



ELON BASEBALL SWEEPS OPENING WEEKEND

Phoenix use pitching, power to start the 2012 season with three straight wins
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DANCING TOWARD HOME

Professor develops close relationships with dance department faculty and students after moving to Elon from Ghana
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THE PENDULUM

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BEN WALDON, Class of 2013

"I plan to increase the transparency of SGA and will utilize Phoenix14 and The Pendulum to inform students about current issues. I will institute an open-door policy for students to walk into the SGA office to discuss their concerns."



DARIEN FLOWERS, Class of 2013

"My campaign is founded by three dominant principles of experience, transparency and relevancy. I plan to be the biggest advocate for Elon students on campus."



RESULTS:
Available on our website Wednesday evening
★ ★ ★

KNOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

The race for the future of Elon's Student Government Association is on. Elections began at 9 a.m. Tuesday and will continue through 5 p.m. Wednesday, with the announcement of results scheduled for 6 p.m. Get to know this year's SGA candidates for the position of executive president and turn to page two for coverage of the other candidates' platforms and what you can expect from your newly-elected officials.



ALICIA JOHNSON, Class of 2013

"I will create a constant two-way feedback system for the senate and all of its constituents. This will give everyone the platform to voice their questions, comments and concerns about their community."



RYAN BUDDEN, Class of 2014

"My first goal for next year is to use my power as president to appoint a wide variety of people to SGA, which will in turn facilitate the flow of ideas from the student body to SGA."

ELECTIONS | PAGE 2

Trustees approve lowest increase in tuition since 2004

Grace Elkus
News Editor

The Elon University Board of Trustees recently approved the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget, which includes an undergraduate tuition increase of 3.99 percent. This increase is the smallest in tuition since the 2004-2005 academic year.

Tuition will total \$28,633 with room, board and fees set at \$9,827 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Finding a balance between improving the quality of Elon's programs and keeping the tuition price low is a top priority when setting the budget, according to Gerald Whittington, vice president of business, finance and technology.

"We are very aware of the national economy and the effects on students and their parents and try to have the least increase we can possibly have," he said.

Elon is consistently named a "Best Value School," and maintaining that reputation is part of The Elon Commitment, Whittington said. The other initiatives outlined in The Elon Commitment will continue to be provided for in the coming year despite such a minimal budget increase.

"The big take-away to me is it's the smallest increase since 2004-2005, but still we were able to provide for all the things in The Elon Commitment Strategic Plan that we needed to do," Whittington said. "I think there are some very exciting and interesting things to come out of that."

The budget will allow for the addition of 12 new full-time faculty positions and 28 new staff positions, continued investment in the Student Professional Development Center, expansion of Elon's study abroad programs, summer programs and domestic study away programs and a 9.5 percent increase in financial aid.

Before the budget is proposed to the Board of Trustees, it is seen and remodeled by a number of committees and faculty members, Whittington said. The process begins in late summer, when Whittington meets with President Leo Lambert and Provost Steven House to discuss the parameters for the upcoming year's budget.

"We want to make sure we moderate any tuition increases we've got as part of our Strategic Plan," Whittington said. "We get sort of a working template for development of the budget."

In the fall, the template is shared with the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee and the Business and Finance Committee. The proposal is ultimately received by the budget committee, which is made up of faculty members, staff members, House, Whittington and Gerry Francis, the executive vice president.

"We start the hard work of figuring out OK, how much revenue are we going to likely see, how much expenses do we have," Whittington said. "Every year, the requested increases are way up here and the revenues are way down here, and you end up having to whittle away until you find the very best ideas."

After two budget forums are held, the proposed budget is sent to Lambert. If approved, the budget moves to the Business and Finance Committee and then to the full Board of Trustees.

"The board takes its role very seriously, so we had a really excellent set of discussions," Whittington said. "There was good questioning about things, so that we're crystal clear about what we meant."

Candidates for new dean, librarian present vision for library

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

The provost's office appointed a committee to select a new dean and university librarian to replace Kate Hickey, who is retiring from her current position. Nevertheless, the selection of the new dean and university librarian has been a university effort, according to Mary Wise, associate vice president of academic affairs and chair of the search committee.

"Because this is really a university position, not just a library position, we wanted to make sure that we heard widely from across the board," Wise said.

The committee went to a variety of university groups to seek input on what they were looking for in a new dean and university librarian before actually advertising and taking applications for the position, she said. The committee spoke to faculty, staff, librarians and members of programs such as the doctor of physical therapy program to find out what qualities and characteristics they would like to see in

the candidates.

"The first thing we look for in a candidate is (how they will assist) with The Elon Commitment," said Shannon Tennant, catalog librarian and member of the search committee. "We wanted someone with vision."

The committee narrowed down the nearly 100 applicants to seven people with whom they recently had video conferences to determine the final three candidates, Wise said. These three candidates were invited to campus to each give a presentation about the challenges and opportunities facing academic libraries in the 21st century and the role an academic library should play in the life of a university.

"Libraries are changing and constantly evolving in terms of technology," Tennant said. "We need somebody to represent the library to the larger community and be a strong advocate for the library on campus. We need somebody who is going to position us for what's here and what's coming."

The three candidates are Gail McClenney, deputy director of the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the

Atlanta University Center, Inc., Joan Ruelle, university librarian at Hollins University in Roanoke, Va. and Hedi BenAicha, director of the library at Rhode Island College.

"They all have very different experiences, and I'm anxious to see how the community values those experiences," Wise said. "They are not just the same qualities in three different packages. They are different packages and that's good."

Candidate presentations continue from Feb. 16-23. All members of the Elon community are allowed to attend.

"Candidates need to help the library serve 21st century students and the whole university because the library serves such a central role in university life for students," said senior Mary Kate Hinshaw, a library intern. "The new dean and university librarian needs to be able to set definitive goals and define where library should go."

Students who have attended candidates' presentations are asked to email Mary Wise at wisemary@elon.edu with their reactions to these presentations.

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SGA Voters' Guide

For more coverage of candidates, results and the voting process, visit ElonPendulum.com.

Executive Officers

Executive Vice President

-  **Liz Burns.**
If elected Vice President, I would make it a priority to strengthen ties between SGA and the student body, and would like to initiate a program offering incentives for students who write passing legislation.
-  **Todd Merriman**
If elected Vice President, I want to make these resources more known and available to students so that students can become more involved with SGA.
-  **Connor O'Donnell**
I want to push for increased student participation in student government happenings through more civic engagement.

Executive Treasurer

-  **Welsford Bishopric**
As Executive Treasurer, I will aim to increase the quality of service to student organizations by streamlining the budget hearing process, heightening the accountability of the Organizational Council and increasing the online presence of the Treasury to ease the flow of funds from SGA to our Student Organizations.

Executive Secretary

-  **Leah Burns**
As Executive Secretary, I will promptly update the minutes from SGA meetings and be in constant contact with the student body and student media about important legislative issues.

Class of 2013

Senior Class President

-  **Neima Abdulahi**
We've come a long way since we first came on this campus back in fall of 2009, and it would be an honor to represent you on our last year of college together.
-  **Molly Shoop**
It is my priority to provide the senior class with as many resources that I can before graduation while enjoying our last year at Elon to the fullest.

Senior Class Vice President

-  **Sam Kahane**
I look forward to working with all of you to make our senior year the best year of our lives.

Senior Class Treasurer

-  **Kevin Beach**
As Treasurer, I am looking forward to collaborating with others to make the budget for the upcoming year. Let's make senior year the best year of our lives as we leave our mark on campus.

Senior Class Secretary

Unfilled

Senior Class Senator

Unfilled

Class of 2014

Junior Class President

- Sean Patterson**
Information not submitted

Junior Class Vice President

- Ally Briggs**
Information not submitted

Junior Class Treasurer

-  **Patrick Brown**
I will represent the Class of 2014 as best I can and be a voice for ideas which members of our class have developed. I will serve as a good representative of my class and make decisions which I believe will improve our Elon experience.

Junior Class Senator

-  **Greg Zitelli**
My No. 1 goal is to make the student body more connected to its student government using social media and a revamped website. Additionally, I'm working to improve pedestrian safety to prevent more accidents like we saw last year.
-  **Lauren Reiman**
As junior Class Senator, I would work to the best of my ability towards the betterment of the class and the Elon community as a whole. I would also make myself open and available to all constituents in hopes of taking their ideas and making them into reality.

Class of 2015

Sophomore Class President

-  **Joe Incorvia**
As your president, I plan to continue to be an avenue of support and information between what is happening around campus and all of you. Elon is about the students, and in the next few years, we will undergo changes that will better our university for years to come.
- Kristopher Jiles**
My goals as sophomore class President are to expand the roles of the class and create an environment where students have a voice on this campus. I want students of the sophomore class to become more unified given our diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.
-  **Vaughn Vreeland**
If elected, I promise to not only uphold the standards and values set by precedent, but I will exceed them and strive toward a better Elon. I plan to be the most passionate and relatable class president you all have ever had the joy of knowing.

Sophomore Class Vice President

- Sarah Paille-Jansa**
Information not submitted

Sophomore Class Treasurer

- Ciera Martinez**
Information not submitted
-  **Joe Duncan**
Using my experience as a Senator, I plan to do everything in mine and SGA's power to develop meal plans that work for the students. Trust my experience and leadership so we can ensure our sophomore year will be a great one.

Sophomore Class Secretary

-  **Elizabeth Ruh**
Our upcoming sophomore year has the potential to be great. Let me help us get there. If voted Treasurer of our class, I will make sure our affairs are in order. I am a hard working and driven individual and will ensure that our class has a voice in SGA.

Sophomore Class Senator

- Lindsey Freeman**
Information not submitted.

Sophomore Class Secretary

-  **Jennifer Lauterbach**
I want students to truly know how hard SGA works and what our organization does. For my specific class, this can be done by more class functions and frequent updates other than just The Pendulum.

Executive positions require 50 percent of the vote plus one.

A run-off election will be held, as necessary, Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the results planned for 6 p.m.

Chapel meant to focus on spirituality, not faith

Truitt Center aims to bridge disconnect between service, students' misunderstanding

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

A violinist's waltz fills Whitley auditorium Thursday morning. Earl Danieley, a weekly attendee, sits in the second row in front of the podium where, in a few moments, a speaker will give a lecture. The speaker steps up to the lectern after the song ends and presents his ideas about the theme for this year's lectures, "Change Makers," meaning people who have changed the speaker or affected others in the world. Afterward, people mill about in the foyer, chatting over donuts and coffee. This is College Chapel.

Although College Chapel is scheduled on Thursdays during the same hours as the weekly tradition of College Coffee, Phil Smith, associate chaplain, said he is aware that College Chapel is not on some students' radar.

"The name sounds Christian," said Gabriel Estes, a sophomore music technology major. "The language in the title is a big part (of why I don't attend). It is not really publicized, and I never really hear about it."

The service draws a crowd of close to 50 students, faculty and staff members each week.

"The purpose of College Chapel is to take a break from the busy and the mundane, and to reflect on our common journeys with others who seek the same," Smith said. "Our goal is to get more students there. That's something we constantly work on, is trying to promote and at least have them aware of where

Chapel is and what Chapel is. Usually if people get there, they appreciate it."

Estes said he has not attended College Chapel during his time at Elon because it does not interest him or cross his mind.

University Chaplain Jan Fuller said the program tries to include a range of diverse speakers from different faiths or even those without a faith. Sometimes the speaker does not mention religion at all, she said.

Nevertheless, students are not aware of the lack of religious emphasis.

"As far as something called 'chapel,' I wouldn't be interested," said sophomore Avery McGaha. "Just by the name, I would assume it's some sort of nondenominational Christian meeting."

McGaha said he already has a spiritual connection through the work he does outdoors for classes, so he feels he does not need to attend College Chapel.

Although the topic does not concern a specific religious denomination, the structure may resemble a religious ceremony, Smith said.

"While I'm sure the structure and framework might feel similar (to a liturgy), we invite speakers to represent a variety of backgrounds and traditions," he said. "And really what they're offering is more of a spiritual reflection and not a sermon or a theological reflection. It's really their story, a personal narrative."

Fuller said she finds that each speaker at College Chapel leaves listeners with a kind of challenge to think, "Could I be like (this) person?" and have the ability to influence or change people and the world.



TONY CAMPOLO | Staff Photographer
Tony Campolo speaks with Lisa Keyne, Executive Director of NC Campus Compact, after his speech about "Change Makers" in society, the theme of this year's College Chapel lectures.

"Each (reflection) is so different from the next one and so wonderful," Fuller said. "Every time I go, I think, now this was the best one, and then I go to the next one."

Evan Heiser, assistant to the vice president of Student Life and dean of students, attends almost every week, and said that while the Truitt Center does a good job of promoting College Chapel by handing out fliers at College Coffee and other Truitt Center-sponsored events, he tried to encourage more people to come by inviting at least one person to College

Chapel every week last semester.

"College Chapel is a recentering, a refocus," he said. "It definitely is a stress-reliever, just going and stopping and thinking and just listening to the students play their music. It's one of those traditions that's unique to Elon where people go when they don't have to. It's worth getting up for."

The university chaplains said they encourage students and faculty to contact the Truitt Center if they have a suggestion for a more comprehensive name for College Chapel.

Breaking the gender binary: Junior leads charge to offer gender-neutral housing

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

As Elon University expands the physical living space on campus, Laura Sturm is looking toward on-campus options, particularly those offering gender-neutral housing.

The junior and vice president of SPECTRUM, Elon's gay-straight alliance, first became involved with the issue as a result of a story that ran in The Pendulum last spring, which included a quote from an administrator inviting a student to take on the initiative. Though she has since lost touch with the staff member and has been working individually for some time, she plans to present a formal proposal to Residence Life and Elon administration this semester.

"It's not necessarily housing that I want to live in, but it's really important to some students," she said. "I think having that sense of

security is really important."

Sturm sent out a survey earlier this month to a little more than 3,000 current students at Elon, the majority of whom live on campus. She has collected about 800 responses and said she plans to wait another week before she begins to analyze her results. Certain trends are evident in student responses to the survey, which includes two open-ended questions with room for student remarks.

Many students have written they think gender-neutral housing is a good option for engaged or married couples wishing to live together on campus. Others have noted they think the option should not be a part of the university's policy because it would create unnecessary drama between couples who prematurely decide to live together and then break up during the year.

"That's sort of a heteronormative thought

"It's a matter of making students feel like they're not trapped in gender binary and they can be accepted for whatever and there are people who identify like them and don't really care who their roommate is."

-Laura Sturm
JUNIOR
VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECTRUM

in my personal opinion because there's the option for homosexual couples to live together and no one says they can't do it," Sturm said. "It's holding a double standard."

The Station at Mill Point, scheduled for completion in August, will offer mixed gender living options for students. The townhouses will include individual rooms and bathrooms for

each of the four students and a common living space in the kitchen and main room.

Ideally, Sturm said students who live in on-campus residence halls should also have the option of gender-neutral housing, including having a roommate without consideration given to gender. Students who don't identify with either gender often find the process of applying for housing difficult, she said.

"They say, 'biologically I should pick this one, but last year I lived with a female but she wasn't understanding of the fact that I don't see myself as a female and that made her uncomfortable and me uncomfortable,'" Sturm said. "It's a matter of making students feel like they're not trapped in gender binary and they can be accepted for whatever and there are people who identify like them and don't really care who their roommate is."

At a time when diversity is a buzzword on Elon's campus,

Sturm said she is trying to challenge the university to provide an actual definition to diversity and realize it involves more than just race.

"I think focusing on this type of housing is a great way for Elon to expand their view of diversity and make students feel included," she said. "There are so many awesome people who, because they don't fit into the labels society creates, they feel so estranged and I just hate the idea that people can't be liked or fit in somewhere because they can't be labeled by something everyone is comfortable with."

And while Sturm realizes not everyone will agree with the idea, she believes it's a cause worth fighting for.

"Even if we only have one gender-neutral housing situation a year, at least it's available for those two people," she said. "It's going to mean such a big difference in their lives and it's going to have such a big effect on them."

Transition to Moodle gathers momentum

Katherine Blunt
Senior Reporter

The complete transition from Blackboard to Moodle is fast approaching. By June of this year, all faculty members and campus organizations are required to have made the switch. About 300 courses are currently active on the new system, which is used by more than half of Elon's faculty, according to Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president for technology.

Although many faculty members now post course information to Moodle, few student-run campus organizations have yet to transition. To aid the transition, training will be available to students who run the websites of campus organizations later this semester, Fulkerson said.

Blackboard costs the university about \$22 per student, while Moodle costs about \$4 per student. The money saved from changing systems will be used to upgrade and expand existing technology on campus, such as software

and computers. The university is currently investing in virtual software applications, which would allow students and faculty members to access software programs outside of a computer lab.

"My budget for software is almost a half million dollars, and costs just keep going up," Fulkerson said. "One of our goals in technology is to try and save the university money. We look for ways that technology can make a department more efficient."

Feedback from faculty members regarding the effectiveness of the new system has been largely positive, Fulkerson said.

Philosophy lecturer Martin Fowler transferred his course information to Moodle during the fall semester and has adjusted to the new system with the help of technology support staff members, he said.

"Moodle is more user-friendly than Blackboard, which required more intermediary steps (when editing information)," Fowler said. "I like

having the ability to give students instant feedback on assignments (through Moodle). I like that I can see the information I add from a student's perspective, too."

Catholic Campus Ministry was one of the first organizations to switch to Moodle, according to Trung Huynh-Duc, business manager of CCM.

"CCM actually made the initial contact to have our information transferred," Huynh-Duc said. "We knew the switch was coming in June, so we wanted to be proactive. I don't believe the switch will affect the information content. The big difference is how all the content is organized. It is not as easy to access certain documents or information."

Huynh-Duc said he recognizes that the capabilities of Moodle and Blackboard are similar, but does not consider Moodle's interface to be as user-friendly.

Phoenix card information will be moved from Blackboard to Moodle on June 1.

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Elon seniors continue mentoring program, have high hopes for future

Kate Riley
Special Projects Editor

Elon University seniors Brett Brawerman and Kendall Adkins have taken over a mentoring program at Elon that provides outlets for young boys to exercise in interesting ways while gaining confidence.

The Coaching Health and Mentoring Positive Students program, or C.H.A.M.P.S., is a program at Elon designed to combat childhood obesity, specifically in boys in fourth and fifth grade, through a series of sessions on hot topics for boys of that age such as peer pressure and nutrition, individual mentoring time and skill acquisition within various sports.

"It was created to expose these kids to sports and topics that they haven't really been exposed to," said Brawerman, head facilitator of the program. "So that when they get to middle schools and competitive sports they can feel more comfortable and at ease, so they can have a higher sense of perceived confidence."

The program is entering its third year after T.J. Douglas, Class of 2010 and member of the varsity men's basketball team at the time, created the program in 2010. Douglas got the idea from a program called Girls

in Motion, similar in structure, focusing more on appearances for young girls and is not as sports-based, said Adkins, assistant facilitator and roommate of four years to Brawerman.

"This program really allows for (the boys) to build relationships with people that they look up to," Adkins said. "For me, I love the one-on-one atmosphere, and as a kid growing up, I would have loved this program."

Adkins said the two facilitators are really striving to develop the one-on-one atmosphere in their program this year. They just finished receiving applications for mentors and hope to pick 25 well-qualified students at Elon, all young men, to be mentors this spring.

Each child will have his own mentor to look up to and confide in, but will also have the chance to interact and play sports with the members of Elon's men's varsity sports teams, Brawerman said. In the past, the group has worked closely with the football, basketball and lacrosse teams.

"Being able to work with the varsity (players) from Elon is really great because they have a connection to feel a part of something bigger," Brawerman said.

In addition to strengthening the

connections between the athletes and the boys, Liz Bailey, lecturer in health and human performance and faculty coordinator for the program, said through the collection of data, there have been other positive impacts as well.

"In survey data we have collected since the program's inception, we have observed a significant increase in self-esteem, some positive changes in level of physical activity and an increase in perceived competence when it comes to a variety of physical activities," Bailey said. "In addition, the boys report really enjoying the program and the parents are very pleased with the program as well. Finally, the college guys seem to really enjoy themselves."

Brawerman said the program especially attracts him because he wants to create some kind of sports-related mentorship and tutoring program in the village in which he is placed when he joins the Peace Corps upon graduation. C.H.A.M.P.S. has been one of his biggest motivations and inspirations while undertaking this project, he said.

"I want people to understand why we are doing this," he said. "It's not just to be involved in something on campus. It's really because we want to make a difference in a boy's life."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH BAILEY
Senior Kendall Adkins helps his mentee during a Goal Setting activity in 2011.

Adkins and Brawerman said they believe this program is something that could benefit other college campuses as well. A manual was created, describing every aspect of the program in case other universities want to adopt the ideas and create a C.H.A.M.P.S. program of their own.

Last summer, Brawerman researched perceived confidence and childhood obesity to better his understanding before taking over the program this year. He will fly to Utah for the National Conference of Undergraduate Research and to the American College of Sports Medicine in San Francisco to present the findings. Brawerman hopes to share the manual with the people he meets to eventually make C.H.A.M.P.S. into a national program.

Phi Beta Kappa resolution challenges university to create global citizens

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Faculty and administrative members of Elon University's Phi Beta Kappa chapter challenged the university to revise the minimum foreign language requirement to better prepare students for a globalized society. They crafted a resolution asking the university to increase the basic requirement, which would communicate the importance of proficiency in a foreign language.

Phi Beta Kappa, an honor society for students who excel in the liberal arts and sciences, emphasizes the importance of knowledge in various backgrounds and disciplines central to the liberal arts and sciences, said Jan Mays, mathematics senior lecturer and chair of the members-and-course committee for Phi Beta Kappa.

Of the five stipulations required for membership, one identifies knowledge of a non-native language at "least minimally appropriate for a liberal education" necessary for eligibility. The four other stipulations call for 99 credit hours in the liberal arts and sciences, an examination of the variety and level of liberal arts and science courses, completion of one course in college-level mathematics and demonstration of good moral character.

"If they single out foreign language in a separate stipulation, then you can see they find this very important," said Helen Walton, mathematics instructor and secretary, treasurer and historian for Phi

Beta Kappa.

Currently, Phi Beta Kappa national foreign language requirements disqualify 32 of the top 98 Elon students that otherwise would be eligible for membership.

"Elon has long felt a need to deepen its foreign language requirement, primarily because we pride ourselves on our study abroad, global citizenship and engaged learning," said Russell Gill, professor of English and president of Phi Beta Kappa. "In order to carry these as far as we should be, we need to be in the national main stream as foreign language requirements."

For eligibility in Elon's chapter, students must complete a 221 course level or place out of it, according to Mays.

Elon's interpretation of the national requirements is a moderate interpretation, said Mays, whose responsibilities include reviewing records and selecting students eligible for Phi Beta Kappa membership.

Strict interpretation would demand completion of a 222 course level, which would require students to take four more credit hours in the foreign language department, Gill said.

"When we were granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, they looked at the requirements for students and that was one of the weaknesses," Mays said. "There was a concern that we had lower foreign language requirements, and one of the concerns we have as Phi Beta Kappa faculty is that we are not moving forward."

Elon's foreign language requirement

"When we were granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, there was a concern that we had lower foreign language requirements, and one of the concerns we have as Phi Beta Kappa faculty is that we are not moving forward."

-Jan Mays

CHAIR OF THE MEMBERS-AND-COURSE COMMITTEE FOR PHI BETA KAPPA

for graduation does not equal the level necessary for Phi Beta Kappa membership. Students are often unaware of this discrepancy, according to Gill, and as a result about one-third of students who otherwise qualified for membership failed to meet the organization's foreign language requirement.

"The school has lulled you into thinking that lower level foreign language is sufficient," Gill said.

Following a strict interpretation of the national guidelines would currently eliminate half of the 98 students otherwise eligible.

Contrastingly, increasing the graduation requirements would enable all students to meet the Phi Beta Kappa foreign language requirement as well, allowing the faculty and administrative

members of Phi Beta Kappa to recognize the achievements of a larger number of students, Mays said.

Foreign language faculty members at Elon have indicated a significant difference between the understanding of students at the 221 level versus students at the 222 level, Mays said, where students at the higher level are more conversant.

"We feel (the current graduation requirements) makes them less competitive," Mays said. "If they have less exposure to foreign languages they are not going to be as competitive as other students."

Those aware of Phi Beta Kappa's requirements have expressed a willingness to meet the higher standard, Mays said.

Nevertheless, the resolution calls for more than solely increasing the minimum requirement, but also strengthening the courses in the foreign language curriculum, Gill said.

"It would be wonderful that in addition to strengthening the minimum requirement, they can put higher acquisition on upper level language courses," he said.

Strengthening the foreign language requirement would contribute to the university's mission statement to graduate global citizens, Mays said.

"We do think that (the administration) is doing things to globalize the university, but this is a glaring omission," Walton said.

Completed Ever Elon campaign creates scholarships, funds construction

Kristen Olsen
Senior Reporter

Ever Elon campaign is completed, but its impact is still growing.

After five and a half years, the Ever Elon campaign ended with a total of \$107,333,426 and has begun in the final stages of its construction with the recent building of the new Multi-Faith Center, the Numen-Lumen Pavilion.

"It is not about the money, but what the money does for us," said Jim Piatt, vice president for university advancement.

With these earnings, the campaign members plan on using the money to provide scholarships, support engaged learning and help develop the campus. Much of the campaign was focused on receiving endowment to help the finance the building of Lindner Hall and the Numen Lumen Multi-Faith Center, which is estimated to be completed in early 2013. The total amount earned from endowments was about half of the funds collected. The completion of Academic Village cost a total of \$4 million and the Multi-Faith Center will be \$2.16 million.

Piatt oversaw all the operations of the campaign and worked closely with

President Leo Lambert and the Board of Trustees.

The Ever Elon campaign aimed to raise \$100 million by the end of 2011. The initial phases began June 1, 2006, but the actual launch was not publicized until Oct. 11, 2008. The campaign earned its money by encouraging alumni, parents, faculty and staff and friends to donate.

Chuck Davis, assistant vice president for university advancement, was in charge of the campaign, the largest in university history.

"The focus was building university endowment while promoting excellence," Davis said.

The majority of Ever Elon stayed on track with its plan from the beginning, but through the course of the campaign, numerous projects were added, such as the new golf course center, the new Student Professional Development Center in Moseley Center and the renovation of Alumni Gym, he said.

"Elon is always a growing and changing and aspiring place," Davis said.

The results of the campaign also enabled the development of new scholarships, specifically more for need-based financial aid and study

abroad. A little more than one-quarter of the total has been set aside for both need based and merit scholarships, and \$2,356,558 has been donated for international study scholarships. More than 240 new scholarships were created with the money donated to the campaign.

Piatt said he believes most people don't realize how much of the campaign contributes to scholarships.

"It really makes a difference to those students," he said.

Davis spent much of the campaign talking with people and donors about planned gifts and annual funding, such as estate plans and donations in their wills. Nevertheless, students were at the heart of the campaign, he said.

"Student support was the lion's head of the campaign" said Davis. "Students' needs will never go away."

While this campaign will be used to



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
The Ever Elon campaign ended with a total of \$107,333,426. About one-half of the money is contributed to construction and a little more than one-quarter is put toward developing scholarships.

advance the university, Davis knows that the need for endowment and donations will never be finished.

"We are continuing to create an environment of excellence," said Piatt. "Students want and deserve excellence."

All of the projects initially planned in the beginning of the campaign are currently completed or in development.



Activist Jen Jones starts the chant: "What are we gonna do?" "Vote against!" "When are we gonna do it?" "May 8!" at Elon's Race to the Ballot event, urging students to register to vote.

Students raise their voice against NC amendment during Race to the Ballot

Katherine Blunt
Senior Reporter

United, they pledged to vote in opposition.

Elon University students and community members registered and vowed to vote against Amendment One during Race to the Ballot, an event dedicated to educating voters about a controversial state legislation, Feb. 15 in McKinnon Hall. Nine campus organizations, including SPECTRUM, the LGBTQ office and Better Together, welcomed a team of activists from the Coalition to Protect North Carolina Families dedicated to educating North Carolinians about the consequences of the proposed amendment, which, if passed, would recognize only the legal union of one man and one woman as constitutional within the state. The amendment will appear on the state ballot May 8.

The coalition is comprised of more than 75 statewide organizations united against the amendment, which would invalidate all unmarried partnerships and civil unions, both heterosexual and homosexual.

All four of Elon's a cappella groups performed while individuals circulated around the room, collecting information about the amendment. More than 140 people registered to vote and signed pledges

to "Vote Against."

"Better Together wanted to sponsor Race to the Ballot because we are an interfaith organization at Elon, but that does not limit us to just religious backgrounds and philosophical backgrounds," said Mason Sklut, co-president of Better Together. "One of the key things that we like people to focus on is having mutually respectful relationships between different groups."

Voter registration began in Moseley Center the morning of Feb. 15 and remained open throughout the evening of information and entertainment. Representatives of university organizations that sponsored the event promoted awareness and social equality while the Race to the Ballot team members continued to register voters and collect pledges to vote against the amendment.

In an on-stage presentation at the start of the event, Jen Jones, communications director of the Coalition to Protect North Carolina Families, explained that Amendment One would directly affect not only the rights of gays, but the rights of women, families and senior citizens as well. The passage of the amendment could complicate the legality and enforcement of child custody rulings, domestic violence



Twisted Measure, an Elon co-ed a cappella group, sang at Race to the Ballot Feb. 15.

claims and the wills and trusts of the deceased, Jones said.

"The issue that we're trying to tackle is one of the most important things facing our state in modern times," said Cameron Williams, member of Quality North Carolina, a Greensboro-based advocacy group for gay rights. "If we pass this amendment, it will be darn near impossible to reverse. I don't think we should take that kind of risk."

The Race to the Ballot team began its journey across North Carolina in January and will continue traveling until early March. The group has scheduled events at 26 college campuses, towns and cities, from Asheville to Wilmington.

The Race to the Ballot movement is part one of a three-part effort to

raise awareness and ultimately foster solidarity against the passage of Amendment One. The second part of the movement will commence next month by providing college students with information to share with friends and family over spring break and the effort will culminate in a collective march to the polls on April 19, when the early voting period begins.

Jones encouraged students to vote early because the voting period in May coincides with finals and graduation.

"We really believe that early voting is going to be pivotal to defeating this discriminatory measure come May 8," Jones said. "(The march to the polls) is a huge part of Race to the Ballot. The first people who get there win."

French club celebrates Mardi Gras for a cause

Adriana Miano
Senior Reporter

This year, the French Club will celebrate Mardi Gras with festivities for a cause close to its members' hearts.

Mardi Gras, which is closely associated with the French holiday Carnival, is an important time to call attention to those in need, according to Christie Goyette, French Club publicity chair.

"The holiday is a good

time to raise awareness of causes such as the Avalon Refugee Center because (the celebration) is often very extravagant, which is a sharp contrast to the way the people at Avalon live," Goyette said.

Since it was founded in February 2009, the Avalon Community Center has provided a home for hundreds of international refugees. Still, the families housed at Avalon live in poverty and the children

don't always have access to a quality education.

In response to the needs of the refugees at Avalon, the French Club has become involved in volunteer work to benefit the center. Club members frequently visit the children to socialize with them and to provide tutoring.

"Since we've gotten so involved with the center and personally know so many of the people who live there, we felt that it would be fitting to

donate the proceeds from our Mardi Gras party to benefit (them)," Goyette said.

Raising funds for Avalon is a great way to get students to think globally and act locally, said Sarah Glasco, assistant professor of foreign languages and faculty adviser to the French Club.

"We have taken on Avalon as our home charity so that we can make an impact here, one that students can see with their own eyes," Glasco said.

To raise money for Avalon, the French Club will charge a \$5 entry fee for the Mardi Gras benefit. Festivities will include New Orleans-inspired gumbo, cookie decorating and prizes throughout the night.

The Mardi Gras benefit

When: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21

Where: Carlton Kitchen

Why: Funds raised will be donated to the refugees at the Avalon Community Center.

Choosing a major based on happiness, not price

Erin Valentine
Reporter

In today's world, college degrees are the way to add more figures to a salary. According to a recent study by Georgetown University, majors that have higher earnings are gaining popularity. But students at Elon University are still choosing the majors that interest their curiosity.

Students' choice of field of study represents their interests, although financial concerns are still evident.

"I feel all students have these fears,"

said freshman Devon Gailey, a media arts and entertainment major. "I decided to pick an unprofitable major. However, it's something I find myself to be passionate about. I wouldn't change my major. Even

Top Majors at Elon University

- Strategic communications
- Psychology
- Media arts and entertainment
- Finance and marketing

Information courtesy of Mary Wise, associate vice president of academic affairs

if it's not as prosperous as I'd want it to be, I'll still be proud of what I do."

In choosing her minor, though, Gailey said she is looking toward a subject that could possibly bring her more revenue and more opportunities in the future.

"Chinese would be an idea because it's a language often used in the business world, and since business is in general more lucrative than film, I could use my knowledge of Chinese to open up a lot of new opportunities for myself," Gailey said.

Regardless of the major, internships enhance a student's marketability,

according to USA Today Educate. The survey also said that graduate degrees can add to yearly earnings in any career, as long as the difference between that and the cost of graduate school even out.

To Elon freshman Josh Kaufmann, money does not factor into his decision to major in psychology, he said.

"Money has been one of the last things to motivate me," Kaufmann said. "I want to be well off enough to have my basic needs met, but I've always lived by staying true to myself. I honestly just want to be happy, and money won't make me happy."

Multiple organizations contribute to Black History Month celebration

Grace Elkus
News Editor

Throughout the month of February, Elon students have participated in a new series of programming inspired by Black History Month. The events were put together by a variety of departments to increase awareness and celebrate the achievements of African Americans.

Although small pockets of organizations and offices have celebrated the month in years past, there has never been a comprehensive set of events devoted to the black history theme, according to Prudence Layne, associate professor of English and creator of the Black History Month Steering Committee. The committee, made up of representatives from key offices around campus and from Elon University School of Law, met throughout the fall to create a theme for the month and a list of goals to accomplish.

The theme they decided on was "black history is everyone's history."

"Black History month is not just a celebration by African-Americans or blacks for black people," Layne said. "It is a part of American history and world history, and it is an invitation for the entire campus community to celebrate the achievements of blacks, not just on this campus but in the country and in the rest of the world."

Planning of the Black History Month initiative was assigned to African and

African-American Studies by Brooke Barnett, the president's faculty fellow for diversity and global engagement. Because there was no separate budget designated to the month's programming, AAASE has supplemented it with their own regular operating budget and other organizations and sponsors have contributed out of their own funding.

The Truitt Center for Spiritual and Religious Life brought in speakers for College Chapel, AAASE sponsored an African-American Read-In Day and Book Sale, Elon's Black Alumni Network held a faculty, staff and alumni mixer and Wall of Famers reception and SUB and SUBLive organized midnight poetry slams, film screenings and live performers.

"Because we have our normal programming that we do, it was how can we work what we already do into the themes that we decided on for Black History Month," said Robert Dunlap, assistant director of student activities and member of the steering committee.

Although Layne has been pleased with the turnout so far, she said she hopes to see more diverse participation at the upcoming events. She said she particularly would like to see more people partake in the Get on the Black Church Bus series, which allows students, faculty and staff to attend a worship service at a featured church.

"I wish I could see more of our white students at our programming," she said. "We wish that more of our

students who have been curious why, for example, Sundays have been called the most segregated day in the United States would just come and see what happens in some of those churches."

The programming has received positive feedback from parents, especially of black students, and from alumni, Layne said.

"(The alumni) are really excited to see this really big push and the presence and the programming, even if they haven't been able to come," she said.

When the month concludes, the steering committee will meet for a debriefing session to discuss the success of the month and begin planning and assembling the new committee for next year.

"There are plans to, as soon as we're done, assess how everything went, how we can do better and how we can continue to provide experience to enhance the cultural experience for everyone at Elon," Dunlap said.

AAASE is not the only department devoted to increasing awareness through a month of events. Women and Gender Studies is coordinating women's history month, El Centro is coordinating Hispanic heritage month and LGBTQ is coordinating a series of events as well, Layne said.

"There is a greater emphasis on making sure the university acknowledges and celebrates in a really tangible way a lot of the different

diverse populations that we have represented on campus," she said.

Upcoming Black History Month events:

Thursday, Feb. 23:

West African Dance Perspectives
4-5 p.m., Yeager Hall

Intersections: A Conversation About Race, Sexuality and Religion
4:30-5:30 p.m., Belk Library

Sunday, Feb. 26

Get on the Black Church Bus: Fourth Sunday
Departs from Moseley 9:15 a.m., returns at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

"Stomp the Quad:" National Pan-Hellenic step show
9:40-10:20 a.m., McKinnon Hall

Black History Month Lunch
11-2 p.m., Elon Dining Halls

Exemption from No Child Left Behind changes authority, not function

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

The end of a law does not equal the end of a practice.

Eleven states have submitted a waiver for exemption from No Child Left Behind, as part of President Barack Obama's proposed return to Elementary and Secondary Education Act, in turn, ending the current policy. Nevertheless schools are still striving to incorporate the same values expressed in the current law. Elon University's education curriculum continues to emphasize the values detailed in No Child Left Behind, said David Cooper, Dean of the School of Education.

The Bush administration designed No Child Left Behind so all demographic groups would be able to succeed, Cooper said.

"At Elon, the education faculty has been offering for some time now a curriculum for teacher candidates that places an emphasis on equality and excellence,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Barack Obama recently reformed the No Child Left Behind Act.

stressing culturally responsive pedagogy and differentiation to meet individual student needs," Cooper said. "Elon's programs are entirely consistent with the emphasis in NCLB."

States still demonstrate student progress and equality, but the end of the law provides states with more autonomy regarding distribution of funds, according to Adam Short, lecturer

of political science at Elon University.

The debate questions the role of the federal government in education, more than the role of education for each student, he said.

"The federal role in education has been augmented since No Child Left Behind," Short said. "It is mostly the purview of state and local government. There is still a lot of policy and decision making that happens at the state level, but the federal government has taken a bigger role."

The proposal developed from a realization that most states would not achieve the necessary progress required of No Child Left Behind by the 2014 deadline, which would result in a financial punishment. Of the 11 states that submitted the waiver, 10 have been approved. Although North Carolina did not participate in the first round of waivers, it is expected that the state will submit a waiver Feb. 28 during the second round, Short said.

"In order to obtain the waiver, states

must demonstrate strict adherence to a number of accountability measures that are designed to assure that students are receiving school experiences of high quality," Cooper said. "The waiver does not come with permission to relax."

Previous state education policies and grant money received from Race to the Top, a federal fund dedicated to award states that have demonstrated improved education conditions, and have enabled North Carolina to make improvements expected for the waiver process, he said.

The waiver process facilitates the end of No Child Left Behind without requiring the divided Congress to vote the law forward, Short said.

"(The president) is acting on his own, but acting within the powers given to him by Congress," he said.

Nevertheless, Short said he does not predict modification of the education law will severely influence the upcoming presidential election.

"Education is always going to be a bigger deal at the state level," he said.

Elon students express opposition to drilling plans in NC

Ian Luther
Reporter

North Carolina legislators are considering a bill that would allow companies to drill for natural gas in the state, despite decades of laws to the contrary. Elon environmental studies students are aiming to increase awareness about what they understand to be a dangerous plan.

"The failures of all the energy crises are unfolding into our laps," said junior Keegan Johnson. "There is time still to mediate the problems, but it starts with our generation. All we have to do is get out there and make it happen."

Johnson is leading the charge against legalization, and he's starting with the area around Elon.

The southern portion of the state contains billions of cubic feet of natural gas that are trapped underground by several thousand feet of shale.

Currently, there is no legal means to extract this gas, but that may change this May.

North Carolina legislators are planning to vote to legalize hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the process of drilling and injecting millions of gallons of water and chemicals into the ground to shatter the shale that lies between the surface and potentially vast natural gas reserves.

This process is currently outlawed in North Carolina, but the Energy Jobs Act, Bill 709, is scheduled to go through the General Assembly May 8. If this bill passes, companies will be able to use

hydraulic fracturing on North Carolina land for the first time in state history.

"I want the surrounding communities to be informed of this cause," Johnson said. "Knowledge of the implications from natural gas will help North Carolina citizens make smart and educated decisions on this issue."

Johnson is not the only opponent of drilling. Fracking is an extremely resource-intensive process, requiring anywhere between one and 10 million gallons of water, an intricate network of service roads and 400 tanker trucks to carry supplies to and from the drill site, according to Johnson.

Junior Lauren Hoerr, an environmental studies major, is also aiming to increase awareness of the issue. She said she agrees that drilling isn't worth the damage it does.

"It's so much more energy-intensive than what you get in the end," she said. "There are just so many factors in terms of toxic chemicals, or known carcinogens, or polluting the water."

While the Safe Drinking Water Act of 2005 currently protects the use of chemicals used in the process, the substances used in fracturing fluids are entirely unregulated and often contain carcinogens and pollutants like radium, formaldehyde and even uranium. According to a 2011 study by the Environmental Protection Agency, these chemicals often seep into ground water reservoirs and contaminate drinking water supplies for entire communities.

Johnson's group is still small, but they're attempting to bring the issue to

the attention of Elon students.

"As of now, we're working to connect with Res Life and SUB to incorporate the documentary 'Gaslands' into an event," Johnson said. "We are also in the midst of (using) social media to promote and connect to other organizations around the state."

The group is also trying to bring Josh Fox, the director of "Gaslands," to Elon. Fox was arrested earlier this month for

attempting to videotape Congressional proceedings during a subcommittee meeting on fracking.

Above all, Johnson said his main concern is informing Elon students of the issue.

"Awareness is the biggest issue at this point," Johnson said. "Knowledge of the implications of natural gas will help North Carolina citizens make smart and educated decisions on this issue."

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Residence Life announced The Station at Mill Point will cost \$634 per month, matching the price of The Oaks. It will have 320 beds, which accommodates more than half of the juniors and seniors currently living on campus, according to an email from Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Convenience drives student housing choice

Natalie Allison
Managing Editor

Sophomores and juniors attempting to squat their current on-campus apartments may be relocated to the Station at Mill Point during phase one and two of housing selection beginning this week.

Though the \$634 monthly rent matches that of The Oaks, The Station at Mill Point will feature four-bedroom, four-bathroom apartments and have a clubhouse, pool and fitness area onsite. Students living at the Station during the 2012-2013 academic year will only sign nine-month leases, as construction will not be complete until August. Currently, lease terms for The Oaks are 11.5 and 12 months.

"We don't want to make cost a deciding factor for students," said Smith Jackson, vice president and

dean of Student Life. "We're trying to equalize the cost of housing the best we can."

Junior Taryn Tonelli, a music theater major, has lived in The Oaks since the beginning of her sophomore year. In order to keep the lease for her current apartment, Tonelli found a sub-letter when she studied abroad for a semester.

"Had I known we wouldn't be able to live here next year, I wouldn't have found a sub-letter before," Tonelli said.

Tonelli's roommate, junior Kaila Merrill, is also a music theater major and said the two prefer living in The Oaks because of its proximity to McCrary.

"We can wake up at 7:40 in the morning for our 8 a.m. class," Merrill said.

Junior Alicia Varcoe said she plans to move to the Station at Mill Point next year for its style of housing and

amenities, but knows other students may be inconvenienced having to relocate from current on-campus apartments.

Jackson said he thinks there are plenty of rising juniors and seniors who are looking forward to having the new housing option.

"What I've heard is a lot of excitement," he said. "The main sentiment has been, 'Will I be able to get into the Station?'"

The Station at Mill Point will have 320 beds, which accommodates more than half of the juniors and seniors currently living on campus, according to an email Jackson sent out to current sophomores and juniors.

The email stated that, as speculated, not all students will be able to keep their current on-campus apartments, but Residence Life will try to fulfill as many requests as possible.

Honorary alumni receive first school-specific award

Hannah DeLaCourt
Senior Reporter

Elon University has presented its alumni awards for years, but starting this year, each school or college can now honor its respective distinguished alumni.

Elon alumni Jo Craven McGinty, Class of 1985 and Doug Finberg, Class of 1994, were chosen as the inaugural recipients of the School of Communications Distinguished Alumni Award. McGinty is a projects editor at The New York Times, and Finberg is the executive vice president of marketing for MGM Studios in Los Angeles.

"Our school has terrific alumni who spread the name of Elon all over the world and who help current students secure internships and begin careers," said Paul Parsons, Dean of the School of Communications. "We appreciate our alumni, and we want to start recognizing those who are doing great things."

McGinty won a Pulitzer Prize for a story she proposed about police shootings when she worked at The Washington Post. She has also contributed to another Pulitzer Prize-winning team at The New York Times.

"It was great that they put a team together to pursue a story I had proposed, and it was exciting because it was the biggest project I had worked on," she said. "It was the first Public Service Pulitzer the Post had won since Watergate."

McGinty found out she would receive this award a few weeks ago, and she said she was both surprised and pleased.

"I haven't really communicated with Elon in a while and it was just nice to hear from them and an honor for this reason," she said.

Finberg has maintained communication with the university and delivered Elon's commencement address in 2008 when he was senior vice president for international marketing at Paramount Pictures.

Parsons invited nominations from the Awards Committee, composed of faculty members from the School of Communications. The School will present McGinty and Finberg with the award in April.

Elon alumna brings home international experience through film

Hannah DeLaCourt
Senior Reporter

When Brynne Miller first stepped foot in Argentina, she found a story worth sharing. Miller, a 2010 Elon alumna of Elon University's first interactive media graduate class, used her experience abroad to inspire her film "Las Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo and The Search for Identity," which was shown Tuesday. The film received an Indy from the Indy Film Festival for an award of excellence, identifying the film as one of the top 18 films internationally.

The film illustrates the period of military dictatorship in Argentina, known as The Dirty War, during which time approximately 10,000 people disappeared after being supposedly abducted by the new regime. Currently, grandmothers (las abuelas) march in La Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina to fight for their right to reunite with their abducted grandchildren.

Miller, the director of Creative Productions and one of the producers of the movie, began filming in 2009 when she traveled to Argentina with her family. Her father is a Fulbright scholar and a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He traveled to Argentina in 2002 and encountered Argentinean broadcasting students producing stories on The Dirty War.

When Miller and family arrived in Argentina, Miller said they decided to do a few short stories as well, but when they came back to the states, they realized they had too much to tell for a few short news pieces.

"We just fell in love with this story and so we decided to write a documentary," she said. "I had always loved longform storytelling, so this story allowed me

"The story just spoke to us as a college-age person to find out that your whole life has been a lie."

-Brynne Miller
DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE PRODUCTIONS

to do that and we got to work on it as a family."

Miller said the goal of the film is education. After traveling to Argentina, the dictatorial years became a topic her whole family became very educated about, but it was not something they knew much about before traveling to Argentina.

The story especially interested her and her sister because they are close in age to many of the people currently discovering that they were abducted when they were younger, she said.

"This story just spoke to us as a college-age person to find out that your whole life has been a lie," Miller said. "The film is about how it feels to find out that not only are your parents not your real parents, but that they also had something to do with the murder of your real parents."

The story is told mainly through the eyes of Miller and her sister, making the documentary even more special to her, she said. It shows the importance of young people understanding and fighting for human rights and being in tune with world events and how they affect people, she said.

"We interviewed five of the (abducted) grandchildren," Miller said. "It's supposed to be their story. It's basically the story about human identity."

Of the 500 children that were

supposedly abducted, 105 have been found, with the last being discovered in August of last year.

The world premiere of the documentary was Jan. 17 at UNC-Chapel Hill, Miller's undergraduate alma mater where 425 people were in attendance.

She said they are using colleges and universities as their main platform for sharing this story.

"We have 90 screenings across the

country planned for this semester," Miller said. "We have been amazed and floored by colleges and universities we have contacted or some that have even contacted us."

Miller and her family attend as many of the showings as they can and stay afterward for a question and answer session as they did for Elon's showing. For those they cannot attend, they



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NEWS BRIEFS

Elon honors Dalton McMichael, Sr. during Founders' Day 2012

Elon University will honor Dalton McMichael, Sr. as part of a series of events associated with Founders' Day 2012 in March. McMichael Science Center was named in his honor after McMichael donated \$3 million to the university in 1997, the largest single gift made in the school's history.

McMichael has made a series of contributions to the university, including support for Rhodes Stadium, the Frank S. Holt, Jr. Professorship and the Kresge Endowed Science Fund. He also committed \$2 million in 2009 toward three full-tuition scholarships annually at the Elon University School of Law, which awards students with high academic abilities and significant life or educational leadership experience.

McMichael graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but his daughter, Gail M. Lane, is currently an Elon trustee, and three grandsons attended Elon University.

McMichael built his own textile empire and founded numerous textile industries, including Madison Throwing Company, Mayo Yarns and Dan Valley Yarns.

Founders' Day activities include a special College Coffee and tree-planting in McMichael's honor and a week-long trivia contest on E-net.

North Carolina Campus Compact presents first award named for President Lambert

North Carolina Campus Compact created an award in honor of President Leo Lambert. The inaugural award was given to Linda Brady, chancellor of UNC-Greensboro.

The Leo M. Lambert Engaged Leader Award recognizes Lambert for his efforts to graduate civically-engaged students. Each year, the award will be given to a North Carolina college president or chancellor committed to developing engagement influential to the community and campus.

As part of Lambert's efforts in sustainability, he has contributed to the creation of a statewide Compact, served as the founding board chair and hosted the Compact on Elon's campus.

North Carolina Campus Compact establishes relationships among public, independent and community colleges and universities and communicate to students their civic responsibilities.

POWERless Energy Competition began at College Coffee Feb. 21

Elon University's POWERless Energy Competition challenges on-campus residents to reduce their electricity use over three weeks. The annual competition began Tuesday, Feb. 21 and lasts until March 13.

Participation in the competition raises awareness of energy consumption. There was a 16 percent cumulative energy reduction for the residential buildings in last fall's contest.

More than 40 residence halls in the seven different residential areas will participate. The residents of the building with the largest reduction in energy consumption receive a sustainable POWERless T-shirt, and the top residential area in each division will be added to the trophy, currently in Moseley Center.

Elon student leaders gather for monthly leadership event

Leadership for Lunch, a monthly event, welcomes students from various campus organizations to improve leadership skills. February's leadership topic is titled "Boosting creativity in your organization." The event includes a discussion about incorporating creativity into organizations and a free lunch.

Michelle Kusel, assistant director for the Center for Leadership, will lead the discussion. Leadership for Lunch will take place at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 22 in Moseley 215.

Learning Community uses love of literature to give to charity

Ben Donahue
Senior Reporter

People and food were abundant in the Isabella Cannon Room located in Center for the Arts in celebration of Elon's sixth annual Will Read for Food fundraiser. The arts and letters learning community organized the event, which took place on Feb. 15, to provide an outlet for people to read literature they are passionate about and donate food to the Alamance County Food Bank. A donation of a can of food was required for participation.

"It's really cool because people will just read whatever they want," said sophomore Maddie Magnusson, a current member of the arts and letters learning community.

Magnusson and another learning community resident, sophomore Tori Walker, conducted the event with help of their faculty adviser Tita Ramirez, associate professor of English.

"We actually had to go into the back room for more chairs," Ramirez said. "I love it when that happens."

The crowd of approximately 50 people covered the back table with canned goods.

Seven students and two faculty members read a broad variety of literary works to the attendees.

Sophomore Will Stirn read a poem titled "Written on the Back of an Envelope in 1980," freshman Yasmine

Arrington shared experiential poems she had written in the 9th grade and senior Alexa Johnson's piece linked the mathematical impossibility of eating at McDonald's to the essential life processes.

Claudine Moreau,

sophomores Tori Walker (left) and Maddie Magnusson, members of the arts and letters learning community, coordinated the Will Read for Food fundraiser.

lecturer of physics, told the room that she was glad to share her inner poet and read an original work inspired by an ex-boyfriend. David Banks, a sophomore English major, said he had been referred to the event by his creative writing professor and was interested to hear him speak at the event. Will Read for Food is the longest running arts and letters event, according to Ramirez. She described the growth of the learning community from "a few rooms back in (the recently demolished) Chandler back in 2005, to having two separate locations — a



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

Sophomores Tori Walker (left) and Maddie Magnusson, members of the arts and letters learning community, coordinated the Will Read for Food fundraiser.

group of rooms in Staley for the first years and the 15-person Trollinger House."

A consistent number of unofficial members also contribute to the learning community's events, she said. These unofficial members are either former members who have moved off campus or people who never lived in a learning community, but still come and support the group.

The learning community also sponsors open-mic nights during the first Thursday of every month in Trollinger House at 8 p.m.

Bald beauty queen shares insight into overcoming insecurity

Ben Donahue
Senior Reporter

Sandra Dubose-Gibson, Mrs. Black North Carolina 2011, shared her experience living with alopecia universalis and emphasized the importance of inner beauty Feb. 16 in Whitley Auditorium as part of Elon University's celebration of Black History Month.

Dubose-Gibson, a singer, songwriter, motivational speaker and mother, spoke about her struggles with the autoimmune disease, which resulted in complete hair loss. She said she became conscious of the disease after encountering a minor bald spot, something she was never aware of until it got worse at age 25.

The initial realization of the disease was a struggle, she said.

"It is a tough thing to go to the doctor and find there is no cure," she said.

Dubose-Gibson said her initial

awareness of autoimmune diseases came after her father was diagnosed with lupus, a disease that results in inflammation and tissue damage as the immune system attacks the body's cells and tissue. He passed away due to the disease.

Although she described being self-conscious in public as a result of the hair loss, Dubose-Gibson said she learned to accept living with disease. She introduced new rituals into her daily life, such as painting on eyebrows or taking different medicines with harsh side effects. Embracing her new, hairless self was a strong choice that changed her life for the better, Dubose-Gibson said.

"It was a decision," she said. "If I'm going to do it, then I'm just going to do it. I've got to be happy."

After overcoming her own struggles with self-image, Dubose-Gibson said she wanted to use her confidence as a platform to help other women build self-

esteem. She founded an alopecia support group and produced a documentary of her journey to self-acceptance featuring her closest friends, a group she refers to as the "link sister circle." Dubose-Gibson's documentary, titled Project Liberation, also has an original soundtrack that she wrote and recorded.

Dubose-Gibson is the first bald beauty queen of North Carolina. She attributes her success in the 2011 competition to her ability to gain self-confidence despite her disease, and said her bolstered self-esteem has led her to embrace her passions and make bolder choices in life. Whether it was becoming an actress, radio host, motivational speaker or beauty queen, learning the universal lesson of acceptance enabled Dubose-Gibson to lead a busy and exciting life, she said.

"The very thing that had me crying in the bathroom every morning is the same thing that gave me my platform," she said.

Dubose-Gibson recited her favorite poem called "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou, a black poet and alumna of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Elon University's own chapter of the sorority sponsored the event. Sophomore Raven Bennett, president of the chapter, introduced Dubose-Gibson at the beginning of the event.

Dubose-Gibson concluded with an original song titled "I'm Beautiful," which describes overcoming her insecurities about her physical appearance.

The bald beauty queen told the audience members that it is important to share their experiences.

"As you learn, you teach," Dubose-Gibson said.

She said she hopes her two children see the importance of a positive self-image.

"It's going to mean so much to my children to see their mother standing up next to all these tall women," she said. "But I can teach my children that I was a queen before the sash and crown."



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

Sandra Dubose-Gibson delivered a performance through poetry, motivational speaking and song at Embrace the Beauty in You, an event coordinated in celebration of Black History Month.

Feb. 22 - Feb. 28**Feb. 22**

- Marine biologist to speak on sustainability: 7 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre
- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus: 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

Feb. 23

- Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World: 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre
- Senior Dance Thesis Concert: 6:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre

Feb. 24

- Intersect: Diversity and leadership conference: 2 p.m.
- Senior Dance Thesis Concert: 6:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre

Feb. 25

- Intersect: Diversity and leadership conference: 9 a.m.
- Senior Dance Thesis Concert: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Black Box Theatre

Feb. 26**Feb. 27**

- Belarus Free Theatre: 4 p.m., Yeager Recital Hall

Feb. 28

- The National Players perform Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew": 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre
- How to Work a Career Fair: 4:15 p.m., Moseley 140

Feb. 29

- David Blanchflower to discuss financial future: 5:30 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre
- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus: 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

International

Students experience Brazilian music, culture

Rebecca Cummings
International Reporter

MANAUS, BRAZIL — Semester at Sea students, which includes Elon students, discovered that music is universal when they attended Teatro Amazonas' free weekly orchestral concert earlier this month. Amazonas Filarmonica is a professional orchestra, founded in 1997, to promote the arts in Manaus.

Housed in the beautiful and historic Teatro Amazonas (Amazonas Theatre), which dates back to 1896, the Amazonas Filarmonica encourages appreciation for music and the arts, especially with its free weekly performances, which allow college students and people on a budget to experience the enjoyment of music—no strings attached.

During the months of April and May, the Amazonas Opera Festival is held at Teatro Amazonas and attracts crowds from all around South America. It is the only festival of its kind in Latin America, and it works hard to unite people of all backgrounds through the language of music.

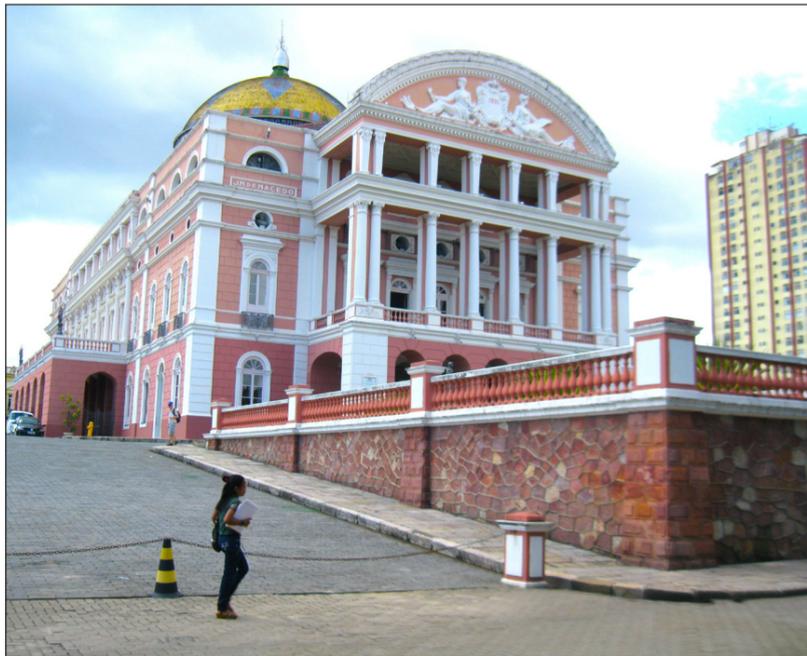


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY REBECCA CUMMINGS
Teatro Amazonas is home to the Brazilian orchestra, the Amazonas Filarmonica.

London prepares for 2012 Summer Olympics

Leigh Iler
International Reporter

LONDON — London is this year's lucky host of the 2012 Summer Olympics. The events will be held from July 27 to Aug. 12, and athletes will compete in 26 different sports, ranging from archery to wrestling.

A countdown clock is displayed prominently in London's Trafalgar Square, just outside the National Gallery, marking the number of days left until the opening ceremonies. With fewer than 200 days until its start, people around the globe are eagerly awaiting the spectacle, but not all London residents are pleased with the effect of the preparations.

"Having Tube service being worked on over the weekend has been problematic, and there is some concern that the resources going towards providing for the Olympics could have been better served to help the local communities," said Eric Hall, professor at the Elon Centre in London.

Many do not realize the amount of preparation involved in planning the famous Games. Since London was selected to host the Games in July 2005, the city has been meticulously building, organizing and anticipating the event. Many venues have already been completed, though construction is still underway. Between the historical

buildings around the city, cranes can be seen overhead at any given time.

London is committed to being sustainable during this process. The city has been closing down certain Tube lines during the weekends to ensure they will operate properly when the events begin in July.

Although the amount of preparation is substantial, visitors to London are not currently seeing evidence of Londoners' excitement for the Games.

"The Olympics don't seem to be very prevalent right now, except for the fact that Olympic paraphernalia can be found in virtually every store you walk into," said Elon sophomore Casey Rogers.

As exciting as the Olympics are, for natives of the city, it's not all fun and games. London's current population is more than 7 million, but the urban area is likely to become congested with the large number of visitors.

"It hasn't impacted my life in London, but as it gets closer to the Games, it will start to impact my internship because I work with a magazine that displays creativity in advertising, and we will start to feature more commercials dealing with the Olympic games," said Kelsey O'Connell, an Elon sophomore.

In an effort to control the crowds, businesses are encouraging their employees to work from home during the Olympics. O2, a telecom company, held a trial run Feb. 8. Although their



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Big Ben is decked out to show support for the London bid for the 2012 Olympics.

offices were closed for the day, 2,500 people managed to continue working as usual.

For those unable to watch the events in person, television stations worldwide will provide full coverage during the two weeks, but those in attendance at the Games are guaranteed to have a great experience.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Anti-government riots in Syria brave gunfire in order to protest

Hundreds of anti-government protesters braved the gunfire-laden roads of a neighborhood in Damascus, Syria to riot against the government Feb. 19.

This demonstration was the largest the country has seen so close to the capital since protests and rallies began 11 months ago. The neighborhood in which the protest took place surrounds the hill where the presidential palace is located. The choice of location was no accident, as the protestors hoped government officials would see the protest from the palace.

Fire kills hundreds in Honduras

More than 300 inmates were killed in a prison fire in Honduras Feb. 15. Most of the victims choked to death from the smoke while they waited for rescue. Some prisoners bashed through the ceilings of their cells and escaped completely, now on the run as fugitives.

Because some bodies were incinerated in the fire, the death toll has been difficult to measure. Officials read a handwritten list of the deceased to relatives at the prison, many of whom left the scene crying.

France pockets 550 million euros

Feb. 17 was the last day of circulation for the French franc, which had been in use since 1360. Although France switched to the euro when it was released a little more than a decade ago, francs were still accepted around the country and could be cashed in for euros up until Feb. 17.

The number of outstanding francs that were never cashed converts to 550 million euros that France is able to pocket on the spot. Many people have opted to save a few francs for safe-keeping, as they have now become a historic currency.

German president resigns after political scandal is uncovered

Christian Wulff, Germany's ex-president, resigned Feb. 17 after prosecutors asked Parliament to revoke his immunity due to inappropriate ties with businessmen.

The scandal started December 2011 when the wife of a wealthy friend issued Wulff a loan for 500,000 euros.

Although he was popular in Germany and abroad, he said he resigned because he felt Germany needed a leader they could trust.

Dutch prince left in critical condition after avalanche survival

The Netherlands' 43-year-old Prince Johan Friso was skiing on unmarked trails Feb. 17 when he was buried by an avalanche.

After being rescued from the snow, he was rushed to the intensive care unit at Innsbruck's hospital. Officials have revealed he is in a stable, but life-threatening condition. A Feb. 19 statement said there may be no change in his condition for days.

Iraqi suicide bomber kills 18

An Iraqi car bomb exploded Feb. 19 in front of a police academy, killing 18 people. The suicide bomber waited outside the academy for a group of police recruits to exit and then drove straight at them.

In addition to the 18 killed, 27 policemen and recruits were injured. Police recruits are frequently attacked by suicide bombers, and are considered the weakest aspect of the country's security forces.

Correspondents' Corner

Katherine Wise
International Reporter

DAKAR, SENEGAL — In Senegal, the local language is Wolof, while the national business language is French. Students learn English too, but only in higher education, such as middle school and high school. I'm taking Wolof as a class, and the majority of my other classes are in French. I have barely been exposed to bilingual living, much less trilingual living. I've experienced occasions where a single conversation included all three languages. It can be exhausting at times to try comprehending it all, but whenever I feel discouraged, I think of the first time I successfully communicated in Wolof with a younger Senegalese boy — the impressed look on his face motivated me through my next Wolof class.



Rebecca Cummings
International Reporter

GHANA — We have reached Africa on the Semester at Sea ship. Here in Ghana, people are preparing for the next election. They have only been independent since their first president declared it in 1957. We were also warned beforehand that children would call us "obroni," which is a way to say non-African or white person. A lot of the people here have never seen a white person, or at least not many white people. They stare at us at all times, and their eyes just follow. We walk by and people videotape us and take pictures.



This is definitely a culture shock. The roads are covered in dirt. Markets are little shacks and people sell anything and everything right on the streets.

Leslie Gilman
International Reporter

COSTA RICA — It is interesting to note that the chain stores in San Jose are not all locally owned. In fact, there is a supermarket called "Más Por Menos" that is actually owned by Wal-Mart. I didn't realize there was that much of a monopoly even outside of the United States. Also, the safety of buildings in Costa Rica is very different than the United States. In San Jose, every single house, store, school and building has security bars outside of it.



This is the accepted way to construct buildings. There seems to be a cultural insinuation for the protection of one's house, store, etc. in San Jose. This clearly indicates a serious problem with crime in both the past and present.

Editorial

The Endemic of Apathy

Transparency of organizations is meaningless without student response

Transparency was the buzzword at last week's Student Government Association debate and in candidate speeches for the upcoming election. Students proposed more frequent video updates, student media liaisons and an open-door policy in the SGA office.

It's no secret that many Elon students are clueless about the recent efforts of SGA, and even more painfully unaware of the financial and legislative authority they hold. It's been a hallmark of many candidates' campaigns to point out this shortcoming, and they promise they will do everything in their power to counteract it.

But what is the point of offering more access to students when they aren't taking advantage of the openness that currently exists? As much as SGA should continue to make strides in their transparency as an organization, it's time they expect the Elon student body to meet them halfway and exhibit genuine interest in the decisions and actions of their governing body.

To be ignorant is unfavorable. But to know better and not to act? That's simply inexcusable.

SGA's Thursday night meetings are open to anyone on campus at 7:30 p.m. in Moseley 215. They operate Twitter and Facebook pages. They have records available for view in their student-run office. Sure, there are improvements that can be made, but why is there not more significant student interest in the issues they are discussing and voting on?

It's easy to complain and sit idle with bitterness and blame as your only companions. It's



SGA meetings are open to the student body, yet few students attend. Candidates hope that this year will bring more student input into executive policies and are making a concerted effort to be a more transparent governing body.

even easier to pretend like you don't care.

What takes courage and demands admiration is action. It could be an action as simple as casting an online ballot in the elections this week. Or as momentous as leading a movement demanding change.

In this week's edition, you'll read about junior Laura Sturm, who is single-handedly leading a fight for gender-neutral housing on Elon's campus. She personally has no need for the housing option, but ask her why she does it and the passion behind her response is palpable.

"Even if we only have one gender-neutral housing situation a year, at least it's available," she said. "For those two people, it's going to be such a big difference in their lives and have such a big effect on them. It's not for everyone, but having the option can have such a difference in someone's life and comfort in being at Elon."

Last week, you read about junior Miles Grunvald and Ross Wade, assistant director of career services for the School of Communications, who are paving the way for causes they believe in—blood marrow drives and an outlet for the LGBTQ community, respectively.

We can't all be Lauras. But as cheesy as it sounds, what we can be is ourselves — we know our personal interests, passions and desires for the Elon community and it's such a shame to see them go to waste and allow apathy to win.

You may not be voting on a national legislative issue or electing the next president of the United States. But, students, at this point in your life, Elon is your community. Why would you sacrifice the opportunity to shape its future not only for the current community, but for those to come?

And to the SGA representatives elected this

week, expect to be held to your promises of transparency. It's only when the initiatives of the organization are paired with the action of the student body that your goals can be successful.

So don't say you didn't have time to vote. Your classmates know you spent the majority of your Tuesday class surfing Facebook and Pinterest. And don't even bother pretending you didn't know SGA elections were this week. You lost that excuse when you picked up this paper. Perhaps most importantly, you can no longer claim ignorance to the opportunities SGA provides for student involvement.

Understand the issues, know the candidates' platforms and don't vote for someone because they're in your roommate's fraternity or have a creative campaign gimmick.

You say that Elon is where you bELONG? It's time to act like it — and earn it.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When the new edition of The Pendulum hits the stands Wednesday mornings, the staff of the news organization expects feedback. Whether it comes in the form of red mark-ups from our adviser, Colin Donohue, critical emails from well-meaning professors or text messages from my mom about a misspelled word on the front page (she keeps insisting she wants to join our staff



Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

as a copy editor), we are no stranger to the fact that our publication will cause a stir.

And, in all honesty, we hope it does. But not generally in the way you might think.

In a profession that repeatedly ranks among the lowest in inspiring trust from the public, journalists and

especially student journalists, have been hard-wired to prepare themselves for the leveling of claims against them.

Bias. Sensationalism. Left-leaning. These are terms that are repeatedly thrown out against an institution that is as old and significant as the nation itself. Granted, in some cases, as much as we hope not, they have merit.

But what journalists should never be forced to withstand is the refusal of key sources to speak with them on the record about significant issues and topics on campus.

Don't agree with an angle of a story? Then, by all means, let us know. Write a letter to an editor, leave a comment on our website, submit your own story idea. But, please, don't shut yourself off to our reporters and publication. Don't criticize it behind closed doors. It's cowardly and detrimental to all involved when sources knowledgeable about key issues refuse to share their expertise and input.

The Pendulum is a learning lab. We're going to make mistakes but you can bet we're going to learn from them. The remainder of my career as a journalist

will not be defined by the success I've had on the staff of The Pendulum but by the moments that made me correct, reflect and then grow.

If there's one thing I've come to learn as a reporter, and now editor, for The Pendulum, it's that it's impossible to make everyone happy — and we're not in the business of trying. For a people-pleaser like me, it's a hard reality to grasp that what you write isn't always going to make people feel warm and fuzzy. But that's the beauty of journalism. As much as it is meant to inform, it can also challenge and inspire the readers to act.

So, audience, remember: We can't promise that we're always going to make you happy with our front-page story or editorial stance. But what we can promise is that we're going to do our best to bring you enlightening, entertaining and detailed reports about the news that matters to you — and expect you to respond and keep us accountable.

And you should demand nothing less.

MORE ONLINE

Check out the online opinions podcast at:

http://bit.ly/EPtopics_22

Check out the Pendulum opinions blog at:

<http://bit.ly/opinionsblog>

TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 250 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor 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.elonpendulum.com where commentary can be quickly posted.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

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Opinions

Candidate religions should not matter in presidential campaigns

In recent GOP campaigns and debates, it is nearly impossible to avoid one topic: religion.



Madison Margeson
Guest Columnist

It is safe to say that a candidate with strong morals and values should be respected for his or her consistency and dedication. Voters of similar faiths are able to relate to a candidate based on coinciding values. But are the candidates really sincere

about their religious values, or are their public declarations of faith merely factors to exploit in their campaigns for president? Voters should be focusing more on what their president will do, not the faith with which they identify.

This trend is nothing new - it mirrors the controversies of presidential campaigns in the past. In 1960, debate amongst voters raged as to whether John F. Kennedy's Catholic affiliation would overpower his ability to defend First Amendment freedoms. In 2008, citizens were skeptical of Obama as a suspected Muslim, rather than a self-declared Christian, largely due to unfounded discrimination against Muslims after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Today, voters hear Republican candidate Newt Gingrich boast of his conversion to Catholicism and his anti-abortion stance. Rick Santorum seems to infuse his own Catholic views with his stance on nearly every issue, including his support of reinstating the "Don't

Ask, Don't Tell" policy, restricting openly gay and lesbian soldiers from active service in the armed forces. Mitt Romney, a Mormon, stands to gain a following of his Mormon constituents, based on his religious practices alone. In contrast, Ron Paul is a self-proclaimed committed believer in God, but rarely brings it up in political discussion.

In a time of global economic instability, the conversation on religion's role in social issues has long been exhausted. In the next crop of voters, America's youth will undoubtedly be the defining force, and these voters are tired of the social conservatism constantly pushed by GOP candidates. The arguments surrounding the morals of issues like abortion, same-sex marriage and drug abuse are seemingly endless, and it is the responsibility of America's leaders to acknowledge that and move onto issues that can be effectively addressed, like the economic status of our country.

Ultimately, religion should not be a factor in our candidate's campaigns. Our country was founded on the concept that our citizens can practice the religion they choose. Our government's responsibility is to keep this freedom alive, not to allow its members to exploit their own beliefs for personal gain.

Voters should no longer be concerned with how their specific candidate's religious values shape their values in life, but how their practices will affect their wallets. In an era of primarily socially liberal voters, conservative candidates do not stand to gain much by flaunting the faith card.



GOP candidate Rick Santorum is one of several candidates whose religious beliefs have been the source of intense coverage from national media outlets, sometimes overshadowing his platform.

Stewart, Colbert are entertainers, should not be mistaken for journalists

As an aspiring journalist among a troupe of others at Elon University, understanding the functions and effects of news consumption is a top priority for me. But it's a double-edged sword because I certainly get tired of studying the media. This overexposure makes me especially susceptible to comedic "news" programs that satirize the current events that crop up endlessly in the classroom. Despite my extensive news literacy training, I feel myself becoming cynical of the reporting process, and besides myself, I have two people to blame.



Rebecca Wickel
Columnist

Jon Stewart, of "The Daily Show," and Stephen Colbert, of "The Colbert Report," are actors, not journalists. With this vital fact in mind, I am able to treat their programming as the entertainment it is designed to be. I've been to the filming of multiple episodes of The Colbert Report, and his staff stresses that he is in character, expressing views that are not his own. While on set, entertainers like Colbert dissect current events and the coverage they receive. The clips of traditional news packages that are regularly played on shows like these are manipulated and constructed to make jokes about individuals and organizations, which distorts the accuracy and severity of their news content.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the satirical spin on current events. We all need to take a step back now and then to laugh at the mockeries that are the GOP election and Sarah Palin's

frequent bouts of idiocy. I attended one taping where Colbert poked fun at concerns regarding Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan's sexuality. It really was absurd to think her affinity for softball made her a bad candidate for the position, and for Colbert, the best way to make that point was to pretend to take it seriously. But I worry that satirical coverage of serious issues keeps us from thinking critically about solutions. Viewers like me are becoming cynical, giving up on certain causes because they seem so absurd. But let's remember, it isn't all a laughing matter.

In 2007, The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism studied the content of The Daily Show for an entire year and made some interesting discoveries. Viewers of The Daily Show are among the most well-informed news consumers in the country. How come? It has to be because they were more likely to consume news from other sources. Regular viewers of The Daily Show and The Colbert Report were also most likely to score in the highest percentile on knowledge of current affairs.

Viewers of these shows simultaneously stay well-informed and entertained. Today, I don't know if it's possible to have one without the other and survive on TV. If satire is what it takes to prevent rampant apathy, then bring it on. But let's not lose sight of the importance of issues and our responsibility to partake in the political process. I'll be the first one to say that I need a breather from the realities of social injustice, economic struggle and governmental failures, but this distraction can't become a way of news consumption. Jon Stewart's viewers complement his jokes with hard facts from the Internet, newspapers and traditional television news. We should all try to do the same.

The Facade of Privacy: Use caution, good judgment in online presence

In today's social media-driven world, privacy seems to be intangible. We live in a society of friending, following, linking, posting and checking in. Every action, thought or "like" can be recorded for the entire Internet to see, but only by our own will.



Ashley Fahey
Columnist

Many people might say online privacy does not exist anymore because of the takeover of social media. For some, it's just an accepted fact that with the introduction of the Internet, there is less online privacy. Many Internet users are more open with what they put online because with the advancement of the Web, the world is a smaller and more social place. We have multiple personal and professional reasons for maintaining a strong online presence.

In fact, many college students are encouraged to have a strong Web presence. If we Google our names, our LinkedIn profiles or electronic resumes should come up as one of the first links if we've used search engine optimization (SEO) techniques properly. Having several outlets in which you can be reached, most of which are electronic, is imperative to keep up with the rapidly evolving online climate that professionals are seeking in their current and future employees.

But then, what of privacy? Are we to give up our right to keep our identity and personal information secure in order to be more reachable or social media savvy?

Having Web presence is important, but we have to be smart about what

we're putting on the Internet. We need to remember how it's going to be viewed by the public and remember that, potentially, the whole world can see what we put online. It's crucial to know the privacy policies of all social media platforms we use, and what settings are available to us, before posting personal information to our profiles. All social media websites have a policy somewhere on their website, and it's important to know what is or is not protected by their policy, as well as what you can make private. If the policy is something you aren't comfortable with, don't join that website.

The concept of privacy has evolved since the introduction of the Internet, and even more dramatically, with the introduction of social media. We now live in an electronic age where "stalking" others' Facebook profiles is the social norm, and celebrities' thoughts and feelings can be accessed instantaneously through a tweet. There seems to be no bounds to what we can put online, and this has led many to claim that social media has caused a trend of piracy on privacy.

While social media has made it easier for people to give up their privacy or to make their information more public, the number of social media outlets available for usage has nothing to do with how private our personal information is online. That is solely our responsibility as social media users, and we must use good judgment about what we post online and who is able to see that content.

In the end, it's simply having common sense about the way you use social media and what personal information you post. Whether society believes that more social media outlets means less privacy or not, we have the ability to decide who sees what and which platforms we use.



ELON STUDENTS MENTOR FOR ELON ACADEMY

Many Elon students are engaged locally through their involvement with Elon Academy, a college access program for underprivileged high school students from the Alamance-Burlington area. Elon students serve as mentors, academic coaches and interpreters, and some are members of the college access team, which works to communicate with the high school students throughout the year to make sure they are doing well academically.

For four weeks during the summer, Elon student mentors tutor the Elon Academy scholars in math, science and reading and help them apply for college grants and scholarships.

"We've had fantastic mentors over the years, and our high school students really connect to our college students," said Darris Means, associate director of Elon Academy.



CAITLIN O'DONNELL | Editor-in-Chief

Beyond th

Elon University students jokingly re past year, students have broken c international, national and local even is a demonstration of how Elon stud of Elon to show their appreciation an

HUMAN SERVICES

Human service studies majors at Elon are exposed to the local community through three tiers of field experience. In the introductory course, The Art and Science of Human Services, students are required to do a minimum of 40 hours of fieldwork in a human services setting, allowing them to get exposure from the beginning.

The second tier is the required practicum, where students make connections between the classroom material and what's happening in their agency, and the third tier is the internship component, when students work full-time in a human services agency.

During all three of these experiences, students form relationships with members of the local community. "The majority of the placements are in the Burlington area," said Phil Miller, Human Service Studies lecturer and leader of the Human Service Studies Field Placement services. "Some of the students have made such a connection that they go back and visit personnel, or even after the class and their hours are done, some of them have continued to volunteer on their own and help out because they have connected so well with the people in that agency."

While completing these practicum and internships, students are spending a significant amount of their time off-campus. The department, however, ensures that students still connect back to the classroom.

"Being in the field emphasizes the importance of having exposure outside the classroom," Miller said. "But yet all of those tiers are still structured with a classroom component, so they are always making a connection back to the academic material as well."

ELON STUDENTS STILL AFFECTED BY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

The Wake County Board of Education announced a proposal for neighborhood schooling one year ago, but the issue remains at the heart of Elon students from the area.

"Just because I don't go there (anymore) doesn't mean it's not relevant," said Elon sophomore Opal Patel. "It's still my home."

After 10 years without neighborhood schooling, Wake County School Board officials proposed to reinstate the system that divides students according to place of residence, which, citizens argued, would divide schools along socioeconomic lines. The change would erase the need to bus students across the county and increase parental involvement, the school board officials said.

Nevertheless, residents viewed the return to neighborhood schooling as a change that would inherently decrease diversity within the school district, according to junior David Gwynn, a Raleigh resident.

Although Gwynn graduated from the school system, he still expressed opposition to the proposal.

"I think it still influenced me because my high school was heavily involved in the debates and a lot of the students were active in their dissent against the program," Gwynn said. "I felt involved because I wanted to be a fighter in their arena and because my brother was in high school, so there was still something at stake."

Family ties also kept the issue in front of Patel, whose brother is still in the school system as well.

"Being in college made it hard to keep up with everything because you are not in the area, so you have to take the initiative," she said.

For Patel, the final decision also shed light on the importance of community awareness, she said. The county approved a "choice plan," meaning the school board officials suggested neighborhood schools, but it is not mandatory.

"It showed me if there is a strong enough congregation of people, we really do have power and a say," Patel said.



FILE PHOTO BY TRACY RAETZ



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

RACE TO THE BALLOT HAS ELON SUPPORTERS

Elon University students advocated against Amendment One Feb. 15. Nine campus organizations contributed to Race to the Ballot, an event dedicated to educating North Carolina voters about the consequences of Amendment One, the state amendment that, if passed, will recognize only the legal union of one man and one woman as constitutional. Protect NC Families organized Race to the Ballot. The team is currently running 322 miles across the state, and Elon University is just one stop as they aim to initiate "1 million conversations" about the amendment. All four of Elon's a capella groups performed during Race to the Ballot, and Spectrum, the LGBTQ office and Better Together were among the organizations that sponsored the event.

Aside from university-sponsored activities, individual students have demonstrated a concern for the legislation as well. Liv Dubendorf, a senior studying media arts and entertainment, works as a videographer for the Vote Against movement, filming personal testimonials and developing a documentary with senior Dan Koehler. She also created a welcome video for Vote Against.

"We have to get people to the polls," Dubendorf said in a previous interview with The Pendulum. "If people don't vote, it doesn't matter what they actually believe in, because they haven't made their voices heard."

the Bubble

refer to the Elon Bubble, but in the out of that bubble by showing that students have an influence in their lives. This movement has gone beyond the confines of the bubble and interest in the world around them.

Compiled by Grace Elkus and Melissa Kansky, News Editors

ELON ARMY STUDENT COULD BE DEPLOYED WHILE IN SCHOOL

Andrew Creech, an enlisted Private First Class (PFC) in the U.S. Army, has learned to balance his parachute infantry and security work with his college schoolwork. Creech, a junior at Elon, said being enlisted often interrupts his studies; he had to miss half of fall semester his sophomore year for training, and every month, he travels two or three weekends to Durham, N.C., Fayetteville, N.C. or Virginia for training. He said he may have to put an entire year of school on hold, and there's a possibility he will be deployed during his time at Elon.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ANDREW CREECH

"The chance of deployment is quite high depending on the unit," Creech said. "Although with the wars winding down, missing class for longer training schools is more likely (than being deployed)."

But Creech is confident he is learning just as much during his training as he would inside the classroom, and thinks all students should engage themselves in off-campus undertakings.

"I think it is extremely important for any young person to be involved in some manner in the world, whether it is through the military, fire department, EMT, social volunteer work or anything that helps the world around them," Creech said. "Through these types of activities, students will learn more about the world around them than through normal classes and cultural studies."

ELON SOPHOMORE WORKS FOR OCCUPY CANDIDATE

An Elon sophomore is spending spring semester in Pennsylvania as the deputy campaign manager for the nation's first Occupy candidate, Nate Kleinman.

Kleinman, a candidate for U.S. Congress in the 13th district of Pennsylvania, offered Patrick Morgioni a job when Morgioni was a senior in high school. When Morgioni arrived at Elon, he decided to take advantage of the university's independent study program to receive academic credit while working away from campus on the campaign.

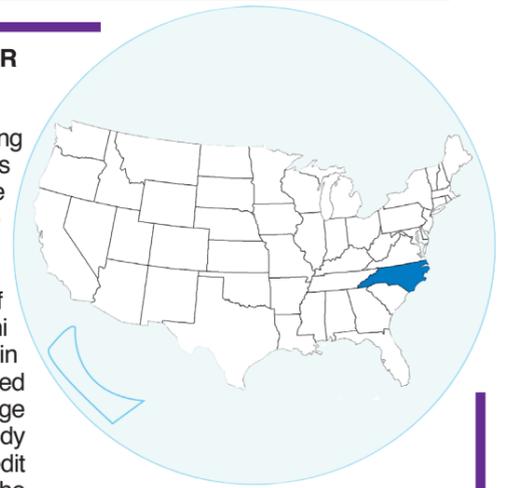
"When I was making my decision on where to go to college, I had a lot of options, and the big reason I chose Elon was their emphasis on engaged learning," Morgioni said. "Once I had something cool that I wanted to do, Elon was fully supportive of it and they are really living up to their reputation as one of the best places for students to get real world experience."

Morgioni met Kleinman while working on his first big campaign with Joe Sestak, who ran in the 2012 Pennsylvania democratic Senate primary. At the time, Kleinman had not declared he would be running for Congress.

As deputy campaign manager for Kleinman's campaign, Morgioni's responsibilities include controlling Kleinman's schedule, motivating the finance director, forming policies, organizing donations and a number of other tasks that come up along the way.

"I don't really have a set job description," Morgioni said. "What I do really varies on a day to day basis, which is what I love so much."

Although Kleinman is considered the first Occupy candidate because of his



involvement in organizing Occupy Philadelphia, his affiliation with Occupy is separate from the political party he represents.

"(Kleinman) is running in the Democratic primary," Morgioni said. "Occupy is not a political party. It is a totally non-partisan movement, they don't endorse or support candidates."

Morgioni said he does not consider himself a member of the Occupy movement.

"I am not in any way affiliated with Occupy," he said. "I agree with what Occupy is trying to do, and I think that a lot of Occupy's process could be translated into the American system of democracy to better it."

Morgioni said he does not have any aspirations to run for office himself, but likes the idea of professional campaign management.

"There is something new every day, you can really get invested in a cause and you can effect real change in the world," Morgioni said of working on a campaign. "I think it's something I want to do with my career, and Elon has been incredibly accommodating for putting me on that path."

JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE

Following the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, five Japanese Elon University students mobilized their fellow students to raise awareness and funds to help the victims of the natural disaster. Students raised a total of \$4,000 from activities including a Japanese cuisine dinner, Moseley tabling and a \$1,000 donation from the university, according to junior Junko Aoyama.

"None of us had experience fundraising so we held an interest meeting that we advertised at a college coffee and we had about 100 people show up," Aoyama said of herself and the four other Japanese students.

Approximately 100 students filled the Isabella Cannon International Centre to offer ideas for events and fundraisers to help the victims of the natural disaster. Sororities and fraternities wrote messages to send to Japan, which the Japanese students translated into their native language. The students collected more than 1,000 cards, according to senior Sachika Yamamoto.

During the fundraising period, Aoyama and Yamamoto shared their friends' and families' experiences in Japan with classes and organizations. Aoyama said she believes having an international community on campus contributes to students' understanding and sensitivity of international events.

"For me it's very enlightening to hear (international students) talk about their people's experiences," she said. "I think the Elon community can benefit from hearing them."

Yamamoto viewed the occurrence as a way to inform the Elon students about her home country, she said. Nevertheless, both students said they have observed a decrease in support and activities dedicated to relief efforts.

"The people are starting to forget about the earthquake, but there are still those people there," Yamamoto said. "I don't want people to forget about it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

RUN FOR HAITI

Students rallied in response after an earthquake struck Haiti. Various campus organizations sponsored activities to generate support for Haiti's relief efforts. The Black Cultural Society hosted a fashion show where money from tickets were contributed to Haiti's relief efforts, and the French Learning Community sold hand-cooked crepes to raise money for the St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

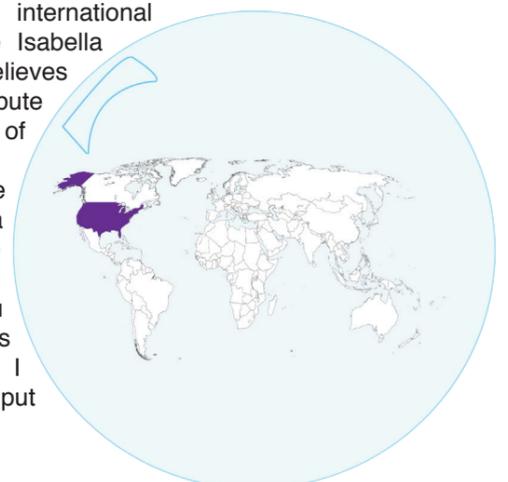
Residents of Oak House organized a 1K for relief effort. Each participant paid \$10 to run, which is the amount needed to feed one child for one month, said John McGreevy, at the time a Oak House resident.

The idea came to life as a result of John McGreevy's experience in Haiti.

"I'd already been there for a couple of weeks and had become great friends with the people there," he said in a previous interview.

Woody Pelton, dean of international programs and director of the Isabella Cannon Centre, said he believes international experience contribute to student's sensitivity of international occurrences.

"I always feel an experience outside of the country does a couple of things for you," he said. "It usually makes you more curious, so it makes you more interested in the plights and concerns of other people. I guess part of that is it helps you put a face on a particular situation."



Style

Discovering community through dance

Professor follows childhood passions to position at Elon

Anna Johnson
Senior Reporter

In Accra, Ghana, a common event rooted in tradition can be found at every birth, marriage and funeral: people are dancing.

Jason Aryeh, assistant professor for performing arts at Elon University, fell in love with the art of dance as a child and has followed its path to Elon.

"I was the type of child who liked exploring," Aryeh said. "You could always find me in small towns and villages doing research and learning dances. It takes a lot to learn about those dances, especially if you are not part of that tribe. You have to learn the history and you have to learn the emotions behind the song before you can start learning the movements."

Aryeh is in his first year of teaching African dance, modern dance and The Global Experience at Elon, and the transition from Ghana to the United States has proved challenging.

After graduating from the University of Ghana, Aryeh came to the United States in 2003 to study American dance and took part in the American Dance Festival held at Duke University.

"The first time was rough," he said. "I had no idea what was going on. A trained traditional West African dancer who is trying to do ballet and modern. It's awkward. I didn't feel comfortable at all. I felt this wasn't the right thing for me to do."

Despite the difficulty, Aryeh continued to train and received his B.F.A. in Dance in 2005 and came back to the American

Dance Festival in 2008 as a faculty assistant.

The new dance styles weren't the only hurdles Aryeh faced when he came overseas: The culture, weather and food also proved challenging.

"I come from a culture where you are the community," he said. "Where everyone knows everyone's business. That type of relationship is there. We are together. Here everyone is to his own nuclear family."

When speaking with his new friends, Aryeh often had to ask them to speak slower.

"English is our language, but it is spoken differently here," he said. "It felt very fast here and I perceive you all as having accents. It was a big barrier and I had to read people's lips."

The warmer weather, the location between Durham and Greensboro and the smaller class sizes lured Aryeh to begin his teaching career at Elon. His passion for teaching came from his parents, he said.

"I pulled that from them," Aryeh said. "I always wanted to share. Every time I danced or came up with something in terms of learning a movement I always wanted to share. Always, always wanted to share with people. Teaching was always one of my passions. And coming to the United States made it interesting to not only share my dancing, but my culture as well. To see life in a different scope."

The growing dance program and small classes helped Aryeh finalize his decision



Assistant professor Jason Aryeh prepares students for a performance on Feb. 22 in Yeager Recital Hall. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

to teach at Elon. He is working on saving enough money to bring his wife and two-year-old daughter to the United States. Aryeh returns to Ghana every summer to see them and said that Elon is helping him with the immigration paperwork.

"It's hard physically to go home and know your family is miles and miles away from you and not knowing what is going on with them," Aryeh said. "But the dance department has been

really great. The faculty and staff has been very supportive. They make me feel at ease and at home. That's one of the reasons why I love it here."

Fostering the African dance program at Elon is one of Aryeh's priorities, he said.

"African dance is a community type of dance form," he said. "The drummer is your brother, the dancer is your sister. That is the type of community work that I want to establish at Elon."

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Alumnus Dan Doby, owner and manager of Jazebel's Jazz Bistro, works with Becca June, server and songwriter who performs at the restaurant.

Stage presence: Alumnus, acting veteran opens jazz restaurant

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

It may have taken decades, but Dan Doby is finally getting his dinner. Last year, the native Burlington resident opened Jazebel's Jazz Bistro on land where he hunted for rabbits as a kid.

"I never got one," he said. "That's probably why I opened a restaurant — I was starving."

Jazebel's is themed around low country cuisine and jazz, what Doby said he considers the truest forms of American

art and food.

"I've tried to make it so you look like you're walking into a Charleston bar," he said. "It's not for everybody, but for the people who understand the food, history and music, it's the place to be in this area."

Doby, who also owns local Dan Thai, has not always been involved in the restaurant business. The 25-year acting veteran began his college career at Elon in the mid-1970s and, while he would go on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1982, his experiences on the Elon stage defined his

future path.

Originally an English major, Doby met now-retired Elon professor Andy Angyal, who was directing a Woody Allen play at the time. Doby won the lead role, launching him into a career that has included writing plays, stints on *Guiding Light* and *Another World* and international travel.

"One little afternoon at a classroom in Elon changed my life," he said. "(It) set me on a course in life that was been very rewarding and it was totally by chance. That's how life is. You've got all these wonderful plans you've laid out, but something is going to happen."

When both of Doby's parents became ill, he returned to his hometown, something he never thought he would do, and spent a large part of the next decade caring for them.

"In the course of that, I decided I wanted to spend every penny I'd ever earned," he said. "And I did. Here we are, you're looking at it."

A trip to the restaurant is to leave behind the atmosphere of North Carolina and step into an entirely new world — a shrine to New Orleans, Savannah and Charleston. In four and a half months, Doby built Jazebel's from the ground up, using local antiques and low country images, with help from a friend with experience in design and construction.

And though the restaurant is just recently celebrating its year anniversary, Doby said Jazebel's already has a loyal customer base and a group of regulars who are always greeted with a standing ovation from staff.

"I want it to be a place where people can come and enjoy themselves and feel like they can let their hair down a little bit," he said. "It's a departure from my acting life, but it's still meeting people, making them feel good, entertaining to a certain degree."

While Doby may have thrown himself wholeheartedly into the restaurant business, his love for the stage has not diminished — he is currently exploring options for a dinner theatre venue.

"My background is entertainment and this is an extension of that," he said. "As long as it's fun and creative and I can make a living, I'm a happy guy."

Air fresheners actually stink

A busy schedule combined with a lack of parental reminders usually results in some pretty messy student homes. A simple way to revive your space and clear up unpleasant odors is by using traditional air fresheners or plug-ins.



Sarah Carideo
Columnist

Unfortunately, you're getting more than an ocean breeze when you use these items.

Most of the perfumed air fresheners sold in stores actually fill your home with toxic chemicals. Instead of neutralizing odors like advertised, these products simply mask them, according to National Geographic. Additionally, many contain nerve-deadening chemicals, which can cause headaches and nausea or aggravate asthma.

Phthalates are common chemicals found in air fresheners and may cause hormonal and reproductive issues, birth defects and developmental disorders. Other severe toxic ingredients include volatile organic compounds, benzene and formaldehyde, which all cause neurological damage and cancer, according to TheBetterHealthStore.com.

Instead of fighting odors with toxic air fresheners that can damage people, pets and the planet, there are plenty of ways to safely refresh your home.

If you still want to shop for air fresheners, check for the previously mentioned chemicals first. Another option would be to buy plant-based air fresheners.

Plug-in air fresheners are especially bad for you and the environment. This is because they create a significant amount of wasted energy from using electricity constantly. In addition to damaging the environment, you also have to pay for this use.

Instead, plant-based air fresheners are nonaerosol sprays to prevent energy waste. They are also biodegradable and use recyclable packaging. Animal testing and pesticides are also usually excluded from these products.

Making your own air freshener is also an easy option. Simply fill a spray bottle with purified water and add several drops of essential oil. If you live in a dorm with a kitchen, you can also simmer spices like cinnamon in a saucepan with water to neutralize odors while scenting the air, according to GreenHome.com.

An even more natural way to refresh your home is to gather some houseplants to improve air quality and remove carbon dioxide and other toxins. Setting out dishes of baking soda also helps accomplish this.

If all else fails, the simplest, most effective way to revive the air in your home is to open the windows. It's an option that's often forgotten, but what better scent is there than fresh spring air?

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CAITLIN O'DONNELL | Editor-in-Chief

Bringing study abroad experiences home

Students launch group to benefit Ghanaian projects

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

When senior Hannah Barry returned to Elon University after studying abroad in Ghana last Winter Term, she wasn't quite ready to let go of the experience she'd had there.

"We came back and wanted to create an organization on campus where we can basically do international development projects for the communities we visited," she said.

The Periclean Scholars program, a civic engagement group which students apply to participate in, focused on Ghana in the past, but Barry wanted a new option to be more accessible to all students.

When the group of students first applied to Student Life for recognition as an organization, the proposal did not pass, Barry said, because there was concern that other classes would want to create similar organizations for other nations, which would become

overwhelming.

Instead, the organization applied again under the name Elon Partners in International Development, which is now under provisional status as an organization. The Ghana group is now one branch under the organization, with the option for the creation of other groups.

"The overarching organization will have chapters underneath it," Barry said. "We're the guinea pig organization and if others want to start their own country or concentration, they have to apply to get it passed."

Any student can become involved in the group, whether they have traveled abroad to Ghana or not, a hallmark of the organization, Barry said, because it's more accessible to students.

"Our mission is to provide opportunities for Elon students on campus to be involved in international development projects abroad," she said.

The first project is the creation of a kindergarten in

Ghana, first initiated by former Periclean Scholar and Elon graduate Bryce Little, who had limited success fundraising individually.

This week, Barry is also helping to man a table in Moseley selling products through ABAN, a non-governmental organization founded in 2008 by three students who took notice of the large number of trash and neglected children on the streets.

Senior Gretchen Honnold became involved with ABAN while studying abroad in Ghana. When she arrived back in the United States, she got in touch with two of the co-founders who live in Durham.

The Moseley Table will be set up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Friday.



While studying abroad this Winter Term, junior Carly Tustin met women who work through the organization ABAN.

Lights, camera, alumnus: graduate produces original film

Ally Losa
Senior Reporter

While enrolled in a screen writing class at Elon University, Peyton Lea thought of the plot and characters of a feature film.

The 2010 graduate and Charlotte native is now self-employed and has started his own production company. Finally, he is able to develop the idea he dreamed up years earlier.

Lea wrote a script for a new movie he is directing, which is yet to be named.

"It's a 90-page script," Lea said. "I am going to direct it and produce it as well. We

are going to begin shooting roughly around the month of April, and it will most likely be an August premiere."

Now out of college for almost two years, Lea has plans to handle the production of his film himself.

The film will be shot in Charlotte, and Lea will have casting calls there as well as in New York and Winston-Salem.

"The movie is about a 30-year-old down-on-life watch salesman who works for Movado Watch Company in New Jersey and is forced by his boss to come to Charlotte for a three-day Watch Sales

Convention," Lea said.

"(The main character) Tom is kind of a bum. And the whole corporate routine life has gotten him down on life," Lea said. "He is not thrilled about coming down to Charlotte because he has some preconceptions about what the South is and what Charlotte is going to be like, and they're not positive."

Lea explained that his classes at Elon not only helped him develop the small comedic idea into a full-length feature film, but also taught him about production, which allowed him to fully develop the creative aspects of his film.

"(Tom) comes to Charlotte, and the trip is going as miserable as he thought it would," Lea said. "His trip gets turned around when he meets April, the bartender who works in the lobby of his hotel."

Lea explained that the script is really more about how two people can have an impact on each other's lives and how it can happen in such a short amount of time.

"April is kind of opposite of Tom and has a zest for life," he said. "The film is about Tom learning to deal with life and facing his demons of that corporate world and routine, while allowing him

to put his guard down, and let April change him for the better."

Lea said he is excited for the opportunity to have his film out and ready in August. He said the most promising part of the process is the support he has received from friends.

"The fact that people I have not seen in a year, or maybe a good family friend, has just been contributing money is just so great to see," he said. "A lot of friends who are my age who I know don't have that much money are donating and I know they want to see me succeed. That is what is really cool."

Elon finds new face of diversity in elderly community

Audrey Horwitz
Senior Reporter

Diversity. It's an overused word that has been echoed throughout every corner of Elon University's campus. But most diversity discussions at Elon focus on race and, recently, there's been conversation about religious diversity with the construction of the Numen Lumen Multi-faith Center. However, there is another type of diversity that has gone largely unnoticed: generational diversity.

Elon hosts a program called LIFE@ELON that offers just that. It invites an older generation to campus where they can take classes on a range of topics from the mathematics of voting to the history of jazz. The 12-week program provides lifelong education opportunities to more than 50 years old.

Joyce Peterson, in her festive Valentine's Day red sweater, was one of the attendees of the first session of the semester.

"I think it's wonderful to always be learning new things and to not become stagnant," Peterson said.

"There are so many inspiring topics that I probably would not have heard about by just watching the news."

The spring semester began Feb. 14 with some modifications from last semester.

Because of the program's popularity, an additional session has been added; sessions are held on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. in Johnston Hall Alumni Center.

LIFE@ELON currently has 220 members on faculty, which is made up of retired and current Elon staff members along with additional community members.

Jon Metzger is an associate professor of music at Elon who will be teaching "A Short History of Jazz" for the program. Metzger stands behind the lifelong learning philosophy that the program promotes.

"I trust that learning will never stop for any of us, and that our minds and hearts and souls will always be open to absorbing new ideas and concepts," Metzger said.

A key contribution of the program is what it brings to

"I trust that learning will never stop for any of us, and that our minds and hearts and souls will always be open to absorbing new ideas and concepts."

-Jon Metzger
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
MUSIC

Elon in terms of diversity.

Professor John Sullivan, who helped launch LIFE@ELON, kept diversity in mind while creating the program.

"I believe that if Elon wants to present students — even in a modest way — with the diversity they will find in the world, then intergenerational diversity is an area yet to receive serious attention on campus," Sullivan said.

Anne Cassebaum, another Elon professor involved in the program, is on board with the diversity objective.

"I think it's a wonderful program because it opens up Elon's intellectual community to the retired community," Cassebaum said.

The program began last fall when Alison Morrison-Shetlar, the dean of Elon College, began organizing it.

"I was involved in a similar program at the University of Central Florida," Morrison-Shetlar said. "The purpose of the program is to engage retired faculty and staff in lifelong engaged learning, which is what Elon is all about."

According to Morrison-Shetlar, the faculty is looking to further enhance the program.

Currently, those who sign up for the program pay a yearlong membership fee of \$100, which covers both the fall and spring semesters and gives them membership in the Friends of the University Library group.

Morrison-Shetlar and other faculty members are working to expand the program due to

requests from students. A few ideas that students have suggested are off-campus outings and book clubs.

As the LIFE@ELON program expands, so does diversity on campus. While it may be a less obvious form of diversity, it is still an asset to Elon.

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Forbidden love: 'Romeo and Juliet' gets a new twist

David Turkel
Reporter

Countless productions of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" have run since it was published by William Shakespeare in the late 16th century. But, next month Elon alumna Victoria Tucci is putting a twist on the classic that the bard himself would likely appreciate.

Tucci, a theatre studies major who graduated from Elon in 2008, is the producer of "Romeo and Juliet: Forbidden Love Comes to North Carolina".

"(It's) a gender-bending production of Romeo and Juliet, featuring two women as the ill-fated star-crossed lovers," Tucci said.

The play will run in New York City March 9 and 10, before moving to the Common Ground Theatre in Durham for shows from March 14 - 17.

The play is billed as a direct response to North Carolina Amendment One. The amendment aims to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman exclusively. Tucci heard that the North Carolina State Legislature passed Amendment One in September, and began to think of plays she could do in response to the legislation.

Tucci had seen a play called "Ampersand: A Romeo and Juliet Story" that she calls a "queer, modern, musical" adaptation of the original. After considering "Ampersand," an idea popped into Tucci's head — why not do the classical Romeo and Juliet play, but have Romeo and Juliet both be women?

During the past five months, Tucci has worked to bring this vision to life. Other than



Leanne Mercadante, as Juliet (left) and Elon alumna Victoria Tucci, as Romeo, are creating a version of the famous play with a few adjustments.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VICTORIA TUCCI

switching Romeo's gender from male to female, she also had to cut the text to save time. Despite this change, the play stays true to the original.

"We are trying to stay as true to the text and period as we can," she said.

While keeping with the themes of the play, Tucci has remained close to her original reason for conceiving it: responding to Amendment One.

"Marriage equality is an issue that is close to my heart, not only because many of my

dearest friends are members of the LGBTQ community, but also because I am gay," she said.

Tucci said she was devastated when she heard about Amendment One, in large part because it made her feel unwelcome in her home state.

"I thought, 'That's it. I'll never move back to North Carolina if Amendment One goes through,'" she said. "Why would I move back to a state that doesn't recognize my love and my rights and won't respect the love and rights of my best friends and

their families?"

After thinking through the situation Tucci said she began to feel sad about not being able to move back home, and was also concerned about gay friends still living in North Carolina.

"I just couldn't not do anything about it," she said.

Bringing the play to the stage has been a lot of work. In addition to playing the part of Romeo, she is responsible for finding and setting dates for performance, casting the show, securing rehearsal space, making sure

she has props, costumes and public relations for the show and securing funding.

Despite the motivation behind the play, Tucci said she feels it will be enjoyable for anyone, regardless of his or her feelings toward same-sex marriage.

"Our main priority is to tell an amazing story," she said. "If you want to see a great love story filled with passion, humor and kick-ass sword fights, then regardless of your feelings on same-gender marriage, this show won't disappoint."

La Table Francaise attracts native speakers, new learners

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

For some Elon University students, spending four years in North Carolina is already an international adventure.

Senior Margaux Lepretre was born and raised in France. She's admittedly homesick, but she's found a way to stay close to her French roots at La Table Francaise, a weekly French language practice session held in Irazu.

"I started this sophomore year," said Lepretre. "We do this to help out the students, but also to help me out because sometimes I'm homesick and it makes me feel good to speak French to people."

Lepretre lived in France until coming to Elon in 2008.

"Elon has a really good study abroad program, which is really what I wanted," she said. "I was born and raised in a big city and went to an international school. I needed to find that international element in a school. That was really important for me."

Students enrolled in French language classes are encouraged to meet with Lepretre for a casual conversation over coffee. According to her, conversations cover everything from sports and movies to politics and current events.

The opportunity to practice a foreign language is important for students at any stage, according to Sophie Adamson, associate professor of French.

"We encourage it in all of our classes," Adamson said. "Even if they can't speak, just listening to the language being spoken can be helpful."

French language students are not the only one to take advantage of La Table Francaise.

"We have professors from all different disciplines attend," Adamson said. "It brings such a variety of people. There are quite a few students who don't take French at Elon but want to keep up with it and meet more French-speaking people."

According to Adamson, international students often stop by Irazu to speak

their native language with other French enthusiasts. Adamson has worked with students from Belgium, the Congo, Canada, Switzerland, Morocco and Haiti.

By engaging French-speaking students, La Table Francaise has found a new way to bring parts of other cultures to Elon.

"I think that's why it was created, to break down classroom boundaries and teach about French culture by meeting other people," Lepretre said.

For Lepretre, time is running out to choose a destination for post-graduation plans. As a French native, she often looks to return home. As an Elon student, she considers moving to New York to work in strategic communications.

"My family now is my Elon family—all my friends are here," she said. "If I go back home, I have to start over from zero. But some days, I really want to go home because I'm tired of the States."

Whether she moves to Manhattan with friends from high school who plan to do the same, or heads back to France where her sister and parents live, Lepretre will leave Elon with the knowledge that she has helped students and faculty develop their language skills.

"When I see a student for the first time, I tell them I'm not judging them, I'm here for them to help them be confident," she said. "It's a friendly environment, and that's what needs to be transmitted to the students for them to succeed."

Want to get more experience using French? Professor Sophie Adamson recommends:

- Watching French films. Belk Library has a large collection readily available.
- Volunteering at the Avalon African Refugee Center in Greensboro to practice talking with native speakers.

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Annual jazz festival celebrates true American music

Weeklong event unites wide range of musicians, enthusiasts

Lindsay Kimble
Senior Reporter

The smooth, upbeat and often unique sounds of jazz could be heard streaming from the Center for the Arts most of last week. Multiple generations of jazz musicians, ranging from middle school students to world-class artists, gathered on Elon's campus for the 16th annual Elon University Jazz Festival.

The festival was expanded this year from three to six days, beginning Feb. 13 and ending with a final concert Feb. 18. It featured guest artists like John Brown, director of the jazz program and associate professor of the practice of music at Duke University, and LeRoy Barley, lecturer and director of Jazz Combos at Duke University.

Jon Metzger, festival host and director of the Elon University Jazz Ensemble, said the festival was started and continues as a celebration of jazz, America's original improvised music.

"It affords our Elon students, and our visiting middle and high school jazz ensembles, the opportunity to take classes, be critiqued and perform side-by-side with professional touring jazz artists," Metzger said.

This year's festival, which was sponsored by the jazz studies program, featured numerous workshops, lectures and performances by guest artists as well as performances by middle school and high school jazz ensembles visiting Elon for adjudication. Brown and Barley served as this year's clinicians, who worked directly with students to critique their performances.

Also present were three musicians and lecturers from the conservatory in Graz, Austria, where Metzger said cultural exchange opportunities for Elon music students are being developed.

When selecting lecturers and performers for events throughout the festival, Metzger said he looks for several qualities.

"My main criteria is that they be outstanding performers with

established track records of performing this music in the finest, best-known venues worldwide and that they also be superior teachers who are able to articulate the finer nuances of the genre to students in a positive, encouraging and productive manner," Metzger said.

Metzger attributes the festival's continual success to student inquisitiveness and desire to learn more about the art form, coupled with the guest clinicians' willingness to teach the next generation of artists.

Junior Alicia Varcoe is a jazz studies minor and participated in her third Elon Jazz Festival this year. Varcoe, who provides vocals and plays piano for the Elon Jazz Ensemble, attended lectures and workshops with clinicians throughout the week and watched performances by visiting high school and middle school ensembles.

"As a musician, I have the opportunity to work with outstanding professional jazz musicians who I can learn a lot from," Varcoe said.

Varcoe said she enjoys being surrounded by music, especially jazz. "I learned so much in only a week from professional musicians who are making a living performing and teaching, which is what I'm studying to do," she said.

Both Metzger and Varcoe noted the direct ties between American culture



(Left to right) Kevin Dollar, Wayne Reich and Chip Newton of the Swing Triade Trio kicked off the final jazz concert Feb. 18.

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

and the origins of jazz music.

"Jazz music is one of our few indigenous art forms," Metzger said. "It has been declared a national treasure in (nonprofit music organization) House Resolution 57. In many ways, it defines our culture and who we are as Americans."

Varcoe said most people don't realize jazz is innately American.

"The United States utilizes jazz musicians as tools of international diplomacy, because the music is so free and creative," Varcoe said. "Everyone can learn something from jazz music."

According to Metzger, more than 300 middle school and high school students attended the clinics throughout the week. From a program count, he estimated about 327 people came to the final concert Feb. 18.

The Jazz Festival has something for everyone, as the presence of jazz can be found in numerous genres of

music, according to Varcoe.

"Esperanza Spalding won the Grammy for Best New Artist in 2011, and she is a jazz musician," Varcoe said. "A lot of music we listen to today is influenced by jazz riffs in pop, and music theatre music is influenced by jazz scales and harmonies. R&B vocal techniques have a lot of similarities to scat singing, and more. Music is universal."

MORE ONLINE

See clips from Saturday's concert and hear from Jon Metzger.

<http://bit.ly/EPjazz>

SHERYL DAVIS | Multimedia Editor

Elon students don't always create Facebook pages...

Cassie Grimm
Reporter

...but when they do, it's Elon Memes.

The new Facebook page, which follows in the footsteps of other universities' pages across the country, has gained a noticeable following during the last few weeks.

Two weeks after its creation Feb. 8, Elon Memes now has more than 1,200 likes from Elon students. The page, which is dedicated to making Elon-themed memes — jokes that spread through the Internet in the form of pictures and text — allows students to post their own memes and view those of other students.

Junior Thomas Rickabaugh, creator of Elon Memes, made several memes before deciding to create a Facebook page.

"My brother and I discovered memes through Reddit, and I have always liked

showing ones that I found funny to my friends," Rickabaugh said. "I thought about weird things on campus and kind of related them to memes and ironies they always presented. I posted memes that I created to my friends' walls about professors and classes, then decided that a page would be such a good way for other students to share them."

Junior Bert Brokaw, who has contributed to the Elon Memes page frequently, said the memes are appealing because Elon students can relate to them.

"Users of the page seem to enjoy it because each meme is essentially a large-scale inside joke," Brokaw said. "For the most part, only Elon students are able to relate to the humor, and that's what I think people find so entertaining about it."

Rickabaugh said he thinks it is the Facebook format that makes the page so appealing.

"There is honestly nothing that can compare to a Facebook page," Rickabaugh said. "You will find that almost everyone here at school has a Facebook and when one person posts a meme, you can instantly check it out."

But some students have complained about the page, saying some of the memes go too far. One meme in particular, featuring Acorn employee Eddie Talley, Jr., offended senior Katie O'Brien.

"It went too far, so I decided to report it," O'Brien said.

Others said the memes are not intended to hurt people, but simply to be funny.

"I do think when you bring a person into it, a meme could be very offensive," said freshman Aly Yarwood. "At the same time, however, I know that people are doing this just for fun. I do not think they mean it to be offensive."

A number of memes fans have complained about the misuse of memes on

the page, which may occur if the text on the meme does not match the corresponding photo being used to illustrate it.

"Some people have made comments about the 'misuse' of memes and while it's not a big deal, they find it a bit annoying," Rickabaugh said. "I suppose they have become so used to people using memes the right way that when someone messes one up, they want to correct them."

But users like Brokaw do not see the point in calling attention to the supposed misuse.

"I honestly don't understand why some of the users care so much about people misusing memes," Brokaw said. "As a person who looks at memes every day, it

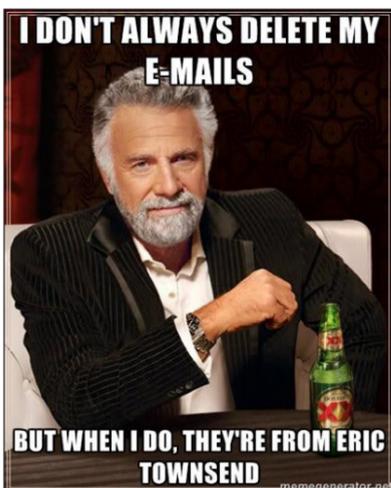
doesn't really bother me that some Elon students are misusing them. If a meme is funny, it's funny, regardless of whether or not it's being used correctly."

MORE ONLINE

Read the opinions editor's take on memes.

<http://bit.ly/EPmemes>

DAN QUACKENBUSH | Opinions Editor



This meme, based on the Dos Equis beer commercials, is just one of many on the site.

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Students experience real-world film production

Elon alumnus honors late Williams High School student in upcoming feature

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Burgess Jenkins, famous for playing Ray Budds in Disney's 2000 film "Remember the Titans," is one of many crew members involved with "Find a Way," a Cornelius Muller Productions feature that is filming on various parts of Elon's campus.

The movie is inspired by the life of Harry Cohen, a student and quarterback at Walter M. Williams High School in Burlington who passed away in August, right before his senior season began.

A number of Elon students are becoming part of the production as well.

Among those students is sophomore cinema major Andrew Riley, who is serving as the line producer. He is responsible for the equipment on set and making sure everything runs smoothly.

"I'm kind of the supervisor for the set," Riley said. "I am the mechanic for the film machine, and my job is to make sure that everything is working well and operating smoothly for the driver, (also known as) the director."

Jenkins, who is directing the film, said he has been impressed with the caliber of work Elon students are contributing to the film's production.

"The level of work and dedication is terrific," Jenkins said. "I've been doing this a long time, worked with

crews of all sizes and budget levels. There's a great sense of dedication, but these are people that want to make movies."

Not only is the production using Elon students as crew members, but it is also utilizing some of the university's resources. Filming took place in Whitley Auditorium Feb. 19, and will continue with a football scene in Rhodes Stadium Feb. 25.

Writer-actor-executive producer Cornelius Muller, an Elon graduate from the Class of '93, said he is particularly excited about coming back to campus to shoot scenes.

"The production quality — it's a beautiful place to shoot," Muller said. "The equipment — state-of-the-art. It's a no-brainer. Them giving back to me and me giving back to them, them allowing me at this point to still represent the university. That's been one of the best blessings about the whole deal, me being back on campus and getting back in the Elon culture."

Riley, who shot a behind-the-scenes documentary last year about "Brother's Keeper," Cornelius Muller Productions' last film, said he is enjoying the experience.

"It's invaluable to be able to get experience on set with people who have learned from the real guys, and here I am learning from them," Riley said. "It's a golden opportunity for me to really understand how a set works



Burgess Jenkins (center), of "Remember the Titans," prepares for a scene in "Find a Way" at Whitley Auditorium.

in and out and see how those people run the sets. It's excellent."

Senior cinema major Sam Chambers got involved in the project when Riley asked her to do something she had never done for a film before.

"They were hurting for a costume director," Chambers said. "I'm now doing costume and makeup. He called me the day before shooting actually and said, 'Hey, we need a costume director. Would you be interested?' I said, 'Sure, when do I start?' He said, 'Tomorrow.'"

Chambers said she is

really enjoying the small-budget aspect of "Find a Way."

"I like the fact that it's a professional film crew, but it's still a small enough production that I feel like I can go up and talk to the (director of photography) and he and I can talk about my costuming choices versus his cinematography choices," she said. "It's nice because it's small and we can still all work together. I feel like on a bigger set, that wouldn't happen. I wouldn't have all those direct lines of communication. Working on the set has been good."

Riley noted the importance

of making contacts in the film industry, where he said he hopes to make his career.

"It's pretty exciting because I never thought I'd be working on a feature film on campus or even around Burlington," Riley said. "I always thought that I'd be doing personal small projects on my own. This opportunity came along and it's just completely opened the door to everything because now I have the first job. And that means I can go out and get the second job with recommendations and credentials. It's all about getting your foot in the door."

PLAY REVIEW



'Monologues' shrugs off awkwardness

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

"The Vagina Monologues." The name is enough to turn away delicate minds. But somewhere between an intense curiosity and knowledge of past successes, Yeager Recital Hall filled every seat. The lights went out, there was the sound of high heels walking on stage and the production began.

"The Vagina Monologues" is a series of true stories collected from women all over the world as they explain their journey to sexual self-discovery. The entirely female cast performed several monologues that celebrated female sexuality and all that comes with it.

"The purpose of the event isn't really to promote feminism, like a lot of people think," said senior Jenna Dawkins. "It is meant to stimulate thinking in both men and women, of our gender, our sexuality, what it means to not only be a human, but be a person with deep needs, raw emotions and stories that are worth sharing."

It was equally important for men to hear the performances. While the show is not directly about what's between women's legs, it is about respecting women.

Even though the production has a reputation for having an edge, it is based on real stories and statistics, which become increasingly impossible to ignore. While most of the audience seemed uncomfortable in the beginning, many warmed up to the embarrassing words being thrown at them from the stage. Freshman actress Kelsey McCabe had to face this challenge herself.

"At the end, I had to make everybody say the C-word, and I hate that word," McCabe said. "But on stage

and in the context of the play, when they're (audience members) saying it back, it's kind of like a 'Screw you, this is who I am.'"

Every person can interpret the monologues differently. While many people found it funny and entertaining, others were uncomfortable throughout the entire performance.

Junior Nada Azem said it was the group's goal to affect every person, whether by laughter or critical thinking. Azem is from Syria and performed a monologue by a Bosnian woman. She said she felt a connection to the woman because of the international differences. The performance also taught her how to view herself, she said.

"I learned a lot about myself and how comfortable and uncomfortable I am in my own body," Azem said.

Although the same monologues are used in every year's performance, each script is interpreted differently. Each character and actress brought a new vibe to the performance. Once they received their specific monologue after auditions, many of them played around with the emotions they wanted to extract from the audience. The girls had to decide if they wanted to be funny, serious, sad or thought-provoking.

"I didn't know what to expect," said junior Eleisha Hairston after the production. "Now that I have seen it, it's very interesting. I can tell you that. It was very interesting. I've never heard anyone talk about vaginas like that."

Dawkins said she does not believe "The Vagina Monologues" will ever lose its relevance or become a tired subject. As stated many times during the production, true self should always be given an opportunity to speak out.

One-act play festival gives students crash course in theater production

Casey Brown
Reporter

Elon University is continuing to provide hands-on experience for its students.

Alpha Psi Omega, the theater arts honor society, put on its annual One-Act Play Festival last weekend in the Black Box Theatre. Entirely student-run, the festival showcased two plays: Arthur Miller's "Elegy for a Lady" and "Snapshot Memories," a play written by junior Logan Sutton.

"Alpha Psi Omega has been hosting this festival for at least five or six years," said senior Sarah Clancy, president of the society. "The idea to do one-act plays sprung up because there are so many wonderful shorter shows that do not get stage time due to their length."

Putting this kind of project together was no easy feat. Senior Kristina Loeffke said pieces were submitted to be in the show. Then, directors were asked which pieces they would like. From there, students needed to cast the shows, block them and rehearse.

Loeffke, who directed Arthur Miller's lesser-known play, said she reveled in the opportunity to direct this piece.

"(The play) is very meaty, despite being 13 pages," Loeffke said. "It has a lot of ups and downs. It brings the characters on emotional journeys."

Senior Stephanie Scribner, the festival's other student director, showed an equal amount of enthusiasm for her piece.

"I am especially humbled to have been able to direct 'Snapshot Memories'

because it is a one-act written by one of my classmates who also happens to be one of my closest friends," Scribner said.

Both directors shared similar sentiments on the challenges they faced during the production of this event. Two plays with one practice space required cooperation and support between the two pieces and their participants. In a small-scale production with a limited budget, students had to be resourceful, using props and set pieces from a storage unit in Gibsonville. The majority of the work was done during Winter Term, extending into the first weeks of spring semester.

Despite these trials, students said they felt this project, independent of faculty influence, was an important part of their experiential learning.

"It is empowering to do this on your own," Loeffke said.

Scribner had a similar feeling about the independence she has gained during the course of production.

"This is important because, as artists, self-produced work is going to be most of our focus after we graduate," she said. "As a senior getting ready to move on to life post-Elon, having the opportunity to do something like this was wonderful."



Juniors Ben Redding (left) and Elliot Miranda perform "Elegy for a Lady" during the One-Act Play Festival, hosted by Alpha Psi Omega Feb. 16-18.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LAUREN WARR

Senior Aaron Moger (right) is one of 33 Elon students who play baseball for fun on the club baseball team. The team plays against opposing schools' club teams at a field near the Crest apartments.

Elon club baseball: A culture of its own

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

On a run-down field next to the Crest apartments, 33 Elon University students tend to a baseball diamond, getting it in shape for a few weekend games.

A mesh fence was put in here, as were lights. But this diamond looks nothing like the one across campus at Latham Park. There, varsity athletes perfect their craft as members of the Phoenix.

Here, club baseball players aren't even allowed to use that name.

"We are the Elon Basilisks because we are not allowed to be the Phoenix," said senior pitcher and team president Aaron Moger. "No, we're the Big E. I don't think we have an official name, although I do think I put that as our league registration."

There is no mascot associated with club sports. The term Phoenix is a privilege

reserved for Elon's varsity athletes.

Welcome to the culture of club baseball, a world more akin to "The Sandlot" than "Major League." The team plays for the love of the game, for the camaraderie between teammates — for la joie de vivre.

"I knew I wanted to play baseball at some level in college," said freshman catcher Ben Koffel. "I went to the org fair, saw the club baseball table, signed up, obviously went out to some practices. I fit in and enjoyed my time there so I stuck with it."

For these players, it's a last chance to play a competitive sport before beer league softball is the last avenue of competition. That doesn't mean the sport lacks obstacles.

During a typical varsity baseball game, Elon's athletic department employs various coaches, groundskeepers and media relations personnel.

There may be more than 100 fans to keep the umpire in check.

At club baseball games, lawn chairs act as a makeshift bench. Media credentials are neither required nor requested. The team pays a local man in his 60s a few bucks a game to serve as an umpire. On this baseball diamond, there are no groundskeepers. The players must take care of the field.

With no payroll flexibility to get the services of paid professionals, three seniors serve as coaches — students leading students into the heat of battle.

"I'm just getting sense of what (my teammates) can do and what they can improve upon," said senior outfielder and co-coach Chase Gottwald. "There's definitely a lot of guys that can do a bunch of little small things to really improve their game so me and Moger and John (Hendrickson), that's what we're trying to do every

practice is getting everybody doing the small things right to win games."

And the fans?

"We have ladies who like to bring us oranges and Capri Suns and Fruit by the Foot during games," Moger said. "We might ask them to start doing a little laundry."

The struggles have been well documented to the point

of becoming viral. Moger, a broadcast journalism major, completed a 79-second promo on his team for a production class. The video acknowledged among other things that "there won't be fans storming the field."

But when freshman third baseman Drew Forte submitted it to ESPN.com, the promo was featured on Christmas Eve on the website's "Page 2," and made some of the clip's stars household names — at least in the households of friends and family.

"My friends at home were like, 'Dude, you're on ESPN,'" said sophomore pitcher Brian Magna. "I was like, 'Alright.'"

The boys of spring begin the program's eighth regular season Feb. 25, and though nothing about it is Division I varsity athletics, the spirit of competition is as fierce as anywhere. Elon opens the season against defending national champion East Carolina University.

"East Carolina went 32-1," Moger said. "Not to toot our own horns, but we were their one loss."

It's a challenge just to complete the schedule. Campus recreation provides the team with a \$2,000 budget. To increase funds, Moger collects \$100 in dues from each player. Even then, it's barely enough.

"It's brutal," Moger said. "We want to do a lot of things. We want to try and go on spring break trips, try and play away series. Traveling is not cheap so it's very difficult at times."

Challenging that budget even further is the fact that Firehouse Field, the former home of Elon club baseball, has been torn down to rebuild the Senior Village. The demolition forced the team to move next to the Crest, where mud ruins baseballs and woods make them hard to find.

Further complicating play

is the newly installed fence. The mesh barrier was put in about 290 feet from home plate to straight away center field, becoming a proverbial launching pad for anybody who possesses an aluminum bat.

"They put (the fence) in for a softball field," Moger said. "So it's much shorter than we should play with. We had a pop fly yesterday (in an exhibition game) that got out that would have been a can of corn anywhere else."

Despite the adversities, the club baseball team will make four road trips this season, including a four-game spring break series in Tampa against Central Florida University, the University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University and Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The team's main goal is to accomplish something that has eluded the program since the time of its inception: a conference championship.

Elon is the second-smallest school in the Middle Atlantic South Conference, a league they share with Wake Forest University, North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and East Carolina University.

"We start with a smaller batch originally," Moger said. "But we still get enough talent coming through and enough talent to compete."

There will be no grandstands full of spectators. No athletic scholarships to assist in the financial hardships a private university can bring. No television cameras interviewing players about key RBI doubles.

But they'll be there, right outside the Crest, taking batting practice and preparing as hard as anybody to play the game they love. They'll do it because a mesh fence sits there. Build a field and people will play.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LAUREN WARR

In lieu of a bench, the Elon University club baseball team uses lawn chairs to sit in during games.

Jack on track: Sophomore guard shines for Elon

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Elon sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger has impressed the Southern Conference, Phoenix fans and, most importantly, his coach with his play this season.

"He's gotten better," Elon Head Coach Matt Matheny said. "He's coming in as a sophomore, but he's a sophomore-plus because of all the experience he got last year as a freshman, the European trip and all the minutes he's playing this year."

The Zionsville, Ind. native was named to the SoCon All-Freshman Team last year by league media members and was third on the Phoenix in scoring despite coming off the bench in each of the team's 31 games. He scored in double-figures 14

times, including Dec. 20, 2010, when he scored 21 points against then-No. 1 Duke University.

With the loss of senior point guard Chris Long, Isenbarger came into this season expecting to be a leader on a team with just one senior, guard Drew Spradlin. Matheny pointed Isenbarger out as someone who needed to step up.

"It's tougher when you've only got one senior," Isenbarger said at the beginning of the season. "A little less experience and less guys talking out there. We've kinda gotta fill that void by everyone talking and stepping up out there, but more specifically the captains. I worked on my leadership skills and being able to communicate with my teammates (in the off-season)."

Isenbarger began the season a

starter against the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Nov. 11, but hurt his arm and did not play until the Phoenix defeated Princeton University Nov. 22. He then went on to score double-digit points in seven of the next nine games, including 19 points in a key conference win against UNC-Greensboro Nov. 5. All of these performances came when Isenbarger came off the bench, usually replacing freshman guard Austin Hamilton, who shone when Isenbarger went out.

"I want to come into any game ready to play," Isenbarger said. "Whether it's starting or off the bench, I need to be ready to come in and produce, to give this team what I can offer."

He was reinserted in the starting lineup when Spradlin struggled during the month of January, making just his second start of the season

against Samford University Jan. 19, a game in which he scored 15 points on 5-of-15 three-point shooting. Not the greatest of nights statistically, but it was only the beginning.

Isenbarger has scored in double-digits in every game since, eleven games in a row after he picked up 22 points in the Phoenix's loss to Western Carolina University Feb. 18. The peak came Feb. 4 against The Citadel when he scored a career-high 34 points on 11-of-16 shooting. He was named the SoCon Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 7.

"I think he's

efficient with his energy," Matheny said. "He's a warrior. I think he's constantly on the hunt offensively. He's aggressive offensively and he has what great scorers have, and that's amnesia. If he misses one, that is forgotten, completely forgotten. I think that even if he makes one, it's sort of irrelevant to the next shot. And I think that's good for any scorer."

Isenbarger started at point guard for the first time since the opener when Hamilton did not dress for the Phoenix's double-overtime victory over College of Charleston Feb. 2 and has thrived in the role. Since Jan. 19, he is averaging 4.4 assists per game, picking up a season-high in assists with eight Feb. 9 against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, while turning the ball over just 2.6 times per contest.

"I guess I'm just trying to improve on the one with Austin gone," he said after Elon's 82-59 victory over Appalachian State University Feb. 6. "He's been so big for us this year and I've just been working on taking advantage of the opportunities that you get when you play the point."

His scoring average jumped from 9.0 points per game before he started to 14.0 points per contest after the Western Carolina game. He sits eighth in the SoCon in that category, 13th in assists per game (2.9), fourth in free-throw percentage (84.1 percent) and eighth in three-point field goal percentage (40.0 percent). Not bad stats for a sophomore.

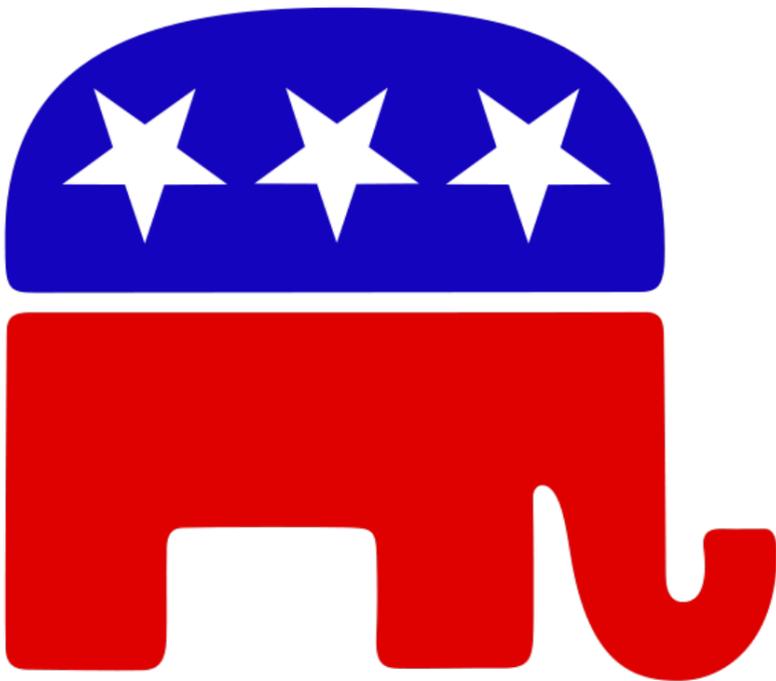
"He's maturing," Matheny said. "His basketball IQ is coming out because he's starting to feel more comfortable in our system, playing at this level. And as a result, he's playing really well lately. He's becoming more confident. I think a lot of times in your late-sophomore, early-junior year, that's when the dividends start to pay a little bit and you can see it with Jack."



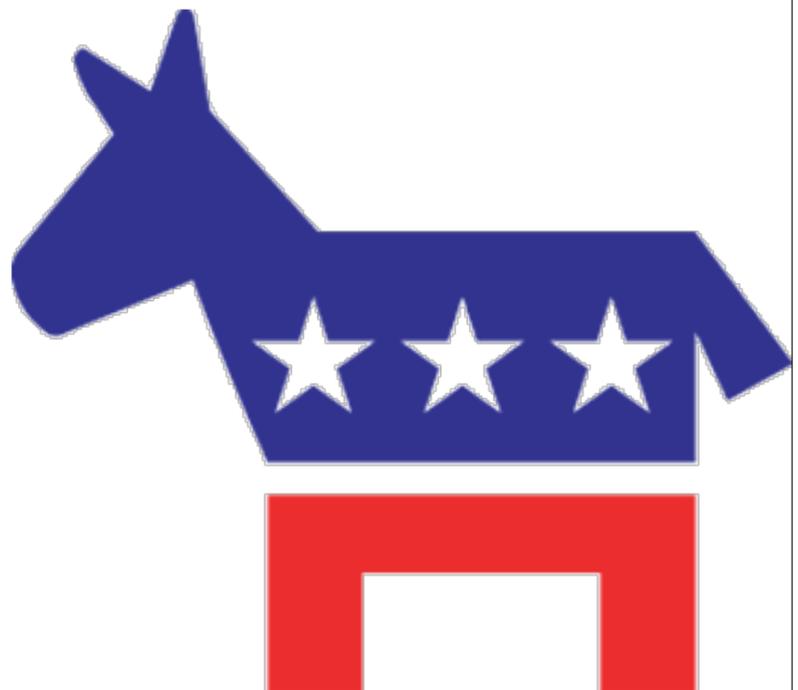
GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

This year, Elon sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger is averaging 14 points per game, eighth in the Southern Conference.

The Great Debate



Young Republicans



Young Democrats

Discuss the Issues

**Whitley Auditorium
March 8, 2012
7:00pm**

Phoenix softball takes to the road to restart

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

After seven games and two tournaments at home, the Elon University softball team must try their luck away from East Field this weekend.

The Phoenix travels to Columbia, S.C., for the Gamecock Classic Feb. 24-26. There, Elon will play a Friday game against the University of South Carolina before facing George Washington University and Presbyterian College Saturday, and wrap the tournament up with another matchup with the Blue Hose on Sunday.

"We're playing some good teams again," said interim head coach Kathy Bocock. "The competition just only gets better as our season progresses. Hopefully we'll get better."

Elon played South Carolina twice last year, each team winning once. Now, a younger team makes the trip to a big-time stadium against a Southeastern Conference team — certainly an atmosphere the Phoenix must adjust to. But Bocock said she doesn't think all in attendance will be wearing garnet and black.

"If there's good weather, South Carolina will bring a lot of good fans," Bocock said. "(Presbyterian's) not far from there, so they'll bring their fans over. I think we'll have our fans that'll travel with us. We should be good. It should be a great weekend for college softball."

These are the first college road games for the nine freshmen on Elon's team. The nature of preseason tournaments ensure that most will get some playing time this weekend as Bocock attempts to find a solid combination by the time Southern Conference play begins.

"We have some different lineups," Bocock said. "Different people



The Phoenix softball team is struggling, losing games against Bucknell University and James Madison University at home after starting the year 4-0.

playing the same positions because nobody's won the spot."

One thing that has remained a constant is the pitching success of the O'Shea sisters. Erin, a senior, has started four of Elon's seven games, going 3-1 and putting up a 1.93 ERA while striking out 22 hitters and winning three of four decisions. Freshman Caitlin O'Shea has started two games of her own, winning one and putting up a 3.11 ERA.

"(Caitlin's) doing okay," Bocock said. "I think we're putting her in tough situations coming up against

some things, and we're doing that early against her so she can see what it's all about."

The Phoenix enters the Gamecock Classic trying to snap the two-game losing streak they suffered Saturday against Bucknell University and James Madison University in the Phoenix Softball Clash. After a 5-0 start, those were the first two defeats of the season for Elon, which was set to play the two teams again on Sunday — but the wintry weather canceled the games and prevented revenge.

"(It's) absolutely (frustrating),"

Bocock said. "Because after they lost to those two teams everybody always wants a second chance knowing 'Gosh, if we just had a little bit more time or if we had a few more innings, things could have gone different.' That's why we did want to play them again."

Bocock said she didn't think her team played their best softball this past weekend. Elon put up just four runs in their two losses compared to 37 runs the prior five outings.

But Columbia is as good a place as any to stem the tide.

Elon tennis serves up victory



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Both Elon men's and women's tennis teams walked away with victories this past week, including junior Carlos Arboleda, from Cali, Columbia. The men defeated Gardner-Webb University 7-0 Feb. 16 and are now 2-4 this season. The women beat East Carolina University 6-1 in Greenville, N.C., Feb. 15., and sit 4-2 in the 2012 tennis season.



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Still struggling: Men's basketball in midst of another mire

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

It always stinks to lose.

So said Elon sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger, whose team has lost four games in a row dating back to its Feb. 9 loss to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has fallen two games behind North Division leader UNC-Greensboro with two games left in the regular season. The Spartans have already clinched at least a share of the Southern Conference's North Division title, but that is not the Phoenix's focus.

With the regular season finale against UNCG Feb. 25 looming, Phoenix head coach Matt Matheny continues to look forward. In that game, Elon may have a chance to clinch a share of the North Division crown.

"We would love to be competing for a championship on the last day of the regular season," Matheny said. "But it's so much more about our team and the growth of our team, and the focus is on the improvement of our team."

With losses to Wofford College Feb. 15 in Spartanburg and Western Carolina University Feb. 18 at home, the Phoenix has fallen to 13-14, the first time its overall record has dipped below .500 since Jan. 19 against Samford University.

But the constant mantra of "records don't matter" that Matheny's squad has held throughout the season continues to be on their lips.

"We're not gonna focus on records," Isenbarger said. "At this point, we're focusing on getting better each day and correcting the mistakes we made tonight (Feb. 18 against Western Carolina). We're going to move on to the next game."

Against Wofford, Elon watched as the Terriers had a 24-1 run in the first half, developing a lead they could not overcome as the Phoenix fell 72-59. Western Carolina came back from an 11-point deficit in the first half to defeat Elon 78-76 in overtime.

The loss against Western Carolina



Junior guard Joash Bonney and the Phoenix have fallen below .500 for the first time since Jan. 19 with four straight losses against SoCon opponents.

GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

was especially tough for the Phoenix to take. Isenbarger had 26 points and Elon shot 50.9 percent from the field in the game, but they still managed to lose their first home game since Jan. 19 loss to Samford.

"Road warriors should play well everywhere," Elon sophomore forward Ryley Beaumont said. "But it does hurt at home. It's gonna hurt, it's gonna feel bad. We've got to take what we did well, take what we did bad and learn from it, get ready for the next one."

The next one is a tough test against

Davidson College, which sits first in the SoCon's South Division with a 14-2 conference record. The Wildcats have made a little noise this season, defeating then-No. 11 Kansas University on Dec. 19.

"Davidson's got a great thing going right now," Isenbarger said. "It's going to be a fight, it always is between us and Davidson. We respect their style of play, but we're going to go in there aggressive and ready to attack."

If the Phoenix loses to Davidson, it will lose its chance to win a share of the

North Division crown.

Elon has had four chances to pick up their 14th win, the same number of victories they had last season. But they have fallen just short of the mark every time. Matheny thinks they still have a ways to go.

"We need to make more shots, make more free throws, turn it over less," he said. "We made some mistakes defensively too. We need to get where we make fewer and fewer mistakes. We're still making too many mistakes to expect to win."

Road warriors: Women's basketball moves to fifth place in the SoCon

Elon wins 2 straight games on the road

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

Road trips are a lot more fun after victories.

The Elon women's basketball team won two games away from home this week, defeating Georgia Southern University by 30 on Saturday and taking a 63-50 decision over the College of Charleston Monday night. It made the hours long journey back to campus much more enjoyable than if the result had been different.

"It's a long trip if you lose," said junior forward Kelsey Evans. "The fact that we won two makes it a pretty good trip."

The Phoenix will try to extend the good vibes with its final two games of the season, home

dates against Wofford College and Western Carolina University Feb. 25 and 27, respectively.

The game against the Western Carolina will be the last at Alumni Gym for five Elon seniors, including starting point guard Aiesha Harper.

"We want to finish strong every game and we want to finish the season out strong, too," Harper said.

Right now the Phoenix (14-13, 10-8 Southern Conference) is positioned in fifth place in the conference standings. Two wins at home would guarantee Elon one of the first round byes given to the top five teams in the conference.

"We need some wins," said head coach Charlotte Smith. "We need both of these wins in terms of conference

standings, so we're going to take it one game at a time but do what we need to do to finish strong."

To finish strong, Elon must complete two season sweeps. The Phoenix won by six against the Terriers Dec. 19 and bested Western Carolina 51-45 Jan. 18.

"I don't know if it's necessarily a challenge (to beat a team twice)," Harper said. "We just have to execute offensively, defensively and do the things that we did special in the game that we beat them in."

In the first matchup with the Terriers, Elon and Wofford engaged in a back-and-forth affair that saw the lead change 19 times. But junior guard Ali Ford hit a 3-pointer with 2:50 left that gave the Phoenix the lead for good and enabled her team to escape Spartanburg with a victory.

Elon blew a nine-point lead in its visit to Cullowhee and was faced with a four-point deficit with 6:45 to go. But Ford made a layup, Harper hit a triple and the Phoenix once again ducked out of harm's way.

Elon's regular season will end one of two ways. There's always the possibility of a letdown — a chance that the Phoenix won't end its two-game home losing streak — that leaves them without a first round bye.

Then there's the result the team is looking for. A couple of wins will make it a lot easier to survive and advance once the conference tournament rolls around March 2-5 in Asheville.

For the seniors, they sure would enjoy a final bus ride home from Asheville with a Southern Conference championship trophy in tow.

"We want to finish strong every game and we want to finish the season out strong, too."

- Aiesha Harper
STARTING POINT GUARD

Sports

Latham Park ablaze with hot-hitting Phoenix baseball

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

An almost-no-hitter. A grand slam. A come-from-behind victory.

The Elon Phoenix baseball team used all three to begin the 2012 season on the right foot, picking up three victories in all of their games this past weekend over non-conference opponents.

"It's kinda early to tell, but the areas that we thought we would be good at, we did those things well," Phoenix head coach Mike Kennedy said. "Starting pitching was very, very good, base-running was very, very good. For the most part, we played solid defense. Those are things that we've been preaching that, in order for us to do well, we have to do."

The prime example of that starting pitching was junior pitcher Kyle Webb, who took a no-hitter into the seventh inning of Elon's 7-1 victory over the University of Akron Feb. 17 before giving up an inning-opening double to Akron redshirt freshman outfielder Joey Havrilak. Webb finished the game with six strikeouts, giving up just three walks, two hits and one earned run in seven innings.

"He was outstanding," Kennedy said. "That's the kind of outings you're looking for against Friday night guys. He's going to have a lot of very difficult match-ups throughout the season. That was a great start for him confidence-wise."

The next of those huge match-ups for Webb will come when he starts Feb. 24 against the University of South Carolina, the back-to-back College World Series champions, in the first of a three-game weekend series.

"We're treating it just like any other game," Webb said. "You don't play it any different. We just play our game and hopefully come out on top."

Another key piece the Phoenix will need to bring to Columbia, S.C., is its run-scoring ability.

Elon out-scored its opponents 15-5 in the three wins. Four came off one swing, a grand slam by sophomore Sebastian Gomez in the fourth inning against Akron.

In their double-header against George Mason University Feb. 18 — both wins — Elon scored eight total runs and gave up just four.

The Phoenix is getting a lot of early contributions from the upperclassmen on the team. Senior Jake Luce, junior outfielder Niko Fraser, catcher Alex Swim and senior

"It's kinda early to tell, but the areas that we thought we would be good at, we did those things well... For the most part, we played solid defense. Those are things that we've been preaching that in order for us to do well, we have to do."

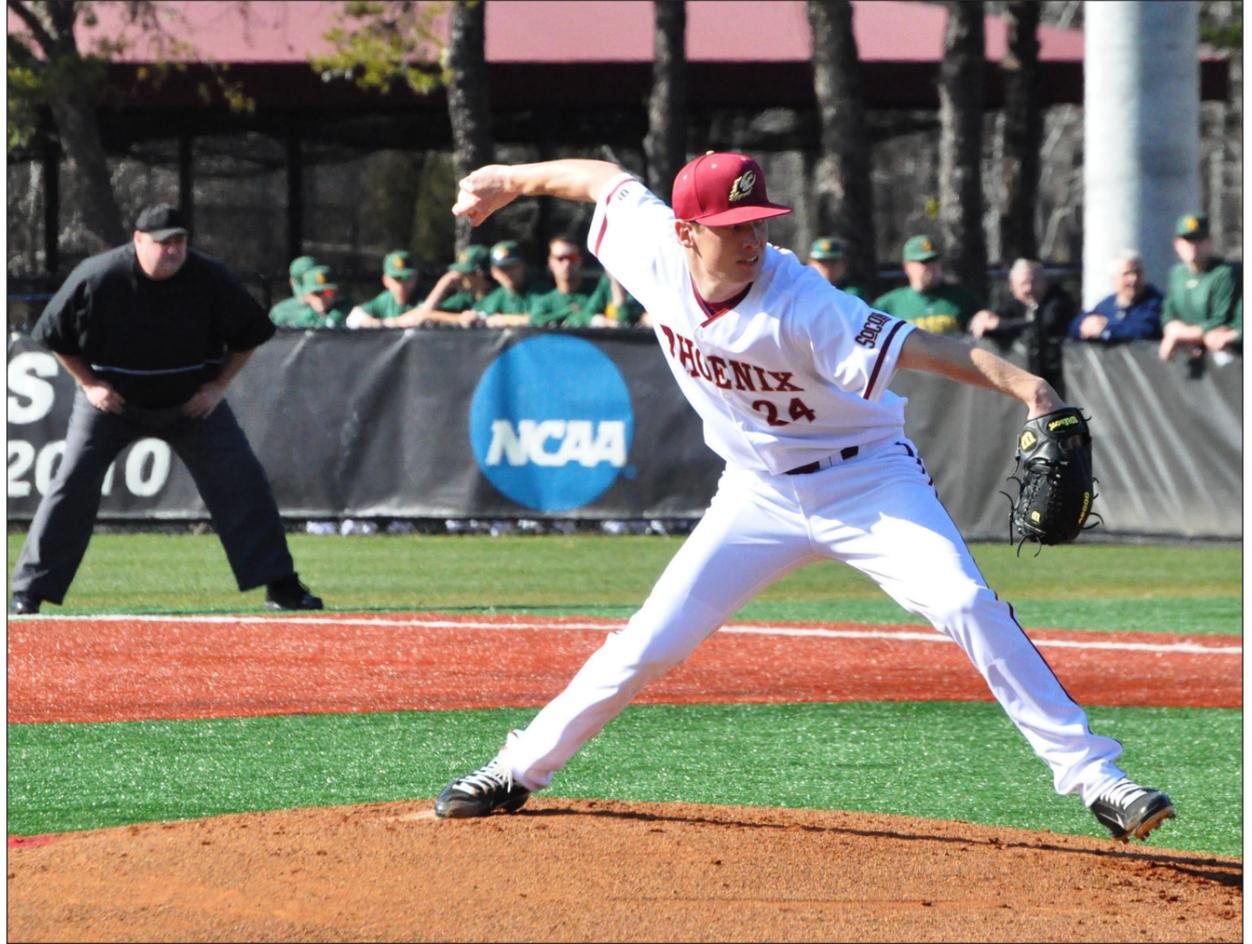
- Mike Kennedy
HEAD COACH

some guys aren't going to go seven innings — some guys are going to go (hitless) with a strike-out, then how do we respond to that? That's when we'll know what kind of leadership we have."

One thing he was fully pleased with was the play of some of the newcomers. Transfer and junior pitcher Nate Young pitched two scoreless innings and picked up the win in the Phoenix's 4-3 comeback victory in the second half of the double-header against George Mason. New junior closer Jordan Darnell, who redshirted last season, picked up the save in that game and freshman catcher Michael Elefante had two hits and an RBI in six at-bats in his first weekend of collegiate baseball.

"It does a world of good for those guys confidence-wise," Kennedy said. "You always want to try to come out and get off to a good start. When you don't, you start pressing and you start trying to do too much. For the most part, those guys did a really good job, and they're going to have to. They're going to be thrown into the fire and hopefully they can handle it."

With the team still trying to work out starting lineups (13 different players started the field for the Phoenix), they will be put to the test against the Gamecocks. After that, it's



Junior pitcher Kyle Webb picked up the win for the Phoenix Feb. 17 against the University of Akron, pitching seven innings in Elon's season opener.

shortstop Garrett Koster combined for 21 hits over the three games. But Kennedy said it is still too early to see if that leadership by example is enough.

"We've had a number of guys step it up," he said. "I don't know that it's great, but it's still better than I thought it would be at this point. And hopefully this season, as guys react to situations, will tell what kind of leadership we had. We're not going to win every game —

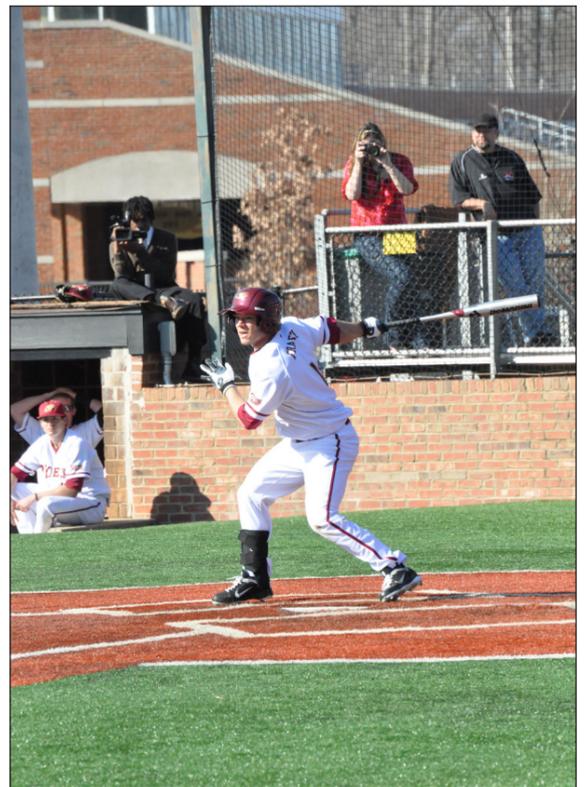
Southern Conference play.

"Next weekend, after this weekend against South Carolina, we've got conference (play), so we don't have a lot of time to play around and move a lot of guys," Kennedy said. "So you're trying to make sure guys understand roles and can handle certain roles, and if not, it's going to be one of those years where you have to change it on the fly."

But the moniker of "two-time defending champs" does not faze Kennedy.

"We're going to work on doing the things we have to do well, hopefully throw a lot of strikes and catch the ball," he said. "If we do that, I think we'll be in the games and you'll have to execute at the end."

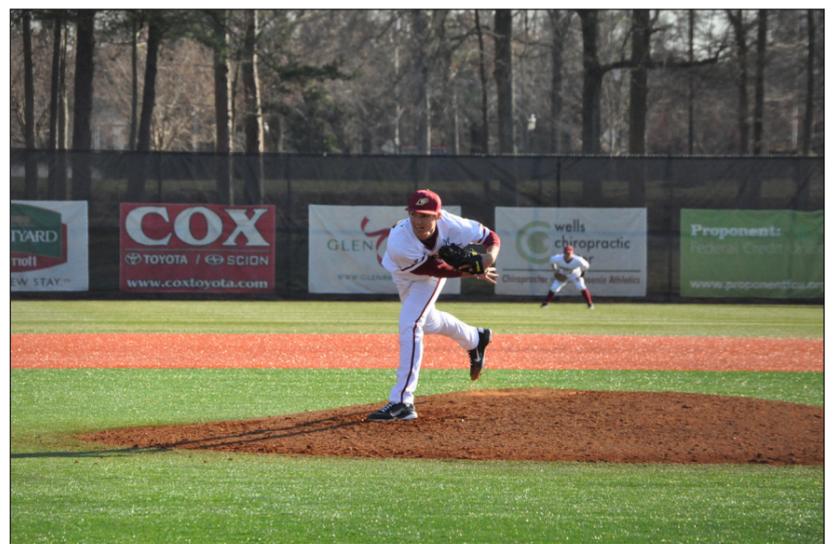
Even with big highlight moments.



Elon junior outfielder Niko Fraser had four hits this past weekend.



Elon junior infielder Chris Bresnahan had two hits and an RBI in three games from Feb. 17-18.



Redshirt freshman pitcher John Antonelli threw two scoreless innings in relief Feb. 17 for Elon.