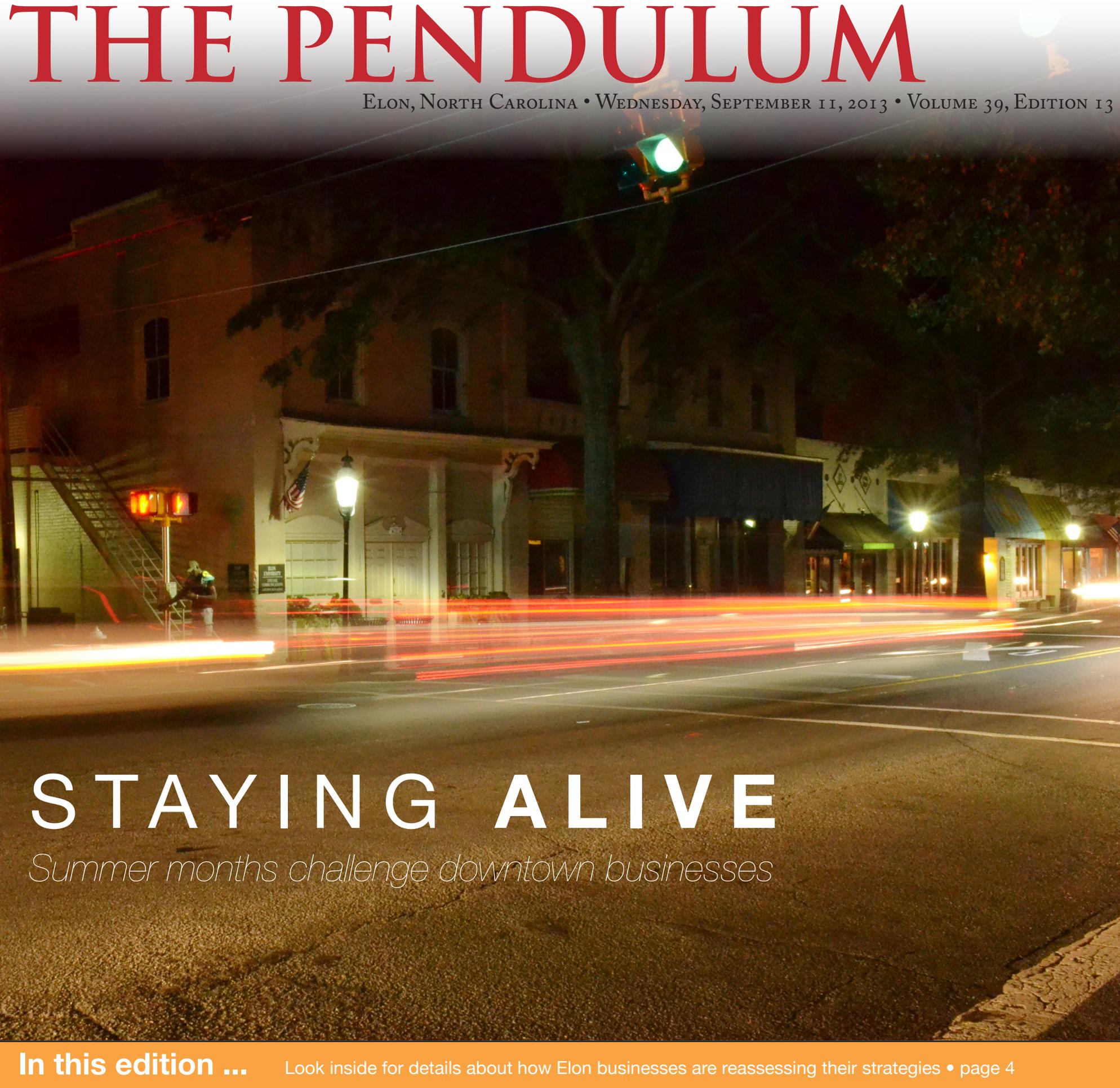


THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION 13



STAYING ALIVE

Summer months challenge downtown businesses

In this edition ...

Look inside for details about how Elon businesses are reassessing their strategies • page 4

Table of Contents

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 • page 2

in this EDITION...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	You are here	Calendar	News Local Elon business- es struggle during summer months		N.C. teacher pay restructured by changes in education law		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Elon welcomes Biscuitville in grand opening ceremony		Taking the bar digital: Smart phone app Grindr emphasizes hookups, soars in gay community		Opinions Teach for America the quick fix, not the solution	International	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Military officials face sentencing as victims are remembered at ESMA trials	Features	Conservators' Center holds obstacle 5K for the wild at heart		Arts & Entertainment	Elon graduate Lauren Renck dances her way to shine in Rockette stardom		Past comes back to help Murphy's quest for shutout record
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
	Elon men's soccer looks for '12th man' boost as home opener approaches		Upcoming events in sports	Extras	Top Photos		Spreading the love: Elon offense showcases depth at running back, wide receiver in win

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and web show. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. The Pendulum is located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center on Williamson Avenue.

Editor-in-Chief
Rebecca Iannucci

Managing Editor
Jonathan Black

News Editor
Katherine Blunt

News Editor
Ethan Smith

Assistant News Editor
Michael Bodley

Opinions Editor
Ian Luther

Assistant Opinions Editor
Alex Francis

International Editor
Alana Romans

Features Editor
Kyra Gemberling

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Stephanie Butzer

Sports Editor
Andrew Wilson

Assistant Sports Editor
Matt Krause

Social Media & Web Editor
Mary Kate Brogan

Photo Editor
Katy Canada

Design Chief
Kristen Case

Copy Chief
Tyler Oberle

Multimedia Editor
Jessica Leano

Business Manager
Richard Segal

Public Relations Director
Allison Srouer

Adviser
Colin Donohue

For a complete list of our staff, please visit ElonPendulum.com/staff.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			11 "Crisis in Syria" Panel 5:30 p.m. Numen Lumen Pavilion	12 Drum Wars 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	13 SUB Live with Rayvon Owen 8 p.m. Irazu Coffee Shop	14 SUB Cinema: "Man of Steel" 9 p.m. Young Commons	
15 Women's Golf at William & Mary Invitational	16 Film Screening: "Chasing Ice" 7 p.m. McKinnon Hall	17 Elon Common Reading Lecture 7:30 p.m. Alumni Gym	18 Wednesday Night Catholic Mass 7:05 p.m. Holt Chapel	19 Astronaut Paul Lockhart: "A Journey of An Endeavor" 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	20 Film Screening: "Here and There" 6 p.m. LaRose Digital Theatre	21 SUB Tailgate 1 p.m. Bank of America Drive	
22 Women's Soccer at VCU 1 p.m.	23 Virginia Tech Graduate School Fair 4:30 p.m. Commonwealth Ballroom	24 Performance by the Kenya Safari Acrobats 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	For more event coverage visit The Pendulum online at www.elonpendulum.com .				

Interested in contributing to The Pendulum, The Swing or ElonPendulum.com?

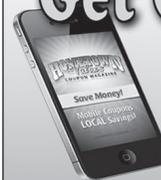
The Pendulum news organization is currently looking to fill select positions for the fall semester.

All years and majors welcome!

To get involved, fill out an application at elonpendulum.com/apply. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13 in the Pendulum office. Contact editor-in-chief Rebecca Iannucci at riannucci@elon.edu with questions.

HOMETOWN Values™ COUPON MAGAZINE

Get Coupons Wherever You Are!



Download FREE App and get coupons on your phone!

(for iPhone & Android go to the app store and search HometownValues)

Or print coupons ANYTIME on your computer!

www.MyHometownValues.com

SAVE with coupons for Burlington restaurants, shopping, automotive, salons & much more!



Local Elon businesses struggle during summer months

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

Town Table and Taphouse served their last meals and poured their last beers at the end of this summer, leaving many to question the viability of doing business in downtown Elon at a time when the area's most consistent customers — Elon University students — leave campus deserted.

But many businesses are still going strong, supported in part from May to late August by a robust community customer base.

"We're just busy all the time, even in the summer months," said Sandie Broom, a manager at The Root Trackside. "We don't just rely on students, which certainly helps us out during the summer. We have a healthy community fan base."

Still, The Root has changed some of its business practices to stay ahead in the competitive restaurant industry. In recent years, management has offered online ordering, and the restaurant promotes itself heavily on social media.

"We interact a lot with our customers, especially our college-aged customers, through Facebook and other online sources," Broom said.

Local Yogurt reduces its hours during the summer because the demand falls significantly when students leave campus, according to senior Lear Haninovich, a manager there.

"It's definitely much slower in the summer," Haninovich said. "Our customers are primarily students who are just not around, though we definitely have our share of locals who come in and order their usual."

Wednesdays are "College Day" for Local Yogurt, where students with a university ID receive \$1 off their order.

"College Day has helped us remain competitive as a local business," Haninovich said. "Students have come out strongly in support of it."

All that JAS, a Greek apparel provider, struggles to do much business locally in the summer, when the majority of its customer base leaves.

"You have to survive the summer here," said Michaëlle Graybeal, owner of All that JAS. "It's always been a struggle for local business at Elon, and it always will be. Businesses have to adapt with most of their customer base gone, or else die."

Instead of focusing on its local customer base during the summer months, All that JAS instead turns to other North Carolina schools like Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The business deals directly with Greek organizations on other college campuses, vying for bulk order on recruitment and rush shirts for the following fall.

"Without these bulk orders, we wouldn't survive the summer months," Graybeal said. "It's about adapting. It's about changing your business strategy to the times."

Because most of All that JAS' employees are students, the business typically cuts back on staff during the summer months, as well.

As a local business owner, Graybeal said she isn't particularly concerned Taphouse and Town Table closed, but she does question why they did.

"I do think it makes the town look bad to have them sit there vacant," Graybeal said. "There shouldn't be a problem with restaurants being there, except you have to learn to manage it during the summer."

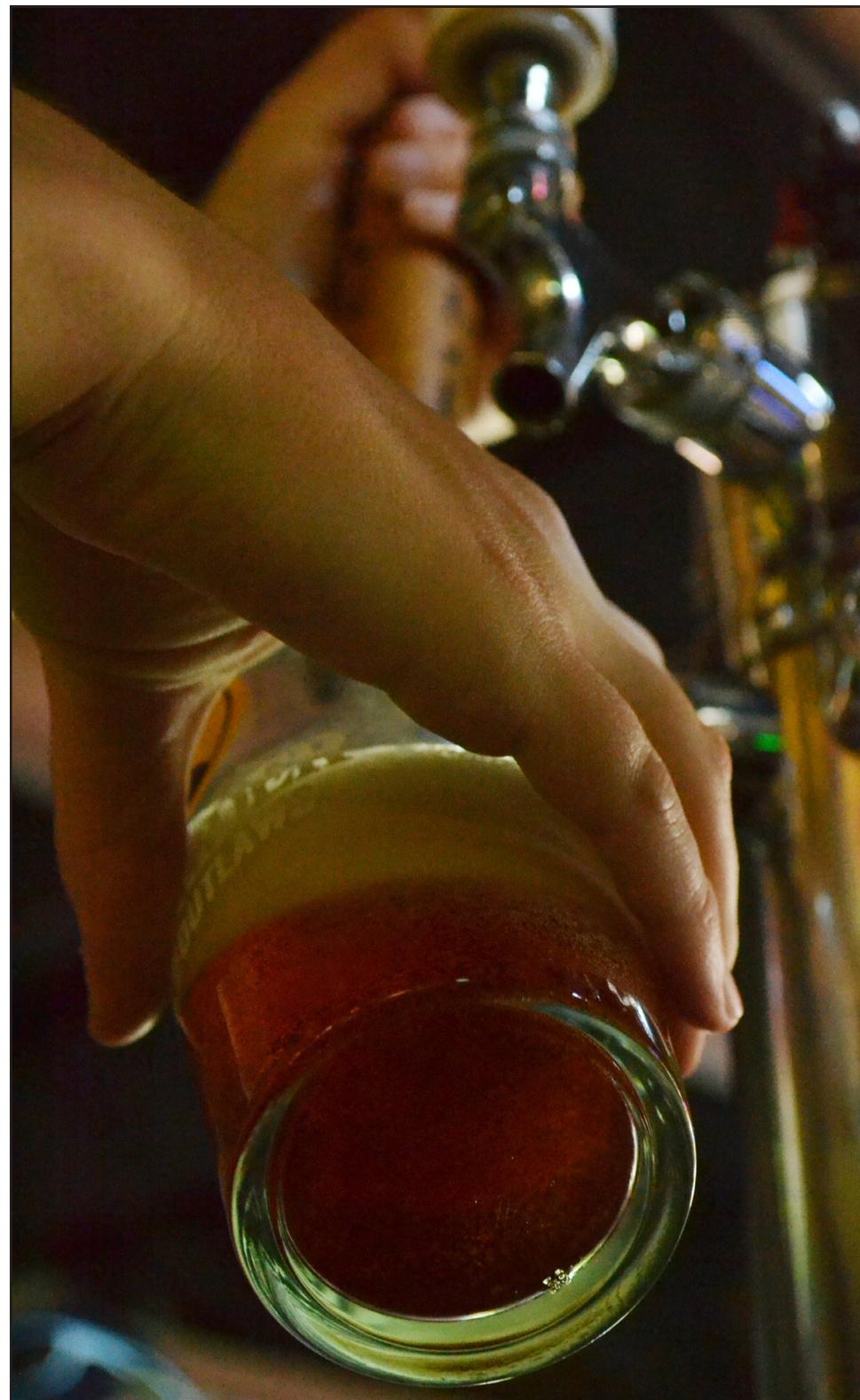
Mynt, a women's clothing boutique next to The Root, says its clientele is about half Elon students and half community patrons.

"I'm personally not concerned with Taphouse and Town Table closing," manager Victoria Touloupas said. "We're in a bit of a different situation with what we sell here, and we don't really see much of a dip during the summer months."

Mynt claims a consistent community fan base that keeps it afloat during the summer. Whitney Sander, owner of the boutique, said it's important to note that unlike Town Table, her business space is not leased through Elon University.

"I'm personally not convinced that their closings have much to do with us," Sander said. "If [Town Table] was an in-

dependently owned property, I might be more concerned. Going through the university to operate your business changes things."



In the wake of the closings of Taphouse and Town Table, other Elon businesses examine their practices.

Trollinger House closed to students after arrival on campus

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

Students who intended to live in the Trollinger House this year were in for a surprise when they arrived on campus late last month.

Only three students signed up to live in Trollinger House, which has been undergoing renovations since the beginning of the summer, prompting Elon University to close the house to residents.

“Safety was the main reason for the decision,” said MarQuita Barker, associate director of Residence Life. “There are 15 spaces, but it would only be three students and no staff.”

Sophomore Mack White, one of the three students who planned to live in Trollinger, moved in a week early and found the rooms

being used by students waiting for renovations to the International Pavilion to be completed.

“I went to Moseley for early arrival and was handed my key for Trollinger House,” White said. “I drove over to Trollinger with my parents and entered the atrium to go to my room. I put the key in the door, and when I opened the door, I saw a room that was already decorated and had clothes strewn across the floor and papers everywhere.”

White called sophomore James Crooks, another intended resident of Trollinger House, to alert him of the change. Crooks said he had gotten a phone call from housing operations informing him he was being moved to Colonnades and explaining why the university closed Trollinger this year.

“As for a formal email or other form of

communication discussing my room assignment, I never received one,” Crooks said. “The only reason I was able to know where I had been moved was by going onto my On-Track profile.”

Barker said the decision to not allow the three students to live in Trollinger House was made by the upper level Residence Life staff at early arrival time.

“All summer, we’ve been trying to recruit more students to live there,” Barker said. “Some students planned to live with their friend, so they would say, ‘If my friend won’t move, I won’t move.’”

Both White and Crooks planned to live in single rooms in Trollinger House and are now living in singles in Colonnades, which Barker said is the same cost. She added that not having any students in Trollinger House

while the renovations for both residential and programming spaces are being completed could be a good thing.

“It will give us more time to finish and get out of the house,” Barker said. “Students won’t have to hear banging and building while they’re living there.”

White and Crooks both said they are happy living in Colonnades, but were annoyed to find out the change in their living space so close to move-in, especially because the two living spaces are on opposite sides of campus.

“Colonnades is lovely, it’s just extremely inconvenient considering as a communications student that it’s relatively far from McEwen,” White said.

Trollinger House is still available as a housing option for students next year if enough students choose to live there.

Design for McEwen School of Communications finalized, plans continue to develop

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

Designs for the construction and renovation of the McEwen School of Communications at Elon University have been finalized, though some specifics of the new building remain undecided.

Construction is now set to begin in approximately three years and is expected to take 12-14 months for completion.

Elon has reached an agreement for the design of the new building with Robert A.M. Stern, an architectural firm based in New York. Throughout several rounds, interested firms submitted proposals before Robert A.M. Stern’s design was chosen.

The new building will consist of three levels. A two-story glass atrium will connect the current home of the school of communications to the new building.

The new buildings will together take up about 50,000 net square feet, more than doubling the size of the current building. The figure includes a new one-story building that is to be constructed in front of Whitley, which will become the new home of the Imagining the Internet Center, along with other forms of web analytics.

“We’re living more and more in an age of measurement, so we need to measure whether our messages at Elon are reaching those in-

tended,” said Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications. “The new building is one part of that.”

While the specifics of the building remain up in the air, some preliminary designs have been made. Tentatively, the first floor of the current McEwen building will be the new home of the internships office, the career services department and a new visitors’ center. Student media organizations will occupy the remaining space.

“I think it’s really good for student media because so many are interconnected, and they need to be in proximity for students to interact,” Parsons said.

Student media organizations such as Live Oak Communications, Elon Local News and WSOE are currently spread across campus, leaving little room for physical interaction.

“We believe that student media ought to be separate and distinct, but if they’re next door, good things could happen,” Parsons said.

The second floor of the current McEwen building will remain mostly the same, featuring a mix of classrooms and faculty offices that will be renovated along with the rest of the building.

Plans for the lower level include the removal of the majority of faculty offices to make room for expanded video and audio suites with updated equipment for student use.

The new building will feature a movie theater situated off of the glass atrium, which will

hold 200-250 people. Parsons described the space as “ideal” for hosting speakers or a panel. It will serve as a functioning theater on evenings and weekends.

Students have been essential to the design phases of the project, according to Parsons. He meets with a student advisory board monthly, and the construction process plays prominently in their meetings.

“The facility is ultimately for the students,” Parsons said. “I’ve shown them the architectural drawings, and we’ve gone over them in detail to make this as much of a useful facility as possible.”

Tom Nelson, associate professor in the School of Communications, said he has been

impressed by what he’s seen of the design so far, particularly with the glass atrium connecting the two buildings.

“I think the architecture speaks to the mission of the school, and I’m very enthusiastic about the design,” Nelson said.

While the architectural firm has been decided and designs have been made, the spaces within the building have yet to be allocated to students, teachers, classrooms and student media organizations.

“In a sense, we’ve now determined the footprint,” Parsons said. “Certainly over the next couple of years, before construction starts, we’re going to start deciding how we want to be using this new space in the classrooms.”



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

North Carolina allocates \$6 million in funding for Teach for America

Nathan Smith
Reporter

Though the North Carolina General Assembly significantly tightened the state's education budget during the summer's legislative session, it voted to allocate an additional \$5.1 million to Teach for America, an educational nonprofit that places temporary teachers in low-income school districts. The allocation

boosts the state's total funding of the program to \$6 million and will be used during the 2014-2015 school year.

According to the education budget legislation, the funding will be used to "recruit, train, support and retain teachers to work in the North Carolina public schools," specifically those in the Piedmont Triad area. Currently, most of the Teach for America corps operates in the southeast area of the state. During the

2014-2015 school year, at least 50 recruits will begin teaching in the Piedmont Triad region, and 50 recruits will begin teaching in the south-east region of North Carolina.

Teach for America provides college graduates with short, intense classroom training and places them in low-performing school districts for two-year periods. One-third of Teach for America's recruits are placed into charter schools, while others are placed in public

schools.

Some studies suggest that a high teacher turnover rate can diminish student performance, causing some parents and educators in North Carolina and elsewhere to question why the state withdrew funding from the state's school system and allocated additional money for part-time teachers.

But proponents of the effort argue that Teach for America consistently achieves its primary goal, which is to place college graduates in teaching environments where they can be immediate assets to the school and the students there. Others note that Teach for America recruits college graduates with a wide range of knowledge to bring to the classroom.

Though Teach for America recruits receive only a five-week crash course in classroom management, their content knowledge may be deeper in certain areas than that of an education major, according to Richard Mihans, an associate professor and chair of the School of Education at Elon University.

"I think that if you look at schools of education across the country, not many have students who have secondary majors in math and science," Mihans said. "Any program that puts someone in a classroom that really wants to teach, that can be caring, exceptional, bright teachers, I think that's a good program."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The North Carolina legislature allocated an additional \$5.1 million for Teach for America, while simultaneously cutting a myriad of benefits for tenured and degree-holding teachers.

Election law changes may hinder students from voting in state

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

When President Obama's term expires in 2016, students at Elon University and other North Carolina colleges may find it more difficult to vote for his successor.

Last month, North Carolina General Assembly approved a sweeping piece of legislation that requires voters to show a state-issued photo ID or a U.S. passport at the polls. Out-of-state licenses will be accepted only if the voter registered in North Carolina less than 90 days prior to the election.

Proponents of the bill see its provisions as a way to reduce voter fraud and ensure the integrity and efficiency of the state's election process. But opponents argue it's a thinly veiled attempt to prevent left-leaning constituencies — such as students and minorities — from participating in the democratic pro-

cess by requiring forms of identification some voters may not possess.

"Explicitly, the motivation was to reduce voter fraud and reduce cost, but most of the changes have led to positive effects for Republicans," said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science at Elon. "It's hard to discern which motivations were paramount. Politicians are rational actors. If they're not, they get kicked out of office."

The legislation doesn't strictly prevent any students or residents from voting in any given election. Out-of-state students who wish to vote in North Carolina may do so after obtaining a state-issued driver's license or a voter identification card, which will be issued for free at any N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles after Jan. 1, 2016, when the voter ID law takes effect.

According to Husser, it may be difficult for some college students to prove residency in the

state, especially if they live on campus.

"Electric and utility bills with your address on them is one of the easiest ways to prove residency, but a lot of students have theirs handled by their schools," he said.

Husser is currently compiling a list of ways students can avoid some of the potential voting obstacles within the legislation.

Senior Patrick Brown, senior class treasurer, said he doesn't foresee the legislation preventing many college students from voting in the North Carolina.

"If a student wants to identify as a North Carolinian, it make sense for them to say, 'I'm willing to go through the effort to get the card that identifies me as a North Carolinian,'" he said. "It shows that they care enough and know enough about what's going on in this state."

Brown files an absentee ballot in Virginia, where he is from, and he said he knows many students who also vote in their home states.

"With students, there is a side that really cares about voting, and a side that really doesn't," he said. "The side that does care will be thinking ahead and deciding whether they want to cast an absentee ballot or get a voter ID card."

Because the voter law won't take effect until 2016, it's unlikely current juniors and seniors will be affected by it. But some younger students are unsure what they'll do when the next presidential election approaches.

"I definitely would never change my Illinois ID," said freshman Mark McGann. "I'm very proud of being from Illinois, and I feel like changing it would be such a process. Legislators should want all kinds of people to participate in an election, and a college campus is a great mix. They shouldn't make it difficult for students. I may file an absentee ballot in Illinois, but if that's too much of a process, I'll just wait until 2020 to vote."

NC teacher pay restructured by changes in education laws

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

This December will be the last chance for North Carolina teachers pursuing master's degrees to earn a pay increase for earning one. As a result of legislation passed in the North Carolina state budget in July, pay for teachers with advanced degrees next year will match their colleagues who have bachelor's degrees.

A master's degree or higher used to earn its owner a 10 percent yearly increase in pay. This year, teachers with two or less years of experience and a bachelor's degree bring home \$30,800 a year, according to the North Carolina Public School system.

"I'm concerned about the school system as a whole right now," said Joe Ferrell, principal of Walter M. Williams High School in Burlington. "Why would teachers seeking master's degrees come to North Carolina, where they're now not rewarded for their work in furthering their own education?"

Led by Gov. Pat McCrory, the budget for the 2014 fiscal year removes upwards of half a billion dollars from an inflation adjusted high in pre-recession 2008, when North Carolina was among the nation's leading states in educational funding.

The new budget, along with legislation passed last April, repeals current legislation that capped class size ratios at 21 for kindergarten through third grade classes throughout the school system. Grades 4-12 likewise no longer have limits on class sizes.

According to Angela Owusu-Ansah, associate dean of the Elon school of education, the elimination of class caps will negatively affect student learning.

"[It will lead to] crowded classrooms, none or fewer teacher assistants, fewer teachers, no support personnel, little or reduced educational supplies," Owusu-Ansah said. "Teachers will be forced to work in worse conditions, and students will have less instructional support."

But more over, there is a suggestion that newly graduated teachers, with or without master's degrees, will avoid the state of North Carolina altogether

because of the budget cuts. The state of North Carolina is currently ranked 46th in average teacher salary, according to the National Education Association (NEA).

The 2011-2012 national public school teaching salary was \$55,418. Last year, the North Carolina salary fell further to \$46,605, on the tail end of a decade long slide as North Carolina teacher salaries slipped 15.7 percent from 2002-2012.

Owusu-Ansah said she expects the slide to continue.

"We may slip lower," she said. "The exodus to neighboring states is imminent."

The decrease in average teacher salary means nothing good for students in the North Carolina public school system, but teachers will adapt, according to Owusu-Ansah.

"The high quality of education North Carolina boasted in the '80s will be inclined to reverse," Owusu-Ansah said. "But we have resilient teachers and they will heighten their resourcefulness and creativity."

The Alamance-Burlington School System expects to be affected by the new legislation as soon as it goes into effect in 2014, according to Jenny Faulkner, public information officer for the school system.

"Like all school districts across the state, Alamance-Burlington Schools is very concerned about recent legislation eliminating the pay differential for our teaching professionals currently pursuing advanced degrees and for those who have plans to advance their educations," Faulkner said.

Other professions in North Carolina still pay those with advanced degrees more money, Ferrell said, so why doesn't the education profession do the same?

"You've got people who get a masters degree in business administration and we don't cut those," Ferrell said. "We're talking about eliminating additional pay for teachers but we don't talk about eliminating pay for others with advanced degrees."

At Elon, the graduate program for a master's degree in education has accelerated its program so those scheduled to graduate in July and August of 2014

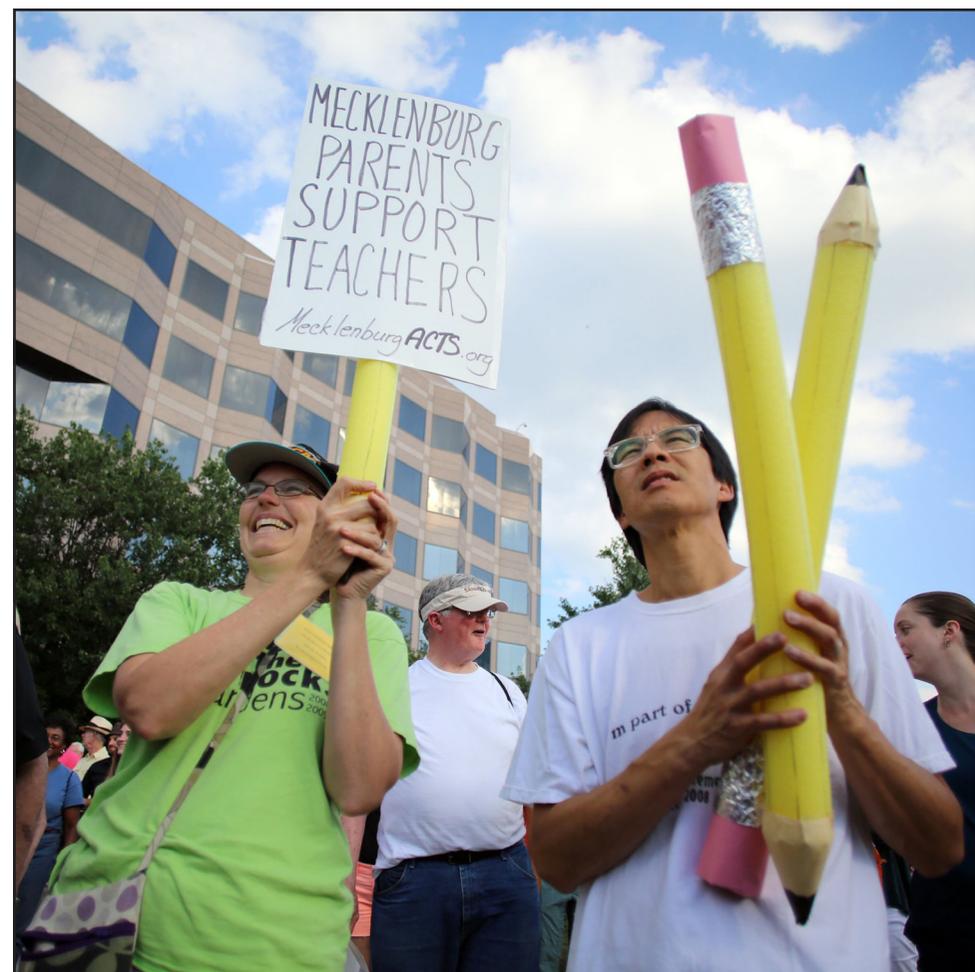


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Recent budget cuts to benefits for teachers will affect tenured teachers and masters-degree holders, leveling teacher pay across the board and cutting salaries and benefits for existing and new teachers.

will instead complete the master's program by the end of Winter Term 2014, in time to receive the 10 percent supplement by April, according to Owusu-Ansah.

Originally, the N.C. legislature had said master's degree candidates had to graduate by this December in order to qualify for the pay raise. But on Sept. 5, after public outcry, the legislature publicly changed the deadline to May 2014.

Tenure will also be eliminated for teachers who do not have it by 2013-14, as part of a long term goal to shift all teachers to one, two or four year contracts by 2018, effectively eliminating the tenure system.

Losing tenure itself may not be so bad for teachers, Ferrell said, but the foil is the timing, given all the other funding cuts to the public educational system. Even as an administrator, Ferrell does not have

tenure.

"I've heard many teachers say that not having tenure will not necessarily impact those people who are working really hard for kids and doing things right and doing their jobs well," Ferrell said. "I just think it's really bad timing on top of the cutting off of master's pay."

Aspiring teachers who are now undergraduates may already be shying away from teaching in North Carolina because of the legislation.

"I think the information one learns in grad school is very valuable and helps produce better teachers," said sophomore education major Tabitha Core. "However, a master's is also expensive to get, and without higher salaries associated with the degree, I might have to avoid teaching in North Carolina altogether."

Oaks residents return to leaking ceilings

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

Some students who moved back to Elon University's campus had an early surprise, as the ceilings in the Oaks D building leaked rainwater into many of the structure's apartments.

Leaks were seen primarily in the third and second floors of Oaks D, although Robert Buchholz, director of Physical Plant, said there were some leaks that reached the first floor.

Buchholz attributed the leaks to the way the roof on Oaks D was constructed.

"It's at a place where the face of the building juts out, so the roof had to adjust to being an angled roof and they didn't do a good job with that one particular spot," Buchholz said.

This angled construction, as opposed to a flat roof, allowed for more places where water could seep through.

"You usually have to make an adjustment on the pitch on the roof and it's two uneven angled pieces and so it leaked there at that joint,"

Buchholz said.

Junior Katie Maraghy, a resident on the third floor of Oaks D, said the damage from the leak was visible as soon as she moved into the apartment.

"When (my roommate and I) first got back from summer break, there were pieces of our ceiling all over the common room floor," Maraghy said. "The roof leaked over the summer and someone came to patch it up. It had since rained a second time and it made an even bigger mess."

The Oaks apartment complex has had other maintenance issues in the past, like external heating pipes leaking out of the complex's two water houses.

"It comes out of the house and goes to three of the buildings and we've made repairs three or four times on that pipe," Buchholz says.

Buchholz said Physical Plant is also planning on replacing the front entrance doors to some of the Oaks buildings.

"Is it bad construction or is it that the students go in and out of the doors a little rough? I don't know," Buchholz said. "We thought the doors could have been a higher grade, but that's because we're in here and operating."

While the Oaks apartments were built in a relatively short period of time, Buchholz said he would not describe the Oaks as improperly built, as there is no pattern of similar maintenance errors across the six buildings.

"We did some investigating on the other buildings to see if that was an issue," Buchholz said. "There was one other place that we did some touch-ups on the flashing to help prevent it, but it wasn't something that we had to go in and change on all six buildings."

The construction of the Oaks occurred before Buchholz became director of Physical Plant.

The Oaks were built by a private contractor and, according to Buchholz, the apartments were originally supposed to be run by a third party, but negotiations turned to Elon running the complex instead.

"When you build a house, when you build a new building, you shouldn't have problems for 10 years, but that's also in a dream world where everything is right," Buchholz said.

With Physical Plant's FIXit function, Buchholz encouraged students to directly call in any damages or issues they have in their homes.



KATY CANADA | Photo Editor

Several ceilings in the Oaks area apartments are leaking, leaving residents to clean up the water in whatever way they can.

Elon swaps Zipcar program for Enterprise CarShare

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

Elon University recently replaced its Zipcar car sharing service with Enterprise CarShare, a program that makes four fuel-efficient cars in the Moseley Center lot available to Elon students, faculty and staff members.

According to Elaine Durr, director of sustainability at Elon, the new program is less expensive to maintain.

"Enterprise CarShare provides lower overall vehicle rates and a local service team to maintain the vehicles," said Elaine Durr, director of sustainability at Elon.

Registration for the Enterprise CarShare program is online. Once the program determines someone is an eligible driver, a membership card will be sent in the mail. Cars are

reserved online and accessed with the membership card. For students ages 18-20, an online parental acknowledgement form must be completed as a part of the application process.

In acknowledgement that many students don't have access to cars, Elon first partnered with Zipcar in 2007.

"Car sharing has been a successful program at Elon with more than 500 members in August 2013," Durr said.

According to Billy Jeffries, area sales manager for Enterprise CarShare, the program is currently processing more than 170 Elon registrations.

"All current Elon Zipcar members can join the Enterprise CarShare program for free through mid-November," Durr said. "If they join by Sept. 22, they will receive \$35 in driving credits that will not expire. After the initial

year, a \$35 annual student membership fee will apply."

The annual membership fee for participants who were not Zipcar members is \$35, which goes toward driving credits. After driving credits are exhausted, the rates for all participants are \$8 per hour, \$65 per day and \$35 overnight. The fees include gas, insurance and 200 miles per day.

Freshman Jane Humphrey said she does not like Enterprise CarShare's charge for rental extensions.

"The fines are ridiculous," she said. "Otherwise, it's a good, quick solution."

Sophomore Allison Pichowicz said she stopped using the Zipcar program because of its "outrageous" prices and does not plan to join the Enterprise CarShare program.

"I didn't have a car on campus and wanted

to use it in emergencies or day trips," she said.

This year, she said she plans to drive her own car.

In addition to student use, the Enterprise CarShare program allows faculty and staff on the university's approved driver list to access its vehicles.

"The Enterprise CarShare program is a great option for faculty and staff who carpool or bike to campus and need to use a vehicle during the day," Durr said. She added that faculty and staff can use the cars for short business and personal trips.

According to Durr, Enterprise CarShare continues Elon's sustainability mission.

"Car sharing is an alternative to having your own vehicle," she said. "The use of alternative transportation reduces carbon emissions and contributes to Elon's goal of carbon neutrality."

Student newspapers grapple with future of industry

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

With news increasingly moving online and an economy that is still squeezing advertisers, the decline of print newspapers is nearly an accepted fact.

But at smaller, local newspapers across the country, editors and publishers are finding ways to stay competitive so they can continue to bring specialized reporting to their communities, with some community papers like the Burlington Times-News in the process of adding a paywall and editors of college newspapers now heading their campus media as the new year begins.

College newspapers are in a unique position to improve readership. According to a 2010 study by Student Monitor, 63 percent of students surveyed nationally say they are at least light readers of their college newspaper.

Lex Menz, editor-in-chief of Western Carolina University's newspaper the Western Carolinian, says she is trying to boost the paper's circulation. Menz said she has been particularly successful with emailing professors when a new edition of the paper comes out.

"Many of the professors would walk by it, not knowing that there's a new issue," Menz said. "They didn't look at the cover."

News and the Internet

The availability of free content online is often pointed to as the Achilles heel of print newspapers, an obstacle that smaller papers are looking at in different angles.

Menz believes the Internet, and social media in particular, offers a wealth of opportunities for the Western Carolinian.

"With today's obsession with technology, it's easier for someone to post something quickly online as a Facebook comment or retweet one of our stories, because that's what they do every single day," Menz said.

At the Burlington Times-News, the community newspaper for the Burlington area, they are in the process of putting in a paywall to require some form of payment if readers are recognized as frequent viewers.

Madison Taylor, the Times-News execu-

tive editor, said the local paper industry has changed to make paywalls a more effective model.

"Five years ago, I think this change would've created tons of angry users," Taylor said. "And while I expect a few, the fact that the two largest newspapers in our area also charge for content will limit the complaints."

Taylor said that a paywall has to accompany excellent reporting, or else the system totally collapses.

"Our service in every area has to be top-notch in order for it to have a chance of working. That means excellent content that isn't readily available anywhere else," Taylor said.

Innovation from students

One newspaper that is taking a different approach to student readership is The Odyssey, a national, Greek-life-oriented publication created by students at Indiana University in 2009.

Despite starting at the head of the recession, the Odyssey co-founder Adrian France says The Odyssey has grown to the size it has because it became more flexible. For one, the paper publishes for 39 different campuses, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and uses writers on campus to write about the Greek Life issues in their area.

"When I say that we're publishing at 39 locations this year, I mean that we're publishing 39 completely separate, completely unique publications to each individual university," France says.

France said when The Odyssey starts on a new campus, she and her co-workers reach out to the fraternity and sorority community to find on-campus editors and let them make the further decisions as far as writers and other staff members.

"We give a lot of our students freedom because they have different ideas that they want to pursue," France said.

France said this plan also generally increases readership.

"Having a writer in the house really drives the readership in that house," France said.



KATY CANADA | Photo Editor
Student and local papers nationwide have reworked their print models in an effort to stabilize readership.

While France estimated the paper reaches about 250,000 students, she said the Odyssey is even moving away from circulation numbers because their marketing methods are so different from the traditional.

"We don't judge our growth on circulation numbers because we deliver to group housing where there's about 100-plus members that live in a house, so we don't deliver one-to-one," France said.

At WCU, Menz said she is looking to expand the readership of the Western Carolinian beyond the campus into the surrounding

towns.

"In our news, we're trying to cover more and more what's happening in the town of Sylva because it is such an integral part of the university," Menz said.

So far, this strategy appears to be successful, as members of the community are reaching out to Menz and the Western Carolinian.

"They have been emailing me, asking me if they can have some copies dropped off at their office or their business so they can distribute it as well," Menz said.

Elon welcomes Biscuitville in grand opening ceremony

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

Elon University held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday for Biscuitville, the newest addition to Lakeside Dining Hall's Winter Garden Cafe.

Serving its staple Southern offerings of biscuits made from scratch and a host of breakfast meats, Biscuitville will offer Elon students breakfast options all day long seven days a week, from 7 a.m. -9 p.m. The location is Biscuitville's first ever on a college campus.

The welcome was a homecoming of sorts for Biscuitville CEO Burney Jennings, who graduated from Elon in 1987.

President Lambert and Jay Faircloth, senior director of strategic and business development for ARAMARK, Elon's food service provider, joined Jennings in welcoming Biscuitville to campus.

Two Elon students, freshman Joe Del Vecchio and sophomore Kerianne Durkin, were

each awarded free Biscuitville once a week from their entries into a contest asking why they were most excited about Biscuitville coming to campus.

Del Vecchio compared his native Philadelphia breakfast to "dust on a plate" after eating at Biscuitville for the first time, which, according to Del Vecchio, opened his eyes to the splendor of Southern comfort food.

Jennings said the company has worked to adapt its menu and hours to the demands of Elon students.

"We think we have put together a menu to satisfy anyone, even college kids," Jennings said.

President Lambert briefly explained the history of Biscuitville, from its humble Burlington roots to the present-day company that has more than 50 restaurants and more than 1,000 employees throughout the states of North Carolina and Virginia.

In 1966, Maurice Jennings, another Elon alum and father of the current CEO, founded Pizzaville, Biscuitville's predecessor. Jennings at



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

President Leo Lambert and Biscuitville CEO Burney Jennings lead the ribbon cutting in the Winter Garden Cafe.

first served pizza, but one morning on a whim, he added fresh baked biscuits to the menu. The company never looked back.

Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president for technology at Elon, summed it up well.

"Have you had their biscuits?" he said.

KPMG survey finds colleges struggling to maintain enrollment rates

Nathan Smith
Reporter

In the wake of a turnaround from one of the toughest recessions our country has been through since the Great Depression, attention is being focused on higher education more now than ever before. Particularly, college and university leaders are growing concerned about maintaining student enrollment as tuition rises every year.

A recent survey conducted by KPMG, a U.S. advisory services firm, confirms what many people in education are already thinking: Student enrollment is a problem, and the solution isn't clear. Out of 103 higher education leaders surveyed, 37 percent said they are "very concerned" about "their ability to maintain current enrollment levels," which is up from the 23 percent in last year's survey. Fifty-one percent of all private institutions also said the changing demographics in the United States are a major factor in how their enrollment is affected.

As a private institution, Elon University doesn't have as much to worry about in regards to enrollment. In fact, this year was the biggest class the school has ever had. One key reason according to Greg Zaiser, vice president for en-

rollment management and financial planning, is Elon has a tuition plan that is different from a lot of colleges and universities.

"Fundamentally, the reason Elon has been successful is that we have a pretty clear idea of who we are in the educational landscape," Zaiser said.

Of the other schools Elon students often apply to, Zaiser said, Elon is on average \$10,000-20,000 less. While it's noted scholarships aren't as plentiful at Elon as they are at other schools, tuition at many private universities commonly reaches the \$60,000 range per year.

Elon is a rare school in that it combines a liberal arts education with the option of professional schools, according to Zaiser.

Zaiser said that "the combination of a core liberal arts education and professional schools is one that Elon has really pioneered."

Among what separates Elon from similar universities are experiential learning through the Elon Experiences, engaged learning and small class sizes with a low student/faculty ratio.

Although the school doesn't have a problem with enrollment, that doesn't mean it isn't aware of the economic challenges that face higher education.

"We are certainly keeping an eye on it," said

Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs. The craze has slowed down in online innovation, he said, but "we're still monitoring what's going on in higher education."

House and Zaiser both mentioned that while it isn't a problem currently, enrollment is something they pay attention to constantly as part of their job.

"I think Elon has positioned itself well," Zaiser said, "But it doesn't mean that we don't pay attention because things change on a dime."

KPMG SURVEY

103 total people surveyed — 62 from private institutions, 41 from public

37 percent of people surveyed said they were very concerned about maintaining current enrollment levels — up 23 percent

59 percent of people surveyed said they were shifting to 'innovative' approaches, such as online education — up from 41 percent last year

Ditch the cubicle.

Apply **NOW** to be overseas next summer.

peacecorps.gov



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Smart phone app **GRINDR** emphasizes hookups, soars in gay community

Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

In the hunt to bring someone home from the bar one night, a man shifts around, moving from one conversation to the next until he meets someone that checks off his desires: attractive, low-key and looking for a one-night stand. By the end of the night, he has spent time and money trying to find a night of no-strings-attached pleasure.

But what if he had known exactly who to look for, and where they were, without having to search through the crowd? What if he didn't even have to leave his neighborhood, his home, even his couch?

That is now an option.

With a quick download on a smartphone, the ability to find people in a close radius looking for anything from friendship to a relationship to a one-night stand is possible. And it is due to the smartphone application called Grindr.

Launched in 2009 by Joel Simkhai, Grindr is a social, geographically-based app aimed toward homosexual, bisexual and curious men. "Grindr is quick, convenient and discreet. And it's as anonymous as you want it to be," the website for the app reads.

It's a description Elon University 2013 alum Sean Morrison* said he agrees with.

"I have formed friendships, relationships, hookup buddies, because of this single app," he said. "It has been the source of about 90

percent of my experiences in the gay community since I have downloaded it."

Discovering Grindr

Grindr has become no secret. According to Grindr.com, the app has more than 6 million users in 192 countries, including Iran, Yemen, Djibouti and Moldova.

So how are people finding out about it?

"So you have these thoughts when you're in the closet and you start experimenting with how far you push the limit," said senior Lewis Shaw*. "I was on iTunes one day, searched 'gay' and Grindr popped up."

Chris, an Elon Class of 2008 alum, first downloaded Grindr in 2012. He said he ini-

tially used it to meet nearby people but it has become another way to kill time.

"I use Grindr like people use Facebook," he said. "I just sign on to browse through other users and leave it up throughout the day."

Once downloaded, Grindr will display the 100 closest people who are also using it. Profiles include a username, profile picture, the user's relationship status, ethnicity, age, height, weight and a 120-character biography.

None of these descriptions are required — a user is allowed to be as vague or detailed as they want about their life. In addition to the physical descriptions, the app allows users to state what they're looking for, which include chat, dates, friends, networking or relationship. Hookup or no strings attached (NSA)

— a common term on the app — aren't options, but many users choose to display this in their profile.

Users are free to message any of the 100 profiles shown. Anyone is allowed to chat, send pictures or share his location with any of the profiles that appear on the homepage.

"Say hey, be chill, be masculine, be fun. If you're not a guy I would have a beer with, why would I get in bed with you?" Morrison's profile reads.

Serge Vojkovic, vice president of sales and marketing for Grindr, told the Buenos Aires Herald that the company has never told anyone how to use the app.

"We have tons of stories from people looking for friends, or dates, or even a gym partner," Vojkovic said in the article. "We created a technology that allows users to connect with each other based on their physical proximity."

Finding a community

Though Grindr has become an app geared towards hooking up, for some Elon students, the app was their first stepping stone into coming out.

Shaw, who discovered the app during his freshman year, first downloaded it before he came out to anyone.

"I made a profile on my iTouch," he said. "I didn't have a picture up, I didn't have anything. It was interesting and exciting to see other people put themselves out there. It was a one-way street."

Shaw, who comes from a rural area where there is no LGBTQ community, compares it to being thrown into the deep end while just learning how to swim.

"Coming from a background where being gay was a very bad thing, you were seen as sexually perverted," Shaw said. "It was very

overwhelming to then see this, which is sex, sex, sex, sex and sex."

Chris, who uses Grindr as a way to connect to other people in his community, said it played a central role in finding friendship in New York City when he first moved there.

"In New York it was a way to meet people, and oddly enough I made a couple good friends from it," he said. "For me, now, it is almost a Facebook-type app. It has become much more social and a lot less sexual."

In a report published by Grindr on its website, New York City ranked as the second most popular member base with 302,339 users. The city ranked behind London, but the United States ranked first for countries with more than 2 million users.

In a 2012 survey of 22,000 Grindr users, 66 percent of respondents said they were using the app to make friends and 56 percent said they have made one to five friends by using it.

Robert Bishop*, a junior at Elon, said he would much rather meet someone through friends or random social situations. Of the approximately 50 guys he talked to on Grindr, he met up with only one of them.

"It wasn't a good experience," Bishop said. "The guy attempted to build a lasting friendship after we met on Grindr, but I wasn't very into it. My first thought of the guy will al-

ways be that I met him on Grindr and that doesn't sit well with me."

Paul, a PhD student at Duke University, has never found a friend from Grindr or another website, but he did find a relationship.

He met his boyfriend of two years on Adam4Adam.com a website designed for men to meet each other "for friendship, romance, or a hot hookup." After chatting for a week on the website, the two agreed to go on a date.

"We got coffee, and after the first date, it wasn't any different from a normal dating situation," Paul said.

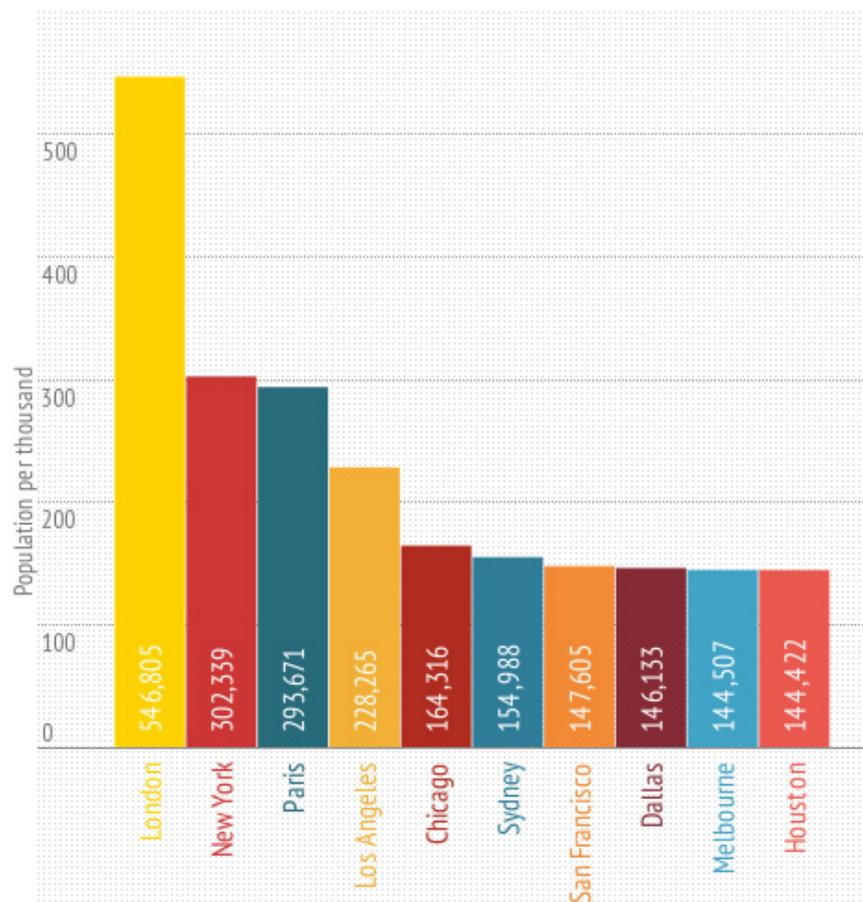
Kirstin Ringelberg, an associate professor of art history and former LGBTQ office coordinator at Elon, said Grindr isn't any different from Facebook, besides its use of a GPS.

"When you're a part of a community that is often stigmatized and not necessarily visible, tools like Grindr can help you feel less isolated," she said. "I've seen it used just to break the ice, like some Greek organizations have had parties where the color of your cup states your availability. This is a way to let folks know that you're single or in a non-monogamous relationship or open to meeting people."

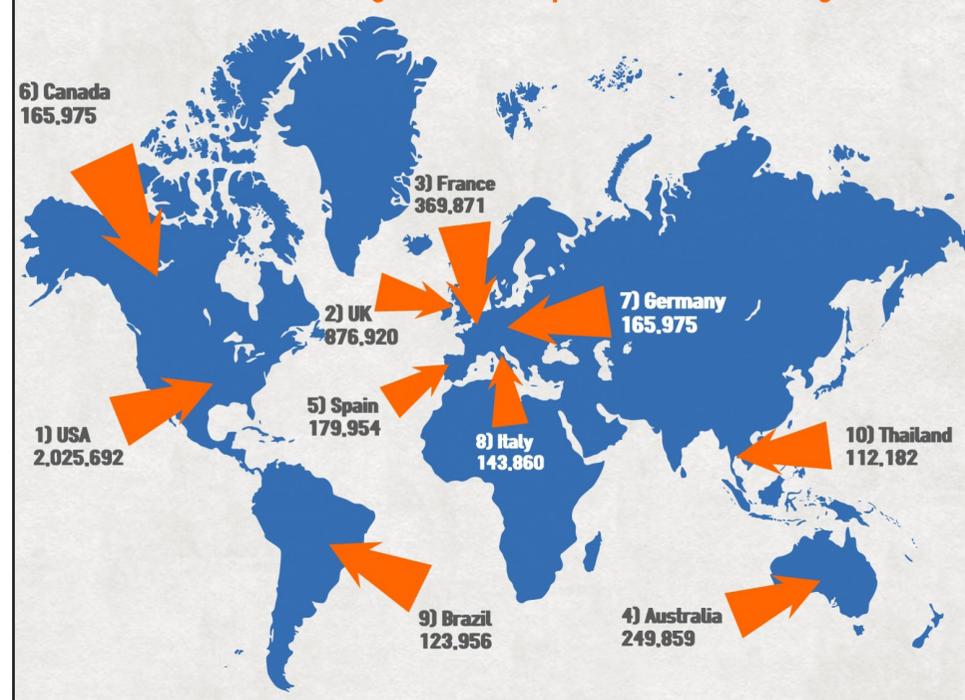
The risks of stranger danger

An application that pairs users based on their geographic location does not come with

Top 10 cities for Grindr usage



Number of accounts registered in top 10 countries using Grindr



out its dangers.

"This is every nightmare about online safety. It goes against all of the school teachings," Morrison said. "I think you have to have a really healthy sense of the situation and how to take care of yourself to be on it. It's all about managing the risk."

Morrison encountered a less than ideal situation because of the app when he talked to someone in Graham, N.C.

"I was talking to one guy this past summer and he invited me over for drinks," he said. "I showed up to his place and he told me his parents were asleep inside and brought me into his backyard, in the middle of nowhere. He had the idea that I came over just to have sex with him in his backyard."

Morrison said the man's physical and verbal communication in person were very unnerving. He left quickly after arriving and chose not to communicate with that person again.

Bishop said he is not sure if the risk is worth the reward.

"In a very idealistic world, I think meeting your soulmate could be a benefit of using Grindr, but I think the chances are slim to none," Bishop said. "The benefits don't outweigh the dangers or the overall sketchiness that comes along with using something like that."

With an app whose only age verification is for the downloader to confirm they are older than 17, the dangers of encountering a case of statutory rape are strong.



The first case of Grindr-based date rape occurred in April of 2010, a year after the app launched. It involved a 15-year-old Canadian student who was allegedly assaulted by a 54-year-old man he met on the app.

Paul said he hasn't encountered any dangerous situations in person due to the app, but has spoken to users who have raised warning signs in the way they message him. He credits listening to his instinct to know when he should ignore another user.

"I have chatted with people that are a little bit odd," he said. "They would say things that were off. If they get really bitchy or catty, I realize it's not worth my time."

The app does allow a user to turn the GPS function off so other users cannot see how close they are to them in terms of feet or miles. However, the app will still show the person on another user's home screen if they are close enough to them.

In addition, Grindr offers a block function for users, which prohibits members from contacting certain people or seeing them on the homepage.

When Shaw first created his profile, he had no idea of the dangers involved with the app.

"People can hide behind whatever type of picture or bio they make. Who's to say someone isn't HIV positive or walking around with chlamydia? I was very naive when I first started using it," he said.

Having never been in an unsafe situation from Grindr or a website, Chris said he was part of the minority. He credits that to his approach of always being aware of other people's motives.

"You apply the 'stranger danger' mentality that you would apply to any other aspect of your life," Chris said. "You might be flying mostly blind, but not completely."

Junior Josh Kaufmann said the emotional and physical safety of his friends who use Grindr does worry him. He is more worried about other users taking advantage of his

friends.

"It's like what my parents said to me when I got my driver's license, 'I'm not worried about you on the road, I'm worried about those driving around you,'" Kaufmann said. "The same goes for my friends using Grindr. If they want to use it to find an intimate partner that identifies the same way as them then I have no problem with it, I just worry about others on the app who may have different intentions."

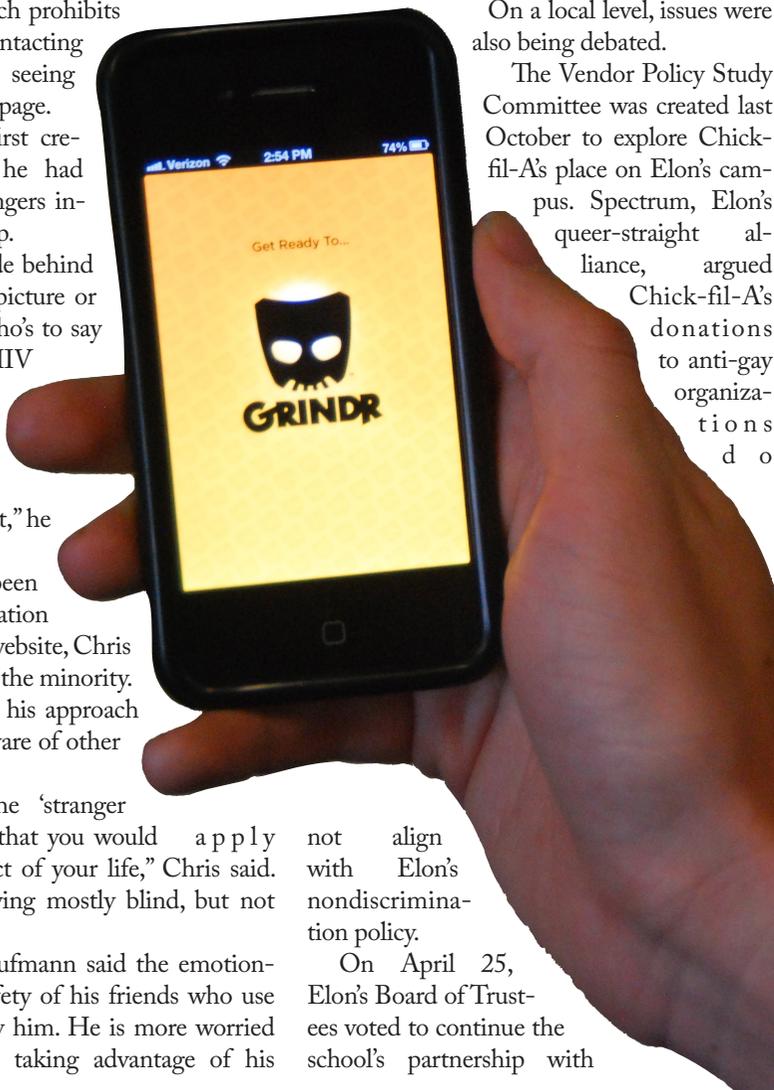
Grindr as a tool for integration

Within the past decade, the LGBTQ community has been featured heavily in local and national news as they attempt to gain marriage rights and the federal benefits that come with it.

The Supreme Court has discussed the issue of same-sex marriage by debating the constitutionality of Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act.

On a local level, issues were also being debated.

The Vendor Policy Study Committee was created last October to explore Chick-fil-A's place on Elon's campus. Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, argued Chick-fil-A's donations to anti-gay organizations do



not align with Elon's nondiscrimination policy.

On April 25, Elon's Board of Trustees voted to continue the school's partnership with

Chick-fil-A after considering the findings of the committee.

But how will Grindr fit into the integration of the LGBTQ community?

Morrison said he is happy with the headway gay students have made at Elon but is worried that Grindr will be a hindrance to their progress.

"As the gay community is becoming more accepted and more open society, is finding out about Grindr," he said. "It's adding to the old stereotype that gay men are sexual deviants. It certainly doesn't help that."

Ringelberg disagreed with Morrison's statement. She explained that Grindr allows transparency among gay Elon students.

"If you're a straight man and you walk into a bar at Elon, chances are if you see any female who isn't evidently with a male partner, you assume they might be available," she said. "At least if we're both on Grindr we're saying we might be interested in each other."

Recent trends show Grindr is not slowing down. More than 1 million users log onto the app every day, with 2.5 million users joining within the past two years. But Grindr isn't the only multimedia device out there. Adam4Adam, manhunt and OkCupid are all websites providing the same service as Grindr: to connect users to others in their area.

In 2011, Simkhai launched Blendr, a smart phone app with the same functions as Grindr. But Blendr targets the heterosexual community, pairing men and women together who live near one another.

For now, Grindr continues to be one of the most popular apps in the world. As for it being a virtual bar, Morrison said it will become more like one as more people find out about it.

"It's going to be seen as a shift from shady hookups," he said. "It's going to become more of a dating, social connection."

*Sources have been marked with a * to denote a name change, due to their request of anonymity. Chris and Paul requested that only their first names be used.*

Teach for America the quick fix, not the solution

It's no secret by now that changes are happening in the North Carolina education system. As part of a sweeping overhaul of public schools across the state, North Carolina teachers have seen their benefits slashed, numbers reduced and a whopping \$500 million drained from the public education budget.

In the last few months, 2,800 jobs have been cut from education, 850 of which were teaching positions. This is in a state that already is 41st nationally for teacher salaries and 44th in per capita spending on public schools. Clearly, the funds for education must exist. We're hardly even spending any money on it as is.

Unfortunately the funds do exist, but they're simply being relocated to the ever-controversial Teach for America (TFA). Approved for 2014 is a \$5.1 million surge in funds to place more TFA members in North Carolina's lowest-achieving schools. Previously, state funding for Teach for America topped out at only \$900,000, making this increase a substantial one for the program.

In principle, Teach for America seems like the perfect solution to North Carolina's education woes. Earnest, passionate 20-somethings setting out to touch the lives of our nation's most underprivileged students? What's not to like?

The reality is a little murkier and a lot more problematic. The issue comes down to a matter of preparation. Only a fairly selective 12 percent of applicants are accepted into Teach for America, but after that, standards drop fast. A standardized five-week training program is all that's necessary for placement in the country's most difficult classrooms: rural, urban, bilingual and special needs rooms.

No 22-year-old is prepared to deal with the demands of teaching a special needs student after five weeks of preparation, let alone an entire classroom of them. Five weeks is not enough to prepare for students with illiterate parents, students surrounded by violence or even students who just don't want to learn.

These students are the ones who deserve our attention, not recent college grads who want to help out the underprivileged

of our country, and not teachers who will teach until their two-year contract is up and then move on with their lives. North Carolina students deserve professionally trained, committed teachers who have made teaching a career, not just a summer job.

But North Carolina legislators have put our students on the back burner. They've put a \$6 million Band-Aid on a \$500 million problem, at the expense of hundreds of North Carolina teachers and thousands of students.

Applicants to Teach for America no doubt have only the best intentions, and the children whose lives they touch will certainly benefit. But the only thing that truly matters here is who will benefit more: a few hundred 22-year-olds with bachelor's degrees in hand, or thousands of poor and at-risk students across the state. At The Pendulum, we tend toward the latter.

North Carolina lawmakers need to remember there's more at stake in this decision than the state budget. The lives and futures of their constituents are affected with

every decision they make. The decision to cut half a billion dollars from trained educators and redistribute a fraction of it to well-meaning but underprepared college grads is one that could reverberate for decades.

For Elon University students approaching the end of their time in college, with eyes set on making a difference in the world, don't be discouraged by our take. Teach for America undoubtedly makes a huge difference in schools across the country every day, and in districts where truly no other teachers might step foot.

But Teach for America should remain a resounding Plan B, especially for increasingly desperate North Carolina students. We need more qualified, dedicated teachers, especially ones bold enough to work in the areas they're needed most. And the teachers who choose to dedicate their lives and their careers to the education of our children deserve to be respected and repaid for their work.

As the United States slips further and further behind more rigorously educated

nations, providing a quality education to every student regardless of race, location or class should be our top priority. With this decision, North Carolina lawmakers have shown irrefutably that it is not a priority for them.

But responsibility for the future falls on us as college students, as well. These four years are the time to decide what your future will hold, and what kind of change you're going to make in the world.

So, if you've got the guts, plunge back into the world we so desperately escaped when we came to Elon. Back to the bathrooms with sinks at your knees, and into raging seas of hormones and unrequited love. Take the school bully down a few pegs, and just maybe set a kid on the right track for life. Whether you're with Teach for America or trying to make it on your own, as long as you're teaching North Carolina students, you're part of the solution.

But more importantly, if you're spending your career going back to middle school, you're a whole lot braver than we are.



About 2,800 education jobs were cut in a \$500 million budget cut from the public school system. Of that, \$6 million is going toward new Teach for America programs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Like '1984'? Welcome to 2013

While further information about the shocking scope of NSA surveillance revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden continues to emerge, other programs and legislation at the state level aim to further expand the reach of government surveillance into U.S. citizens' privacy.

In California, after backlash from privacy groups, lawmakers put legislation on hold that would have embedded radio-frequency identification chips (RFIDs) in California state driver's licenses and identification cards. While the bill is likely to be revisited and reintroduced in coming months, four states — Michigan, New York, Vermont and Washington — already embed licenses with the tiny transmitters, which then link them to a

national database controlled by the Department of Homeland Security.

If more states begin adopting RFID technology, the federal government could make the licenses mandatory nationwide, causing the technology to become another technique used to track U.S. citizens' every move. As the federal government expands the scope of its information gathering efforts, it's not difficult to imagine RFID chips becoming mandatory under a wide-reaching Homeland Security program. But these chips serve as a perfect example of the government at all levels trying to extend surveillance of its own citizens using fear and the post-9/11 security climate as an excuse.

Obviously, national security remains a priority for any government to consider. But at what point are they even going to pretend that we still have all of the freedoms that should be afforded to us as U.S. citizens? Many Americans have been so heinously desensitized to the violations of our privacy now that we do not even get up

in arms about the fact that they are still tracking our movements, reading our private emails, listening in on our phone calls and slowly but surely rooting out any scrap of personal freedom we can cling to.

Government officials didn't even convincingly feign remorse or reconsideration for their invasive programs following the Snowden NSA leaks. Instead they push forward with taking American surveillance to a level not seen before, fueled by advancements in technology, bolstered defense budgets and a need to keep tabs on its citizens' every move.

In the wake of the growing backlash to domestic surveillance, the government scrambled to convince U.S. citizens these measures were nothing but precautionary and simply targeted those who they believed posed an imminent threat to American safety. Unfortunately that is not the case, as revealed in recent weeks by the level of access and information they gather from all parts of the normal, harmless American

citizen's life.

The idea of a "big brother" government state has left the pages of George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984" and become a part of everyday life in the United States. Encrypted emails are no longer private, a secret court grants almost every request to further surveillance information gathering methods and our phone and internet providers hand over our private records and transcripts at the request of NSA. Our emails, phone calls, text messages and Internet browser searches are all now observed, monitored and recorded with frightening regularity.

The federal government continues to trample on our right to privacy and further pushes a governmental agenda that expands spying on, tracking and increasingly monitoring its own citizens' actions and movements at every moment.

No matter how common these surveillance measures become, we still have rights. Do not let the government convince you otherwise.

Universities, monks and intellectual community

Elon University's motto, Numen Lumen, meaning "spiritual light" and "intellectual light," brilliantly reflects the union at the heart of universities. What began as monks writing and copying books by candlelight in monasteries eventually transformed into sprawling nuclei of learning, what we know as universities. Intellectual communities were born from spiritual communities, seeking to sustain, build and proliferate knowledge for the betterment of humanity. In balance, these two spheres, the spiritual and the intellectual, create the singular community of scholars and students.

Elon has made tremendous strides in its history to bring its motto to fruition. Recently, religious and spiritual life has grown with spectacular pace, most notably with the opening of the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

Elon has also taken steps to develop academic life, from Fellows programs to the Academic

Village. My Elon experience, now reaching its fourth and final year, has benefited greatly from a multitude of Elon's academic opportunities. Still, I have not been entirely fulfilled by my academic experience, and throughout the course of three years, I've met other students who feel the same way.

Minimally engaged classes and poorly-attended speakers were common grievances. Co-curricular intellectual life at Elon, or lack thereof, was mentioned more than once. A desire for more spaces for intellectual discussion and collaboration was overwhelming. So we got to work. This past spring, 20 or so students and faculty began meeting to discuss the intellectual community at Elon. We created a faculty-facilitated book group and an open "coffee klatch" discussion following lectures. We met with administrators, and found unwavering support and passion. We found an enthusiastic collaborator in the Student Government Association.

We talked about what we meant by "intellectual community." Coffee shops with students and faculty discussing their passions; gatherings of all disciplines, debating politics, science, or communications; 2 a.m. conversations about

Plato, Shakespeare, and da Vinci. A campus hub in which those conversations can take place. Literal and metaphorical places for students to share their intellectual fervor and curiosity

with other students. A vibrant and engaged classroom life that overflows into study abroad, campus organizations, residence buildings and dining halls. I believe this Elon is possible.



Alex Francis
Columnist



Greg Honan
Columnist



FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE OLNEY

The Numen Lumen Pavilion, Elon University's multi-faith center, was officially dedicated April 30.

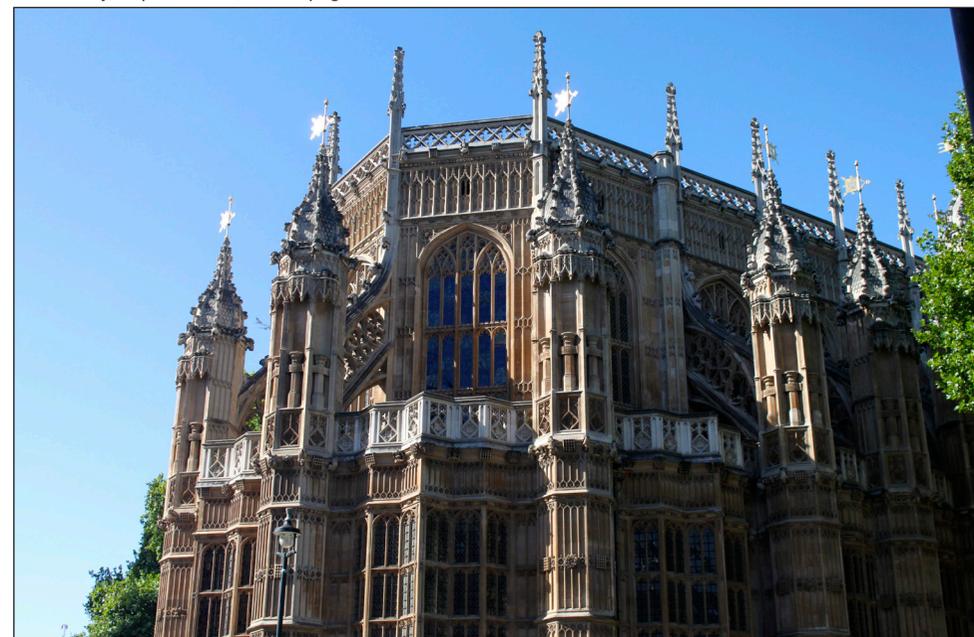


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAROLINE OLNEY

The Palace of Westminster is the United Kingdom's Parliament building where all major decisions are made.

British Parliament votes against military intervention in Syria as conflict escalates

Caroline Olney
Senior Reporter

LONDON — In World War I, more than 90,000 soldiers died from chemical gases. Their deaths tended to be horrific, and they were often drawn out and painful. The general revulsion the gases caused spurred most of the world to sign the Geneva Protocol in 1925, essentially banning the use of chemicals in warfare.

Most reports agree the Syrian government released Sarin, a nerve agent, on the nation's capital of Damascus Aug. 21, effectively killing more than 1,000 people and violating the international law laid out by the United Nations. The question then becomes simple: Does the Syrian government deserve to be punished, and if so, by whom?

Russia, one of Syria's closest allies, has the power to veto resolutions from the U.N. Security Council, which will almost certainly stop any U.N. decision to intervene, should they choose to make it. The choice now rests in the hands of individual nations.

The leaders of both the United States and the United Kingdom have publicly announced support for military action in Syria. But while the U.S. Congress has yet to vote on the decision, the U.K.'s Parliament voted down the measure Aug. 29.

David Cameron, prime minister of the United Kingdom, expressed disappointment in Parliament's vote, but promised not to use royal prerogative to order the military into action.

"I strongly believe in the need for a tough response to the use of chemical weapons," Cameron said. "But I also believe in respecting the will of this House of Commons ... It is clear to me that the British Parliament, reflecting the views of the British people, does not want to see British military action."

Despite President Obama's determination that the United States should act in this crisis, public opinion polls suggest most of the nation disagrees, and almost two-thirds of Congress have declared themselves opposed to action.

"These kinds of interventions are always unpopular because they seem distant and removed," Obama said in a news conference after the G20 summit. "I'm not drawing an analogy to World War II other than to say when London was getting bombed, it was profoundly unpopular both in Congress and around the country to help the British. That doesn't mean it wasn't the right thing to do."

Strictly speaking, Obama's proposed plan to punish Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons breaks international law. The U.N. charter authorizes military action on the part of individual nations only in



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAROLINE OLNEY

The Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic is located in London near the Belgrave Square Garden.

the case of self-defense. As the Syrian crisis is internal, there has been no direct threat to the United States' security.

Safia Swimelar, an associate professor of political science and policy studies at Elon University, said although international laws are outlined clearly, enforcement tends to be muddled.

"There is a gray area of international law and changes have been occurring in the last two decades so that there has been some acceptance of using force for humanitarian purposes and to preempt possible terrorist attacks, but this still should have the support of the U.N.," Swimelar said.

Obama has ultimate control of the U.S. military, and he may choose to make a limited strike even if Congress votes otherwise. He may choose to approach the situation from

another angle.

"If Congress votes no, which seems likely, I can see Obama saying we can't act militarily," Swimelar said. "This may be a good outcome to encourage all sides to push much harder for a non-violent diplomatic solution."

Most of the major players in the United Nations will be asked to make a decision in the next few weeks and ultimately choose a side. Congress is set to vote September 9, and its decision has the potential to affect international relations beyond those with Syria.

"The problem is that Assad is already in major violation of international laws himself, so a unilateral attack by the United States, though technically illegal, could be argued by international lawyers to be legitimate since it is responding to other violations of the law," Swimelar said.

Military officials face sentencing as victims are remembered at ESMA trials

Rachel Shippee
International Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES — Officials from Argentina's past military regime face sentencing this week for crimes against humanity under the Escuela de Mecánica de la Armada (ESMA) trial.

In 1976, a military junta, or military run government, seized power in Argentina and for the next seven years carried out the National Reorganization Process, a period of state terrorism against left-wing guerrillas, political activists and anyone believed to be associated with socialism. The oppressive regime instilled fear among its people through extreme acts of violence, including kidnapping, torturing and murdering young people, the elderly and pregnant women.

The number of people killed or who simply disappeared during this time ranges anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 civilians.

ESMA was the deadliest of the regime's secret detention camps. The officers allegedly burned victims while others were drugged and thrown out of planes flying over the Atlantic Ocean.

An estimated 100 babies were born to de-

tained mothers in ESMA. They were often given away to military families, which only added to the growing demographic of people with lost identities known as the "living disappeared."

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo is an organization that constantly fought for justice against the past regime for the memory of their vanished children. When the women questioned the whereabouts of their children, the government could never offer a legitimate response with concrete answers. Today, many of these women tell their stories time and time again, yet are still pained by their tragic pasts.

Ilda I. de Micucci lost her two children, Victoria and Daniel, in 1977.

"We are fighting for justice, memory and an end to the violence," Micucci said. "It's been many years, but it still brings me pain to tell my story, to talk about my children. But it's important to our mission of their memory."

Legal action against the crimes committed and officials associated with the military dictatorship began in 1983 once democracy was restored. President Raul Alfonsín brought an end to the trials in 1986, arguing the country

needed to look toward the future rather than dwell on the past.

Eight years ago, then-President Nestor Kirchner reopened the cases, overturning the existing amnesty laws. In October 2011, the biggest trial against the military dictatorship occurred, sentencing 19 military officials from ESMA for crimes against humanity. There are 70 more accused of crimes committed at the ESMA trial against 900 victims.

The trials occur under the titles ESMA I, II, III and so forth. They will include more than 800 testimonies of witnesses, including family members of the disappeared as well as survivors. The trials are expected to last up to 24 months.

William Janover, an international student from Brown University, attended a hearing this past week with two male witnesses who were detained in the ESMA at ages 11 and 14.

"It was strange to hear how calmly and bluntly the witnesses were able to describe the horrible things that happened to them and their family," Janover said. "When I spoke to my host parents about the hearings, they said they had heard of them but had no plans to go. They brought back too many bad

memories."

During the National Reorganization Process, military officers created a frightening atmosphere that kept Argentines quiet during the disappearances. Following the fall of the junta, many Argentines sought answers from the government in order to learn the truth about los desaparecidos — the disappeared.

On Sept. 5, a woman offered her testimony regarding the disappearances of her two older sisters. She was only 14 years old when her eldest sister, Claudia, was taken Oct. 4, 1978. Her sister, Andrea, was three months pregnant when she was kidnapped outside the front door of her home. Despite neighborhood witnesses when the disappearances occurred, it proved difficult for people to recall what they may or may not have seen.

Clara Franchini is the student coordinator at the CIEE Buenos Aires Study Center. She explained the ESMA trials are about restoring justice for both the victims and their surviving families.

"The trials for the memory, justice and truth are the beginning of a long road that seeks to recover the social ties the dictatorship wanted to destroy," Franchini said. "The recovery of memory, learning about our history and realizing the process of social reorganization attempted on the entire society are just the start to recover social solidarity, empathy and political participation."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Agustin Di Toffino overlooks the mass grave in the San Vicente graveyard that was filled with more than 120 skeletons and discovered in Cordoba, Argentina in 2003.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Former Argentinian President Nestor Kirchner reopened the ESMA cases, leading to the recent trials.

New bookstore manager brings fresh experience, love of literature to position

Abby Franklin
Senior Reporter

When classes started in August, many students ventured to Elon University's Barnes & Noble campus bookstore to retrieve their textbooks.

This year, the shipment of those textbooks came with the delivery of a new bookstore manager, Jeremy Hunt.

And similar to those books, there's a story that led Hunt to Elon.

Hunt worked at his first bookstore in college as a student employee, just like those he works with now. Unbeknownst to him, that position would lead him to his current career and bring his tale full circle.

"In college, I worked briefly for a library, but I always liked owning books," Hunt said. "I started at a trade bookstore. I really liked the discount I got on books and probably spent all of my paycheck on that. I never would've guessed that I had talent in any sort of business at all, but I do think I have skills in understanding what people need and providing that service to them."

Being in a management position was incongruent to having a career in history — his field of choice in college — but he's held a management position consistently since graduating.

Despite the steadiness of his employment, he reached a crossroads upon moving to Elon. Hunt and his wife decided to move to the town from Charlottesville, Va., after she got a job in the Burlington area, but Hunt was unsure of whether he wanted to return to work.

"I decided, 'OK, I'm just going to be retired and that will be fine,'" he said. "We were mostly unpacked [at our home] in Elon but I found myself getting antsy in the middle of the day. I realized it was the point where I would've been unpacking boxes and boxes of books [at the bookstore] and I missed that. I was ready to start working again."

Hunt soon applied and was hired as manager of Elon's bookstore and started the new position during this year's move-in weekend in August. He spoke



Jeremy Hunt started his position as store manager of Elon University's Barnes & Noble campus bookstore in August during move-in weekend.

TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer

of this busy time with ease.

"I know how to run a bookstore," he said. "I just had to learn the Barnes & Noble system."

Vickie Somers, director of auxiliary services, agreed. Hunt replaced long-time Elon bookstore manager Kathy Scarborough after her promotion to a larger store, and Somers said Hunt's ability to adapt to a new bookstore climate was one of the reasons she hired him.

"After interviewing several candidates, the decision was made to hire Jeremy based on his previous experience both in the campus and retail bookstore environment," Somers said.

According to the student employees

who have worked with the new manager, Hunt is top-shelf.

"Jeremy is really cool," said sophomore bookstore employee Hunter Purvis. "I think he's done a good job and I really like him. He seems to work with everyone well."

After surviving the initial struggles of the new school year, Hunt said he and his staff must build on their success and prepare for the fall season as a team. Hunt also said he is excited to interact with more students.

"The best part of the job at Elon so far was when I got to email the recipients of the bookstore's annual textbook scholarships to let them know they would be receiving free books this semester," he

said. "At my old store, I never had opportunities like that — to directly help students. It is really nice to be working at a bookstore that fully supports the mission of the university."

As things settle down at the bookstore, Hunt said he wants Elon's book lovers to know he can talk literature for hours. He invites anyone to come to the bookstore to talk with him about the topic, especially about Harper Lee's famous novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"I had my mom's copy that she had read at school," he said. "Now, here's my mom giving me a book when I was 10 years old that I was probably too young to read [at that age], but it just seemed to get better with each reading."

Conservators' Center holds obstacle 5K for the wild at heart

Stephanie Butzer
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There are few races that incorporate balance beams, mud hill crawls and rope climbs. There are even fewer that guide runners past exotic animals.

The Conservators' Center, in conjunction with Legend Race, a local company that constructs unique races, will host The Wild Stampede, a mud and obstacle 5K that runs along the Center's outer border Sept. 21.

Some of the obstacles will mimic toys in the animal enclosures, such as the A-frame, a common plaything for tigers to run up and down.

Fred Augustine, founder of Legend Race, has been constructing the course since late June. This will be the first race the Center has held, and Augustine said it will be a challenge the whole family can enjoy. He said the run is a good mud run for both beginners and experienced athletes.

"This won't be timed because we want more families to come and tour the animals and get a feel for what's up here," Augustine said.

Maximus MacClennen, the Center's coordinator, said the question his team asked themselves when planning the race was how to make The Wild Stampede more entertaining than the dozens of other mud runs in North Carolina.

"It's like, you can go out to a field and do your mud run and leave or you can come here, do your mud run and you might hear some lions and tigers while you're doing it and then afterwards you can take the whole family on a tour," MacClennen said.

Two groups of Elon University students — Service Learning students and Leadership Fellows — came out to the Center to assist with digging trenches and moving large parts of the obstacles into place Aug. 16 and Aug. 23, respectively.

"The 23 of us not only arrived at the Center with jittery determination, but also with uneasy anticipation," said freshman Kelly August, a Leadership Fellow. "As a member of the staff explained our tasks for the day, howls and unrecognizable growls sounded in the distance."

After working for hours on the obstacles, August and the rest of her group were able to see the animals inside the compound.

"The dedication of the volunteers and



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor

At a trial run Sept. 7, participants tested an obstacle that required them to cross a lake by holding onto a fire hose. Tasks are designed to test strength and stamina.

workers at the Center left the biggest mark on me," August said. "It was easy for the 23 of us to complain about the heat or the bugs, but to those who give entirely of themselves to this cause, it was just another day doing what they love."

Freshman Dexter Blank, also a Leadership Fellow, said he thinks the Center deserves more recognition for its animal care, so hopefully the race will bring in more positive publicity.

"The event will be one-of-a-kind and I have no doubts that it will be a success," Blank said. "I believe that our group was very helpful, worked hard and represented Elon in a very respectful manner."

The race fee is \$50 and includes a walk-about of the compound. Spectators can pay a small fee to enter. Sixty percent of the proceeds go to supporting the animals the Center cares for, including big cats, wolves and binturongs.



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor

At the one-mile mark, a trial run participant successfully made it to the floating dock halfway across the lake.

Pretty with purpose: Elon lakes give campus more than visual appeal

Tony Weaver, Jr.
Senior Reporter

Throng of prospective students and their parents visit Elon University's campus every day, and they are often blown away by what they see.

Elon's largely wooded areas, brick paved paths and neat landscaping all can be the subject of adoration from visiting families. But some may argue Elon truly shines through the beauty of its man-made lakes, the maintenance of which requires dedication on the part of Elon's landscaping and grounds crew to maintain a pristine image.

Elon has three lakes on campus. The first is Lake Verona, located near Daniele Center. The second is Elon Homes Lake, located near the golf driving range on South Campus.

But the lake that typically receives the most attention is Lake Mary Nell. It's the largest lake on campus and is located behind the Center for the Arts. This man-made lake has a surface area of 2.5 acres and is about seven feet deep.

Not only is the lake a visual flagship for Elon, but it is also used by multiple programs around campus.

Elon Academy, an enrichment program for teenagers in Alamance County, uses the lake as the site for its engineering class, where students build small boats out of household materials and attempt to row across the lake in them. In the past, Lake Mary Nell has been the host of the Earth Day celebration Earthfest. It was also the site of the Polar Bear Plunge, a former Elon Winter Term tradition where students courageously jumped into the often freezing waters of the lake and competed for prizes.

Even without these recreational uses, Lake Mary Nell would likely still thrive with student activity. Students, staff and faculty members can always be found sitting on the swings near the lake. Some students go just to enjoy the scenery.

"It's just really calming," said sophomore Bobby King. "Something about sitting in front of the lake just relaxes me and helps me work."

In addition to Lake Mary Nell being a cornerstone of Elon's scenery, it is also a crit-



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Lake Mary Nell, located behind the Center for the Arts, is Elon University's largest lake and is used for a variety of on-campus activities and traditions.

ical part of the school's sustainability plan.

"Its primary purpose is to be a source of irrigation water for the campus landscape," said Tom Flood, assistant director of Physical Plant and director of landscaping and grounds.

Lake Mary Nell is connected to irrigation lines that allow it to irrigate both the athletic fields and the center of campus using recycled storm water. Not only does this help regulate the water levels in the lakes, but it also helps keep the grass on campus healthy and visually appealing.

With the ecological benefits Lake Mary Nell offers, it is surprisingly low maintenance. Flood said aside from doing minor chores to keep the lake clean, it doesn't require much upkeep.

"During the hot summer months we occasionally add pond dye to the lake to re-



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Lake Mary Nell has a variety of wildlife, including two swans purchased by the university just for the lake.

duce the algae growth, which is common in shallow ponds in this part of the country," Flood said. "It is simply a biodegradable colorant that reflects the blue-green spectrum of light, thereby reducing the photosynthesis and growth of blue-green algae."

Lake Mary Nell even has its own ecosystem. Within its waters you will find bass, carp and snapping turtles. It is also home to two swans and a gaggle of geese that can often be found swimming in the lake or nesting on its outskirts.

Visions Magazine publishes student insights on the environment

Dalton Cox
Senior Reporter

Visions Magazine begins every issue with a dedication to the Earth and a hopeful message for an environmentally peaceful world.

The magazine is Elon University's non-partisan, peer-reviewed publication, which collates a diverse selection of student pieces concerning the environment. The aspiration of the interdisciplinary magazine is to allow students to experience the professional publication process while simultaneously bridging the gap between the individual and nature.

Michele Kleckner, sustainability faculty fellow and senior lecturer in computing sciences, has worked with the magazine since its launch.

"The attempt was an environmental stewardship focus including students from many disciplines, not just exclusively from the environmental studies program," Kleckner said. "We aim to get a diverse selection of stories from across campus, artwork too."

The magazine collects submitted pieces through each fall semester. During the start of spring term, the faculty-selected student editorial staff along with several faculty consultants, begins the process of evaluating pieces for the annual publication.

A variety of writing pieces and artwork was selected for several sections, which include photography, poems, short stories, personal essays, academic features and book reviews.

Founded about the same time Elon adopted its environmental studies major in 2007, the magazine originally had greater aspirations. Visions Magazine conceptually aimed to be a national magazine produced through Elon to which undergraduates from across the nation could submit pieces with an environmental focus. This sort of publication did not exist at the time and after a great deal of deliberation, Visions decided to start small and potentially expand in years to come.

"[Today,] Visions is principally a publication for Elon students by Elon students," Kleckner said.

Class of 2013 alumna and English major Adriana Miano served as a creative writing student editor for last year's publication.

"The main thing Visions looks for are pieces that go beyond the standard 'love the

environment' story," Miano said. "[We looked for] more multi-dimensional pieces that really touched on something human. You hear people say all the time that the environment matters, but this really gets to the emotion of why that is. It looks to capture that 'why.'"

An example of this emotional connection can be found in Class of 2013 alumna Jacqueline Alnes' creative writing piece, "Like Features." Alnes said she was inspired to write the piece when her home was hit by a tornado in Branson West, Mo., in January 2012.

"Thankfully no one was home at the time, but there were people at the neighbors' house," Alnes said. "My room was actually the most destroyed and our whole roof was blown to the other side of the lake we live on. We ended up having to completely rebuild."

The disaster nurtured an awareness and respect for nature, not fear, Alnes said. She is currently pursuing her MFA in creative nonfiction from Portland State University and was inspired by the works of Willa Cather and James Galvin to

examine human interaction with a more personalized version of the environment.

Many students are similarly inspired by unique natural phenomena.

"I love seeing how kids at Elon peruse similar subject matter in different ways," Alnes said. "For me, it's hard to talk to my peers about their passions and ongoing projects, but by putting them into a publication, like Visions, I get that in-depth look. And the interaction between different majors around the same subject material is a great catalyst for discussion by students and professors inside and out of the classroom."

The publication also gives scholarly research-based writers the chance to work directly with discipline-specific reviewers. Last year, Class of 2013 graduate Kara Durante was able to work directly with Brant Touchette, professor of biology and environmental studies chair, to review her article, "Coral Reefs: A Deeper Look." Visions Magazine combines this type

of scholarship with a professional review and publication process.

Associate English professor Cassie Kircher, who has traditionally served as a faculty consultant for Visions Magazine, said the magazine is not lacking in quality but in attention from the student body. She said faculty members are currently considering how to better guide the magazine in a more successful direction.

"[Visions Magazine has] slipped under the radar in the past few years," Kircher said.

The magazine is also currently seeking greater student involvement and submissions.

"You can't scientifically separate the environment from any part of our lives," said past student editor and alumna Jill Capotosto. "It's too easy to view the environment as something separate, so having a publication open to these pieces really gives students a chance to be better exposed to that relationship. It's something so integral to everything, always."



Visions Magazine publishes student writing in hopes that they gain experience and professional publication while simultaneously educating the public about the environment. Submissions are accepted throughout the fall semester and the publication is put together in the spring.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Elon University graduate Lauren Renck was certain she wanted to be a Rockette when she attended their Summer program in 2011. She was accepted into the Rockettes in the summer of 2012.

Elon graduate Lauren Renck dances her way to shine in Rockette stardom

Stephanie Butzer
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The Rockettes, a dance company best known for its Radio City Christmas Spec-

tacular performance each December, has been around for 88 years, and each year it welcomes new talent.

This year, Lauren Renck, a 2013 Elon University graduate and dance and strategic com-

munications major, will join the ensemble.

As Renck grew up, she attended the Christmas Spectacular show and was awed by the dancers' athleticism, teamwork and talent. She said she also watched the Thanksgiving Day

Parade, where the Rockettes also performed. It wasn't long before they became a cultural icon for Renck.

In 2011, Renck received a merit-based scholarship to attend the Rockettes Summer

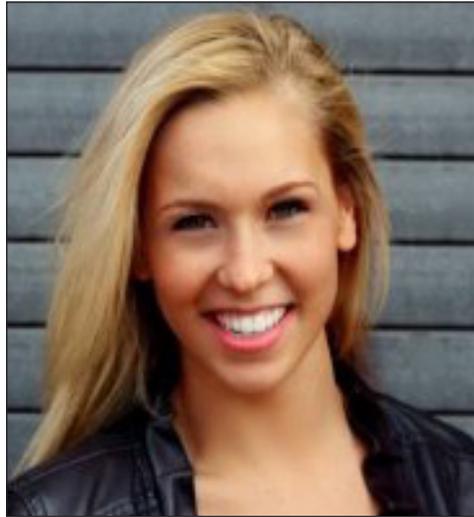


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LAUREN RENCK

Lauren Renck '13 considers her Rockettes audition to be her proudest accomplishment.



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

Renck was initially drawn to the strength and athleticism of the Rockettes. Becoming a Rockette fulfilled her life long dream of becoming a professional dancer.

final decision was made.

Seven weeks later, Renck was applying for a job online and one of the questions on the application was, "What is your proudest accomplishment?" She started typing about her Rockette audition and how happy she was to have overcome that hurdle. By a stroke of luck, she glanced from her keyboard to her phone.

Although it was on silent, it had lit up with a 212 area code – New York's area code. Renck said she knew right away who it was.

"I answered and barely heard what the voice on the other end of the phone said because I was in complete disbelief," Renck said. "I was shocked and completely and utterly overwhelmed."

The voice on the other line told her she had been accepted to become a Rockette.

Renck said, looking back to that moment, it is hard to describe the emotions that went through her head.

"In an instant my dreams came true and it was completely surreal and a moment I will never forget," Renck said.

Alumna Ali Reder, one of Renck's close friends, said she wasn't surprised when Renck called her to tell her the news. Reder said she can't wait to watch her friend from the audience

this Christmas season.

"I think I have known she has wanted to be a Rockette from the day I met her, from the decorations in her dorm room to the way she spoke about New York and her aspirations," Reder said.

Renck said she loved being a dance major at Elon. Her graduating class and the faculty she worked with gave her constant support in her career pursuits.

"I am very fortunate to have spent my four years at Elon with 12 amazing, creative and loving artists [from my class]," Renck said. "I have learned so much from them and I am very excited to see how they succeed and bring their artistry to dance audiences everywhere."

Lauren Kearns, associate professor of dance, worked with Renck closely during her four years at Elon.

"From the moment Lauren stepped on campus, she exhibited that she had what it takes to succeed in the competitive world of professional dance – an incredible work ethic, commitment, passion, diligence, tenacity and, of course, talent," Kearns said.

As she continued to study dance, Renck knew her second major – strategic communications – would provide her with an additional

challenge.

"It was very difficult, very physically demanding and at times a lot to manage," she said. "[But] I expected it to be difficult. I knew coming to college I was training to pursue a professional career in dance. I expected to be treated as a professional and pushed to a professional standard."

Kearns said the BFA dance program is extremely time-consuming

and a very intense degree, so the fact Renck completed a second major was impressive.

"Lauren is the epitome of an Elon [alumna] – talented, intellectual, passionate and committed," Kearns said. "I am excited to watch her professional career evolve and can't wait to bring her back for a master class."

Renck said she hopes one day she will become involved in the Dance Education programs that the Rockettes offer, the Summer Intensive and the master classes.

She said she was personally inspired by these classes and would love to pass that on to aspiring dancers.

"I would be honored to pass that along to younger dancers — motivate them and help them achieve their goals and dreams," Renck said.

Intensive program. The one-week curriculum focused on challenging choreography for potential new Rockettes, with six hours of various dance classes each day and a final showcase performance.

According to the Rockettes Summer Intensive website, "this opportunity for dancers to connect with the professional dance world and study the world-famous Rockettes precision dance technique is invaluable to the dedicated dancer."

Renck said once she attended the Summer Intensive, she was hooked because it was a helpful way to learn everything Rockette – from vocabulary to the precise choreography.

"I loved their athleticism and strength, all done with absolute beauty and grace," she said.

When she returned for the summer of 2012, Renck was accepted to attend the Rockettes Invitational Summer Intensive Week, an invitation-only continuation of the Rockettes Summer Intensive program. It gave talented students the opportunity to learn even more technique and prepare them for the Rockette audition.

Each day, the selected students studied with a Rockette director and two Rockette assistant choreographers. At the end of the week, there was a showcase opportunity featuring some current Rockette choreography.

Renck described her audition as intense and exciting.

"It was a long audition, spanned over two days, consisting of two jazz combinations and a tap combination," Renck said.

Her measurements were taken the second day and with that, her audition was complete. She was told she would be contacted when the

Past comes back to help Murphy's quest for shutout record

Andrew Wilson
Sports Editor

Records are meant to be broken, but they are not supposed to be broken easily. Tell that to Elon University women's soccer goalkeeper Kate Murphy. She would think otherwise.

Just four games into her junior season with the Phoenix, Murphy has already recorded three shutouts in helping the Phoenix to a fast start at 3-0-1. The three clean sheets have propelled her to 16 career shutouts in two full seasons and four games with Elon, and she's four shutouts away from breaking the program record for the most in a career by an Elon goalkeeper.

"There's a lot of pressure on me with this, but that's the way it works," Murphy said. "It's pretty exciting to be where I am though this fast."

Currently, the record stands at 20, which was set in 1991 by Heather Kline. Since the mark was set, nobody has come closer to breaking it than Kristin Facella, who finished

her career in 1996 with 17.5 career clean sheets. Five more clean sheets through the team's remaining 15 regular season games and Murphy will stand alone at the top of the list.

We want her

From the start, Elon head coach Chris Neal saw something in Murphy he knew he wanted between the pipes for the Phoenix. And while she was getting looks from large schools, nobody made a concrete offer like Elon.

Knowing the role a goalkeeper plays for the team, Neal saw someone with a good starting base to be competitive at the college level with a good body for the position that would only continue to get bigger with time in goal.

"Goalkeepers can literally win or lose your games based on their performance, so it's obviously a huge part of the game," Neal said. "What I saw in her was a good frame and somebody that was going to continue to grow, whose shoulders were going to widen as she got older. I saw a future presence in goal for

us."

That future presence quickly became the present before the 2011 season.

Coming in hot

Battling with two incumbent goalkeepers in preseason, Murphy beat out the two and earned the starting job as a freshman. The starting nod came sooner than expected, but didn't come as a surprise to Neal.

"We knew she was going to challenge right away to be our starting goalkeeper. She had the right confidence for it," Neal said. "Recruiting Murphy wasn't hard for me because I saw real potential a couple years down the road. But she came in as a freshman and she earned the starting spot faster than I anticipated. But she earned it."

According to senior midfielder Kimmie Krauss, Murphy has had the support of the team from the start after her strong opening preseason in 2011.

"She came in and looked really good," Krauss said. "I think we knew just with her in goal that we would get a boost at the back even though she was a freshman. She earned the spot and ran with it."

Check your six

A factor playing into the three early season shutouts in 2013 has been the pressure Murphy is getting in practice from backup keepers Sydney Branson, a sophomore transfer from Clemson University, and freshman Taylor Mohr.

"Last year, our senior backup goalkeeper was struggling with injury and sometimes, Murphy was all we had," Neal said. "But what is making her even better this year is she's got competition behind her. She's being pushed internally by two kids that really want to play and that's going to help her more than anything."

Shannon Cosgrove served as the backup in 2012, but battled injuries for most of the season. That didn't allow her to push Murphy into an uncomfortable zone, which is what she gets now from Branson and Mohr.

"They're really good goalkeepers and it's nice to have people that are going to push you and make you better every time we get after

it in training," Murphy said. "It's always great competition to have and it's making not only me, but all three of us better."

Pressure from her own position isn't the only factor pushing Murphy toward the career shutout record, though.

Help in front

Throughout her career with the Phoenix, Murphy has had quick, reliable defenders in front of her with great consistency.

Recent graduates Andrea Keller and Claire O'Keeffe both played every game throughout their respective four years at Elon and helped keep the ball from even getting to Murphy in the first place. Currently, she also has Krauss, senior Olivia Mackey and freshmen Rachel Hallman and Erin Tanhauser.

"No question she's had help," Neal said. "Claire O'Keeffe started every single game her four years here. That provided a tremendous amount of consistency back there. This year, we've got two freshmen starting at the back that played at very high levels at their clubs and have stepped right in and done well."

With 16 career shutouts in two-plus seasons, Murphy knows how much Keller and O'Keeffe contributed to her approaching the record. She points to their leadership, which helped her transition to Elon quickly and allowed her to settle in and focus on soccer to earn the starting job.

"I've had great leadership in the back with Claire and Keller," Murphy said. "They obviously started and played every game of their careers. So it was definitely nice to come in under them. They were a really big help. They got me acclimated with the team."

If Neal had his way, it wouldn't just be Murphy and goalkeepers across the country getting the only credit for shutouts.

"It's a shame the defenders don't get any note at all in a shutout," he said. "But that's the goalkeepers' privilege, I guess."

Murphy can finish her career atop three categories — shutouts, games played in goal and games started in goal — in the Elon record books. One she will not be on top of is most career saves because the defense has been too good through the years.

"We certainly hope she won't get there on that," Neal said. "That would mean we're doing



SUBMITTED BY MEREDITH BROWNE

Goalkeepers Sydney Branson (40) and Taylor Mohr (0) have played in the last two games for Elon — both blowouts over Greensboro College and High Point University.



STEFAN FORTMANN | Staff Photographer

Murphy has collected three clean sheets this season in the team's first four games and now sits five away from breaking the all-time school record for most career shutouts.

something wrong.”

Positive outlook

A two-game absence due to injury at the start of the 2012 season is the only adversity Murphy has faced on the injury front. Due to an injury to Cosgrove as well, then-junior forward Catherine Brinkman was forced between the pipes. She gave up eight goals against Duke University in her final appearance in goal before Murphy returned.

“Kate is such a leader from the back,” Brinkman said. “She’s been great for us. I want

nothing more than for her to get it this year. We trust her with so much back there and we trust her with every word that comes out of her mouth.”

This year, Murphy has stepped into a leadership role as one of the team’s four captains. She said she has credits defensive players like O’Keeffe and Keller as a reason she’s been able to make the jump.

“I’m really stepping up into a big leadership role with two freshmen at the back,” she said. “But our defense has been solid throughout my career and they’ve taught me how to handle this situation, so that’s been big.”

Though Murphy is playing like she’s a senior in going for records with a year to spare, Neal knows he has his starting keeper for another season, which he said can only be beneficial to her.

“Her best days are still ahead of her,” he said. “She’s maturing as a student athlete, slowly learning what it takes to be a leader and a captain, so her best days are definitely ahead of her. It doesn’t come as a surprise to me that she’s in this position.”

As for whether Murphy is thinking about the record, Neal doesn’t think that’s the case. While she was pulled in the team’s last two

games against Greensboro College and High Point University with the Phoenix up by commanding margins, Neal confirmed with the Sports Information Directors she would still get credit for the shutout if she was pulled. In fact, she does.

“I asked the SID if I pulled her if she would still get the shutout,” Neal said. “I want that for her. I know she wasn’t concerned with it. It’s a nice byproduct, but I don’t think she thinks of it too much.”

The same can’t be said for the players. “She better get it this year,” Krauss said. “I’m thinking about it all the time now.”

Men's soccer looks for '12th man'



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

James Brace has been a surprise this season for the Phoenix, scoring three goals already in four games.

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

At most schools across the nation, men's soccer is a secondary sport that attracts only a fraction of the crowds that football, men's basketball and baseball programs draw. The exceptions to the rule are the elite programs — usually the top 10 to 15 teams in the country — who will play in front of a several hundred fans per game on any given night. What do those teams have that other programs don't? The answer is sustained success.

These programs have had multiple double-digit win seasons, conference championships and, most importantly, NCAA championships.

That is where the Elon University men's soccer team wants to be. And they're getting there.

They've seen crowds grow progressively larger during the last two years, which head coach Darren Powell said has given his team a boost in big games of late against ranked opponents.

"It's like having a 12th man," Powell said. "It's always very helpful. I think it helps inspire the guys and encourages them to maybe run that extra yard and give them that extra percentage point to get them over the line and win the game."

The proof is in the results. The Phoenix had a perfect 3-0 record at Rudd Field against ranked teams in 2012, including a 2-0 win over then sixth-ranked University of North Carolina at Charlotte, arguably

the best win in program history.

The Phoenix has won back-to-back Southern Conference tournament championships, thus leading to two straight NCAA tournament berths. Both years, the Phoenix fell victim to Coastal Carolina University in the first round of the tournament.

It's been a successful two years, but senior midfielder Charles Howard knows they must continue to win big games if they want fans to come out to Rudd Field on a regular basis.

"Winning is a big part of it, and we've been blessed enough to be able to win some games and get on a roll and become consistent in our play," Howard said. "I think that's played a major part in the fan support that we've been seeing lately. Hopefully we can keep the ball rolling and have the same support system we've been having over the last few years."

Last year, the most vocal fans were the players on the baseball team, who would stand behind the goal and heckle the opposing team's goalkeeper relentlessly. It's support from other Elon athletes Howard appreciates most.

"It's great, we always support them during their games, so they always come out and support us," Howard said. "It pushes us to another level just knowing that we have the support of our fellow athletes. They're always there talking smack to the other team and just getting them riled up and just seeing them doing that just pushes us to another level."

boost as home opener approaches

It's not just fellow athletes supporting the team. At last year's NCAA selection show party at Fat Frogg Bar and Grill, several other Elon coaches were present and offered congratulations to the team. It was a gesture Powell said he greatly appreciated.

"I think all the coaches at Elon have great camaraderie and support of each other," Powell said. "The coaches coming to the selection show last year meant a lot to myself personally and also to the current players. All the coaches really support each other and want to see each program and each team succeed."

Howard said the adrenaline of running out of the locker room and seeing a big crowd surrounding the field is enough to motivate the team to play its best.

"When we're coming out of the locker room and there's a bunch of fans cheering for you, that just takes you to another level," Howard said. "Even if you're not up for the game already, once you see something like that, that's going to get you riled up and get your adrenaline going."

That atmosphere is what Powell hopes to show his potential recruits on their visits, since most of them have never seen a game atmosphere quite like the one they'll see at Elon.

"When you bring recruits on recruiting visits and they see a big crowd and know that they could potentially be a part of an Elon soccer program that is well supported by students, the local community and the Elon staff, I think it's fair to say that if a recruit sees that, they'd really relish the opportunity to come to Elon," he said.

The Phoenix hopes to see that big crowd when they come home Sept. 14 to host nationally ranked University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Powell hopes the talented opponent will attract a loud, boisterous crowd reminiscent of the game against Charlotte last year — one in which Elon matched the cheering squad Charlotte brought two hours up the road.

"I think it's great if we can pack our fence and the stands and everyone cheering the team on," Powell said. "It can make it quite an intimidating atmosphere for the opposition."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Matt Wescoe has played in three of Elon's four games this season, tallying one goal to go with one assist.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Charles Howard scored the game-winning goal in the 110th minute Sept. 6 in against Mercer University.

Summer baseball provides showcase, training for Elon players

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

Summer. The season of relaxing, visiting your favorite beach or lake and taking a brief break from the grind of the school year. For Elon University baseball players, the grind of the spring semester meant a 64-game baseball season. Playing 64 games in less than four months is taxing, but several Elon players continued their season through college summer baseball.

“Summer ball” consists of more than 20 leagues throughout the country playing minor league-style baseball with rosters filled entirely by current college players. Collegiate summer leagues mirror professional baseball by using wooden bats as opposed to the metal composite bats used during the NCAA season. The players, as amateurs, are not paid, but they gain valuable experience and improve their skills in a game environment.

The process of placing players on summer teams begins the previous fall.

“Our assistants, coach [Robbie] Huffstetler mainly, spend a ton of time on the phone with coaches and selling our players,” said Mike Kennedy, Elon baseball’s head coach. “We try and find a match, what our guy needs and what that [summer ball] program needs.”

Kennedy also said he and his staff place players with the intent of earning playing time at a consistent level, sometimes more than

during the collegiate season.

“We want them to go play and get at-bats,” Kennedy said. “It’s a lot of feeling-out process in terms of what we’re looking for.”

One of those players was rising junior outfielder Blaine Bower, who played in 52 games with 29 starts last spring for the Phoenix. After the season, Bower traveled to Alexandria, Va., where he put together an all-star season with the Alexandria Aces of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League.

“[The coaches] have done a really good job, not just with me, but everyone,” Bower said. “They put us in some really good leagues that help us develop our skills to the best that we can.”

Bower said “summer ball” provides him an opportunity to refine his game and prepare for another year at Elon.

“For me, the summer is just a time to work on skills,” Bower said. “At Elon, they give us a clear guideline of what they want us to work on in the summer. It’s a time to work on things that need to be worked on for [next spring].”

Bower hit .262 in an injury-hampered season for Elon this spring, but a .349 average in the first half of the Cal Ripken League season was good enough to earn him an all-star nod.

“It’s given me a confidence going into next fall,” Bower said. “I feel like I can be a help to the team.”

Bower’s coach shared the sentiment.

“Hopefully he’ll come back motivated,” Kennedy said. “If he goes out and has a great summer, you hope he’ll come back and go the extra mile.”

In addition to developing players for his own team, Kennedy said the summer leagues provide an opportunity to showcase players for the Major League Baseball draft. David Whitehead, a former Elon pitcher, was an all-star in the prestigious Cape Cod League last summer for the Harwich Mariners. This year, his success helped him get picked by the Philadelphia Phillies in the MLB draft, despite missing most of the spring with an injury.

“Going out and pitching in one of the better leagues, you get noticed,” Kennedy said. “Summer leagues are staples because of the fact that there is wood [bats] being used. It can definitely jump-start a career.”

Whether a player is playing in the summer to get noticed by the Major League scouts or improve his game to compete for a starting role at school, unique experiences abound. Players get to see new places and make new friends, even across traditional enemy lines.

Bower has spent time working out with Samford University first baseman Sam Few, whose Bulldogs are rivals of Elon in the Southern Conference.

“We’ve had a lot of fun doing that,” Bower said. “Just meeting new guys and making new friends, that’s the biggest thing for me.”



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

The Elon baseball team went to the NCAA Tournament last year after winning the SoCon tournament in May.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOOTBALL	WOMEN'S SOCCER	MEN'S SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	CROSS COUNTRY
North Carolina A&T Sat., Sept. 14, 6 p.m. Greensboro, N.C.	Longwood Fri., Sept. 13, 5 p.m. Wilmington, N.C.	UNC Wilmington Sat., Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Elon, N.C.	Gardner-Webb Fri., Sept. 13, 7 p.m. Elon, N.C.	Elon Invitational Sat., Sept. 14, 9 a.m. Elon, N.C.
Appalachian State Sat., Sept. 21, 6 p.m. Elon, N.C.	Texas A&M Corpus Christi Sun., Sept. 15, 12 p.m. Wilmington, N.C.	Wake Forest Sun., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. Elon, N.C.	Double Header Sun., Sept. 14, Elon, N.C. North Carolina Central 12:30 p.m. East Carolina 7 p.m.	Charlotte Invitational Sat., Sept. 28, TBA Charlotte, N.C.

THE LAST WORD ♦ 99 problems and they're all on my PC

It's plagued me since my first day of classes at Elon University. Walking into McEwen, I was concerned a lot of things would make me stand out — my clothes, the way I walked and the wide-eyed innocence of a freshman, to name a few.



Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

Little did I know, what made me different wasn't anything external. It wasn't even my personality. It was what I carried in my book bag. No, it wasn't an embarrassing binder or book cover. It was my Lenovo ThinkPad. A PC.

Yes, I, a student in the McEwen School of Communications, do not own

a Macintosh computer. The burden of this first world problem weighs heavily on my shoulders, literally, every single day.

For the majority of my freshman year, I would say, "I love my PC," without a tremor of doubt or regret in my voice. It wasn't until I got heavily invested in my communications classes that I began to notice the sleek, durable black laptop I had was a shadow of the splendid Jay Z-less Holy Grail that are Macs. As Aladdin and Jasmine would say, it's a whole new world. I only wish I could find a magic carpet to take me there.

If freshman year was spent in blissful ignorance, sophomore year was tinged with self-denial that my PC was just as capable as a Mac. My feelings toward my PC are of begrudging tolerance. I know I need it to survive the school year,

but I think of it as more of an external hard drive in which I store my work to later be put on a Mac. As much as I like to complain about my chunky Lenovo, did it ever hinder my work? Not at all ... at least not until this semester.

Junior year has been tough, to say the least, on my PC inferiority complex. On the first day of my Web Publishing class, my teacher asked how many of us had PCs. If you guessed only me, then you are right. I was the only one. Not only that, but I picked up a new nickname because of my individuality — "PC Guy." I only wish it were due to my astute political correctness, rather than the black box of death I carry around.

As many of my friends would tell you, I am a firm believer in not having a nickname. (Sorry, Audrey and Alana, like fetch, stop trying to make "Jo Nate"

happen. It's not going to happen.)

Thankfully, my professor seemed to forget about "PC Guy" during the weekend. I lived in a blissful, nicknameless state for a week, until the professor decided to give me a new nickname after the fact I was the only PC user — Darth Vader.

This was even worse than the first nickname because "Star Wars" brings me back to the whininess of Luke and Anakin Skywalker.

This past weekend, I received shocking news. When telling my dad about my topic for the column this week, he said something that threw me into the pits of despair from which I have no hope of climbing out. Apparently, when I was looking at laptops prior to freshman year, I had the choice of getting my Lenovo or a Mac. Whoops.

Sudoku

5	3	1	2					6
8				9				
		4	5					
9		6	7					
	1		4		2		6	
					9	8		1
					5	3		
				7				2
6					1	7	8	4

Complete the grid so that every row, column and every three-by-three box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Difficulty Level: Medium

Top Tweets

@xoGossipSquirl

Spotted: New students in a post org-fair daze, wondering why they signed up for 50+ organizations. XOXO, Gossip Squirrel

@butcher788

Congrats to @A_Mellette3 for making the Raven's roster! An NC boy living his dream!

@NeimerDreamer

You know you're an alum when it takes you 45 mins to walk from McEwen to Moseley. #SidewalkReunions #FeelsGoodToBeBack

@HeadPhoenix

198 kids of #Elon faculty and staff will be among the tailgaters at Saturday's football game against WV Wesleyan. Gotta order more burgers.

@EBats213

Done with classes at 9am.. Gotta love college #Elon

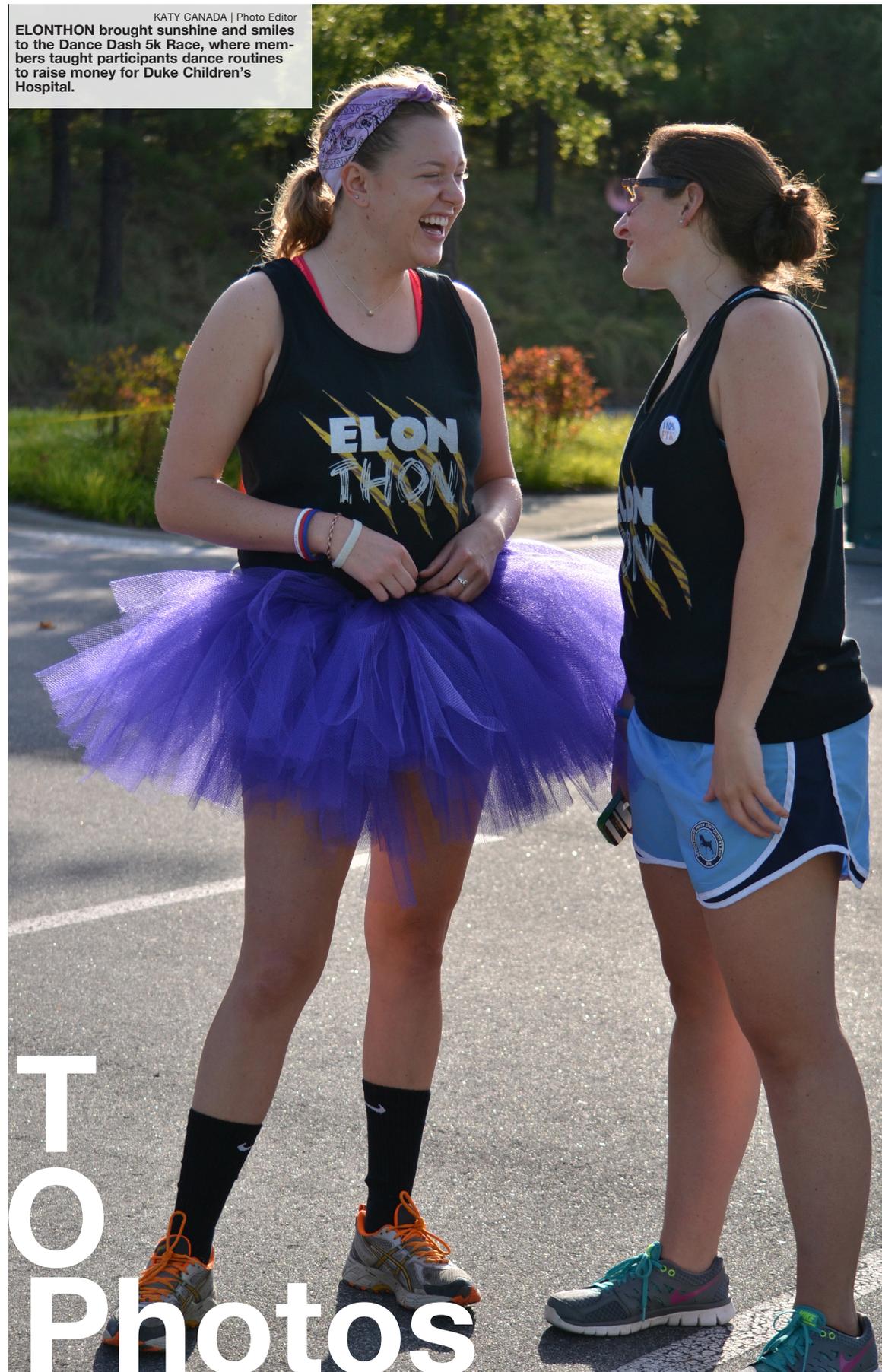


Top Photos

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 • page 30

KATY CANADA | Photo Editor

ELONTHON brought sunshine and smiles to the Dance Dash 5k Race, where members taught participants dance routines to raise money for Duke Children's Hospital.



TO
Photos

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

A scene unfolds at Alpha Psi Omega's One-Day Plays Festival, a collection of short plays written, rehearsed and performed in 24 hours.



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

In the game against High Point University Sept. 8, Olivia Mackey helped lead the team to a 5-0 victory.

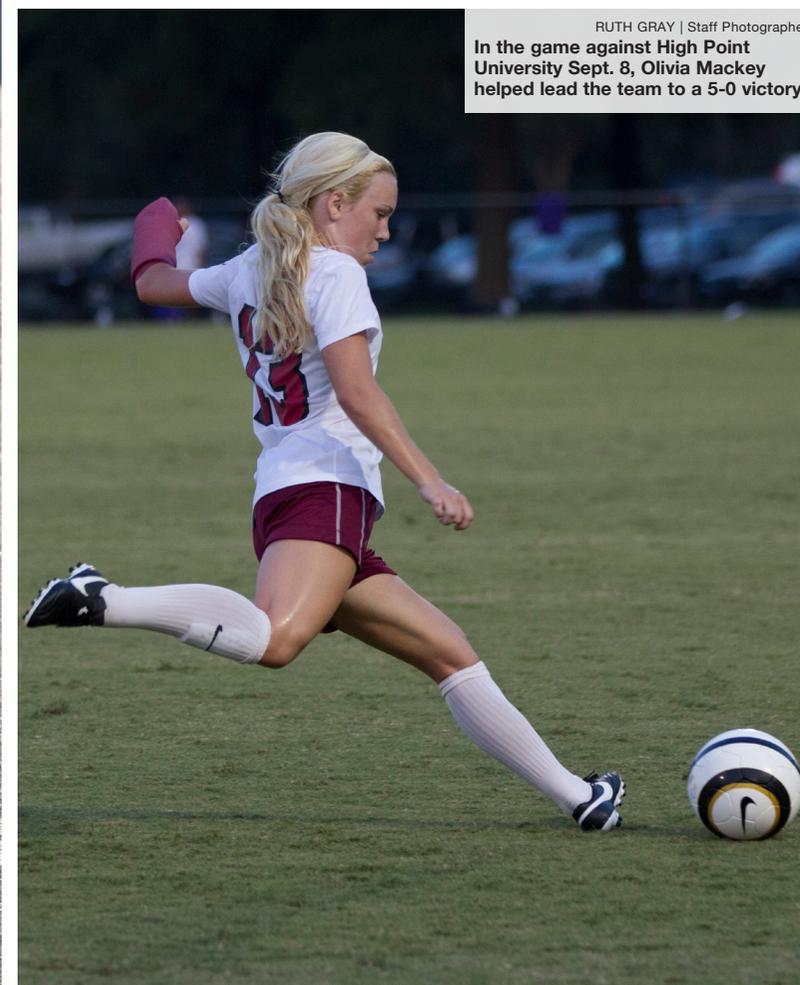


PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Nathan Dean makes a play in the soccer game against Northeastern University Aug. 30 in Durham, N.C., where the two teams tied 1-1.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

Despite this misstep, the Phoenix prevailed 49-7 in the game against West Virginia Wesleyan Sept. 7.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

Leo Lambert enjoys the power of oversized scissors at the Biscuitville ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 4.





TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

Quarterback Mike Quinn went 29-of-39 for 278 yards and three touchdowns in Elon's home opener, a 49-7 win against West Virginia Wesleyan College Sept. 7. Quinn said offensive depth is key to a successful season.

SPREADING THE LOVE

Elon offense showcases depth at running back, wide receiver in win

Tommy Hamzik
Reporter

There was a hockey game inside Rhodes Stadium Sept. 7 when the Elon University football team took on West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Don't believe it? Talk to Elon head coach Jason Swepson.

"We're going to continue to rotate guys and treat it like a hockey game," the third-year coach said after Elon's 49-7 victory over the Div. II opponent.

It seems like a bizarre comment to make about a football game, but not when talking about this Phoenix team. Although it's just two weeks into the season, Elon has already proven its depth will be a key factor in determining how successful the 2013 campaign will be for the Phoenix.

"I'm from the Northeast," Swepson said. "I grew up loving the [Boston] Bruins. I went to a lot of hockey games. You see a lot of shifts come on and off the ice, and that's what we're going to do here at Elon."

Elon blew up the stat sheets with 538 total yards of offense against West Virginia

Wesleyan, getting contributions from 21 different players. The frequent switches helped stimulate an offense that was unable to score in the season opener Aug. 31 against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

In the victory Saturday, Elon utilized a three running back system that had the Bobcats frantically adjusting every series. Junior Karl Bostick, sophomore Tracey Coppedge and redshirt freshman B.J. Bennett combined for 197 yards on 35 carries and four touchdowns. Coppedge tallied a career-high 105 yards, but Bennett ran for two scores and caught another.

"We each bring a different aspect to the game," Bennett said. "We're all different types of runners. It keeps us fresh."

There have been times this year when Swepson's staff has used all three backs in the same drive and other times when they'll stick with one for multiple plays at a time. The system is one the coaching staff developed in the offseason during summer workouts and is determined to stick to. According to Bennett, the offense was a huge part of the team's practice in the days leading up to the game.

"That's what we were focused on all week was getting offensive production and getting in the end zone," Bennett said. "[The coaches] stressed it all this week, just getting into the end zone and making plays."

One player who proved this week he could make plays is junior quarterback Mike Quinn. After throwing three interceptions against Georgia Tech a week ago, Quinn was 29-of-39 passing in his home debut as a starter for 278 yards and three touchdowns. But the intriguing part about Quinn's performance is who he's throwing to.

Thirteen different receivers have caught passes for the Phoenix this season, 12 on Saturday alone. Quinn said the depth of the receiving corps is a real challenge for defenses that are left guessing at which player to give special attention to.

"We have so many different lethal players that it's tough for defenses," Quinn said. "They can't just double team one guy because they'll leave another one open. I think us spreading the ball around is really going to help in the long run of the season."

Senior Rasaun Rorie, junior Kierre Brown and sophomore Ricky Brown have led the

way thus far for the Elon receivers. Ricky Brown leads the receivers in yards with 110 on seven receptions while Rorie has hauled in eight catches for 90 yards and a touchdown. That does not mention Bennett and sophomore Andre Davis, who both caught touchdown passes Saturday for the Phoenix.

Which ones are Quinn's favorites to throw to? It's tough to say.

"I like to throw the ball to whoever is open," Quinn said, specifically mentioning Rorie, Kierre Brown and Davis. "All the guys I'm throwing the ball to can make plays and get the ball into the end zone."

This depth is something that Swepson has stressed from the start of his tenure with the Phoenix in 2011. Depth has lacked in his first two years, and the overall records at season's end have shown it.

"The great thing we're doing is playing a lot of young talent," Swepson said, who starts just three seniors on offense and four on defense. "We're building something here. We're excited about the future and really, the future is now. If we can spread the wealth throughout the season, we'll be tough to beat."