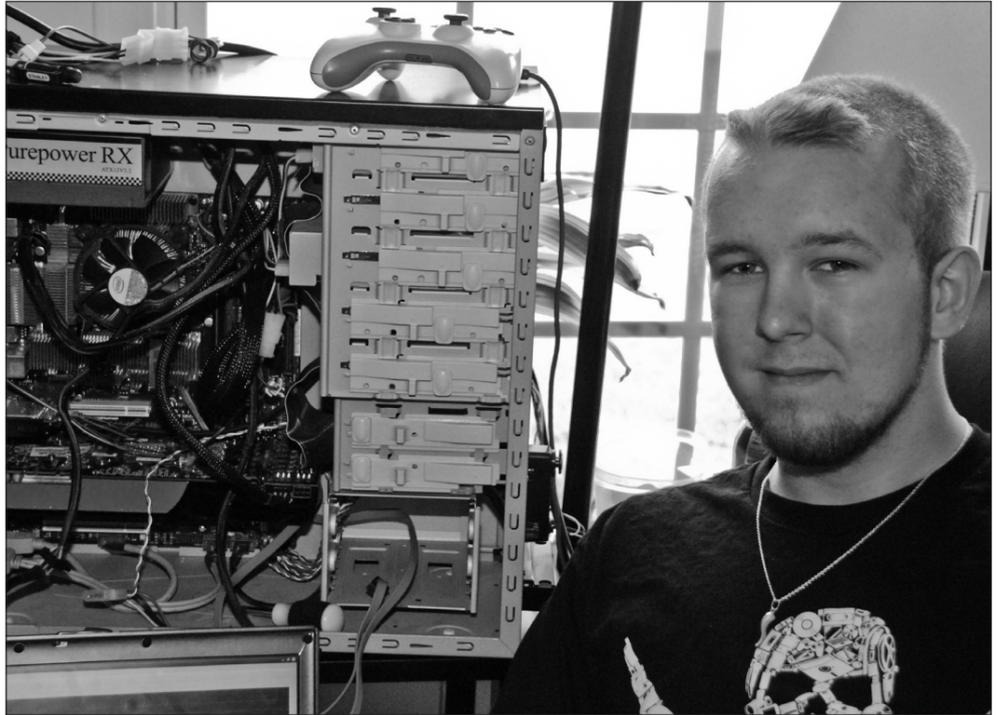
Biology professor Yuko Miyamoto said Forsberg's dedication translates well into the classroom.

"If he likes something and he's committed to it, he'll definitely put forth a lot of effort," she said. "Sometimes it takes a little bit of prodding, but he'll always get it done."

Forsberg, though, sees computers as an eternal hobby.

"I don't really like computers as a career," he said. "They're interesting as a side note, but I feel like if I ever made them my career, it would become stale."

Forsberg doesn't take much of an academic interest in computers, either. Although he spent five months in a computer science internship, Forsberg maintains his studies



as an environmental and ecological science major, after he struggled in a computer science course at Elon.

"While it sounds kind of funny, the programming level was actually a bit over my head," Forsberg said. "I wasn't too good at it."

Ultimately, Forsberg looks to provide awareness to his customers, which is why he continues his business as a hobby.

"If I can keep up a rudimentary amount of knowledge, I can always maintain a sort of business assisting people," he said. "People's stuff is always breaking."



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
Junior Matt Forsberg continues his childhood passion for computer repairs while studying environmental and ecological science at Elon.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Above: Senior Alexandra Feldman travelled to South Africa during Winter Term for the Call of South Africa trip. The trip attracts students who both wish to experience the culture as well as give back to the communities they interact with.
Left: Feldman (far left) and other students on the Call of South Africa study abroad travelled across the country. The students volunteered with children and went to important national sites including Kruger National Park, Table Mountain and tours of Cape Town and Cape Point. They also visited museums and watched traditional healers practice medicine.

South African 'call' elicits wide response from Elon students

Stephanie Butzer
Reporter

The Call of South Africa study abroad program will reach its sixth year in a row during the 2012 Winter Term. Many students continue to express a strong desire to take part in this experience, and it has become a popular study abroad choice.

But what exactly is the call of South Africa?

"I think they want people who will be mutually beneficial from the trip," said senior Alexandra Feldman. "They hope to have students who will both learn from

their experiences and give back as much as they can."

The students experience a wide variety of places and culture in the country. They are able to sightsee while also having opportunities to volunteer and work on service projects.

The 2011 Winter Term trip included safaris in Kruger National Park, climbing Table Mountain, touring Cape Town and Cape Point, visiting various museums, watching the work of a traditional healer and more.

"We are on the go a lot, which allows us to see an incredible amount in each

city," Feldman said. "The day usually has multiple activities planned allowing for a diverse traveling experience."

The students go through intense preparation in a one-credit hour class during the fall semester and learn a lot about the racial dynamics in South Africa while exploring how literature and art play a role in democracy. South Africa has been a republic since 1961.

During the time in the actual country, students work with community partners to complete service projects, enhancing their sense of civic responsibility.

"The South Africa study abroad course provides students with the chance to not only see one of the most beautiful countries in the world, but opens their eyes to the honest reality of what South Africa is like," Feldman said.

She explained how the experience gave her and the other students a very large variety of opportunities.

"Not only did we have the opportunity to explore everything from the history of South Africa to the beauty of Cape Point; but we had the chance to get to know the people of South Africa,"

Feldman said. "This element of feeling connected to the people and getting to know the children we were helping made this experience truly unique and life changing."

This service learning project partially fills up requirements for expression and society, and also satisfies the experimental learning requirement for general studies. But, the experience for students on the trip goes beyond mere requirements. The knowledge and realization of a world beyond our own is sometimes hard to grasp until one actually embarks on the journey.

'Getting up to your elbows in computer guts'

Company donates 7,400 computers to students since father, son started non-profit organization 8 years ago

Marlena Chertock
Design Editor

Elon junior Ned Dibner remembers when his father, Mark, first brought home the basic circuitry of a computer for them to rebuild.

"We're getting a computer and it's going to be yours," Mark said to Ned. "But you're going to pay for half of it and we have to put it together."

The Dibners didn't know anything about computers before they tried to put one together, Mark said. Mark has a Ph.D in biology, not computer science.

They picked up worksheets and searched online tutorials.

"We bought a really crappy \$5 handout on how to fix a computer and built it from scratch," Ned said.

When they finished working on the computer, Ned turned to his dad and said many of his peers in school didn't have computers. Ned had noticed that students in his classroom at his school were being penalized for not typing up their papers. He told his dad this was unfair.

"When a 13-year-old says something like that you really listen, and I did," Mark said.

In June 2003, the father and son started up a non-profit organization in Durham to refurbish computers and donate them to students. Since then, they have donated 7,400 computers.

Mark had experience with entrepreneurship because he taught a course at Duke University. He instilled a sense of business in Ned, Ned said.

The Dibners named their business Kramden, which spells Ned and Mark backwards.

Starting up a nonprofit organization

People move onto faster, better computers and leave the others sitting around, Mark said.

"I had no trouble finding computers for us to work on," he said. "There are a lot of computers lying around that people aren't using. They sit in closets, basements, garages and storage rooms of businesses."

At first, the computers were fixed up in the Dibners' basement.

"At that point it wasn't necessarily a company," Ned said. "It wasn't necessarily like Robin Hood either. It was more of an idea that we thought of that nobody else had had."

Mark and Ned both expressed gratitude for their wife and mother in allowing the computers to be fixed and kept in their house.

The basement was so full of monitors, keyboards, power cords and other computer parts that Mark said he didn't want volunteers to come into the basement to work.

There would be about 60 computers in the house at one time, Ned said.

Kramden moved to a bigger location in Durham with the help of several start-up grants. One was for \$60,000 from Lenovo, the company that bought IBM's laptop division.

The first recipients of refurbished computers were students in Ned's class at Brogden Middle School. All of the students on the A and B honor roll received computers. After that, the father-son business grew.

Kramden asks teachers in the Durham community to



Kramden was started by father and son, Mark and Ned. Volunteers are essential to fixing hundreds of computers during Geek-a-Thons, Mark said.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

nominate students in need of a computer at home.

There are a few qualifications for students to receive a computer. Students must be hardworking so the computer can be a positive reinforcement to work already being done, according to Ned.

"I was impressed with Kramden's mission, grassroots, scaling and growing efforts across a community," said Carrie Clark, director of operations at Kramden.

Clark has worked with Kramden since 2008, and has been involved in managing nonprofits for 10 years.

Geek as an endearing term

Kramden refers to its volunteers as "geeks." This is an endearing term, according to the Dibners. Volunteers sometimes even receive T-shirts with the word "geek" on it.

The work days where volunteers fix computers for several hours are called Geek-a-Thons. Volunteers clean out the computers and add memory and programs students will need, such as Microsoft Word, antivirus and antispyware software.

Kramden has an agreement with Microsoft to allow the company to install Microsoft programs onto computers.

The geeks need to perform a government-level wipe of the hard drives for legal reasons, Ned said.

"After that, the computers are completely blank, all identical, not in looks but what's in it," he said.

Currently 4,000 volunteers have worked at Kramden, according to Ned.

It costs about \$65 to refurbish a computer, he said.

During the Geek-a-Thons, 140 volunteers work in four-hour shifts. Music and entertainment is provided. About 200 to 300 donated computers are turned into 180 to 250 refurbished computers.

Some of the donated computers won't be able to be refurbished for various reasons, from not being able to be fixed, broken parts or driver errors. But parts from these computers can be used for others.

"It's getting up to your elbows in computer guts," Mark said.

The Dibners and geeks have found interesting items left behind in donated computers.

"There have been weird CDs, how to become a psychic, how to pick locks," Ned said. "We found quite a few above and below CD drives, where CDs don't belong. People jam them in there."

Kramden gives away computers to nominated students through the Monthly Kramden Computer Award Day.

Kramden is trying to update the computers it donates, according to Ned. Older, large computer monitors are being replaced by LCD monitors.

If a donated computer breaks, Kramden will fix it until the student graduates high school.

Helping students without computers

A student interning at Kramden a few years ago came across her sister's name in a data list, and realized her sister received a computer from Kramden.

The intern now attends Camden University, said Carrie Clark, director of operations at Kramden.

Having a computer at home greatly impacts a student's life, Clark said. It changes how they approach their education and the structure of a student's day, she said.

"It's great to hear students say, 'This computer is going to allow me to focus on my homework. I don't have to go to the library and sign up and wait for my 45-minute time slot,'" Clark said.

Students are working hard even if they don't have computers.

"They're doing everything they can with what's available to them," Clark said. "To hand them a computer might help them perform better academically, might put them on the field. It's not a level playing field. They're not even on the field without computers."

The computer provides a resource for the entire family, according to Clark.

"Think of a child with and without Google," Ned said. "A child who doesn't have a computer in the home hears about something and wants to know the answer. If he has to go to the library, will he actually go

and find it versus a student who has Google?"

The student with a computer at home and Google has access to anything he ever wanted in under a second, Ned said.

"Think about the last time you couldn't get onto the Internet for 20 minutes," Mark said. "We feel cut off from the world. Imagine if you didn't know that difference, didn't have a computer. It's a huge thing."

Technology and education

Computers are a main component of education, according to Candace Hosey, technology director of Alamance-Burlington Board of Education.

"Computers have revolutionized society as well as education," she said. "Technology has allowed us a bird's eye view of the world around us. This opportunity was not available in the traditional classroom ten years ago."

Applications on a computer can be used in every course and class, according to ABSS Board Chair Jackie Cole. Computers can be used to create projects and study, help parents understand what students are doing and post grades online for students, she said.

Students can gain unique perspectives on issues when they are exposed to different ways of understanding the material, Hosey said. The use of computers in the classroom or at home offers this to students, she said.

Access to technology and the Internet is very important, Cole said.

Today's children are digitally aware, according to Hosey. Digital communication is entwined in their daily lives.

But learning these digital programs and tools most often takes place outside of the classroom, she said.

One of ABSS' goals is to create engaged learning environments. Administrators are working on bridging the gap between the way students learn and the way teachers instruct, Hosey said.

Teachers must update the way they teach, their lesson delivery and work to implement technology in instruction, she said.

"So much of our school system today revolves around

Kramden nomination requirements

- Student must be enrolled in grades 3-12
- Nominated student must be chosen by his/her school
- Student should be dedicated to hard work and studies
- Student shouldn't have another working PC at home
- Geographic requirements - Kramden will provide PCs and technical support to following counties: Durham, Orange, Wake, Alamance, Caswell, Person, Granville, Vance, Warren, Franklin, Johnston, Harnett, Lee and Chatham

technology," she said. "It's the way it's run. I'd be frustrating for a child not to have access to it after school hours because of work they have to do."

Any school system would like to see every child have a laptop, Cole said. But it requires a lot of money.

"There is inequity between schools," Cole said.

Measuring impact

Kramden is always looking for interns, according to Mark. This summer, he wants to have interns conduct a telephone- or email-based survey to measure how the company is impacting students' lives.

"We get a lot of anecdotes, letters, we have a bulletin board of thank you notes," he said. "It'd be nicer to do it in a little more scientific way."

The company keeps a record of who received a computer. Mark hopes to have a data set that shows evidence of the impact Kramden makes by the fall, he said.

In the future, Mark wants to see the company or the model spread nationally, he said. Kramden has a slogan of "of the community, for the community."

There are kids in communities throughout America who are at a digital disadvantage, Mark said.

"We've been working for seven years now to write our protocol so anyone could take over and do what we do, just like Habitat for Humanity," he said.

Find out more about the nonprofit organization at kramden.org.



Freshman writes bill to recognize American Sign Language in public Virginian classrooms

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

As a child, freshman Hollis Erickson learned American Sign Language from a deaf neighbor. But when she reached high school, she was unable to continue her study of ASL without forfeiting the opportunity to earn college credit for language.

As a result, Erickson worked with classmates at Loudon Valley High School in her home state, Virginia, to write legislation that could potentially change the languages offered to all students in the state of Virginia.

Erickson took three years of Latin for college credit before she took two years of ASL in high school.

"A lot more students were deterred from taking ASL because there was no college credit, which they all cared about," she said.

With the help of her classmates and teacher, Dawn Hitchens, Erickson wrote House Bill 1435 based on previous experiences and knowledge she had gained.

When she was 13, she worked as a page in the Virginia Senate and later attended the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia.

When the bill was completed, she sent it to delegates and senators in an attempt to garner support.

"We heard back saying it was a great idea, but there just wasn't enough funding or it wouldn't work right now," she said. "There were a few negative responses from people saying we couldn't tell people what to do. I actually thought there would be more negativity. The response exceeded my expectations."

When Erickson left for Elon, Hitchens continued to petition

"There were a few negative responses from people saying we couldn't tell people what to do. I actually thought there would be more negativity. The response exceeded my expectations."

-HOLLIS ERICKSON
FRESHMAN

on behalf of the bill. Finally, Delegate Dickie Bell agreed to support the legislation. Bell's experiences growing up near the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind had an effect on her decision to back the bill, according to Erickson.

As of this time, the legislation passed both the House and Senate in Virginia and has been signed by Gov. Bob McDonnell. It will be reviewed by the General Assembly April 6 and, pending this final approval, will go into effect July 1 of this year.

"I didn't even think it

would go through committee," Erickson said.

The actual text of the bill requires public schools in Virginia to offer ASL which then must be accepted for academic credit by state colleges and universities.

With its own culture, grammar and sentence structure, Erickson said ASL is significant.

"The population doesn't have an understanding of the culture," she said. "With sign language, many think they talk how we talk, but it's an entirely different structure."

Although she is one of the primary authors of the bill, Erickson is quick to credit Hitchens for its recent success, and said her teacher took a lot of responsibility.

She also found support from the local deaf community, which she met with often for "deaf chats."

Though her involvement in writing the bill inspired her, Erickson said it was a long process. She is currently planning to study nursing, in order to make a difference on a more regular basis, but she will remain involved with politics.

"It inspired me to keep my interest in politics," she said. "No one realizes how much difference one person can make and you can simply write a bill and submit it."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Elon freshman Hollis Erickson worked with her classmates in high school to write House Bill 1435, which could potentially help to have sign language offered in Virginia schools.

CD REVIEW



Khalifa's new album full of pomp and no circumstance

David Turner
Reviewer

The color green is an obsession for Wiz Khalifa throughout his major label debut album "Rolling Papers." Money is the main focus throughout the album, and after a while, it is hard to care about how much money he says he has.

"Black and Yellow" transformed from a minor Pittsburgh anthem to the biggest song in the nation. In the same way "Black and Yellow" represented all of the teams of Pittsburgh, the song was remixed by local artists across the country to support their own local college or professional team.

Khalifa's relatability is where his strength lies, and he does not play it up enough on "Rolling Papers." The first half of the album with "Black and Yellow," the cute love song "Roll Up" and a slowed down party song "On My Level" at least makes some attempt to move through different topics. Khalifa's fan base is predominately teenagers and college students, so making these songs singles is understandable, as they cover relevant topics for his fans.

The best song on the album, "The Race" might as well not have lyrics. It is once again about money and Khalifa loving his life, but serves as

a great midpoint. The song works because just when it is about to fade out, it builds back up for a last pass for the chorus. This inversion of the standard pop song formula is odd, because the rest of the album just follows the verse-chorus-verse structure and that pattern sounds even more route when "The Race" already inverted it.

The second half of the album features only one of the album's five singles, "No Sleep," and it's easy to forget as each song runs together. There is another love song about Khalifa having his head in the clouds, and a handful of songs about him acquiring money. When the album's first awful song shows up in "Top Floor," despite being the eleventh track on the album, it is able to highlight how vapid the last few songs had been.

The production on the second half of the album is chilled-out and never regains the power and swagger of earlier songs. Strangely, for a rap album, a few guitars appear in the latter half of the album. Their inclusion sounds like Khalifa is aiming for a pop crossover song, which seems unnecessary as his biggest hit, "Black and Yellow," is a straightforward rap song with no pop concessions.

Khalifa's major label debut has him focusing more on himself in his lyrics, but at the same time the music that he is rapping over is striving



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIZKHALIFA.COM
Wiz Khalifa's new album "Rolling Papers" boasts his overinflated self-confidence, and his typical relatability is absent from this newest release.

for pop stardom.

These are not mutually exclusive goals, but it is hard to enjoy an album produced by an artist who only cares about himself and makes musical concessions to make more money.

How to: Beat the seasonal sniffles and sneezes

Rachel Southmayd
Opinions Editor

Springtime at Elon means warmer weather, green grass, blooming flowers and ducklings and goslings tottering around Lake Mary Nell. But it also means spring allergy season is upon us. The whole campus falls under a yellow cloud as trees release pollen, aggravating allergy sufferers everywhere.

While there's no real cure for allergies, you can help prevent some of their effects by following these simple steps.

1. Make your home a "No Shoes Zone"

Take your shoes off before you go in your front door or dorm room door.

Keeping your shoes on can track the pollen spores in your room, where they can get in your carpet and keep irritating you day and night.

2. Close up those windows

It might be tempting to try and get a fresh breeze flowing through your room, but try to resist. Don't bring the outdoors in.

3. Keep it clean

Vacuum every three or four days and make sure to wash bedding, towels and all clothing worn at least once a week. Also, for girls especially, try showering at night to clean any pollen off your body and out of your hair, where it can sit and bother you all night long.

4. Pre-medicate

Don't wait until you start having symptoms. Start taking anti-allergens before the itchy eyes and stuffy nose strike. While prescriptions help some people, others are often helped by taking over-the-counter varieties. Make sure they contain anti-histamines, and try to get the non-drowsy type. Some people also find great relief using a neti pot system, which irrigates the nasal passages. Just don't use this too much, because that can kill all bacteria, good and bad, making you feel even worse.

5. Fight the sniffles

Keep tissues with you at all times and blow your nose as often as needed. Sniffing pulls the aggravating spores

further back into your sinuses and lungs and mucus going down into your lungs and stomach can make you nauseous and prompt other illnesses, like bronchitis.

6. If your allergies prompt other illnesses, get treated

Allergies cause stuffy noses, itchy eyes and other minor, irritating symptoms in people, but they should never cause a fever, a "wet" cough or any type of cough that lasts more than a few days or causes excessive chest pain. If you start to experience these symptoms, your allergies may have prompted another type of illness and you may need to pay a visit to the Health Center to get it under control. Listen to the signals your body is sending you.

Mentoring program helps elementary boys find athletic confidence

Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

Last spring, a new mentoring program called Coaching Health & Mentoring Positive Students (CHAMPS) was started on campus with help of senior TJ Douglas and Elizabeth Bailey, lecturer of Health and Human Performance.

After discussion, Douglas and Bailey decided to create the CHAMPS program that includes sports, physical activity and mentoring for elementary school boys.

"In 2006 I applied for and got a grant for BeActive N.C. to bring Girls in Motion to Elon," Bailey said. "We were trained by the original developers of the program, modified it to fit our campus and have been offering it for girls since then, usually every semester. Last year, TJ Douglas, a basketball player and senior Exercise Sports Science major, wanted to develop a program for boys. Together we did so and offered our first session last spring."

The current head facilitators are Elon juniors Brett Brawerman and Kendall Adkins.

"I was a mentor, just to help out, and enjoyed it so much that I wanted to take on a bigger role this year," Brawerman said. "I am now in charge of planning all the daily operations, coordinating the events with the respective varsity sports teams, as well as hold responsibility of all of the mentors and mentees."

CHAMPS is a relatively new mentoring program that looks to promote positive behaviors and attitudes in sport and other team activities through a relationship with a college student.

This program helps students learn new sports skills through visits from Elon's sports teams. The football team, basketball team, club ultimate Frisbee and club lacrosse have all helped the program reach out to students. The soccer team will be coming this week to give instruction.

There are currently 25 kids, all of whom are in fourth or fifth grade, and 25 mentors. The mentors spend an hour and a half with the kids twice a week.

"The program is 90 minutes," Bailey said. "The first 15 are spent in play and a fitness circuit, the next 30-40 is spent in skill instruction. Another 20 in education, the rest is one-on-one time."

While the program focuses on athletics, not all mentors are athletes.

"While we have a few mentors on club sports and even some on varsity sports, the majority of our mentors are not athletes," Brawerman said. "I am a

STATES WITH HIGHEST RATES OF OBESITY IN 2010

- 1 Mississippi
- 2 Alabama
- 3 Tennessee
- 4 West Virginia
- 5 Louisiana
- 6 Oklahoma
- 7 Kentucky
- 8 Arkansas
- 9 South Carolina
- 10 North Carolina

Information from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

personal trainer here at Elon, but this is my first opportunity to work with kids instead of college or faculty members as clients. Some of the mentors are our fraternity brothers (Sigma Phi Epsilon), as well as our co-workers in Campus Recreation. Others just signed up because they saw our fliers or heard about it through the grapevine."

The organization focuses on one-on-one time where students connect with their mentors as a way to gain self confidence and learn from someone older than them. However, the physical fitness and health aspect is important.

"North Carolina was ranked 5th in the nation for overweight children in 2007 and the statistics are not improving," Bailey said. "These issues need to be addressed often in many different ways."

The program runs only in the spring, so it will be a year before these students will meet again, but Brawerman hopes that the organization has impacted the lives of the students during this semester.

"In the beginning, we had each of the children fill out self-confidence forms as well as interest forms in physical activity and nutrition," Brawerman said. "At the end of the program, we will have them fill out the same forms. Our goal is that CHAMPS allows the boys to gain more self-confidence and become interested in a wider variety of sports so that when it is time for them to participate in competitive sports they are not only aware of the skills it takes, but they go in with a positive attitude and they know how to be a good team player and not give in to peer pressure."

Adopt-a-Grandparent regains strength, student interest

David Turkel
Reporter

As little as a year ago, the Elon Adopt-a-Grandparent program was temporarily canceled because of a lack of student interest. Now, one year later, the program is back up and running. But how?

After inquiring about the program at the Kernodle Center and hearing that it was no longer running, junior Rachael Jones took control of the program and got it back on its feet.

Jones was able to generate a significant amount of new interest. Now, Adopt-a-Grandparent is building off this momentum and working to make an impact in the community.

Jones was forced to leave Adopt-a-Grandparent this year because of studying abroad in Paris, though she hopes to reapply for a position as co-coordinator of the program next fall.

But, in the hands of current co-coordinators junior Ericka Bentson and freshman John Derian, Adopt-a-Grandparent has taken a number of steps forward.

The "matching" of students and grandparents was conceived by Jones and Bentson and put into action for the 2010-2011 school year.

After restarting the program, Jones chose Blakey Hall as the primary retirement community on which she wanted to focus volunteer efforts, because of its proximity to campus.

Last year, students and Blakey Hall residents met in groups, and the process, according to Bentson, wasn't very successful.

"The idea behind using

matching was that the student would build a relationship with their grandparent and then would be more inclined to make regular visits," Bentson said.

This year, individual students were matched with a grandparent at Blakey based on criteria such as major, hometown, interests and religion.

So far this goal has been met; about 15 volunteers regularly visit their grandparents and attend meetings.

Derian has also been a "great asset" to the program, specifically with his work "to improve communication between the residents and Blakey and bringing new ideas about fundraising and programs forth," said Bentson.

Despite the relative proximity of Blakey to Elon's campus, it can still be a nuisance for volunteers who don't have cars to get there, so the group is looking to implement a reliable system of transportation for such students, Bentson said.

Bentson also wants to increase the overall number of volunteers for the program and the number of special programs outside the realm of regular volunteering.

There are two such special events currently planned. One is a concert for Blakey residents, and the other an Earth Day program.

"There are some residents who do not have a lot of visitors to visit them," she said, "They are absolutely thrilled to have younger people in their home."

Adopt-a-Grandparent is a program that allows students to volunteer at nursing homes and interact with the elderly.

"There are some residents who do not have a lot of visitors to visit them and they are absolutely thrilled to have younger people in their home."

-ERICKA BENTSON
JUNIOR



Senior infielder Caitlin McGowan (above) and the Elon Phoenix softball team took on UT-Chattanooga Mocs in a weekend series from East Field April 2-3. On Saturday, the Phoenix fell 7-5 and 13-2 to a Chattanooga team who sits atop the Southern Conference with a 6-0 conference record and a 25-8 overall record. Sunday, the Phoenix fell again 3-1 behind strong pitching and defense from the Mocs. "You learn a lot from losses," McGowan

said. "The difference this weekend is that they were more ready to play and just outplayed us." After starting the season 13-5, the Phoenix has dropped 9 of its last 11 games and is looking to rebound in a weekend series at home against Georgia Southern University, who ranks second in the conference with a 9-3 ledger. "We know we can bring more to the table," said head coach Patti Raduenz. "We need to work hard this week to prepare."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Track and Field records successful weekend at Liberty

The Elon University track and field team completed another competitive weekend, as team members recorded top finishes in nearly each event.

Freshman Julie Hart took the top prize in the 1,500 meter event with a time of 4:40.13. That pace was just under three seconds short of the school record she set March 26 at the Raleigh Relays.

The long jump saw another Phoenix take a top spot, as senior Veronica Day captured first place with a jump of 5.72 meters. She also third in the triple with a distance of 11.7 meters.

In the 4x100 meter relay, Sarah Skogen, Cara Hughes, Bria Bell and Amy Salek beat the rest of the field with a time of 48.55. The 4x400 saw the same Phoenix team take the top spot again with a time of 3:52.33.

Salek finished second in the 400-meter race with a time of 55.54. Skogen placed 11th with a time of 59.10 and Veronica Leudke finished just behind in 12th at a clip of 59.13.

In this weekend's meet, the team will travel to Duke University April 8-9 for the Duke Invitational.

Phoenix women's golf in good standing

Junior Virginia Mayer entered Tuesday's round of the UNC Wilmington Seahawk Classic in a tie for seventh with a two round score of 154 (78-76). Senior Tara McFadden is in ninth place with a score of 155 (80-75) in the 55 golfer field.

Sophomore Martyna Mierzwa is also close to the top with a score of 157 (78-79), putting her in 12th place. Sophomore Shannon Prunty is a shot behind that spot with a 158 (78-80) total.

Rounding out Elon's competitors is junior Lauren Lebak, who sits in a tie for 29th with a total of 161 (78-83).

As a team, the Phoenix stands in third place with a score of 622.

Women's tennis drops conference match

The Phoenix women's tennis team split a weekend series, gaining a Saturday victory against Wofford College 5-2 before losing to Furman University Paladins 6-1 in Sunday's match.

After the weekend, the Phoenix sits in sixth place in the Southern Conference with a 4-4 league mark and a 9-9 overall record.

Against the Paladins, Elon was able to take the doubles point before coming up short in all six singles matches.

With three matches remaining until the SoCon Tournament, the Phoenix hosts Davidson College today for a 4:30 p.m. match in the friendly confines of the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.

MORE ONLINE: SPORTS

VIDEO:

Find out what it takes to set up a softball field in this online-only video.

<http://bit.ly/TPOgrounds>

CHRISTINE WILLIAMS | Multimedia Intern

INJURY UPDATE

Phoenix football player seriously injured in Saturday's practice

Junior wide receiver Darius McQueen was hospitalized following Saturday afternoon's practice and treated for a concussion. It is not known if McQueen suffered a concussion during practice.

Elon athletics refused to comment on his status Saturday as well as the changing nature of his health.

McQueen has a history of concussions, as he was carted off the field in the team's playoff game in 2009 at Richmond. He stayed overnight at a Richmond area hospital for observation after that injury.

Racquetball takes on life of its own at Elon

Zachary Horner
Multimedia Editor

Racquetball, once a hobby for a few students at Elon has quickly turned into a competitive sport with its own culture at Elon.

The sport involves two to four people hitting a small rubber ball off the front wall in an attempt to get points. A player serves in a marked rectangular box-shaped area and tries to hit the ball off the wall and over the box onto the floor without it touching the back wall.

Jeffrey West, an adjunct professor in health and human performance and performing arts at Elon, teaches two different racquetball classes.

"It's really good cardio," West said about his pastime. "It's about twice the exercise of tennis. In tennis, you spend about half the time picking up balls. In racquetball, as soon as the point is over, you play another point."

West has made the sport his hobby. He began playing in the 1970s when he was in the military and has played for most of his life. When his wife moved to Greensboro for a job, he searched for a position teaching racquetball and found Elon had no instructor.

He teaches two sections of an introduction to racquetball and one advanced section.

"I've introduced (racquetball) to a lot of kids here," he says. "I get young guys and young women who want to get better and that's great."

Members of West's classes enjoy learning more about the game, with many students picking up racquetball for the first time.

"I thought this would be a fun class to fill some credits as a senior and try something new," said senior Shea Northcut. "It's been fun to learn

a new sport, become athletic."

In addition to learning a new sport, students see racquetball as a way to stay in shape and get exercise.

"It's a good workout," Northcut said. "It gets your adrenaline pumping. It's always fun to be athletic and competitive."

For first-time players, West stressed the importance of staying safe on the racquetball courts.

"Wear eye guards," West said. "Especially if you're new at the game, you're liable to mis-hit it. If you decide you're going to like the game, you need to get a decent racquet."

Elon students who play racquetball enjoy the close-knit community of the sport around the university and look forward to continuing it in the future. Several of West's students say they intend on playing racquetball for a long time.

"If you've tried it and you've liked it," West said, "give it a chance. If you like any kind of racket sport and you like a lot of exercise, it's a wonderful sport for that."

MORE ONLINE: SPORTS

VIDEO:

Check out The Pendulum's website for more interviews with Jeffrey West and other racquetball players.

<http://bit.ly/TPOracquetball>

ZACHARY HORNER | Multimedia Editor

SHARE A SECRET?

- (1) Find a Postcard**
(look outside Koury Athletic 154, in classrooms, etc.)
- (2) Tell your secret Anonymously**
- (3) Return to Campus Box 2970**

*** Be Creative and EXPRESS yourself**

Place Postage Here

**2970 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244**



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

Seniors Alberto Rojas (left) and Cody Stauffer-MacDowell return a volley against The Citadel Saturday April 2. The pair defeated The Citadel 8-6 in their doubles match. The Phoenix defeated the Bulldogs 6-1 Saturday.

Men's tennis wins 8 straight matches, first in conference

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

Last weekend, the Phoenix accomplished a feat that no other Elon men's tennis squad has accomplished since 2007, and held its stronghold atop the Southern Conference tennis standings at the conference halfway point.

After defeating the Furman University Paladins 6-1 on Sunday marked Elon's first win against its conference foe in four years, as well as besting The Citadel Bulldogs 6-1 April 2, the Phoenix sits at a perfect 6-0 in the SoCon, with five matches left to be played.

"We started strong and never looked back," said sixth-year head coach Michael Leonard. "We were able to use momentum from early on in our matches to propel us to a team victory."

In the team's first match on Sunday, the doubles combination of freshman

Cameron Silverman and junior Eric Turner defeated the Furman pair of Watson George and Tyler Droll 8-3, and the initial match set precedence for the rest of the day's matches.

"Early in the year, we were struggling with doubles," Leonard said. "Today it set the tone for the rest of the day and led us to be successful in our singles matches."

Senior Alberto Rojas took the lead for the Phoenix in singles matches by extending his personal winning streak to seven games. He was also the first Phoenix to finish his match on the court.

The Phoenix took five of six matches in singles competitions and two of three doubles matches Sunday against Furman. Paired with Saturday's

matches against The Citadel, the Phoenix took 15 out of 18 possible matches throughout the weekend.

While currently 6-0 in the conference, Leonard is quick to note that the unblemished conference mark can change at any time, and uses the unpredictability of college tennis to motivate his team.

"Although we're 6-0, we can definitely be 7-2 or 8-2 soon, simply because we are playing some of the best teams in the conference in upcoming matches," Leonard said. "We have to continue to be motivated and playing our best tennis."

April 6, the Phoenix travels to Greensboro to face the UNC Greensboro Spartans in a rematch of last year's SoCon

championship game. Last year, the Spartans edged the Phoenix 4-3.

UNCG sits directly behind the Phoenix in the SoCon standings, with a 6-1 record in the conference and a 13-4 overall mark.

"We might be undefeated but we have to be motivated and have to be on our game," Leonard said. "We can't be too timid, or play too safe. We have to play aggressively."

With four seniors and one junior on the squad, the men's tennis team is an experienced one that's seeking its first conference title.

Rather than looking across the net at its opponent, the Phoenix needs to keep looking to control the pace of the game, and not allow its opponent to do so, Leonard said.

"We can be the ones dictating the play," he said. "I rarely talk to them about their opponent until they're on the court. In order to be successful this year, it comes from our team progressing."

Looking ahead:

Wednesday 2:30 p.m. at UNC Greensboro

Saturday 1 p.m. vs. Wofford College

Sunday 1 p.m. vs. Georgia Southern University

Baseball falls in first series loss of season, looks to stay on top of SoCon standings

Conor O'Neill
Reporter

For the first time this season, Elon University's baseball team failed to record a weekend series win after dropping two of three games at UNC Greensboro.

The Phoenix began the weekend on a high note with a 1-0 win to open the series behind 7.2 shutout innings by sophomore pitcher Kyle Webb. Senior infielder Ben Scott had the team's lone RBI on an infield single in the ninth inning.

The team suffered a setback April 2 to the tune of a 13-9 loss. As positively as the weekend began, the series ended on a negative note April 3.

Entering the ninth inning of the series finale with a 5-3 lead, senior pitcher Mitch Conner surrendered three runs without recording an out for a 6-5 loss.

While the Phoenix started the weekend in sole possession of first place in the Southern Conference, Monday's updated standings find the team tied with Georgia Southern University for the top spot. Both teams

hold 9-3 conference records and 18-11 overall records.

Despite the tough end to the weekend, sophomore pitcher Dylan Clark is confident the team can rebound from the losses.

"I'm not worried about Sunday's game," Clark said. "I think if we can do that consistently, we're going to be a good team. We want to get to the eighth and ninth inning with a lead, get the ball to junior pitcher John Brebbia and Conner, we're going to be pretty successful."

It was the first time in seven chances this season that Conner has blown a save opportunity, as he has limited hitters to a .254 batting average and has a 3.86 ERA.

Brebbia has appeared mostly in the eighth inning and has been a stalwart out of the bullpen, recording a 1.96 ERA and holding hitters to a .190 average. He

has also struck out 16 while walking just three batters.

"It's a formula that we've used throughout the year, and have been pretty successful," said head coach Mike Kennedy. "We try to stick with a plan and Brebbia did his part; unfortunately Mitch didn't get it done Sunday."

This week sees the Phoenix traveling to East Carolina University on Wednesday to make up a game that was rained out March 30.

Sophomore first baseman Grant McCoury acknowledged that after a day off April 4, non-conference games carry a lot of weight during this part of the season.

"We had a rough one Saturday and even a tougher one Sunday, so we can get a clear mind a little bit and get back to it," McCoury said. "We have a big week coming up."

Looking ahead:

Wednesday 6 p.m. at East Carolina University

Friday 6:30 p.m. vs. Wofford College

Saturday 4 p.m. vs. Wofford College

Sunday 1:30 p.m. vs. Wofford College

Kennedy pointed out that despite the team's disappointing weekend, the Phoenix has enjoyed success on the road so far with an 11-7 mark away from Latham Park.

"You have to win on the road to win championships, and we've been able to do that," Kennedy said.

Of the Phoenix's last 16 games, 12 have been on the road. In contrast, the team will play host for nine of its next 10 games. Of those games, six are SoCon matchups.

Clark said that playing at Latham Park for an extended would be a welcome feature for the team.

"We like to play at our home field, and it will be good to play Southern Conference teams at home and hopefully we'll get back on a roll," Clark said.

This weekend, the Phoenix plays host to Wofford College. The Terriers reside in tenth place of 11 teams in the SoCon standings with a 2-7 league mark. They hold a 14-15 overall mark.

The series will kick off Friday with a 6:30 p.m. first pitch at Latham Park. Games will follow Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Sports

DUO DASH



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor
Kara Kreuzberg and Addie Bentnien participate in the sack race portion of the Campus Rec Duo Dash.

MORE ONLINE SPORTS

VIDEO:

See more pictures from the Duo Dash and listen to interviews with the racers.

<http://bit.ly/TPOduodash>

HEATHER CASSANO & ZACHARY HORNER | Executive Editors



Freshmen Dave Stone and Jimmy Stevenson finish the Duo Dash with the slip and slide. Dave and Jimmy, teammates on "Just Stay Bro" were among the first teams to finish with a time of 48:15. HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Not often does one get the chance to participate in a slip and slide, a bear crawl and a fireman's carry, among others, all at 10 a.m. on a Saturday at Elon. Eleven teams broken up into three divisions — men's, women's and co-ed — to participate in the Campus Rec Duo Dash five kilometer adventure race on South Campus April 2. Teams worked together to run the 5k, and stop along the way to participate in two-person challenges. The hardest part of the race was overwhelmingly

the fireman's carry, according to freshman Dave Stone. While throwing a teammate over the other teammate's shoulder, teams would have to work together to finish the challenges. "Me and my teammate happened to spend Spring Break together," Stone said. "He sprained his ankle, and so I had to practice the fireman's carry while carrying him throughout downtown." The practice worked, as Stone and Stevenson crossed the finish line first in the fireman's carry.



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor
Senior Russell Joyce finishes his 5k race with the slip and slide at the end of the Campus Rec Duo Dash. Russell's team took second in the co-ed division.



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor
Kara Kreuzberg and Addie Bentnien participate in the fireman's carry event during the Campus Rec Duo Dash. The event was held Saturday, April 2.