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Wale, Super Mash Bros. and Neon Trees performed at Elon >> PAGE 7

THE PENDULUM

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Artie Smith arrived at Allied Churches in March when he realized he needed to make changes to his life. Smith now spends his time volunteering in the Good Shepherd Kitchen, which is located on the same premises. The Kitchen serves lunch every day to the homeless community in Alamance County. HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Finding home, hope during a time of crisis

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

It is a period of transition for Allied Churches of Alamance County, a shelter located in downtown Burlington that provides lodging, meals and resources for the homeless in the community. As the shelter attempts to expand both its facilities and resources to meet increasing need, it is also facing serious cuts to staff and funding.

Allied Churches was recently informed it will lose \$25,000 in federal funding, despite a drastic increase in the number of shelter guests from last year to now. With a daily operating cost of about \$1,500, this equates to just around 16 days of services. Couple that with the recent layoffs of four staff members, one-fourth of the previous staff, and it is clear that the need runs deep, both for those living in the shelter and those running it. As a result, a restructuring of the center, as well as the community's perception of the issues of homelessness, is currently under way.

The face of need

For Artie Smith, desperation was the driving force. He had passed the shelter numerous times and was always aware of its presence.

But it was not until he reached one of the lowest points of his life that Smith entered the doors of Allied Churches.

"I lived in a dope house and I woke up one morning and realized that was not how I wanted to live

my life," he said. "God saw fit for me to be here."

A former regional trainer for Ruby Tuesday, Smith stayed clean for five years before falling back into a lifestyle of drugs and alcohol in October of last year. It would be six months, March 6 to be exact, before he would realize the path of his life needed to change.

For the first week of his stay, he kept to himself, passing his time at the library or the shelter's nearby Resource Center when meals weren't being served. During his second week, he made the decision to start volunteering in the Good Shepherd Kitchen, located on the campus of Allied Churches, serving lunch every day of the week to the local homeless community.

Smith hasn't spoken to his three children, aged 24, 21 and 14, since before Christmas. He doesn't know where he's going to go once his allotted 90-day stay at the shelter has expired.

But what he is certain of is the fact that Allied Churches has changed his life.

"I'm 'doing me' until I see fit and I'm mentally and physically able to handle life outside of the shelter," he said. "If you could see where I came from, you would wonder how I got here."

Each person who enters the shelter, whether coming for lunch on a Monday afternoon or planning a stay for a few months, has a need that must be met. And as these needs increase, leaders of Allied Churches have been forced to make serious reconsiderations and adjustments.

An expanding need

Hunter Thompson, the current executive director of Allied Churches, first joined the staff in Sept. 2010. Almost immediately, major changes in the shelter began.

The second week of December, the shelter moved to remain open 24 hours and seven days a week to accommodate more guests, subsequently increasing the need for space.

"The most difficult thing is having so many people in such a small space and helping them live in community with one another," Thompson said. "During the winter, when the number staying with us grows, there are people sleeping in the kitchen or the chapel because we won't turn anyone away. But we're overextended, we don't have enough resources to go around or enough room."

From 2010 to 2011, the average number of guests staying overnight in the emergency shelter has risen from 58 to 63. The total number of guests for 2010 was 612. In the first three months of 2011, the total number was 238. If the trend continues, this year could see as many as 900 total guests, an increase of just under 50 percent.

In the winter, these numbers jump even further, practically doubling as the temperature dips closer to freezing, Welsh said.

"One of the realities of being a homeless shelter is that the

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Students challenge Elon's sexual assault response

Kellye Coleman
Reporter

She woke up early on a February morning to find herself in bed with a male student whose name she didn't know, the sheets stained a deep red from the events of the night before and her memory of them foggy and distant.

It was the morning before her 19th birthday. "I was panicking, and I just wanted to leave without saying anything, but I had no idea where I was," said Penelope Newbridge, an Elon freshman whose name has been changed.

She searched the room for her cell phone, lost after a night of heavy drinking with girls she didn't know well. Newbridge quickly realized she wouldn't be able to find her way home and would have to accept the ride offered by the student who had been lying next to her.

She attempted to forget, but instead spent the days that followed feeling embarrassed and overwhelmed.

"I don't want to stay here. I don't feel comfortable or safe at all," she thought, pieces of her memory from that night returning and revealing the tragedy of what had happened - the pain, the requests to stop, the moments before blacking out.

Just a year earlier, Elon sophomore Carla Blankson, whose name has also been changed, was asked by a male student to dance at a fraternity party. He was drunk. She was sober. After accepting a ride from the student's friend, she found herself being physically removed from the car at his apartment.

"It's his initiation night. You're the girl he wanted to bring home," she remembered the driver saying. For the next two hours, Blankson fought with the male student as he clumsily took off her dress and his clothes, his roommates sitting in front of his bedroom door to ensure she wouldn't be able to leave.

"They were laughing outside, and I don't know if they were drunk or being jerks," she said.

He finally passed out after several failed attempts to have sex with her. She jumped out of his two-story window.

Blankson decided not to tell Elon administrators about the incident.

"I more or less wanted to get over it and forget about it," she said.

Newbridge did decide to pursue a university Judicial Affairs case once she found out the name of the person she said attacked her.

"I need to go through this process, because I

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

BY THE NUMBERS:

1 in 5 women will experience sexual harassment during college

95 percent of women who are sexually assaulted do not call campus police or officials

16 percent of students reporting sexual assault pursue judicial action

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Allied Churches shelter struggling to provide as community need increases, resources not keeping pace

HOMELESSNESS from PAGE 1

demand for services is increasing faster than any of us are prepared for," Thompson said. "We're being strategic about what we can accomplish and what we can't. The reality is that we can't be all things to all people. It's just not possible."

Perceptions of Need

According to Thompson, there is a common perception that homeless individuals aren't trying and if they work just a bit harder, they could "pull themselves up by their bootstraps."

"The reality is that I have people with master's degrees in my shelter who are homeless due to personal crises, the economic downturn or health issues," he said. "We forget that a large percentage of the population are just a few paychecks away from being homeless. We live in an artificial bubble that nothing is going to happen to us."

Often, Thompson said, bad things happen to good people and they find themselves, through no fault of their own, being homeless.

"Once that happens, they experience a lot of sadness, depression and shame and when they come here, it is our job to help give them some dignity, help empower them so they can rebuild their lives," he said.

The homeless shelter is not just a place to house people temporarily. Rather, the goals include to providing a sanctuary and a place for personal transformation for those who want to reclaim their



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor
Allied Churches is located about 10 minutes from Elon University's campus.

lives.

"We want to do everything in our power to make that happen," Thompson said.

The public perception of homelessness often differs from the reality of the issue, another thing the shelter is trying to overcome. Because there are few homeless people standing on the street with signs, there is a skewed perception.

"The reality is that it's illegal and they'll be arrested, there are ordinances against that," Thompson said. "They become invisible. You don't see them like you might in other countries so people don't think they're here."

Furthermore, there is a large number of homeless

people who have not sought services from shelters such as Allied Churches.

"We compare the number we serve with the number of children reported in schools and it's 10 times higher," he said.

The situation in Alamance County is much worse than what they are dealing with at the shelter, he said.

"We have to stop blaming the victim and thinking they have done something wrong and it's their own fault, that they've managed their money poorly, got addicted to drugs, couldn't keep a job or made bad choices," he said. "The reality is we all make bad choices from time to time and for most of us it won't lead to homelessness. I try to tell people more than anything to have some mercy and some compassion and give your fellow citizens some grace."

"The people who are here need grace, they don't need judgment because if we are ever going to help them move out of homelessness, we are never going to do that by shaming them or condemning them."

MORE ONLINE: NEWS

Want to learn more about Allied Churches and the residents and staff there?

<http://bit.ly/TPOalliedchurches>

Assault response of campuses nationwide scrutinized

ASSAULT from PAGE 1

don't think I could ever get over it if I didn't try everything I could to make sure he has to pay for what he did," Newbridge said. However, resolution did not come.

"The day after the verdict, I decided that I wanted to transfer," she said.

An underreported issue

University approach and response to sexual assault on campuses nationwide has come under scrutiny in recent months, and the challenges faced by universities and victims have been revealed through discussions about the way administrators should respond.

According to a national study funded by the Department of Justice, one in five women will experience an incident of sexual assault during their time in college. However, the same study indicates that more than 95 percent of college students who are sexually assaulted do not report to campus police or officials, an issue at Elon.

According to Leigh-Anne Royster, coordinator of personal health programs and community well being, the biggest reason for this is fear.

"In an instance of sexual violence you've just had all your power and control taken away from you," she said. "What are the chances you want to put that power into someone else's hands again?"

Instead of speaking with administrators, Blankson told the fraternity president.

"I tried to keep it so that this kid didn't get in trouble with the campus, because I didn't want my name out there," she said.

The fear of what others think is another reason victims tend to stay silent, according to Royster.

"People do a lot of victim blaming," she said.

A range of Americans said that victims of sexual assault are sometimes responsible for the act, particularly when dressed "provocatively" or when in "dangerous places," like bars and "bad neighborhoods," according to a 2010 FrameWorks Research Report.

According to Vicki Moehlman, captain in the Elon University Campus Safety and Police, victims tend to buy in to these beliefs.

"A lot of girls here seem to think it's their fault and that they brought it upon themselves, and that's totally not the truth," she said.

This kind of stigma leaves students feeling as though they cannot disclose the details of their experience, Royster said. The fraternity president's response to Blankson's story was unexpected, Blankson said.

"He said that he was sorry that it happened but that he wasn't going to do anything because it wasn't a big deal," Blankson said. "He just said 'you're lucky

that you didn't get raped."

Blankson simply accepted that statement.

Fear of judicial action

The Elon office of Judicial Affairs is responsible for handling any situations related to Elon's Honor Code and it is there that students have the opportunity to present cases of sexual violence.

However, just as students do not want to report incidents of sexual assault, they also tend to decide not to pursue a Judicial Affairs hearing, Royster said, with a mere 16 percent of students coming into her office deciding to pursue Judicial Affairs action.

For victims, there are many reasons to avoid judicial action.

"I wanted him to feel bad for it and for him to know he really scarred me, but I also just wanted it to be done," Blankson said. "I didn't want to think about it anymore. I knew by going through judicial I'd have to tell my story a hundred times."

Royster said these fears are common. "They fear telling the story again to multiple people. They fear going through the process and the person not being found responsible," she said. "I think all of those things are legitimate."

Jodean Schmiederer, associate dean of students for Judicial Affairs, agrees. "A lot of times you want consequences to happen to that person, but it's difficult understandably to have to step forward and talk about it," she said.

Newbridge was worried about these issues, but she decided going through the process was a necessary step towards healing.

"I tend to analyze every event in my life, and I knew that I would never find closure without confronting my aggressor," she said.

Universities in the hot seat

The Elon judicial system determines whether a student is responsible through a "more likely than not" procedure. "Our conduct process for all cases is based on the status of a preponderance of evidence," Schmiederer said. "It's really just if it's more likely than not that it happened."

This type of system has come under scrutiny in recent months. A recent CBS News article highlighted a case in California in which a student, who was drinking at a party, said she was sexually assaulted, and is suing the university for

violating her human rights. The student said the judicial board's questions seemed to focus on her conduct that night more than anything else.

According to Schmiederer, the behavior of a potential victim is a focus during a hearing, particularly when alcohol is involved. "If a person is too intoxicated to be able to give consent and sexual activity occurs, then it is sexual assault," she said. "How do you determine how intoxicated is too intoxicated to give consent?"

If a student has been drinking, it is up to the judicial affairs hearing officer to decide if the accused student was aware of the intoxication.

The officers have to determine if there were any indication or any reason for them to know that the student was intoxicated, Schmiederer said. To do so, details are key. "We try to talk to as many witnesses as possible," she said. "We look at details and discrepancies in details."

For Newbridge, this was an issue. The hearing took place weeks after the incident occurred, and details such as the color of the cups the location of the incident were lost due to the passage of time.

"I just feel like because I wasn't taken seriously because I couldn't remember a lot of things," she said.

What should universities do?

The campus policies surrounding sexual assault have been called into question in recent months, and this April, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights released a "Dear Colleague" letter, which addresses how universities should respond to incidents.

Several universities, including Stanford and the Universities of Georgia and Oklahoma, have already responded to the letter, publicly stating that changes to the way they conduct sexual assault investigations and cases are in the near future.

The letter will impact Elon policies that will be discussed during the summer planning months. Royster said she believes changes are necessary. "I don't know that the judicial policy as it currently reads fully reflects a policy of accountability on our students," she said.

Royster said she hopes a policy that requires proof of consent is established. "Not knowing that someone was drunk or not being sure is not an excuse," she said. "I think currently students can say 'I couldn't have known,' and that can be

grounds to find them not responsible."

The office of Judicial Affairs hopes to provide post-decision support for both parties involved and utilize student members of Elon's honor board to serve as resources for students going through the process, Schmiederer said.

In order to combat the number of campus incidents, Royster said improvement to education and awareness is necessary. She hopes to create a hotline with a number students can call at all times.

"I'm also working on building a more comprehensive website," she said, hoping to include the use of social media in order to reach students.

Starting to move on

It has been more than a year, and Blankson said she feels she has moved on.

"Now, I'm a little bit better about it, but it was really hard to see him on campus and living a normal life, carefree about the whole thing," she said.

Although she now says telling someone may have been beneficial, she has been able to come to some resolution on her own. "I've gone through that night 100 times in my mind," she said. "I realized that wasn't my fault, and it was a really hard thing to get over."

Newbridge has been home for several weeks now and made her decision to transfer from Elon the day of the judicial decision. Her time is spent swimming and with her family, a support system she said she couldn't have survived without.

But, it's been hard. "Now, I'm more sad about it than angry," Newbridge said. "I have nightmares all the time."

She sees a psychologist once a week, a process that she says has helped her process the events that are still fresh in her mind.

Healing has begun, and although the judicial case she experienced did not end in the way she had hoped, she does not regret it. "I think going through the judicial process was the biggest step of the healing process," she said. "I stood up for myself when my wounds were still fresh."

To students who have experienced sexual assault and are unsure if the judicial process is an option he or she should pursue, Newbridge said to go for it.

"I think people who are debating whether or not to go through the judicial process, and ultimately choose not to, will in the long run regret their decision," she said. "And wish they had taken the opportunity to have control and power in the aftermath of an assault."

Giving campaign exceeds participation goal, increases grant opportunities

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

The Ever Elon campaign, which aims to raise \$100 million for university advancement, contains a specific branch dedicated to encourage faculty and staff donations.

"Philanthropic organizations and foundations look very carefully at the percentage of Elon community members who give before they make the decision to give a donation or grant," said Rhonda Belton, co-chair of the faculty and staff campaign. "So it is important that we have a number of faculty and staff that give back."

The number of donations totaled \$303,321, which averages about \$435 per donor, but Jeremy Allan, advancement fellow, said the median amount is closer to \$100 per person.

"I'm not giving as much as I would love to give, I'm giving as much as I can give," said Chris Esters, captain for university advancement and the music department and program assistant for university campaigns. "I have a big heart and a little pocket book."

But, the number of participants

matters more than the money raised, according to Belton.

"It doesn't even matter the size of the gift," she said. "We just count for participation of the number of people that care enough to give back to Elon. A \$10 gift still increases participation numbers."

According to the last count, 58 percent of faculty and staff donated to the university, exceeding the goal of the campaign by 3 percent and surpassing the number of donors last year by 24 percent.

"I looked at the history for one thing, and I realized we had never had more than 50 percent of faculty donate," said Jim Drummond, co-chair of the faculty and staff campaign. "That was a personal goal of mine."

The two co-chairs attributed the increase in faculty participation to the captain system, where a chosen faculty or staff member in each department spoke with their colleagues about faculty giving.

The captain system increased awareness of the campaign, said Michele Kleckner, faculty campaign captain for the computing sciences department.

"It works very well when you have someone coming to you that is one of your peers, and they're encouraging you to do it," Esters said.

Esters decided to become a campaign captain because of her daughter's experience with the music program at Elon.

"I came here as a parent, so knowing what an Elon education did for my daughter makes it easy for me to know I want to give back," she said.

Donating to the university is not giving money for faculty paychecks. It is contributing to the values of the school, Esters said.

The captain system, as well as faculty and staff giving, reaffirms their engagement in the Elon community, Belton said.

"Because faculty and staff use their time and talent to make Elon a great place, and some of us feel like we do so much to make Elon a great place, there is the idea that we can give back and help transform the university to a higher level," she said. "And when we, faculty and staff, contribute not just time and talent, but financially, I think they feel like they are part of taking Elon to the next level."

BY THE NUMBERS:

2010-2011:

58 percent of faculty and staff donated to EverElon

2009-2010:

34 percent of faculty and staff donated to EverElon

2010-2011:

AMOUNT RAISED:
\$303,321 as of May 6

2009-2010:

AMOUNT RAISED:
\$248,796

FACULTY/STAFF CAMPAIGN

Elon releases updated general studies proposal, further revisions planned for this fall

Becca Tynes
Reporter

An updated proposal of Elon University's general studies curriculum was released Tuesday, May 3. This is the general studies review committee's fourth phase of revisions to the document since the first proposal was released in February.

"This is the version of our curriculum we want folks to live with over the summer," said Tom Mould, associate professor and general studies review committee co-chair.

"When we return back to campus in the fall, the committee, along with the faculty and administration, will make any more revisions needed in order to make it the strongest proposition we can."

Since February, four main points within the

proposition have been edited. A sixth category of courses was added to the distribution of arts and sciences general studies requirements. The category, Global Issues, requires students to enroll in four semester hours that address persistent issues facing the world in cultural and historical contexts.

But the basic principles of the original proposition have not changed, according to Mould. While the original proposition required students to begin working toward foreign language proficiency in their first year, the most recent proposition only recommends that students do so.

Two minor changes were also made to the Integrative Learning Requirement, which mandates all students complete either a minor, double major, semester abroad or pathway. The most recently proposed curriculum allows for four semester hours of the 16-semester hour Integrative Learning Requirement to also count as semester hours within the distribution in the arts and sciences.

The latest proposal allows students who choose to study abroad for a semester in order to complete the Integrative Learning Requirement to take four semester hours abroad that will count toward their major.

When the proposed curriculum was originally released in February, controversy within the School of Communications arose. In February, Kenn Gaither, associate dean of the School of Communications, said he believed the importance of communications should be a larger part of the proposal.

Regarding the latest revisions, Gaither said he would like to continue to receive as much information as possible to see how the proposal can relate to the School of Communications as a professional school.

"The key is in continuing to discuss how the professional schools relate to the revised curriculum," he said. "The committee has done an excellent job in reaching out to us."

The professional schools, which are the schools of business, communications and education, have a much larger role in the proposed curriculum now than they previously did,

according to Mould. The revised curriculum allows up to two courses from the professional schools to count toward the Integrative Learning Requirement, he said.

There were forums for the School of Communications and general studies review committee to discuss how the professional schools fit into the revised curriculum, according to Gaither.

"While we feel very good about this curriculum, we are not closing off debate regarding the curriculum," Mould said. "We want to consider good thinking by our colleagues."

What do these changes mean for Elon?

Elon's general studies curriculum have not been changed since 1994.

According to Janet Warman, director of general studies, the changes are meant to provide better integration among classes.

"Our classes have changed a lot since 1994," Warman said. "Students are more academically prepared."

Development of QEP progressing, committee looking for campus feedback

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

The potential choices for Elon University's Quality Enhancement Plan, an initiative required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools meant to boost learning on campus, have been narrowed to 22. By mid-May, the list must be shortened to five based on input from students, faculty and staff, according to Pam Kiser, co-chair of the committee leading the QEP discussion. The decision will be finalized in the fall.

The 22 themes, which include ideas about everything from a focus on deep, intentional learning to ethical reasoning, were synthesized from ideas submitted throughout the semester by members of the Elon campus, Kiser said. Now available online, the committee is looking for feedback that will guide the selection of the final QEP.

Visitors to the elon.edu/qep site can leave comments beneath each idea or, to provide feedback faster, take a survey about their preferences. Many of the choices involve student, rather than curricular, development, Kiser said, and it is possible the ideas will be synthesized even further.

"We may end up with a theme from none of the 22 ideas on the site but rather a hybrid," she said.

During the summer, faculty and staff will be asked to write papers explaining what a QEP on every topic would look like at Elon, including goals, possible programs and costs. In the fall, what Kiser called the "full-court blitz" will begin as the campus will again have the

chance to respond to the ideas. Focus groups will be held and the papers posted for everyone to view.

By mid-October, the committee will recommend the two or three best ideas to senior staff.

In a previous interview, committee member and communications professor David Copeland said the purpose of the QEP is to enhance student learning on campus in an innovative way.

"It is probably new to what we're doing and, if not, will take something we're already doing and expand it beyond anything we've thought of before," he said.

A SACS team will arrive on campus in the spring of 2013 to assess the implementation of the QEP, which they will have reviewed on paper in advance.

"Once the (SACS team) comes and approves the plan, we implement it for five years and they then come back to look at the progress of the plan," Kiser said in a previous interview. "The idea is commendable in that SACS is saying that we not only want campuses to prove they're meeting certain standards but also continually striving to improve."

Interested in giving feedback on the proposed QEP ideas?

Visit elon.edu/qep to view proposals, leave comments or take a survey.

Focus areas include: civic engagement, critical thinking, research skills, global citizenship, among others.



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Seasonal workers at Elon University face inequalities

ARAMARK employees receive benefits, still struggle

Marlena Chertock
Design Editor

Seasonal workers can be found all around Elon University. They make your sandwiches, empty your trash and swipe your Phoenix Cards. They go on unemployment, use food stamps and have outstanding bills to pay.

All ARAMARK employees are considered seasonal workers and are not guaranteed employment during the summer and breaks, whereas other departments at Elon employ year-round workers, according to Robert Buchholz, director of physical plant.

The salary for an ARAMARK employee is \$10 an hour, higher than the current minimum wage of \$7.25. The salary for a year-round employee averages between \$35,000 and \$40,000, thousands more than seasonal workers.

At a time of national budget deficit, cuts in multiple sectors and talk of raising taxes, there are people struggling more than the typical American family.

Preparing food for Elon students

Kathryn Thompson, an ARAMARK worker at Acorn Coffee Shop, also works in the cafeteria at Southern Middle School during the year. She works two jobs to make enough money to pay her bills, she said.

Thompson works on a seasonal basis, during certain times of the year. The university schedule dictates she work when students are attending classes.

Cathy Chambers also works at Acorn. Her bills can amount to \$889 a month, for medical expenses and her house utilities.

Thompson, Chambers and other ARAMARK employees work many hours to feed Elon students, but they don't always make enough money to pay their bills or medical debt.

Working seasonally means unwanted breaks

"I wish we didn't have so many breaks," Chambers said. "It makes it hard to catch up on bills. I fall behind."

Elon has many breaks for students, and when students leave, so do seasonal workers.

Robin Fogleman, who works at Varsity, doesn't blame ARAMARK for the breaks.

"It's not ARAMARK's fault," she said. "It's the university schedule. ARAMARK doesn't decide breaks."

The university operates on a semester schedule, with a fall and spring semester, so there is not as much need for food during the summer. There are summer sessions offered but enrollment decreases from during the year.

Some ARAMARK employees, approximately 20 to 30 workers, are employed for the summer, said Jeff Gazda, resident district manager of ARAMARK.

Providing jobs and benefits for community members

Many workers have been with ARAMARK for 25 or 30 years and, according to Gazda, the company provides jobs for the community.

"I'm not at the top of the organization here," he said. "Turn the pyramid upside down. I'm working for my management staff. I'm proud of working for the company because of that."

Four workers started as hourly employees and eventually became managers, said Megan Phelps, a senior human resources manager of ARAMARK.

"Some people don't want to take that route, and that's fine," Gazda said. "Some people are comfortable in their roles. They get to spend time with their family at the holidays. But we encourage promotional opportunities."

ARAMARK has a program called "thrive bucks," where employees are recognized for hard work and good attitudes. Employees can collect these bucks and redeem them for gift cards.

"We make sure everyone's appreciated and recognized," Gazda said.

The company has repeatedly been ranked high in terms of ethical standards and working conditions.

ARAMARK ranked No. 1 in FORTUNE magazine's 2011 list of World's Most Admired Companies. In 2010, the company was also recognized as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere

Institution. BusinessWeek named ARAMARK one of the Best Places to Launch a Career in 2009.

ARAMARK didn't offer as many benefits to its workers until students at Harvard University began a strike in 2006 against their own campus employer to raise worker salaries and improve working conditions. Students pointed out some of these discrepancies and ARAMARK responded accordingly.

There are many student and non-student organizations in North Carolina and the United States that work to raise awareness of worker rights and working conditions. The Western North Carolina Worker's Center educates allies, partners and leaders in the defense of worker rights.

Gazda said he tells workers upfront that this is seasonal work and nothing is kept secret.

Employed, but on unemployment

Every summer, most of the workers at Varsity go on unemployment to receive money when they are laid off.

Most ARAMARK workers go on unemployment during the breaks and summer vacation.

The rate of unemployment in Alamance County, has stayed steadily high during the last year.

During breaks between semesters, ARAMARK employees are temporarily laid off and then return to their positions when the new semester begins, Gazda said.

"This is typical for employees serving higher education institutions where the employment is seasonal," he said.

Unemployment is filed for employees by ARAMARK, he said, which not all companies do.

Seasonal work as a social issue

In theory, capitalism ensures equal opportunities to all. But that's not always the reality.

The reality is that disparities exist and not everyone has equal access.

In David Shipler's 2005 book, "The Working Poor: Invisible in America," he writes about the



MARLENA CHERTOCK | Design Editor
Kathryn Thompson plays with her 1-year-old grandson, Josh, during her break at Acorn. Thompson is a seasonal worker and doesn't work for ARAMARK during the summer.

American Myth. It is similar to the American Dream, which states if people work hard they can become successful and move their way up the ladder to achieve what they want, what they dream.

But this is a myth, Shipler writes. Frequently, people in America work long hours for years and don't move up the ranks. They get stuck in low-income jobs and cycles of poverty.

Seasonal workers are necessary for a capitalist economy, said Rebecca Todd Peters, an associate professor of religious studies. Peters researches economics and globalization and teaches classes about wealth and poverty.

They fill a certain gap, she said. But they also face a myriad of interwoven difficulties and complexities.

"The structure of this economy is to squeeze the most out of workers for the least," said Ted Smukler, public policy director of Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) in Chicago. IWJ is an organization that educates and mobilizes religious communities in the United States on issues of wages, benefits and working conditions.

People are laid off and hired for less, he said.

For universities, it would be hard to change the seasonal

Seasonal workers

- ARAMARK employees
- Agricultural migrant workers
- Construction workers
- Amusement park employees
- State fair employees

work schedule, as it's built into the academic calendar.

"The economy is moving toward a situation where many jobs are contingent on temporary jobs," Smukler said. "Some are perma-temp workers. They work seven, eight years for the same employers but aren't getting benefits that employees get."

This is an important issue, Peters said.

"What happens to people who are filling those jobs in-between," she said. "How do we as a society respond to that? We need these workers. But at the same time, they need something more than the way in which they work."

Some people can benefit from seasonal employment, working summer jobs and finding a retail job during the holiday season, Smukler said.

"But clearly, it leaves workers vulnerable, without income for a long amount of time and puts strains on the state offices," he said.

The Writing Center: a place for feedback, not editing

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Elon University's Writing Center is a student-run facility that offers one-on-one assistance to those seeking help during the writing process.

From brainstorming to outlines, to rough drafts and final papers, the Writing Center's purpose is to help individuals improve their writing techniques and develop strategies that will make them more effective writers in any situation, according to Paula Rosinski, Writing Center director and assistant professor of English.

"We're a collaborative center where people can come in and get real feedback," Rosinski said. "We're not an editing service. If students want editors, that's something they need to figure out on their own. Our philosophy is that meaning is made collaboratively in that effective writers get real feedback from real readers. That's just smart."

During the fall semester, the Center's consultants worked with 1,232 students from 100- to 400-level classes. Rosinski said 137 different professors had students visit the Center, and consultants also assisted community and staff members.

"We've seen the number of students we serve continuously increase," she said.

"We serve a lot of different courses at a lot of different levels. We serve faculty as well as spouses of faculty and community members. Certainly, most of what we do revolves around students, but we also serve others, as well."

Sophomore Liz Green said she has never visited the Writing Center because she is unaware of how the facility works. Green said if she heard about the center through the suggestions of professors or peers, she would be more likely to visit.

"I've definitely had a few tough papers that probably could have benefitted from some help, but I just don't know enough about the Writing Center," she said. "None of my friends have ever mentioned going there, and it hasn't been recommended by any of my professors. I wouldn't know whether I should just walk in or if I have to sign up."

Paula Patch, English lecturer and college writing professor, said she finds more students visit the center if it is promoted outside the classroom.

"Student athletes, for example, are told frequently to visit the Writing Center," Patch said. "It's just promoted by their advisers, and I find that if it's promoted somewhere else in a different atmosphere, then they're more likely to go."

Patch said she thinks success is almost inevitable for students who visit the Center



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
At the Writing Center in Belk Library, trained students help others improve their writing style and ability, rather than serving as proofreaders. During the fall semester, more than 1,000 students sought help from the Writing Center.

because it forces them to read their writing out loud to catch grammatical errors, to rewrite more than one draft and to feel more comfortable talking about and criticizing their own work.

"I've found that those students who visit it frequently are just a lot more comfortable asking me questions, asking their peers questions, and they're much more comfortable with error," Patch said. "They don't freak out if they don't have a perfect draft, and they're willing to work to make their drafts better."

Mark Prokosch, assistant professor of psychology, said he has seen noticeable improvements in the writing qualities of students who attend the center consistently during the course of the semester.

"What's really important is that students show systematic improvements in their writing and their understanding of writing in-depth research articles over the course of their academic careers," Prokosch said.

Senior Taylor Woodward said he has been once or twice a semester and has received help with comma use and problem-solving.

"There's a lot of stuff that you don't necessarily always think about when you're writing," Woodward said. "If I don't go to the Writing Center, there's no one there forcing me to reread it, so sometimes I just hand things in sight unseen. But reading through it, always realize, I'm so glad I didn't just turn this in because I made so many obvious mistakes."

Impact of youth vote causes reflection on campus activism

Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

Several media outlets are already trying to predict the future president by speculating who will get the youth vote.

The number of young people who voted in the most recent midterm elections represents only a small number of people eligible to vote. Almost 23 percent of eligible young people age 18-29 voted in the elections.

"I think the number is so low because young people don't feel like they can change anything with politics, and I can see why they would think that," said junior Sam Chambers. "With the United States Congress in perpetual gridlock and a president who can hardly get any legislation passed, it's only logical to believe that young people can't change anything that's going on."

There are also logistical reasons for the reduced number of students actively participating in elections.

"Less people tend to vote in midterm elections than presidential elections, so there is always a drop-off across the board," said Sean Giovanello, assistant professor of political science. "Generally in those elections, you tend to get people who are really passionate, and in most cases, and I don't know this for a fact, you tend to get adult voters - people who are

really passionate and really care about specific issues in midterm elections."

There are also some complications for college students with voting because of living on a college campus. For example, students have to regularly update their address for their registration.

"The dynamic of college can lower the participation of younger voters because it is harder to stay up to speed on issues because there is more of a distance between you and the politics from where you are registered to vote," Giovanello said. "And if you live in dorm room one, and then you have to go update your address to dorm room two the next year to be able to vote again. But there are students who care. For example, there is the civic engagement club who has done a lot of work with voter registration."

Eighty-five percent of the people who voted in the 2010 midterm elections also voted in the 2008 elections. Giovanello said the indication that young students are voting consistently is good.

"If you were 18 in 2008 and 20 in 2010, hopefully that means you have acquired a belief that voting and civic engagement is important," he said.

On a smaller scale, there was a low turnout of voters for the Elon SGA elections, with only

36 percent of students voting.

The number is probably so low because most people are not even aware of what the SGA does to benefit the university, according to Chambers.

"If there is one thing I truly dislike about Elon, it is that students don't seem to be passionate about much of anything," Chambers said. "Activism is missing on campus, but it doesn't just apply to politics. When I transferred here from Wake Technical Community College, I noticed how everyone looks the same and acts the same at Elon and it unnerved me."

Chambers has participated in March for Life for three years and helped the Sarah Palin campaign by answering phones. She was too young to vote in the 2008 election, but she voted in the 2010 midterm elections and the Elon SGA elections this year.

Tom Nelson, associate professor of communications, said it is not that Elon students are not passionate.

"I think Elon is activist with engaged learning and all but I think it is not radical either left or right, but rather profoundly moderate," Nelson said. "It is not an angry place. There are those who think anger is the hallmark of political activism. I disagree strongly. I think love's the hallmark of political activism and love is moderate by nature."



JULIA MILLER | Staff Photographer

Student groups often set up tables in Moseley Center to gain attention for various causes.



JULIA MILLER | Staff Photographer

Some faculty have noted that passion and activism are not prevalent at Elon University.

Students, faculty comment on significance of bin Laden's death

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Elon University held a discussion panel Monday night in response to the recent death of Osama bin Laden. The event, titled "Forum on the Death of Osama bin Laden, Reactions at Elon and Around the World and Future Implications," featured both faculty and student panelists who gave opening statements before answering questions from the audience.

The panelists focused mainly on the motivation behind global celebration of bin Laden's demise and the implications that bin Laden's death has had and will have on the future of terrorism and al-Qaeda.

Panelist Toorialey Fazly, a first-year student who was born and raised in Afghanistan and recently worked as an aid to Hamid Karzai, emphasized bin Laden's death is not only significant for the Western world, but also for Muslims and those in the Middle East.

"As President Obama said that our war is not against Islam and Osama bin Laden was not a Muslim leader, I want to join him," Fazly said. "Every day there are at least two to three suicide bombers in Afghanistan who target and kill the elites,

teachers, imams, doctors, teenagers, women and children who are all Muslims and who are all civilians and have no connection to any political party."

Although people all around the world have openly celebrated bin Laden's death, including the rally of hundreds of Elon students that began less than an hour after Obama's speech, many other Elon students and faculty have voiced disapproval and shame of this celebration. Panelist Thomas Arcaro, professor of sociology, said it was difficult for him to look at pictures of students celebrating the death.

But panelist senior Andrew Black, who has studied al-Qaeda for his Lumen project, said he himself participated in the "flash mob" because he was rejoicing.

"I'm ok with going in that direction," he said. "We all know someone who lost somebody on 9/11. There are thousands upon thousands of Americans and Afghans and Pakistanis and Iraqis who are feeling the same emotion. We can't quiet it with, 'ok, what are the implications of taking a life?' This is a person who has taken thousands of lives."

Panelist Safia Swimelar, assistant professor of political science, said she originally thought that because the

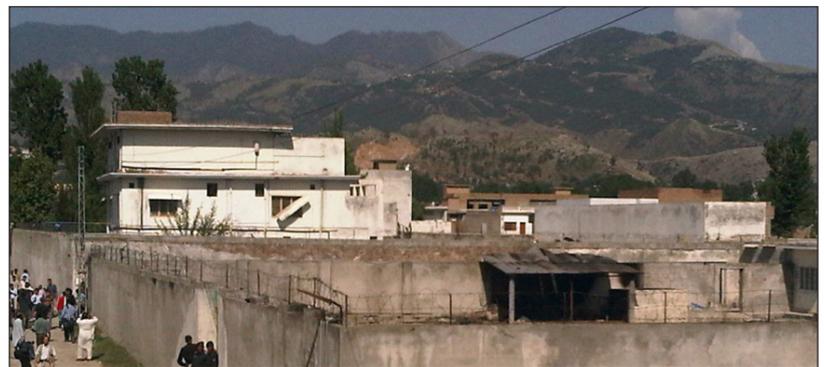


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The death of Osama bin Laden was announced May 1. He was said to be killed in a compound located in Pakistan.

current generation of Elon students was so young during the attacks on Sept. 11, it would not affect them as much. But now she's realizing, she said, that their young age affected Elon students more because their childhoods were dominated by the fear of terrorism.

But bin Laden's death does not signify the end of terrorism or even the end of the United States' mission overseas in Afghanistan. Stephen Thompson, assistant professor of military science, said there was never an objective to

leave Afghanistan immediately upon eliminating bin Laden as a threat.

"It was never really a policy that upon the dispatching of Osama bin Laden we were going to close up shop," he said. "That decision is going to be based largely on how our allies are comfortable handling their security as well as what our commanders on the ground are saying."

Other panelists included faculty member Stephen Bloch-Schulman, associate professor of philosophy.

Cases of student plagiarism increase, professors identify cheating

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Elon University students should reconsider taking shortcuts in their online classes this summer, as faculty members are becoming better versed at recognizing plagiarism in both the virtual and physical classroom. The university has invited professors instructing online courses this summer to attend a presentation on identifying plagiarism and reducing its frequency.

The presentation will be given via webinar, an online seminar, Tuesday, May 17 and is open to all professors and students, but summer online instructors are specifically encouraged to attend.

The webinar, organized by Magna Publications, will feature presenter Errol Craig Sull, Dell's USA College Online Teacher of Excellence and 16-year instructor of online English composition.

Although online learning has become a summer trend at Elon only in recent years, cases of plagiarism in the classroom occur throughout the academic year, said Mary Wise, associate vice president of Academic Affairs.

"It certainly has been a problem," she said. "Students and faculty have different perceptions on what is plagiarism and what should be punished as plagiarism."

With more opportunities to cheat on the Web, Wise said the frequency of plagiarism increases each year. During Wise's first year at Elon, she said there were 14 cases of plagiarism, a number that grew to 60 within a few years.

English professor Prudence Layne is attending the webinar, and will be teaching an online class this summer. She said technology has made accessing and using other people's ideas and words much easier, and everyone should learn how to best represent the work of others.

"People are people in any environment and some will always try to cut corners," Layne said. "So I cannot say, anecdotally or otherwise, that cheating is more prevalent among college students than bankers or any other group."

Karl Sienerth, professor of chemistry, said instances of plagiarism have occurred in his classroom, but the problem is not significant. Sienerth is also attending the presentation and instructing a summer online class.

"This is my first time teaching an online course," he said. "The types of assignments I will give could lend themselves to plagiarism, so my main goal at this point is to learn how to avoid situations and assignments that facilitate plagiarism, and learn how to recognize it and learn the best practices for dealing with it."

In his previous experience with cases of plagiarism, Sienerth said it was because the student was unaware of

proper citation rules or was negligent, rather than deliberately trying to claim someone else's work.

In partnership with Teaching and Learning Technologies, the office of Judicial Affairs is hosting the event at 2 p.m., May 17 in Lindner 206.

As found in the student handbook, Judicial Affairs defines plagiarism as: "Presenting the work or ideas of another as one's own (i.e. without proper acknowledgment of the source)." The sole exception, according to the handbook, is when the information is common knowledge.

Sanctions related to plagiarism at Elon include the student receiving an "Honor Code F" and academic censure with a notification letter sent to the student's parents.

"We have a good process worked out on campus with recognizing and talking with students about plagiarism," Wise said. "It's changed over the years, but it's good."

SGA Executive President discusses plans for next semester

Junior Sam Warren was recently elected executive president for the 2011-2012 SGA executive council. Under his leadership, he said SGA will work toward better communication with the student body and a stronger focus on the issues affecting students.



SAM WARREN

Q: What was the election process like for you this year?

A: Difficult, interesting and fun at the same time. It was really weird, being an advertising and PR major, to promote myself in a

certain way and use some of the tactics that I've heard about it in class. So it was an educational process as well. I never want to do it again, but it was an exciting time and I got to meet a lot of people. It was fun getting to talk to a lot of student organizations for the first time ever.

Q: What are some of the big projects that SGA is going to be working on for next year?

A: The first project is to really help with hazing and alcohol, to really make sure students' ideas and thoughts are put into it so that it fosters a better relationship with faculty and students. In the fall, we're trying to expand scholarships, as well as hopefully work to make on-campus job opportunities better. We'd like to make a big impact on how scholarships are decided, what they go toward and really make sure students' voices are heard. We want to see how we can expand student employment opportunities to make sure that not just 20 percent of the student body is accommodated with jobs. We want to accommodate more people, since there's need for it now.

Q: The number of students who voted this year was a bit lower than expected. What do you think can be done to raise the student interest in SGA?

A: We want to make sure we start to really focus on reaching out to students, to make sure we're putting out legislation and really hearing their

voice, because I think that's been one of our biggest criticisms. We actually just filmed our first video update, and hopefully that will be coming out soon. And we're also hoping to roll out a blog in the fall. So hopefully doing a lot more PR for ourselves and getting our name out there and putting more excitement behind SGA, as well as on Twitter and Facebook. Hopefully, those things will get our name out there and be a better forum so we can connect with people.

Q: What do you find the dynamic to be like within SGA?

A: It's actually really interesting this year. Normally, it's not entirely focused on student issues. It's more about making sure we're on track for the fall and the spring of next year. This spring is a lot different because people really have been very vocal. We're starting to get better. People are representing what the constituents want, instead of their own personal gain.

-Compiled by Rebecca Iannucci, Copy Editor

NEWS BRIEFS

Gowan stepping down

Mary Gowan, dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, will be stepping down from her position at the end of this academic year. She will remain involved in the School of Business as a professor of management.

Gowan took the position in 2007 and during her tenure, the school restructured its vision and mission, developed a new strategic plan, achieved reaccreditation from The Association of Advance Collegiate Schools International and added new majors.

"I am grateful for the service that Mary has provided during a period of growth and achievement for the Love School of Business," Provost Steven House said in an e-mail.

House said a national search for her successor will be launched immediately.

Students awarded Fulbrights

Seniors Chris Jarrett, Gabrielle Dean and Brittany Carroll have been awarded Fulbright Program grants for overseas research and teaching.

Jarrett was awarded the Fulbright U.S. Student grant for research in Ecuador. He will live with the Amazonian Kichwa people, interviewing community elders and recording cultural findings associated with their guayusa tea ritual.

Dean and Carroll will spend a year in Taiwan teaching English and studying Mandarin Chinese.

Elon Academy students honored

Twenty-two students from the Beta Class of the Elon Academy were honored May 4 in a ceremony along with their families and teachers from Alamance County.

Remarks were made by President Leo Lambert as well as the students themselves, who were accepted to a total of 33 colleges and universities across the country.

The Elon Academy was launched in 2006 as a college-access program for local high school students and is directed by professor Deborah Long.

Drop-offs across campus for unwanted clothes, furniture

There will be various designated areas across campus for students to drop off unwanted furniture or clothing as they move out.

Events include:
*Habitat for Humanity Restore Furniture College - 9 a.m.-5 p.m., May 12-24, Parking lot of Elon Community Church

*Residence Life furniture/Clothing Collection - May 12-30, residential area office

*Use Bicycle Collection - 8 a.m.-5 p.m., May 12-24, Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life

*Used Electronics Collection - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 14, Elon Community Church Parking Lot

Elon University buys Greensboro buildings to expand School of Law

Elon University recently bought three buildings near its School of Law facilities in downtown Greensboro.

There are no current plans for the buildings and they will eventually be torn down and rebuilt in order to expand the School of Law.

Board of trustees approves School of Health Science, university waits for accreditation

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

The development of the School of Health Sciences reflects Elon University's strategic plan to enhance the university's science program. The school will house the newly approved physicians assistant program and the already existing physical therapy program.

The board of trustees approved the creation of the School of Health Sciences in April, and the academic council unanimously supported the school.

"I think having a School of Health Sciences automatically sends a signal that the university is serious about health professions and the sciences," said Steven House, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

The increase in graduate programs contributes to Elon's reputation as a national liberal arts university, he said.

"This is part of Elon's move to have more graduate programs," House said. "As we grow the university we are slowly growing the undergraduate program."

The existing physical therapy program will expand from 36 students to 44 students per year. The physicians assistant program will accept its first class of students in January 2013, but the university will not receive accreditation until the following October.

"People are going to apply and have confidence in this program because of the confidence in the institution," he said.

House and Elizabeth Rogers, the current associate dean of physical therapy and appointed dean for the School of Health Sciences, met with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.

"We are in the cue for when they will do a site visit, but we have started the process (for accreditation)," House said.

Prior to receiving accreditation Mark Archambault, the director for the physicians assistant program, must develop a curriculum to be approved by the graduate council and faculty.

The 27-month program includes a year of primarily

classroom work followed by 15 months of clinical rotations.

"I am very confident that we will have a first rate outstanding curriculum," House said.

People within in the Elon community as well as business leaders and individuals from Alamance Regional Medical Center and Moses Cone Health System expressed support for a science program, according to House.

The School of Health Sciences received a \$900,000 grant from Alamance Regional Medical Center, Moses Cone Health System and the Duke Endowment.

The creation of the School of Health Sciences will positively influence the university's relationship with the community, House said.

"The communities of Greensboro and Alamance are very much in favor of knowing that we are training primary health care providers that will work in Greensboro and Alamance County or even beyond," he said.

The program will strengthen the relationship between the university and the surrounding community

Calendar: May 11-17

May 11

- Reading Day
- Cram Jam Spring 2011: Food, fun and festivities in Harden Dining Hall, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

May 12

- Exam 8-11 a.m., classes meeting Tues./Thurs. at 10:30-12:10 p.m.
- Exam 11:30-2:30 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed./Fri. 12:15-1:25 p.m.
- Exam 3-6 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed./Fri. 9:25-10:35 a.m.
- Exam 6:30-9:30 p.m., classes meeting Tues./Thurs. 5:30-7:10 p.m.

May 13

- Exam 8-11 a.m., classes meeting Tues./Thurs. 2:20-4 p.m.
- Exam 11:30-2:30 p.m., classes meeting Tues./Thurs. 8 a.m.-9:40 a.m.
- Exam 3-6 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed./Fri. 1:40-2:50 p.m.
- Exam 3-6 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed. 1:40-3:20 p.m.

May 14

- Exam 8-11 a.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed./Fri. 8 a.m.-9:10 a.m.
- Exam 11:30-2:30 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed. 3:35-5:15 p.m.

May 15

May 16

- Exam 8-11 a.m., classes meeting Tues./Thurs. 12:25-2:05 p.m.
- Exam 11:30-2:30 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed./Fri. 10:50-12 p.m.
- Exam 3-6 p.m., classes meeting Mon./Wed. 5:30-7:10 p.m.

May 17

- How To Detect and Prevent Plagiarism in the Online Classroom webinar in Lindner Room 206 at 2 p.m.

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



The Spring Show featured diverse musical styles and artists, brought by Elon's Student Union Board. Clockwise from top: Neon Trees, an alternative rock band from California, is well-known for their single "Animal." Rapper Wade received mixed reactions from the crowd. Mash-up artist Super Mash Bros. makes their music on laptops by combining other popular songs over hot beats. Wade's gain fame with "Dig Dug" in 2006. Tyler Glenn of headlining band Neon Trees said in a previous interview that the band was excited to make their first North Carolina appearance at Elon. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Different musical styles unite Elon

Stephanie Butzer
Reporter

Students lined up outside Koury Gym hours in advance anticipating the 2011 Spring Show, hosted by Elon's Student Union Board. This year, SUB invited Super Mash Bros., Wade and Neon Trees to play.

As the crew prepared for the night, the empty gym was anything but settled: colored lights flashed everywhere as music boomed around the open space. When the doors opened, the students rushed inside.

Super Mash Bros. was the opening act. After quickly setting up their computers, they dove into the music. The group, consists of two men, Ethan Dawes and Nick Fenmore. Super Mash Bros., as evident in their name, makes mash-ups from other popular songs. It takes background beats that are mainstream and matches them with popular lyrics.

Because they're not actually singing, their performances consist of the group working on computers. But, the show was interactive with the crowd.

"I am a big Super Mash Bros. fan, and after listening to their performance I'm really looking forward to the album that they're releasing soon," said freshman Joey DiRienzo.

The next artist was Wade, a rapper from Washington, D.C. Wade first became popular when his song "Dig Dug" debuted in 2006. One of his most well-known songs is "Pretty Girls," and there was much pleading from the audience for him to sing this particular song. One of his other songs, "Chillin," featuring Lady Gaga, was also heavily requested by the students.

The student body grew restless as they waited for Wade to come on stage after Super Mash Bros. left. When the rapper finally came out, his

performance received mixed views.

"I didn't know a lot about Wade going in, but he really excited the crowd the whole time he was on stage and there were a lot of people singing along around me," DiRienzo said.

Other times, people simply stood or bobbed their head to the beat, unsure of what to make of some of the lesser-known songs.

"Wade was good but not as good as the other two live," said freshman Bridget Landry.

Neon Trees, the main act of the night, is an alternative band from California. Their fame was sparked after a tour with The Killers and more recently with Angels and Airwaves in Europe. Their first single "Animal" was released in 2010 and was ranked No. 1 on the alternative rock chart.

Neon Trees were captivating on stage. Even though most students didn't know many of the band's songs other than "Animal," the beat kept

the crowd dancing.

Although music tastes varied, appeared the student body had a great time. Everybody left the Alumni Gy humming their favorite tunes.

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

See more pictures, video and an interview with Super Mash Bros.

<http://bit.ly/TPOspringshow>



JEFF STERN | Online Editor-in-Chief
STEPHANIE BUTZER | Reporter

Editorial

The real victory in Osama bin Laden's death

The story of Osama bin Laden's death has dominated headlines since media outlets began reporting on it May 1. There were dramatic declarations, effusive front-page headlines and celebrations in streets across the nation.

And yes, it is fair to call them celebrations, because that is the term applied to exuberant groups of cheering crowds screaming tone-deaf versions of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the top of their lungs.

It is also fair to raise serious ethical questions about these celebrations.

Is it all right that U.S. citizens reveled in the death of another human being? Is it acceptable that Fox News broadcaster Geraldo Rivera said, "The bum is dead" followed by a declaration that it was the greatest night of his life? Is it perfectly normal that "Rot in Hell" was the May 2 headline in the New York Daily News?

These are just a few of the questions that will continue to haunt us in the aftermath of bin Laden's death. Perhaps all these things are understandable. This was one of the biggest stories of the last decade, and it certainly inspired national

unity, if only for a few days. The public and the media had a right to react in an excited and shocked manner, even though it meant a temporary suspension of ethical judgment. We are only human, after all.

It is in the aftermath, though, that we must view each follow-up story and discussion with the greatest possible scrutiny. After the media recovered from their momentary respite, they quickly leaped on every reportable aspect of the situation, questioning everything from the identity of the body to the apparent failings of the Pakistani military and intelligence service.

In the days that followed, more questions have been asked. Can we see the body? No, it was buried at sea the very next day, in keeping with Islamic tradition. Can we see pictures of the body? The White House again has responded with a firm "No." Releasing the pictures of what is undoubtedly a gruesome figure will inflame those sympathetic to bin Laden, something Americans at home and abroad simply can't afford to do.

How did we not find him? Why didn't

Pakistan find him? How can we trust Pakistan after the world's most wanted man was hiding within miles of countless military officers in a suspicious mansion?

There are no easy answers to these questions, and they probably won't stop coming for years. But this is a complicated world, and there are rarely easy answers to anything.

If there's anything that should be easy to deal with, it's that temporary surge of national unity that rose up in the late hours of May 1. There was national pride once again, the feeling of winning a giant game of tug of war, because, for once, we were all pulling on the same side of the rope. Indeed, it's hard to say if there's anything in the world that unites America more than honoring those lost on Sept. 11.

The real victory of May 1 wasn't taking the life of an old man with a convoluted perspective of the world. It was coming together to once again remember the needless sacrifices of those killed on that September morning and to recognize that we are, as President Barack Obama reminded us in his address, one nation, indivisible.

Taking stock and moving forward...carefully

This year has been a big one for Elon. Construction projects were completed and many more were started or announced. Giant signs with artistic renderings of the completed projects and effusive descriptions stand all over campus, ready to dole out information about how great Elon University will be when the development is done and the dust is settled.

But here's the thing: Elon is already great, and it's not because of the buildings.

During CELEBRATE! week at the end of April, Elon spent five days honoring the achievements of students, because it is the students and faculty who make the university what it is. It is their drive to cultivate minds, expand opportunities and change the world, that creates the place that is our Elon.

As the university moves forward with new projects,

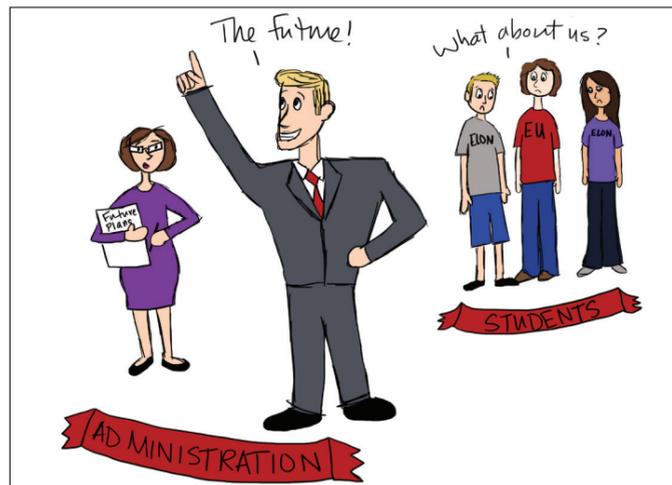
the administration should remember this, and that focusing on the current crop of young scholars and burgeoning professionals is just as important as what is coming down the pike.

If people only look toward the future, they miss the great things that are happening right in front of them.

And if all Elon does is plan for bigger and better facilities and programs, then it could begin to neglect the most important piece of the puzzle: the students.

In turn, this could also alienate the current student population that may feel its experience is being neglected for the sake of future progress. In the end, it will simply make for unhappy alumni who feel they had no real home during their four years at the university.

When you can no longer



recognize the university you attended, some of its nostalgia is undeniably lost.

So take heed, Elon. Remember the message we give to students, alumni and visitors

shouldn't be, "look what we can build." It should be, "look at who we are."

And who we are is a lot more than steel beams, mortar and bricks.

MORE ONLINE

Keep up with The Pendulum Opinions blog during the summer at:

<http://pendulumopinions.wordpress.com>

TO COMMENT ...

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

Letters to the editor and columns can be emailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244

Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

This is a response to the May 4 editorial "If they arrest, they must report to the press."

With all due respect to The Pendulum and to Phoenix14, I just cannot get behind Nick Ochsner's lawsuit that is asking for police records to be released in regards to an Elon student that resisted arrest last year at Sandy's Bar. I understand these two organizations want to get their story out, but what have the media become?

At Elon University, students come to get a degree, learn, have fun and hopefully find a well-paying job four years after they step foot on this beautiful campus. But here we see student media organizations trying to make it hard for a few students to have any success in their post-Elon lives.

I understand that, technically, the Elon police are supposed to comply with open records laws. But in reality, who are they hurting by not releasing the name? And why do organizations like The Pendulum want to publicly shame that student in the first place? We live in a day and age where the

TMZ-ization of media are becoming rampant in society. Your paper is wanting to put unwilling students in your pages for acts of youth and stupidity, just (I assume) to drive up readership of a publication that is free in the first place.

Do you realize the damage you cause by doing so? Do you realize that employers can Google a person's name and see some stupid underage drinking charge and move on to the next prospective employee? And for what purpose? Are you trying to "help" the general public, or are you trying to stone the student to death metaphorically through the "power" you are granted as student media?

You say in your article that "claiming ignorance is not a valid excuse in any court of law or profession. Students and media organizations demand the right to the records concerning criminal activity occurring within and out of Elon's bricked pathways." To that claim, I have to beg the question: What students are asking for these records? It certainly isn't the general public. It certainly isn't any responsible human

being who has compassion for his or her fellow students.

And to the argument that these students do it to themselves, I ask that you take a look in the mirror. Surely, there is something in your life, Ms. Editor, you have done that you would not want the public to know about. If so, can we publish that information? You must know students within and outside of Elon's bricked pathways are dying to hear about it.

These people are not public figures. They aren't professional athletes or movie stars who are being arrested. These are college students who are paying thousands of dollars to attain an education. Let's cut them some slack.

In conclusion, I must reinforce the opinion that I hope is shared with many of my peers that Nick Ochsner is the one who is irresponsible in this lawsuit. By wanting to release this information to the general public and the world to see via the Internet, Ochsner is the one trying to claim he is in the moral majority. To that I have to say: Shame on you, Nick.

Adam Lawson
Class of 2012

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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Opinions

2011 'summer of superheroes,' box office has a lot to prove



Madelyn Smith
Columnist

Whether your summer plans involve babysitting eight hours a day, vacationing with friends or racking up valuable experiences at an internship, everyone will be sure to find just what they're looking for at this summer's box office.

And superhero and science fiction movie fans, you're in luck.

The May to August season of summer movies, dubbed the "Summer of Superheroes" by Entertainment Weekly

Magazine, is largely made up of sci-fi and action-packed plots, supernatural storylines and comic-based tales.

But there's not a ton of originality as far as movie concepts are concerned.

There are several sequels of mega-successful movie series — "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," "Cars 2," "The Hangover 2," "Transformers 3" — and many of the other action films are based on long-running Marvel and DC comics.

Movie makers are creating countless sequels and bringing comic characters to life because they know these movies will sell.

Take "Thor," the new movie based on the ripped superhero who thrives in thunderstorms and who made his mainstream debut in comic books in the early 1960s. Fans will have the opportunity to feast their eyes on the epic, blond and broody action hero in the coming weeks as the movie opened Friday, May 6. As of Monday, "Thor" had already raked in \$242 million worldwide.

And the remaining summer months will also have their fair share of comic book film adaptations "X-Men: First Class," "Green Lantern," "Captain America: The First Avenger" and "Conan the

Barbarian" will all be released before Aug. 19. The 2012 year has even more hero movies lined up, including "The Avengers" and "The Dark Night Rises."

There are undoubtedly tons of comic book characters filling up the silver screen this summer, as they have for many summers. But this isn't necessarily a bad thing.

The sci-fi and superhero fanbase is a very visible one, with massive conventions like Comic-Con held each year to bring hardcore fans together. Box office sales for past superhero movies are impressive. In 2002, the first "Spider-Man" grossed \$403,706,375 in the U.S., and in 2010, "Iron Man" raked up \$312,433,331.

Our society has proven that it loves larger-than-life, heroic figures who, while often dressed in ridiculous costumes, are fighting for a worthy cause.

Many of the hardcore fans first loved the comic book versions of their favorite heroes' adventures. These film fanatics will be at the heart of this summer of superheroes, but the rest of the movie-going population may not be as impressed.

Not everyone wants to see movies filled with 3-D, CGI and lightning-fast edits designed to make the heart race. And not everyone wants to see remake after remake of old films. But moderation is the key to making summer movie fans happy.

Entertainment Weekly suggests balancing the slew of action-packed superhero films with more "modestly budgeted dramas or comedies," which have included movies like "Juno" and "The King's Speech." These movies may not have been instant hits, but they certainly developed devoted followings with gradual box office success.

If studios are continuing to produce prequels, sequels and remakes, they should carefully consider which movies they plan to remake. It will be interesting to see if this summer's "The Smurfs" or "Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World" — yes, they're still making those — experience much success.

For many, summer is a much-needed break

Coming This Summer

May 20	Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
May 26	Hangover Part II
June 17	Green Lantern
July 1	Transformers: Dark of the Moon
July 15	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II
July 22	Captain America: The First Avenger
Aug. 3	The Smurfs
Aug. 5	Rise of Planet of the Apes
Aug. 19	Conan the Barbarian

RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | Opinions Editor

to recharge, or at least a period of three months when moviegoers have more free time. Filmmakers recognize the surge from May to August, and have always designed summer movies to impress and to serve as a nice getaway.

That's why so many superhero movies, fluffier animated films, romantic comedies and epic action flicks are packed into a three-month period. On a sweltering day in mid-July, a group of high school students looking for a good time is not going to opt for a heavy historical drama, especially if they have to pay \$9 for it.

Big-name studios, here is a suggestion: mix in a few other kinds of films and more original scripts to cater to quality film lovers, because, while they're a much smaller group, they're your customers, too.

Plagiarism isn't the only type of academic integrity issue

Stimulant use is just as condemnable



Steve Whitener
Guest Columnist

All Elon students should be familiar with the consequences of academic dishonesty. Throughout our educational careers, the most serious and

communicated form of academic dishonesty has been plagiarism.

Elon University's student handbook outlines the sanctions of plagiarism: the possibility of an "Honor Code F," parental notification, preliminary or disciplinary suspension and expulsion.

I have never plagiarized nor have I seen an act of plagiarism — the consequences appear severe enough to deter most people. But some college students have recently adopted a new behavior that could be considered another form of academic dishonesty: the use of Adderall, a legal psycho-stimulant that is commonly prescribed to treat attention deficit disorder.

I've witnessed other students at Elon take Adderall for "academic" reasons to improve their concentration — to study or to write papers. The non-medical use of Adderall or similar prescription pills typically speeds up the writing process by allowing the user to experience a mental state of flow, the feeling of being totally immersed, energized and focused during a particular activity.

Using Adderall to facilitate the completion of academic assignments is like taking steroids

to become a better athlete. But it seems this academic form of performance enhancement is largely unrecognized. Elon's list of honor violations lump non-medical Adderall use under drug-related violations, considered more of a criminal act than a form of academic dishonesty. In regards to Adderall, these policies don't deter use because once the pill is swallowed, the incriminating physical evidence is gone.

It doesn't seem fair that some students use mental-performance enhancers to complete assignments while others complete them in their natural states of mind. Like steroid use, some sort of code of honor is violated when consuming Adderall for non-medical purposes. But this honor issue is widely ignored, and being ignored makes it significantly more acceptable than plagiarism.

A report by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) combined the data from 2006 and 2007 and found that 6.4 percent of full-time college students used Adderall for non-medical purposes within the past year. Among college students who took Adderall without a prescription, 90 percent reported binge drinking in the past month and were at least three times more likely to take other illegal substances.

Is it even possible to crack down on Adderall use? Unless professors begin drug testing students before they take tests or hand in essays, which seems like an unethical invasion of privacy, it looks as though little can be done to crack down on these mental pick-me-ups.

Classic forms of academic dishonesty, like plagiarism, are still serious offenses, but it is equally important for the university to recognize and condemn these new styles of academic misconduct.

Unrealistic Barbie body image is harmful to young women, girls



Ashley Fahey
Columnist

One young woman is fighting back against a major societal issue: body image.

Hamilton College student Galia Slayen recently made a life-sized Barbie to illustrate the issue. The figure had a

39 inch bust, 18 inch waist and 33 inch hips. When these measurements are applied to a life-sized figure, the results are unnerving and freakish. Even the thinnest of women can't compete with the proportions of Barbie in her real life form.

"This was part of a larger eating disorder awareness week to create discussion about eating disorders and body image issues," Slayen said in an interview with CNN. "I think the general reaction among women and men is just shock, and then you look back to your childhood and think about your relationship with Barbie. It's really questioning the role models of a child."

Slayen said she hoped the life-sized figure would open the eyes of people everywhere and get them thinking about the impact of body image in the media.

Barbie has been, as Slayen said, a role model for many young girls. They play with Barbie dolls as children and look to her as an idol, as the character of Barbie is attractive, successful and lives a life of gloss and glamour.

But if her proportions are completely unbalanced and highly unattainable for any female, what is Barbie's character really saying to young females?

Body image in the media has, admittedly, improved over the years. Slowly, women in advertisements are becoming healthier and retain a slender, but more realistic, body image. With movements such as Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty, women everywhere are becoming more confident about their

body shape and size.

But it isn't enough.

Barbie is one of the first women young girls see and interact with in their childhood, at least in America. And while girls under the age of 10 typically aren't fretting about their body shape and size, the seeds are already planted. When adolescence sets in and girls begin to pay more attention to their appearance, if her body doesn't align with Barbie's incredibly unhealthy proportions, what happens to that girl's self-esteem and self-image?

Low self-esteem is only the beginning of problems for some girls, though. Some develop eating disorders in order to fit in with what they believe is normal and necessary in order to be physically attractive.

College students face many of the same issues as these young adolescents. While college girls don't necessarily look to Barbie as the pinnacle of body image, 10 percent of all college women suffer from a clinical or nearly clinical eating disorder, according to Mirasol, an eating disorder recovery center.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, roughly 15.9 million students are currently enrolled in college and about 57 percent of them are women. This would mean approximately 91,000 college women currently suffer from a clinical eating disorder in the United States.

Although this alarming percentage cannot be completely blamed on a childhood idolization of Barbie, her alarmingly unrealistic physique and the huge number of very thin women plastered everywhere in the media contribute to the number of college women suffering from eating disorders.

While it will take a lot of reform in the media to project more realistic images of women, one of the first steps should be in reforming Barbie's proportions, so they realistically match with more normal body shapes. It wouldn't hurt to reform Barbie's unrealistic image as a character, either.

Style



ALL PHOTOS BY MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer



Above: Store owner Debbie Stephens said Oscar statues are huge for Hollywood themed birthdays and bar mitzvahs. The statues stand 7-inches tall and are dusted in an edible gold powder to finish.
Far left: Wedding and baby shower favors are specialties of Once Upon a Chocolate.
Left: Stephens has created more than 20 different flavors of chocolate that she sells at her shop.

Once Upon a Chocolate: a sweet fairytale

Merissa Blitz
Staff Photographer

Once upon a time in downtown Gibsonville, a chocolate shop opened that was full of sweet treats and chocolatey characters.

Debbie Stephens has been in the chocolate business for 19 years. For 18 of those 19

years, Stephens owned a chocolate shop in Florida. After making trips to Gibsonville many times to visit family, Stephens moved to North Carolina, sold her chocolate shop in Florida and opened Once Upon a Chocolate.

"I tried to think of something whimsical," Stephens said. "It took

about two-and-a-half days to come up with something I liked and something that wasn't taken."

Stephens' handmade treats were put to the test in the new location, when Once Upon a Chocolate was opened in August.

Novelty chocolates are Stephens' specialty.

"I enjoy making the custom wrapped candy bars because I get to be really creative with that," Stephens said.

She gets a lot of orders for custom chocolates as party favors for wedding showers, baby showers, birthdays and bar mitzvah. In Florida, she catered for a couple of weddings per week and

got baby shower orders almost every day.

The most popular chocolate is a tie between her nut clusters and truffles, Stephens said.

Stephens has chocolate that is unique to Elon. She sells chocolate bars wrapped with Elon's logo and chocolate acorns, which she originally made for

a seasonal specialty. But when she found out acorns hold a special meaning at Elon, she decided to make it a year-round product.

"Once Upon a Chocolate is not just a place where you can get a box of chocolate, but you can get everything personalized," Stephens said.



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The thrill of adventure: Burlington Aviation teaches ordinary people how to take flight of their dreams

Ashley Fahey
Copy Editor

For Burlington Aviation School owner Alan Ostroff, flying airplanes was a way to satisfy a lust for adventure. He took his passion for flying one step further by purchasing the aviation school in December 1998.

"We bought something that was already here," Ostroff said. "It was very small and didn't have anything."

The school trains anyone age 18 or older to fly an aircraft. The process to obtain certification for flying can be done, at minimum, in 16 full days, according to Ostroff.

"The first step is called a private pilot certificate," Ostroff said. "You can fly, when you leave here, any single-engine piston airplane to anywhere you want to go, anytime you want to go and you can carry passengers. The only thing you can't do is fly in bad weather."

Ostroff said there are other levels of certification as well, including instrument rating, in which certified pilots are allowed to fly in bad weather, and commercial certification, which allows pilots to earn money for flying aircrafts.

Additionally, the aviation school issues multi-engine rating certification.

"It allows people to fly an airplane with two major engines," Ostroff said. "We also teach people how to be pilots and instructors."

The Burlington Aviation School is one of only five Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

approved flight schools in North Carolina. In addition to this, Burlington Aviation specializes in aircraft maintenance, airplane hangar and fueling aircrafts, Ostroff said.

The school features aircraft made by Cessna, a plane manufacturing and designing company.

"We have a few different kinds of planes used for flight instruction," Ostroff said. "The Cessna 172 is a high wing airplane and the Cessna 152 is a two-seat airplane in which people can learn how to fly more cheaply. Piper aircrafts are used for other kinds of training."

Ostroff's love for flying began at age 40, when he flew his first aircraft. Ever since, he has been passionate about aviation.

"One of the things that is fun about learning to fly is there are pieces that come together," Ostroff said. "There are a lot of other pieces that have nothing to do about controlling the airplane. You're taught to understand weather better than an average person. You have to understand FAA regulations. You have to learn something about physiology and medical effects of higher atmosphere."

Even though he got a late start in learning how to fly aircrafts, Ostroff found purpose and satisfaction in his aviation pursuit.

"Most people learn to fly because they feel like it," Ostroff said. "I started it because my wife went to nursing school and I had nothing else to do. When I finished training, I really felt



Sophomore Hannah Cohan learned how to fly a plane at Burlington Aviation School. The school features Cessna airplanes, a hangar and refueling stations. Owner Alan Ostroff began flying in his 40s and developed a passion that transformed into a flight school.

like it was a big deal. It was an important new skill that I could exploit, so I started moving up through the stages. It just got me really bad."

Burlington Aviation School flight instructor Joshua Lehman feels the same passion for aviation.

"I got into flying when my grandpa took me up when I was about eight years old," he said. "It's a great school here. We have a lot of good instructors and it's a really great place to get your license."

Lehman got his private piloting license in 2002 and

has been flying ever since.

"I enjoy flying, just being up in the air and teaching people and seeing the expression in their faces," Lehman said. "It was the same expression I had the first time those wheels left the ground."

Lehman gave Elon sophomore Hannah Cohan a brief lesson on flying an airplane. Cohan learned the basics of flying a Cessna 127, a single-engine airplane that fits four passengers. She said it was an experience like no other.

"I've never done anything

like that before," Cohan said. "It was not the same as driving a car, because you have resistance and the wind is coming at you from different angles yet, somehow, I feel like that might have been easier than my first driving test."

Cohan said even with the turbulence of a small aircraft and the anxiety with flying a plane for the first time, it was an amazing opportunity.

"It was a fantastic experience," she said. "It was mind-blowing, how awesome it was, and I would definitely do it again if I could."

Cinelon Festival features, awards future filmmakers

Ashley Fahey
Copy Editor

Student filmmakers had the opportunity to premiere their short films and documentaries at this year's Cinelon Film Festival, sponsored by Elon's only film club.

"This year is the best year we've had for submission," said Josh Chagani, the Cinelon president. "The amount of submissions is exciting and tragic. All films are prescreened by the Cinelon officers to try and weed out films that are overly vulgar or that aren't up to par with the other submissions."

Chagani said the film festival gets capped at 90 minutes. This year, the cap allowed for 15 films, composed of five documentaries and 10 narrative films, to be entered into the film festival. The prize money is \$200 for Best Narrative, \$200 for Best Documentary and \$100 for Audience Choice.

Junior Clint Edmonson won Best Narrative for "Virginie," freshman Baden Piland won Best Documentary for "I Was Meant To Do This: The Story Of Chris Jobe" and senior Matthew Rogers won Student's Favorite for "The Agency."

"Anyone from any major or discipline can submit a film," Chagani said. "The film shown does not have to be created this semester or even this year. We prefer for the film festival to be for premieres only."

The process students went through in order to create their cinematic pieces differed greatly, as did plot and approach.

"I spent the whole semester writing, planning, shooting and editing the project," said Michael Balderston, a junior cinema major whose film "The Test" was selected for the Best Narrative category. "I was really excited right away

with this project."

Sean Glynn, a senior, has two films entered into the competition: "Silent Film," entered in the narrative category, and "R2RS: Rally to Restore Sanity," a documentary that chronicles the Comedy Central rally in Washington, D.C. last October.

"My friends and I were planning on going to the rally when I decided to bring a camera along," said Glynn. "As a communications major, you can't help but to see the world in a cinematic way, so my first reaction when I decided to go up to D.C. was 'I need to film this!'"

According to Glynn, the two films differed greatly in the amount of time spent on shooting and editing.

"'Silent Film' didn't take long to make; it just came to me," said Glynn. "I'm a huge silent movie buff, so I just sat down next to Lake Mary Nell and wrote it in less than 10 minutes. Then I grabbed a few friends, shot it in 30 minutes and was watching the finished piece that night."

But Glynn's documentary was much more challenging to shoot and to edit, given the chaos of the rally.

"There were thousands upon thousands of people at the rally, making it a challenge to get good shots and not get the camera broken or stolen," said Glynn. "There were so many strange and unique individuals, but it was hard to get them to speak and the rally was really loud, making it hard to get good audio."

But despite the time and effort put into each film, the directors said it was worth all it.

"Things came together really well, we had a good balance of work and play on the set," Balderston said. "It was just a good time working with my crew and actors. I'm really proud of the work we did."



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Counseling Individuals and Families classes and Acting 3 classes partner up to practice skills

Marlena Chertock
Design Editor

They sat in a room in the Alamance Building, discussing emotions and goals. One student was videotaping the interaction. Another was acting out a pre-assigned role.

They were participating in outside classwork for the Acting 3 and the Counseling Individuals and Families Human Service Studies classes.

Judy Esposito, an associate professor of human service studies, said she wanted her students to get real-life experience with counseling.

"For lots of reasons, clients are reluctant and resistant. That's what I want my students to realize," she said. "That's real life."

Students in the counseling class were paired up with an acting student. The counseling students met with acting students twice during the semester to enact a counseling session. The meetings lasted 15 to 30 minutes. The first meeting established rapport, Esposito said.

"How can they get the client to tell their story?" she said. "And how can you end that session effectively, where can you end it? Summarizing what they've heard, which is a skill. Talking about what they'll do the next meeting."

The second session was a follow-up, planning next steps or checking up on the client.

Acting out people in therapy

Acting students take this kind of project very seriously, said Richard Gang, an associate professor of theatre arts.

They are given a description of a character and an impediment, a physical or mental filter for responses.

Examples include a woman who has just broken up with her long-time boyfriend, an older man who has recently divorced his wife, a student who was recently in a car accident and is now anxious of driving and a student who is very homesick or having trouble fitting in.

Sophomore Andrew Keeler had to play a 60-year-old widower. He had to think of the hurt he had for losing his wife.

"I had to think about impediments, which is basically like a mild case of depression, along with lower back issues," he said. "You have to let them be a filter for you to listen and respond."

The character description is how they look at the world, their point of view, Gang said.

"For impediments, you have to learn how to break a foot or clavicle or get a needle in the eye," he said. "Some very specific physical impediment. Then they start to problem solve and don't think. You can't think on stage. Because you have to be available for your cue, and if you're thinking you'll miss your cue."

The acting students took on the responsibility of knowing intricacies and details of their character. They made it as real as they could.

"They bamboozled the counseling students," Gang said.

Meeting with a counseling student and playing the role of one of those characters was practice for all the techniques the acting students learn in Acting 3, Keeler, a music theatre major, said.

Before the counseling class practiced with the acting students, they would work with each other or roommates.

"Every time, there would be a real lack of authenticity," Esposito said. "They would be giggling and have to stop and start the tape over again."

This setup also gets around ethical issues when professors want their students to work with real clients, she said.

The video of the session helps both counseling and acting students, Gang said.

"They can get a picture of what they look like acting," he said.

But even though they are playing a character, real emotion might be coming through, according to Esposito. She watches the videos and sometimes wonders if she needs to contact a

student to refer them.

"Maybe they need help or maybe the counseling student needs to get help right away so they can be a better helper," she said. "That's a counselor I would want to have. Someone who can recognize and take care of it instead of being in denial and possibly doing harm."

People don't have to be mentally ill to need counseling, she said.

"It's amazing how much money people spend maintaining cars and electronics, but they don't want to spend money working on relationships or through something painful," she said.

Real-life counseling practice

Junior Eliza Gibson had one session with sophomore acting student Katie Moran. In the second session, Moran brought her "husband," another acting student.

"When I first walked in, I felt really panicked," Gibson said. "I've never been a counselor. And now I'm counseling a couple. It was a new dynamic. They played off each other so well, you'd think they'd rehearsed it."

The counseling students said they felt vulnerable and unprepared for the sessions, Esposito said.

"My answer is, 'This is your preparation,'" she said.

After the sessions, many said they felt accomplished.

There's only so much you can get from a textbook, Gibson said.

"The fact that I was able to do this in an intro to counseling course is really amazing," she said. "It made the class much more valuable. I don't think I'd be able to get it somewhere else."

Junior Patrick Cunningham, a psychology major, took the counseling class pass or fail. The class doesn't count for his major, but he recently decided he wanted to be a counselor.

"The class has been my absolute favorite I've taken at Elon," he said. "I just knew that's what I'm meant to be doing."

Most of Cunningham's psychology

classes are more theoretical, he said.

"We were really prepared well in class," he said. "How to handle awkward silences, ask questions, using reflexive statements. When people think of counseling, they usually think of asking questions, but we're told we're supposed to use more than questions. We're supposed to try to capture what the other person is thinking and feeling. It's really beneficial."

Reflexive statements reflect a person's emotions back to them, Cunningham said.

"Say you were talking to me about how you're angry with your roommate over something she did," he said. "I would say, 'It sounds like you're angry or really upset about how your roommate is treating you.' Hopefully, it will get them to say, 'Yeah, that's definitely how I'm feeling.' A lot of time they don't say their emotions. They'll say, 'My roommate's a jerk.' So we try to match their emotions with their words. It's hard."

People don't normally communicate with reflexive statements, Gibson said. But it offers a more personal interaction.

"You normally say, 'Oh, that sucks,' or, 'I'm sorry,'" she said.

During class, the counseling students watch all the videos and offer feedback.

"Watching the videos of my classmates doing sessions exposed me to a variety of clients and situations," Gibson said. "It took me beyond my singular experience. It was helpful to see how they responded and it got me thinking, 'Is that how I would have responded.'"

The project offered the opportunity for counseling students to practice techniques with someone who seems like they actually have what they're struggling with, Cunningham said.

"But it's also comforting to know they're acting," he said.

The final class meeting is at 6:30 p.m., May 11 in LaRose Digital Theatre. The students and professors will discuss the process and provide input.

Bilingual social networking website provides students experience outside the classroom

Kellye Coleman
Reporter

The Internet has led to a shift in how many individuals complete everyday tasks, such as shopping, reading and communicating, and a new online resource may impact the way people learn languages worldwide.

Bilingual Chat is a social networking site in which language learners have the opportunity to talk with native speakers through forums, instant messaging and video and voice chatting.

The free resource was established in April of this year, and several Elon faculty and students said they think the website has the potential to be an effective learning tool.

"My overall reaction from when I first saw it is that it seemed very much like Facebook, but just a lot more productive," said senior Shannalee Van Beek.

The website has features similar to those found on Facebook, allowing individuals to send and receive friend requests, check a news feed and join groups.

Van Beek, an Arabic tutor at Elon, has signed up for an account in hopes of using it to practice Arabic, Dutch and Spanish, saying the site may offer learning opportunities that tend to be absent from the classroom experience.

"A lot of assignments we get are more translation-type things, and with that, you have the luxury of time," she said. "When you're conversing with someone, you're kept on your toes, and you are falling back on the words that you do know."

Jamie Sprenger, a 2008 Davidson College graduate, created the website after struggling to find a way to practice Spanish and Portuguese.

"I decided that since what I needed wasn't available, I'd create it myself," Sprenger said.

The site boasts the advantages of its services, including the opportunity to learn

about international culture and travel and a break from vocabulary memorization.

Nicole Librandi, an adjunct Italian professor at Elon, said Bilingual Chat can serve as a nice supplement to classes or books.

"It would be different from the classroom experience specifically because it would provide a real-life chance to use Italian," she said.

There is a significant difference between language theory and experience, according to Samuele Pardini, assistant professor of Italian. He witnessed this first hand when first learning English.

"What you learn in the classroom is, of course, necessary, and it's foundational," Pardini said. "But it's like learning the rules of driving. You learn them, and that's how you get your driver's license, but nobody respects those rules 100 percent."

This experience applies to languages, with tenses used differently than what may be found in a textbook, accents changing from one location in a country to another and the speed at which native speakers communicate, he said.

"There is no way you can do this in the classroom," Pardini said. "I teach Italian and there is a six-hour difference between Italy and the East Coast, so you have to be self-motivated."

Both Librandi and Pardini said they would suggest the site to students, but they also understand some of its limitations.

"I have already mentioned it to my students, some of whom were interested, but others were leery of it, worried about potential inappropriate partners," Librandi said.

The site launched in April 2011 and has grown rapidly, Sprenger said.

"Users should keep checking back with the website as the membership is building up," she said. "New members from around the world are joining every day."

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Elon's equestrian team proves successful despite underfunding

Christine Williams
Multimedia Intern

Club sports are often overshadowed by varsity Division I sports. While this has been the case with the Elon equestrian club, it has not deterred the riders from doing what they love.

The equestrian club is broken into two different competitive categories — dressage, which trains horses in obedience and precision of movement, and hunter jumper, where the horses are trained to jump 3-foot fences flawlessly.

Founded in 2001 with only a few riders, the club has grown tremendously since its inception.

For both team divisions, competitions bring uncertainty. Judges make assessments on equitation — how the rider looks on the horse and how skilled he or she is as a rider. When riders arrive at a show, the horse they are to compete on is determined by drawing a name out of a hat. Riders do not bring their own horses, and they are not allowed to practice with the horse they are assigned.

"We have to ride all different types of horses and practice on every different type of horse because you never know what you're going to get to ride," said Sian Rucker, junior co-captain of the hunter jumper division. "The belief is that any good rider can ride any type of horse and do well on it."

The club competes in four shows a semester, with mandatory attendance in order to move on in hopes of making it to Nationals.

Elon's team competes against schools in the Southern Conference, as well as larger schools such as Virginia Tech, who receives more funding, because it is officially a Division I varsity program.

Despite being one of the smaller programs competing, the Elon team had a third place finish in the region behind Virginia Intermont College and Virginia Tech this year.

The equestrian team is considered a club sport, which can be difficult when competing against the Division I schools.

"A lot of money is coming out of everyone's pockets to be able (to compete)...I don't think (Elon) realizes how much money other schools get and how much more of an advantage they have because of that," Rucker said.

Even though it is only a club sport, the equestrian club at Elon provides any opportunity for those who want to ride.

"For people like us, riding is such a big part of our lives that we are going to go to school where we can do that," Rucker said. "For Elon to provide the equestrian team is important because many more students will want to come here for it."

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CHRISTINE WILLIAMS |
Multimedia Intern

ONE ON ONE SPORTS

Reactions to surprising starts in the MLB

Conor O'Neill and Christian Binder
Sports Commentators

As the baseball season moves past the opening month and into the dog days of summer, some teams have emerged as exceeding expectations while others flirt with disaster. Which teams are you most surprised by so far this season?

Conor O'Neill

I'll start on the positive side by saying "How 'bout those Indians!" If you had told me before the season that Cleveland would be the second best team in the league by early May, I would have asked if you were still living in 1998. But the Tribe is on a roll, thanks to some pitching that I don't think can hold up. I'm not a big fan of the "quality start" statistic, but for the Indians' it is a number that I seriously doubt can hold up. Cleveland starting pitchers have recorded quality starts in 25 of 33 games. If this were a collection of veterans, of even half of the Phillies' rotation, I would say those are normal stats. But for a staff that features Justin Masterson, Fausto Carmona, Josh Tomlin and Alex White, I'm not buying the hot start.

Christian Binder

I think there's something to be said about teams that aren't contending at the moment, but have made vast improvements during last season, namely the Kansas City Royals and the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Royals rank in the top five of four major offensive statistics, led by an emerging Alex Gordon and a resurgent Jeff Francoeur. If Luke Hochevar could ever live up to his No. 1 overall billing, the Royals could be dangerous. The Pirates, on the other hand, find themselves hovering around .500, but their host of young stars such as Neil Walker, Jose Tabata, Pedro Alvarez and Andrew McCutchen will prove to be the core of a solid team in the next few years. Now, the Minnesota Twins have been extremely disappointing, but the real cause for

concern is how long Joe Mauer will be out and if he will be able to catch again.

Conor

The Mauer injury is a huge blow, and you have to wonder about how long he can be a catcher and compete for batting titles. Soon, the Twins will have to determine if his offensive production or defensive prowess is more valuable. For disappointing teams, I want to stay away from the Red Sox, and talk about another team whose winter moves had fans gushing. The Brewers are floundering in the depths of the NL Central, and this is a team that has a few superstars. While Ryan Braun, Prince Fielder and Rickie Weeks are producing runs, nobody else in the lineup — Casey McGehee, Carlos Gomez, Yuniesky Betancourt — can get it together. Combine that with lackluster pitching from starters, an injury to Zach Greinke and a shoddy bullpen, you have a recipe for the most disappointing team in the league and the beginnings of a firesale in July.

Christian

I think the Wilson Ramos deal is something that the Twins wish they could undo. Joe Mauer would fit in fine in that Twins outfield, but they no longer have exceptional catching depth as they did before they dealt Ramos. The Red Sox started the season off horrendously, but they have found their groove. I agree with you that the Brewers are by far the most disappointing team. They have all the pieces in place to contend, but they can't seem to click as a team. Yovani Gallardo has been awful and John Axford, a rookie sensation last year, has hit the sophomore slump in the biggest way. Prince Fielder has cooled off since his torrid start, but this team needs to turn it around fast before their window closes.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Athletic Department announces 2010-2011 award winners

A slew of awards were handed out May 9 in Alumni Gym, recognizing outstanding athletic, scholastic and leadership.

Presented since 1958, the Stein H. Basnight Outstanding Athlete Award goes to the most outstanding Phoenix male and female athletes of the year, according to the Department of Athletics' administrative staff.

Senior quarterback Scott Riddle and track and field standout senior Veronica Day were presented with the 2010-2011 Basnight Outstanding Athlete Award.

In his senior year, Riddle threw for 3,231 yards and 28 touchdowns to lead the Southern Conference. In his career, Riddle became the first quarterback in SoCon history to lead the league in passing for four consecutive seasons.

Senior Veronica Day ends her storied Elon career as a three-time SoCon champion and a nine-time all-conference honoree. Day holds Elon records in the long jump and triple jump. This past season, Day was honored as the SoCon Field performer of the year.

Senior guard Chris Long and senior second baseman Jackie Gonzalez were honored as recipients of the Robert C. Browne Memorial Sportsmanship Award, presented annually to a male and female athlete who have best displayed qualities of sportsmanship.

Long averaged a team-high 14.7 points per game in his senior year, and led the SoCon with 6.0 assists per game.

Gonzalez finished her Elon career, ranked third all time in Elon history with 206 career hits, and a .347 career average, fourth in school history.

Women's track standout sets Elon record

Freshman Julie Hart set a new school record in the 800-meter run at the Dick Taylor Tar Hells Relays at UNC-Chapel Hill. Hart finished fifth after posting a time of 2:11.81.

Phoenix softball players take home All-SoCon honors

Sophomore outfielder Tomeka Watson, freshman outfielder Carleigh Nester, and junior catcher Kaitlyn Piazzolla were named second-team All-Southern Conference performers. Additionally, Nester was one of 10 softball players from around the SoCon named to the All-Freshman squad.

As a freshman, Nester led the Phoenix with a .376 batting average and 15 doubles. In 164 plate appearances, Nester has struck out only six times in the 2011 season.

Watson heads into the SoCon tournament batting .356 with 12 doubles, one triple and four home runs. As an outfielder, Watson leads the SoCon with a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage.

Piazzolla has caught 10 out of 15 runners attempting to steal, tied for the third most in the conference. Additionally, Piazzolla is batting .319 with six doubles and two home runs in the 2011 season.

Taylor picks up another Pitcher of the Week honor

Senior lefthander Lauren Taylor picked up her fourth SoCon Pitcher of the Week honor. Taylor went 1-0 in two appearances and finished with a 0.00 ERA.

Taylor previously captured pitcher of the week honors on March 7 and 14 and February 21.

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Softball sweeps UNC Greensboro, earns fifth seed for SoCon tournament

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

The old adage goes, "It's not how you start, it's how you finish."

The Elon women's softball team is trying to live by this credo as it prepares for this week's Southern Conference tournament.

It has been an up-and-down season for the Phoenix, who has endured streaks of losing nine of 11 games and five of six games this season.

Elon has won nine of its last 11 games and is gaining momentum as the team heads into the SoCon tournament.

"We've been preaching the importance of playing with consistency," head coach Patti Raduenz said. "It's about putting it all together. Consistent pitching, fielding and hitting."

May 7-8, the Phoenix hosted the UNC Greensboro Spartans. Strong pitching was on display all weekend, as

Elon outscored UNC-G a combined 23-0 in the three contests.

The Phoenix started the game hot, plating 12 runs in the first inning, and never looking back.

Junior Erin O'Shea and senior Pam DelPizzo

combined to throw five shutout innings, striking out four, while only walking two.

Game two featured a pitcher's duel, as the Spartans and the Phoenix were knotted 0-0

after seven innings.

At the bottom of the eighth inning, junior shortstop Danielle Lafferty led off the inning with a one-out single. Next, senior second baseman Jackie Gonzalez hit a walk-off triple down the right field line to score pinch runner freshman Lauren Oldham, to give Elon the 1-0 victory.

"On defense we've been playing really well," senior pitcher Lauren Taylor said. "As a pitcher,



Senior first baseman Pam DelPizzo gets ready to swing against the UNC Greensboro Spartans. DelPizzo went 4 for 10 during the weekend.

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

to know that the whole team is behind you gives you so much confidence to go out and pitch the best that you can."

Sunday, May 8 was Senior Day for the Phoenix, as six seniors took East Field for the last time in their college careers. It was a fitting end to four years, as

Elon defeated UNCG 7-0 behind the left arm of Taylor.

Taylor's complete game shutout was her fourth of the season.

"Once again, the offense was able to get going early, which definitely helped my confidence," Taylor said. "With their help, we were

able to play a complete game on Sunday."

With the sweep, the Phoenix captured the No. 5 seed in the conference tournament. Elon plays the College of Charleston Cougars at noon, May 11 at noon from Statesboro, Ga. While the College of Charleston is the No. 4

seed, the Phoenix took two of three games against the Cougars earlier in the season.

"We're trying to keep our energy up as much as possible," Taylor said. "If we keep playing the way we have been over the last few weeks, we'll have a solid chance in the tournament."

Phoenix narrows vision on conference crown

Conor O'Neill
Reporter

Before a practice in October, Elon head baseball coach Mike Kennedy told his team that the little things they did that day, and during other practices in the off season, would add up to a Southern Conference championship.

Fast forward about seven months to the final chapter of the Elon's regular season, and the team is just one conference win shy of capturing that goal.

With a three-game sweep of The Citadel last weekend, the Phoenix holds a 3.5 game lead over UNC Greensboro for the top spot in the SoCon standings. Elon has a 21-6 conference mark, with a 33-18 record overall. The Citadel finished the weekend with an 8-16 conference record, 20-27 overall.

But that does not mean the Phoenix took their opponents, last season's conference champions, lightly.

"With this conference, you could be playing a team whose record is lopsided to the negative and they can beat you because it's baseball," said sophomore outfielder Niko Fraser. "Some days you have offense and some days you don't."

The team took the first two games of the series with that offense, winning 11-6 Friday, May 6 and 8-2 Saturday, May 7. The Phoenix trailed for just three of the first 18 innings of the series.

Sunday's game was a different story, as Elon entered the top of the ninth inning facing a 5-3 hole. But the Phoenix rallied for three runs in the ninth before the Bulldogs tied the score in their last at-bat to force extra innings.

In the 12th inning, senior infielder Ben Scott earned a bases loaded walk to force across the eventual winning run

and senior outfielder Harry Austin drove in a run with a sacrifice fly, giving Elon the 8-6 win.

Despite a mid-week 6-5 loss at UNC Wilmington, the Phoenix rebounded to extend its conference winning streak to seven games.

"I think we've done a great job bouncing back from some tough losses this year, I think that says a lot about team and about our coaches how we just have great bounce back wins," said sophomore pitcher Dylan Clark.

The Phoenix has a 13-5 record this year following losses and has yet to suffer three straight losses at any point in the campaign.

A major factor in the team's recent surge, winners of eight of the last 10 games, has been offensive production. In those 10 games, the Phoenix has averaged 7.6 runs per game.

Emerging as a key component in the lineup is freshman infielder Sebastian Gomez, who has multi-hit games in nine of his past 12 games played, raising his batting average from .255 to a team-leading .329 in the process.

Gomez has also driven in 15 runs in that stretch and scored 13 times, establishing himself in the heart of the Phoenix lineup.

Holding such a decisive lead in the SoCon means that with a victory in its next conference game, the Phoenix will clinch the regular season championship.

The team will have to exhibit patience for the title, as the next conference series for the team will begin after exams are completed.

The Furman University Paladins make the trip to Latham Park for a three-game series beginning May 18.

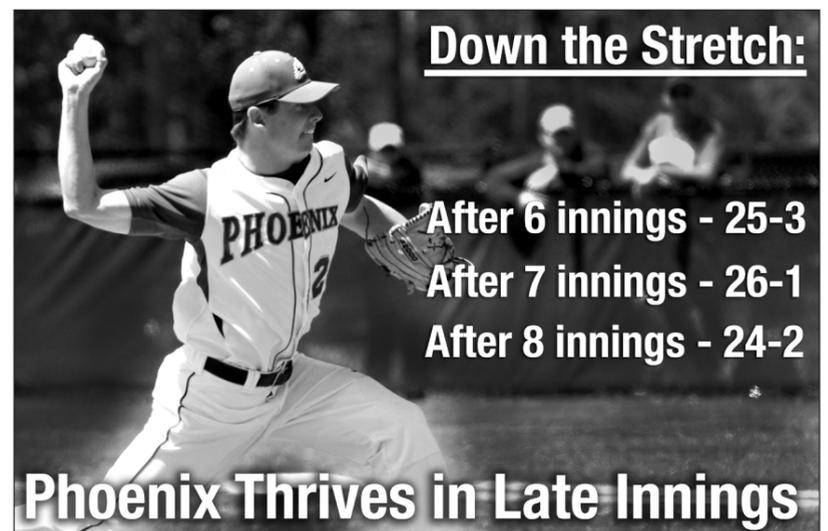
The Phoenix's magic number to clinch a share of the title is

Looking ahead:

Wednesday, May 18 6:30 p.m. vs. Furman University

Thursday, May 19 6:30 p.m. vs. Furman University

Friday, May 20 1:30 p.m. vs. Furman University



Down the Stretch:

After 6 innings - 25-3

After 7 innings - 26-1

After 8 innings - 24-2

Phoenix Thrives in Late Innings

LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor



Freshman infielder Sebastian Gomez has been a key contributor, leading the Phoenix with a .329 average.

HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

one and to gain sole possession of the championship is two. This means that fans should keep an eye on what UNCG does against The Citadel this weekend. If the Bulldogs win two of the three game series, Elon will clinch the title. A regular

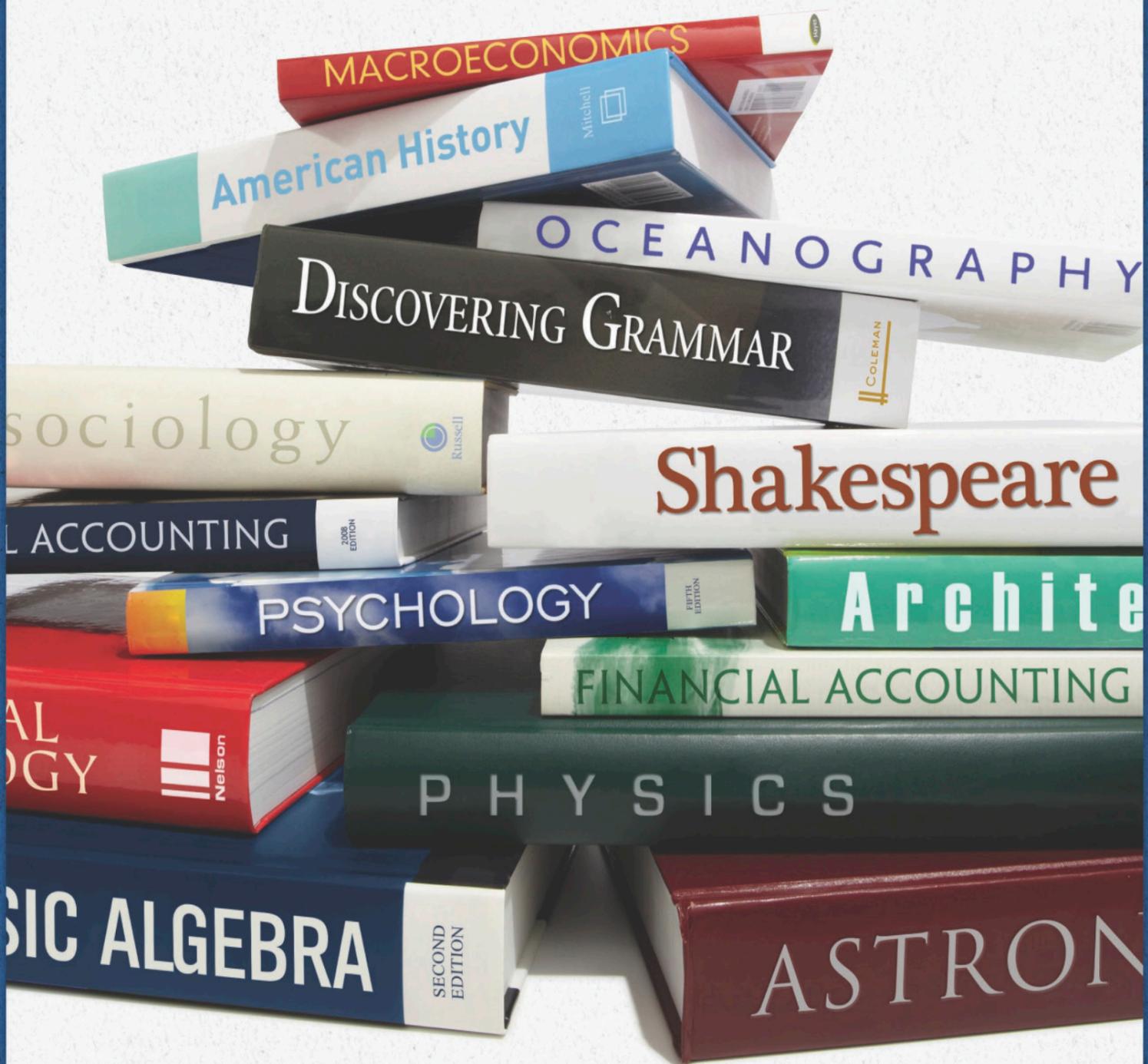
season championship would mark the program's fourth crown in the past six seasons. If the Phoenix is able to sweep the Paladins, the team will set a school record for regular season conference victories with 24.

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Sports



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

In his 10th year on staff, Owens helped transform Elon men's and women's tennis programs to perennial conference contenders. His varying life experiences led to teachable moments on the court.

Bette Midler, Vietnam, NFL: Bob Owens' 'strange' life

Julia Sayers
Staff Photographer

Bob doesn't sleep.

This is just one part of Bob Owens' interesting - or as he prefers "strange" - life. Not many people can say they've had experiences comparable to Owens', the assistant men's and women's tennis coach at Elon University.

Owens' experiences started at a young age. Since his father was in the navy, his family moved around a lot, living in Japan, Alaska and Hawaii. Owens attended Radford High School in Honolulu, the same high school Bette Midler, the famed singer, actress and comedian attended. She was in the grade ahead of Owens.

"I knew Midler and she knew me because I was an athlete," Owens said. "She was very active in the student government and had a nice voice even then. She was in the chorus and did all those musical theater plays."

Owens played both baseball and football in high school, but excelled in football.

"I liked the contact sport, for a teen with all the hormones running it was a good way to release a lot of energy," he said. "I was the oldest of 13 kids so my frustrations of having to take care of them were taken out on the field. I couldn't hit the younger kids but I could hit people in football."

"But you've got a bullet in your back"

Owens was drafted into the military after he finished high school. After boot camp, he tried to outsmart the system by taking extended training in jump school and going with Special Forces to Georgia, but was eventually sent to South Vietnam to fight in the war.

"I kept thinking I could spend my time in the service just going through classes, but that wasn't what happened," Owens said.

While on patrol Oct. 28, 1965, Owens was shot in the stomach. The bullet went in under his navel and out of his back, leaving a part of the bullet still in his back. Owens spent the first few weeks recovering in a field hospital but was then moved to hospitals in the Philippines, Japan and Virginia before finally being discharged to Honolulu.

"All I wanted was someone to make the hurt go away," he said. "It felt like someone was inside me with a settling torch trying to burn their way out."

Five years of headaches

After four years in the military, Owens attended Guilford College in Greensboro. He had been recruited right after high school by the

football coach and was able to get in touch with him again after returning home from the service.

Owens went on to play wide receiver for Guilford in 1968, graduating as a two-time All-American in football. While in college, Owens met his first wife, Katherine Byrd.

After dating for a little while, Owens found out Byrd's uncle was the governor of the state of Georgia and that she was from a very well-off political family. After getting married and divorced three years later, her uncle, Jimmy Carter, ended up becoming President of the United States.

"I found that out after working with Bob for three or four years," said Michael Leonard, men's tennis coach at Elon. "He just threw it in like that's just normal."

While Owens was in graduate school in France, the World Football League was formed, and Owens received two letters from their scouting organizations, one for the Birmingham Americans and one for the Philadelphia Bell. These letters were sent to every college football player who wasn't in the NFL.

Owens signed a free agent contract with the Philadelphia Bell in 1974. The team did well the first two years, even playing in the first round of the playoffs. But, financial

problems came up and the league folded. Many players from the league went on to join the NFL, and the Philadelphia Eagles signed Owens in 1976.

"I had a headache for five years," Owens said. "Nowadays, they yank you out of the game and won't let you back in until your five days free of symptoms. But back then they would give you a whiff of ammonia and send you back in. So the most vivid thing I remember was five years of headaches."

Owens ended his football career in 1979.

"I got tired of the headaches," Owens said. "But the deals were rebuilding and it doesn't take a genius to realize they start drafting certain players so you just call it a career."

A teacher, a coach, a husband

After Owens' football career, he began teaching at public schools in North Carolina. He got certified to be an athletic trainer, as well as receiving his certification in science education. He taught anatomy, physiology and sports medicine for 33 years.

Owens, who started playing tennis in college and is currently a member of the United States Tennis Association, came to Elon in 2000 under Coach Tom Parham, the former men's tennis coach, and started

working with summer camps. When Parham retired and Leonard took over, Owens became assistant coach for the men's tennis team. A few years later, Owens also decided to help out with the women's tennis team. He also teaches the tennis class at Elon.

"The guys are extraordinarily easy to bond with," Owens said. "They're good people, they're easy to get along with and they're very coachable. They're good citizens and hard workers."

No sleep tonight

Because of his experiences in Vietnam, Owens doesn't sleep. He rests, but he doesn't sleep. He stays in the "sleep onset" stage of sleep.

"I hear things. I listen to monotonous noise, like a fan moving, and if something happens that breaks it, I'm instantly aware of it," he said. "And if you ask me something you'll swear I've been awake all night because I talk just like I'm talking now."

It has become second nature to Owens now. He always gets the rest he needs, even when he was playing football.

"If you live long enough, a lot of things are going to happen to you," he said. "It's not something you plan, it's just life constantly doing things that are unusual and strange. Some aren't always good, but it's just the way it is."