



# COMMENCEMENT EDITION

- FAQs & Schedule
- Words of Wisdom
- Elon traditions
- Features on Grads

Check out our website on Saturday for complete coverage of the 2012 Commencement exercises.

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012 | VOLUME 38, EDITION 14

[www.ElonPendulum.com](http://www.ElonPendulum.com)



## the year in review

A year is characterized by many moments. Some coarse with a pain that we hope is fleeting. Others overflowing with joy so strong we want to relive it again and again. The past year at Elon has been marked by many such moments in the grand circle of life. We've lost members of our community and mourned their passing. We've celebrated the breaking of ground to make room for growth and development. We've joined together as a community to stand against discrimination and hatred of numerous forms.

Whatever your journey to and through Elon has been, we hope it has been marked by more joy than pain, more moments to remember than to forget. And, though you have reached the finish line of your passage, remember - the journey is the joy. It's not your destination, but the path that got you there - roadblocks, bumps, U-turns and all - that defines you.

— Caitlin O'Donnell  
Editor-in-Chief



FOR THE LATEST COVERAGE AND EXCLUSIVE WEB CONTENT, VISIT [ELONPENDULUM.COM](http://ELONPENDULUM.COM)



# University tradition born under the oaks

Dan Quackenbush  
Opinions Editor

When the Class of 2012 first arrived at Elon University, they gathered for the first time as a class Under the Oaks for the annual new student convocation. Presiding over the ceremony was President Leo Lambert, who assured the audience they would reconvene four years later in the same spot, under the shade of West Area's aging oak trees. The occasion, he promised, would be a celebration of the class' graduation from Elon.

The Class of 2012's departure from Elon has finally arrived. As tradition dictates, on May 19, Elon will host its 122nd Commencement Exercises Under the Oaks to mark the achievements of the Class of 2012.

Among the many long standing traditions held during commencement exercises, Elon's tradition of celebrating graduation Under the Oaks is one that can be traced back decades in Elon's history. Elon is a Hebrew word that translates to "oak."

President Emeritus Earl Danieley said the practice of holding commencement Under the Oaks actually dates back as far as 1923.

"The first commencement Under the Oaks was held in May of 1923," Danieley said. "The old administration building had just burned down in January, so it had to be held outside by necessity."

Danieley recalls renting an electronic organ and placing

it in Whitley Auditorium to amplify music out onto the grounds at one ceremony.

"I really enjoy it outside," he said. "The music and sound are so clear, the crowd is so well-behaved and event is so well-orchestrated," he said.

Former Provost Warren Board proposed the location of Elon's commencement exercises be formally changed in 1987, insisting the symbolism of Elon students graduating under the oak trees of West Area was a fitting send off for graduates.

Danieley, who has attended more than 75 commencement exercises at Elon, said how much each graduating class means to him and how they left him with some of his fondest memories.

"Graduation day is such sweet sorrow," he said. "You work with the students for four years and then they're gone. Graduation every year here at Elon University has thrilled me. It makes for a happy man."

Many of Elon's current administrators also recognize the symbolic and reminiscent nature of holding commencement under the oaks.

Lambert acknowledged the importance of holding commencement Under the Oaks because of the location's significance in university history.

"I like the idea of having New Student Convocation in August Under the Oaks and making a date with the class to be there again four years later," Lambert said. "The



Both the Commencement and New Student Convocation ceremonies take place under the Oaks near West Dormitory. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

oaks provide the perfect canopy, the setting is historic and the meaning of the oak is important to all of us at Elon."

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, agreed with Lambert's sentiments. The location of graduation serves as a thematic reminder of both how far the students have come during their Elon experience, and how the university has developed and thrived along with them, he

said. "I like the bookend symbolism between the New Student Convocation and commencement, particularly being in the traditional Under the Oaks in front of Elon's oldest building, West Hall, within the walls of the original campus," Jackson said.

Lambert, who is presiding over his 14th commencement exercises this year, said the Under the Oaks tradition helps graduates commemorate the

day with memories of which they will look back on fondly.

"Being under the oaks is a very special experience," Lambert said. "The pageantry, music and an atmosphere that is both formal and festive make for a memorable occasion each year."

As the Class of 2012 prepares to walk under the shade of Elon's oak trees one last time, it will mark the end of another successful commencement ceremony in Elon's history.

## From acorn to oak: growing a tradition

Rebecca Wickel  
Features Editor

Surprisingly, it started with a redwood tree.

When Furman Moseley, Class of 1956, gave Elon University's commencement address in 1991, he had no idea he was planting the seed of tradition at his alma mater.

Moseley spoke about his career in the California timber business, offering each graduate a redwood sapling to solidify the metaphor for life, hard work and growth.

"President (Fred) Young and the students loved it so much, he wanted to continue it," said George Troxler, professor emeritus of history. "He made a change from redwood to oak saplings for obvious reasons, but it's been that way ever since."

Troxler was serving as dean of cultural and special programs at the time of Moseley's gift and has seen the tradition become rooted in the university's culture.

"I knew Moseley was planning to give the graduates saplings, but I didn't know how it would go over," he said. "But it really took off."

Young began offering students oak saplings, to honor the university's Hebrew namesake, in 1992. Seven years later, Leo Lambert arrived at Elon and began a new tradition.

"Lambert added the final piece to the puzzle: giving students the acorn at New Student Convocation," Troxler said.

The four years an acorn takes to become an oak represent the Elon experience. According to Troxler, Lambert does a nice job explaining the significance of the tradition to incoming students, and again when graduates accept their saplings.

For Troxler, the story of the saplings ends long after graduation.

"I'm usually the one who gets notes saying 'My sapling didn't make it home,'" he said. "We try to replace them if we can."

Finding an extra sapling isn't hard at the university. Tom Flood, assistant director of Physical Plant and director of landscaping and grounds is responsible for ordering and caring for the young oaks each year. He purchases the saplings, gets them to campus and waters them until the big day.

According to Troxler, the university orders more than 1,200 saplings a year.

"We probably buy more oak saplings than anyone else in the state," he said. "I bet we probably keep the nurseries in business."

This year, as the Class of 2012 celebrates its rich history and promising future, the beloved tradition celebrates its 20th anniversary. Once again, the university adds a little green to the sea of maroon and gold.

### What now?

Although exams are finished and textbooks are returned, there are a few things left to learn before leaving Elon. Caring for a young oak requires attention, so consider the following tips when taking a sapling to its new home.

- When planting a sapling, clear a three-foot circle of all vegetation that allows full access to sunlight and good soil.
- Place the oak into a one foot wide, two foot deep hole. Slope the soil away from the seedling so that the water does not sit at the trunk of the tree.
- Water the tree daily or weekly, as needed. The soil around the bur oak should be kept moist but not saturated
- Excess water can promote root rot, a harmful fungus or drown the young sapling.
- Remember an oak will eventually be a large tree, so don't plant it too close to buildings, sidewalks, or driveways.



BOARDING \* LESSONS \* SHOWING

Bring your horse to school!  
Skyview Farm is located  
10 minutes from campus.

Kara Young Soloman  
336-392-9188  
skyviewfarmnc@yahoo.com

Skyviewfarmnc.com  
4220 McIntyre Rd.  
Gibbonsville, NC 27249

# Commencement FAQs and schedule

**Q: Where do graduates sit?**

**A: B.A.:** They will sit on the audience's left, near the McEwen Dining building, and a portion will sit in the front row on the audience's right, near Whitley Auditorium.  
**B.F.A.:** They will sit on the audience's right near Whitley Auditorium.  
**B.S.:** They will sit on the audience's right near Whitley Auditorium.

**Q: Can I order a DVD of graduation?**

**A:** Yes, DVDs are available for \$20. Sales tables will be staffed at Baccalaureate and Commencement Under the Oaks. They can also be purchased online via PayPal.

**Q: Are professional photos available?**

**A:** Yes, a professional photographer will take photos of students as they receive their diplomas. The proofs will be sent to each graduate's home address within two weeks.

**Q: Can I take photos?**

**A:** The letter of the last name of the graduates currently on stage will be held up in the photo area to the right of the stage. When the graduate's letter is held up, the photographer can enter the photo area to the right of the stage.

**Q: Where is the first aid station?**

**A:** Beneath the tent between Whitley Auditorium and the parking lot.

**Q: Is there a special needs section?**

**A:** Yes, there is a special needs section located on the left side of the audience near McEwen Communications building. Individuals with special needs are allowed to have their families sit with them. They can also watch the ceremony from inside McEwen Communications building.

**Q: Where do I meet graduates after the ceremony?**

**A:** There will be signs for each of the

## FINDING THE BATHROOMS



FILE GRAPHIC BY SARAH BETH COSTELLO

academic departments above the tables located in front of Alamance building. All attendees should meet near the sign of their student's academic major.

**Q: Where is the Campus Safety and Police communications center?**

**A:** It will be located in the tent with first

aid between Whitley Auditorium and the parking lot.

**Q: Where is the lost and found?**

**A:** During the ceremony, lost items should be taken to the information table at the back of the graduation site. After the ceremony, lost and found items will be in

the Campus Safety and Police office in the Oaks apartments.

**Q: Where can I find water during the ceremony?**

**A:** Water stations are located behind the seating under the Oaks.

### Wednesday, May 16

- Senior Class Picnic Lunch for graduates and Elon faculty and staff: 12 noon – 2 p.m., green behind Moseley (Rain Location: Harden Dining Hall)
- Senior Gala: 9:00 p.m. – midnight, McKinnon Hall
- Interactive Media Reception for student work: 7-9 p.m., second floor Powell

### Thursday, May 17

- Interactive Media M.A. Graduation Ceremony: 7 p.m., Whitley Auditorium (reception to follow)
- African-American Commencement Reception: 6:30 p.m., McCoy Commons Room 212. Alumna Candyce Marsh, Class of 2003, will be the keynote speaker.

### Friday, May 18

- ROTC Commissioning Ceremony: 11 a.m., Holt Chapel, South Campus
- Receptions for graduates and their families hosted by faculty in Elon College and the Schools of Business, Communications and Education: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Elon College, The College of Arts and Sciences graduates and families: front of Lindner Hall (Rain location: Lindner Foyer)
- Love School of Business graduates and families: Chandler Fountain and Plaza (Rain location: Koury Business Center, first floor)
- School of Communications graduates and families: Manfuso Plaza (Rain location: McEwen Communications Building, Studio B)

- School of Education graduates and families: front porch of Mooney Building (Rain location: Mooney 111)
- Baccalaureate: 3 p.m., Alumni Gym, Koury Center
- Hillel Graduation Reception: 4:15 p.m., Moseley 215 Special guest will be Baccalaureate speaker Ruth Messinger. RSVP to Nancy Luberoff at nluberoff@elon.edu.
- Celebration of Leaders for the Twenty-First Century and reception: 5 p.m., McCrary Theatre Reception following on Fine Arts Terrace (Isabella Cannon Room and Gallery-rain location)
- M.B.A. Graduation Ceremony: 7 p.m., Whitley Auditorium (reception to follow)

### Saturday, May 19

- Continental breakfast: 7:30 a.m., Scott Plaza. Graduates participating in Commencement Under the Oaks should arrive at Jordan Gym no later than 8:30 a.m.
- The 122nd Commencement Exercises: 9:30 a.m., Under the Oaks

### Sunday, May 20

- Elon School of Law Commencement: 3 p.m., Under the Oaks

Join us for our **Phoenix Jazz Brunch** 3281 South Church Street Burlington, NC 27215 336-270-6277

Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20th 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Burlington's only LIVE jazz bistro**

**JAZZ BEL'ERE**

**JAZZ BISTRO**

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
		Karaoke	Open Mic	Piano	Live Jazz	Live Jazz

*AddiRae & Ives*  
Boutique

2306-B S. Church St.  
Burlington, NC 27215

(336)228-7242  
www.addiraeandives.com

*We have jewelry and bags!*

# Honorary alumnus to give commencement address

Originally published Jan. 18, 2012

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

As Steve Schuckenbrock bids them good luck, he knows they are the game-changers.



STEVE SCHUCKENBROCK

Schuckenbrock, who lives in Texas with his wife, Becky, and their five children, will return to Elon this weekend to deliver the 122nd Commencement address. The 2012 Commencement speaker identifies a connection between his field and the graduating class. This is the first graduating class to have used the Internet their entire lives, he said.

Employers attribute a certain attitude and skill set to today's graduates that provide them with unique opportunities to contribute to society and the global economy, Schuckenbrock said.

"We are at the point where today's graduates can be the change agents for tomorrow," he said. "I want to encourage them to maintain that edge."

Schuckenbrock, Class of 1982, graduated Elon University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and has since risen to president of Dell Services, but Schuckenbrock's principle values apply to even those foreign to the business and technology world.

"Find what you love," he said. "Be determined. Be passionate about

achieving results in that field, whatever the field may be. Don't be afraid to reinvent what things get done."

Schuckenbrock, who lives in Texas with his wife, Becky, and their five children, will return to Elon this weekend to deliver the 122nd Commencement address. The 2012 Commencement speaker identifies a connection between his field and the graduating class. This is the first graduating class to have used the Internet their entire lives, he said.

Employers attribute a certain attitude and skill set to today's graduates that provide them with unique opportunities to contribute to society and the global economy, Schuckenbrock said.

"I think that makes him relate even more to this class because he is at the forefront of one of the companies that is making the Internet what it is and giving people access to the Internet," said Jeff Clark, executive director of cultural and special programs at Elon.

Clark works with the provost to generate a list of distinguished alumni and individuals affiliated with the

university, which is then given to the senior class officers, who select their Commencement speaker.

"We're looking for people who are affiliated with Elon and who have been successful in their life after Elon," Clark said.

Academically driven, Schuckenbrock completed college in two and a half years. The alumnus currently runs a global business of 43,000 employees, or team members, that conducts business in every corner of the globe.

Before working at Dell, Schuckenbrock served as executive vice president of global sales and client services for EDS, COO of the Feld Group, global CIO of PepsiCo, global CIO of Frito-Lay and also worked at IBM. He is a member of President Leo Lambert's advisory council and received the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.

Though he said he valued his Elon education and relationship with professors, he attributes his success to lessons learned early in life.

"In a lot of ways, I think the values and the principles that you learn early

in life, and that I certainly had a chance to continue at Elon, have served me exceptionally well, so fundamentally I have stayed true to those values," Schuckenbrock said.

Intellectual curiosity and a desire to learn guided him throughout his college and professional careers, he said.

"I have always sought the opportunity to learn as much as I possibly can and gain appreciation of work and values of the company, and it's a sort of continuous intellectual curiosity and desire to learn that has helped me the most," Schuckenbrock said.

As graduates prepare for careers, he said he acknowledges the eagerness to find a paying job, but wants to encourage graduates to maintain perspective on what they truly love to do.

"I luckily found out if you don't like what you do, there's not enough money in the world to make it satisfying," he said. "And you don't find that out right after college, you find that out when you get some experience under your belt."

## Members of the Class of 2012:

This summer I had the opportunity to work in New York, one of the biggest cities in the world. The big city life was completely different from the small town life that we have become accustomed to here at Elon.

Elon, a school of roughly 5,000 students, seems miniscule compared to a city like New York. In the city, at times I felt



TAYLOR MARTIN

uncomfortable. I was seeing many faces, most of which I had never seen before and will never see again. This was different than the close knit community that we have learned to love at Elon.

There was one nice summer day when I was walking down the New York streets and got stopped by a stranger. This stranger put his or her hand on my shoulder and used his or her other hand to point to my shirt. I was wearing an Elon T-shirt.

This stranger explained to me that he or she graduated from Elon several years ago, and immediately without anything more being said, this stranger turned into a friend. It was at that moment that I realized

that even in such a big city, with millions of people, there are still connections that can be made. We bonded over our Elon experiences.

We talked about the Elon lifestyle, which teachers were still there and our paths that we plan to take in the upcoming years. This person made me feel comfortable in a city in which I knew no one. We connected through our appreciation for Elon, and that is an appreciation that I do not believe will die any time soon.

No matter where we go, no matter how big or small the city or community that we live in, we will always be connected to Elon. The people that we met here, the friends

that we made and even the people who were here before us are all interconnected in a web that cannot be described with words. Elon is our home, and we may move to other parts of the world, but Elon is the one bond that connects us all for the rest of our lives.

Remember that as you venture out onto your own journeys. Stay connected to each other and never forget the school that you came from. Be brave, be adventurous and be proud of Elon. Our school has served us well.

All the best,  
Taylor Martin  
Senior Class President

## Campus Trace Apartments

Available for 2012-2013 school year  
Summer move-in available

3 bedroom apartments  
w/ private bathrooms in each room  
Washer/Dryer in each unit!



All bills included  
Located 1.5 miles from campus (on the bus line)  
campustrace@tpco.com  
919-828-6278

## Traditions distinguish Elon commencement ceremony

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

The Commencement ceremony concludes with President Leo Lambert's exclamation of "long live Elon," but from the start, the celebration is characterized by tradition unique to the institution.

Prior to the ceremony, Lambert meets in Jordan Gym with the graduates, already dressed in their gowns, and the commencement speaker.

"It's a time for them to have a few minutes with the commencement speaker more up close and personal," said Sandra Fields, assistant to the president.

Following the gathering in the gym, the graduates line up behind the faculty and begin walking toward the ceremony. The Platform Party, which consists of the president, the speaker, the individuals who read the names of the graduates, the chaplain, the provost and the person who sings the national anthem and school alma mater, exit Powell and follow the Class of 2012 to the side of West Residence Hall. The entire group exits through the front and onto the stage, which has been arranged for commencement, walks along the sides and take their respective seat. The Platform Party arranges themselves on the stage.

The chaplain places the Elon Bible on the stage as well. The inclusion of the Bible is specific to Elon, according to Fields. The Price family of Burlington presented the Washburn Bible to Elon University in honor of their sons who belonged to the Class of 1969.

"It's carried because the institution was founded by the Christian Church," Fields said.

The Elon University Mace, the staffs, the gonfalons and international flags are also present symbols at the commencement ceremony, depicting the character of the institution.

The international flags represent

the native countries of the members of the Class of 2012.

Elon's graduation ceremony is unique in that all names are read and all real diplomas are given, Fields said.

The graduates' exit from the commencement ceremony is significant as well and mirrors students' departure from the convocation ceremony, signaling the beginning of their time at Elon, she said.

Graduates walk out from under the oaks between two rows of faculty.

"This is symbolic of your beginning and your ending," Fields said.

Students that have not collected their cap, gown and cords can pick them up at the campus book store, according to Susan Patton, senior associate registrar.

Furthermore, rain tickets can be collected before Friday in Alamance 109. Students receive two rain tickets and can give them to any two guests in the event it rains.

Graduates can access the commencement schedule on OnTrack, which includes information regarding times and seating.

"Everything is traditional in that it is always done that way," Fields said.

### Intercollegiate Code of the Academic Regalia

White: arts, letters and humanities  
Drab: business  
Rust: economics  
Light blue: education  
Brown: fine arts  
Crimson: journalism and communications  
Purple: laws  
Lemon: library science  
Pink: music  
Dark blue: philosophy  
Golden yellow: science  
Citron: social sciences  
Scarlet: theology

# Elon graduates offered variety of lifetime benefits

Grace Elkus  
News Editor

Most graduating seniors are sad to say goodbye to their college years. But through the benefits offered to Elon University graduates by Elon's Alumni Association, students can continue to stay connected to the university in both fun and rewarding ways.

After graduating from Elon, students are automatically considered members of the Elon Alumni Association. The program is entirely free of charge, a perk not commonly offered at other universities, according to Kiley Moorefield, coordinator of young alumni engagement at Elon.

"I think one of the things that is amazing about Elon's alumni association is that all of the benefits that are provided, including several tangible benefits, are at no charge to the alums," she said. "Whereas some universities do charge an annual membership fee, Elon does not, so I think that's one of the biggest things to keep in mind."

Graduates receive a combination of tangible, social and professional benefits, which are paid for through a budget within the Office of University Advancement. Through the GET TAGGED! luggage tag programs, Elon alumni can receive free maroon and gold luggage tags simply by sending their business cards to the university. They also receive the quarterly Magazine of Elon, which updates them on happenings within the university and provides them with alumni news and information.

Alumni are also invited to a number of social events, the most popular of which is Homecoming, Moorefield said. In addition to Homecoming, which takes place every fall, alumni can attend regional events hosted by alumni chapters across the country.

"We have chapters located

all over the United States that host social gatherings, service projects, networking opportunities for alumni that live in that area," Moorefield said. "So that's a really great way to get involved regionally and meet other alumni and maintain your connection with Elon while not actually here on campus."

A total of 2,797 alumni participated in alumni events for the 2011-2012 year. A variety of travel programs are also offered to alumni, most of which are international.

On a professional level, Elon alumni are offered career advice through the Student Professional Development Center. This advice can take the form of resume and cover letter assessments, assistance with the job search or mock interviews.

Alumni can also utilize online resources such as the Elon Job Network or the Elon Mentor Network. The Elon Mentor Network is made up of more than 700 alumni, parents of students and friends of the university who are willing to help reach out to Elon students and Elon alumni, according to Marianne Brigola, career fellow.

"If you are interested in wanting to learn more about a certain career or a certain field, if you want advice on how to break into a certain industry after you've been out for a while or how to gain more experience, you can go through the Elon Mentor Network and search for people who are working in those fields or living in those cities," Brigola said.

Many alumni use the provided services if they are thinking about changing careers, Brigola said. And while many universities offer alumni services for the first six months students are out of college, Elon's services are uniquely offered for a lifetime.

"We've had people who

come in who've had whole careers, who've retired, (but who) want to figure out what to do next," Brigola said.

Students who graduated with a degree from a school with its own career office, such as the School of Communications or the Love School of Business, are offered lifetime support through the satellite office as well.

The best way to maximize the benefits offered to alumni is to stay connected to the university, Moorefield said. Whether that means returning to campus for Homecoming, attending chapter events, serving on the Elon Alumni Board or giving an annual financial gift, staying involved with Elon allows alumni to expand their Elon network and continue to grow personally and professionally.

"Students who attend Elon have a great experience here, and so it's an opportunity to continue that wonderful experience as an alum in a different way than the experience you had as a student," Moorefield said.



Elon University graduate Sean Jeffcoat celebrates his diploma under the Oaks at the Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2011.



President Leo Lambert congratulates graduate Kelsey Glover, Class of 2011 at last year's Commencement ceremony.

## Elon students give back to the office that brought them here

Audrey Horwitz  
Senior Reporter

For some Elon University students, the very office that brought them here is also the one keeping them. Once those days of SATs, teacher recommendations and personal statements are a thing of the past, most students want nothing more to do with the college application process. But, there are quite a few Elon students who see it differently.

Bethany Ely is an Elon alumna who began her job as an admissions counselor for Elon three weeks after

graduating.

"I think it says something when you visit a school and almost all the admissions counselors went there," Ely said.

Through her job as a tour guide on campus, Ely worked closely with employees in the admissions office. After seeing what they do for the university, she decided she wanted a similar role.

"Who better to counsel students on Elon than people who went here?" said Ely.

Ely has plenty of other Elon students in the Admissions office to keep her company.

Kellye Coleman, Class of 2012, has not yet graduated and is already interning for Admissions. Like Ely, Coleman began as a tour guide, but did not expect to make the transition to a professional staff member.

"Before this internship, I never thought about a career in admissions," Coleman said. "I love tour guiding, but never made that connection."

Coleman's role is to support the admissions office as a whole. She was instrumental in the planning of spring orientations, from finding speakers to figuring out what to serve for breakfast.

Although Coleman is the only intern in the office, she has always felt like a part of the team.

"From day one, they told me I was part of this staff," Coleman said. "I absolutely have a voice. I have not once felt like I'm the lowly intern in the corner."

Coleman may be the only intern on staff, but she has found herself surrounded by peers. She estimates that about 70 percent of the admissions office is made up of Elon alumni.

"I think it says a lot about Elon that people want to give back to the university," Coleman said.

## Annual percentage of employed alumni grows

Kristen Olsen  
Senior Reporter

Even following graduation, the Class of 2011 continues to impress as the percentage of alumni employment exceeds previous years, according to the results of the nine-month-out update on the class. Each graduating class is surveyed three different times: at graduation, three months following graduation and nine months after leaving Elon University.

Out of the 91 percent of graduates that completed the survey, 57 percent are employed and 26 percent are enrolled in or have

been accepted to graduate or professional school. Of those employed, 89 percent specified that their position is related to their career objective.

Currently, the national average of 2011 alumni who are employed is 41 percent, but is expected to increase to approximately 44 percent for the 2012 graduates.

Tom Vecchione, executive director of Career Services, said the percentage of employed Elon graduates continues to remain strong and is increasing with every graduating class.

"Elon students seem to understand how to market

their skills to get a job," he said. "It's remarkable how well students do their first year out of school."

The survey results indicate of the 57 percent employed, 67 percent of those students got a career lead from an internship, while 48 percent reported a career lead through parents or family and 26 percent landed a career lead through alumni.

The survey revealed the Career Services office was one of the tools that proved to be the most useful to the 2011 graduates. Of those surveyed, 95 percent of the Class of 2011 used Career Services during their time at

Elon. The national average, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) is 73 percent.

Career Services continues to contact those graduates who have not responded to the survey or have reported they are unemployed.

Tom Brinkley, executive director of corporate and employer relations at Elon, said the percentage of employed students is higher than the class of 2010 as well as the national average.

"It's a testament to the quality of our graduates," Brinkley said.

BY THE  
NUMBERS:

EMPLOYED:  
**57 percent**

ATTENDING  
GRAD SCHOOL:  
**26 percent**

USED CAREER  
SERVICES:  
**95 percent**

Information courtesy of  
Career Services.

CLASS OF 2011

Leaders at Elon were asked to share their advice for the Class of 2012 as they prepare to enter life outside of the bubble. Here are their...

# Words of Wisdom

Compiled by Caitlin O'Donnell, Editor-in-Chief

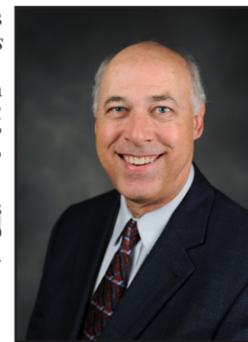


**Alison Morrison-Shetlar**  
Dean, Elon College, The College of Arts and Sciences

Elon graduates earn a degree in making a difference in this world. They make a difference with humor, humility, passion and respect.

While at Elon, students discover their passions and their pathway to the future. I know that you will all use that passion and share the values you have learned at Elon wherever you find yourself.

Think back on what and how you have learned at Elon and do not forget those that are coming behind you — you are their role models and mentors for their future.



**Paul Parsons**  
Dean, School of Communications

I've always enjoyed the sayings of Benjamin Franklin, so I repeat a few here for Elon's 2012 graduates. "One today is worth two tomorrows." "Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead." "Speak little, do much."

"You may delay, but time will not." "Well done is better than well said." My own advice? The key to a rich life is doing something meaningful with it. Pursue meaning.



**Jeffrey Coker**  
Director, General Studies

Set up an environmentally and financially sustainable life for yourself after college. If you live efficiently, you'll have a less stressful life, accumulate wealth and have less environmental impact.

Once you've bought the oversized house far from your workplace and the new car, you've locked yourself in to a life of debt and commuting.



**Paula Patch**  
Director, College Writing

Refuse to be motivated by fear. Instead, be motivated by love — for people, places and ideas (but not necessarily for material things). Acting out of love will make you brave in the face of fear.

You will need to be brave; life gets scarier — it also gets better. Be willing to cut your losses and abandon bad or dead-end situations: relationships, jobs and, again, ideas. Always be ready and able to move on to something better.



**Kirstin Ringelberg**  
Director, LGBTQ Office

Don't worry if you don't know where you're headed in "life." This actually gives you the opportunity to try things that might seem impossible later or things that sound "crazy" but may actually lead somewhere great.

Fulfillment doesn't necessarily come from certainty or comfort — for me it has come from challenging myself to take risks, try new things and meet people who are not like the people I already know.



**Rex Waters**  
Associate Dean of Students

I have been asked to share words of wisdom as you leave Elon. So here goes: Be sure to imagine, laugh and love — lots; cultivate healthy relationships, create and sustain habits of excellence; continue to discover and nourish your passions; live a robust life — it is a contact sport — participate fully; be patiently persistent as life will throw you "curve balls;" and perhaps more importantly, stay true to your core values and take care of your health. Congratulations!



**Glenda Crawford**  
Director, Teaching Fellows

Embrace life's experiences and share your talents with others. Don't hesitate to take risks for the betterment of society. Travel the world and reach across cultural boundaries.

Invest your energies into making our schools and classrooms warm and welcoming environments for student learning. Follow your fondest dreams and know a small part of you will always be in my heart.



**Ross Wade**  
Assistant Director, Career Services, School of Communications

Think of life as being the ultimate mix tape — a compilation of life experiences grounded in an overarching theme. Your values will guide you to your life's purpose, and that purpose will be your mix's theme — all you have to do is authentically live each song, surround yourself with good people and rock it out. Don't mind the haters or what other mix tapes are playing. Keep your ears and heart on your own songs.



**Shana Plasters**  
Director, Greek Life

Don't be afraid of a non-linear career path. Some of life's most rewarding work comes your way when you're not looking for a promotion or a pay raise.



**Smith Jackson**  
Vice President and Dean of Student Life

"Whatever you are, be a good one" (Abraham Lincoln) "...and the right people will notice." (Smith Jackson)



**Susan Klopman**  
Vice President, Admissions and Financial Planning

Consider how powerful it is to be able to make a choice. Most of life's big events are beyond our control — to whom we are born, whom we fall in love with or when our life is over. But we can control how we react to life. We can always choose our attitude, how we respond.

So the most important question I have found in life is a simple one: How do you want this (situation, experience, etc.) to end? It has caused me to frame choices not only that I can live with, but that I am enriched by.



**Michelle Kusel**  
Assistant Director, Leadership

Be sensible, but not so sensible that it stops you from taking action. Remember: Things work out the way they are supposed to.

Take time to reflect on what is important to you and don't feel bad about your answers or answer the way you think you are "supposed" to. Be real with yourself and let this guide you through the next chapter.

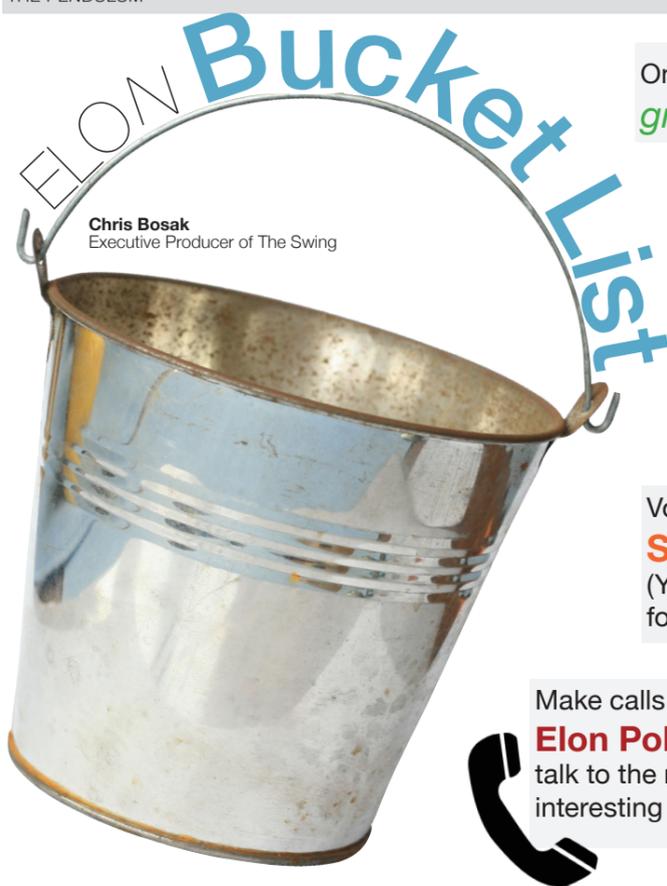
Want to submit your own words of wisdom for the Elon University Class of 2012? We welcome submissions from alumni, faculty, staff, family and community members to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu).

## MORE ONLINE

What is real life really like? Hear from seniors and alumni on the subject.

<http://pend.lu/grad>

Sheryl Davis | Multimedia Editor



Chris Bosak  
Executive Producer of The Swing

On a hot Friday afternoon, *lay in the grass* in front of Moseley.

Ride the **escalators** in the campus bookstore. (The only ones in Alamance County.)

See **music** performed in Whitley Auditorium. (Preferably organ music.)

Go to your **Turning 21** dinner.

Play an *intramural sport*. (Bowling and cornhole are favorites.)

Volunteer for **Safe Rides**. (You'll never forget it.)

**Eat** at every on-campus dining location once.

Go to **Greek Week Dance**, even if you're not Greek.

Make calls for the **Elon Poll**. (You'll talk to the most interesting people.)

Go to at least one *baseball, basketball* and *football* game.

**Photobomb** a communications student taking pictures outside McEwen.

Climb the **magnolia tree** between Long and Alamance.

## Commencement speeches should offer less pomp, more circumstance

### A Pendulum Editorial

Tassel-turning season has come to Elon University as the Class of 2012 prepares to bid farewell to their beloved alma mater. With every graduation ceremony comes a memorable Commencement speech, where a variety of speakers will wax philosophy about this annual culmination of the college experience.

But for all the invaluable words of wisdom that Commencement speakers offer, there are several realities that graduates are not clearly presented with on graduation day that are vital to their future success and well-being.

To the Elon University Class of 2012, here are 12 things that you won't be hearing while sporting a cap and gown on May 19.

#### 1. You still have no clue what you want to do with your life.

Most people go to college to get a better job or because they are told their lives will be mediocre if they don't. The reality is you may have just spent four years studying a subject and still have no idea where your path will take you. The road to success is littered with holes and speed traps so don't forget to look where you're going.

#### 2. Public speaking is a must-have skill.

Many graduates leave Elon lacking experience in public speaking and presentation before going out to apply for jobs. But the ability to speak in public extends beyond business. If you don't believe us, pay attention to President Leo Lambert's address

during the ceremony. He didn't become the president of our university by not knowing how to speak.

#### 3. It's not only what you know, but who you know.

Your diploma is not enough to guarantee you a job. Yes, sporting a degree from Elon will mean a lot in the coming years, but the real world cares less about your degree than it does about who can attest for your skills.

#### 4. The Freshman 15 can still haunt you after you graduate.

Sure, you might not be in college anymore, but scarfing down chips and late night pizzas outside of college can have the same effects on your self-esteem and waistline as those wraps from Varsity did.

#### 5. Failure is the best stepping stone to success.

Failure is a far better teacher than success. Look at some of the most famous and influential people in our society and repeat instances of failure and disappointment will be a common theme. Anything worth having in life will be a struggle to reach, but the struggle itself is most gratifying about the result.

#### 6. If you think life ends when college ends, think again.

If you think your years spent hanging out in the Greek courts or out on the intramural fields were the best you'll ever have, you are abandoning any hope of the rest of your life having any meaning or purpose. Whether you

believe it or not, life does continue outside of Elon's bricked pathways.

#### 7. The rules of college "hookup" culture don't apply in the real world.

Drinking cheap beer at Sandy's and making out with random people may have made for some wild stories from freshman year, but you'd be wise to leave those days in the past. Dates will replace pre-games and dinner parties will replace keg parties. Accept this idea or else you'll be stuck in college forever.

#### 8. Fountain diving at Elon gets you a fine; fountain diving in the real world gets you fined and arrested.

We think this one is pretty self-explanatory. It may be on your bucket list of things to do before leaving Elon, but it makes for some awkward phone calls if you get caught doing it anywhere else.

#### 9. "There are few things more liberating in this life than having your worst fear realized."

Cable TV show host Conan O'Brien shared these words of wisdom last year to Dartmouth College's graduating class. He went on to stress that, "It is our failure to become our perceived ideal that ultimately defines us and makes us unique." Your plans for your future are subject to change, whether you are willing to submit to it. Accept this and go where life beckons you.

#### 10. Success is a matter of opinion, not fact.

There's no concrete definition of what makes a person successful. Having

a wall full of diplomas and a six-figure salary doesn't necessarily make you successful. Everyone's standard of success differs, and at the end of the day, it's up to you to decide if what you've accomplished satisfies your own goals and desires.

#### 11. The time you "wasted" with your friends was anything but.

When you catch yourself reminiscing about your college years, the best memories you'll have will be the moments you spent with your friends. You'll remember their faces, their spirit and their laughs more clearly than anything else from your college days.

#### 12. Many of you will realize you aren't ready to leave college.

When you are the most comfortable and least ready, these four fantastic years come to an abrupt end. There was always someone to show you how to adjust to college, but nobody teaches you how to leave it behind. Your life will not be as sheltered as it has been under Elon's majestic oak trees, under which you are now sitting as you wait for graduation to begin.

To the Class of 2012: Remember that it's nobody's job to help you succeed. It may have been somebody's job when you were in college to assist you, but the goal of college is to help you become self-sufficient, and is one you must undertake alone.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Elon University Class of 2012.

*Inspired by The Wall Street Journal's "10 Things Your Commencement Speaker Won't Tell You."*

## 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](mailto: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.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Caitlin O'Donnell

**Managing Editor**  
Natalie Allison

**Online Managing Editor**  
Jeff Stern

**News Editor**  
Grace Elkus

**News Editor**  
Melissa Kansky

**Assistant News Editor**  
Katherine Blunt

**International Editor**  
Katie Moran

**Opinions Editor**  
Daniel Quackenbush

**Features Editor**  
Rebecca Wickel

**Arts and Entertainment Editor**  
Rebecca Iannucci

**Sports Editor**  
Zachary Horner

**Assistant Sports Editor**  
Adam Lawson

**Special Projects Editor**  
Kate Riley

**Multimedia Editor**  
Sheryl Davis

**Social Media Editor**  
Elizabeth Nerich

**Executive Producer of The Swing**  
Christopher Bosak

**Design Chief**  
Kristen Case

**Photo Editor**  
Claire Esparros

**Copy Chief**  
Ashley Fahey

**Business Manager**  
Kavi Shelar

**Assistant Business Manager**  
Trevor Nelson

**Adviser**  
Colin Donohue

For a complete list of The Pendulum staff, please visit [ElonPendulum.com/staff](http://ElonPendulum.com/staff).

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.ElonPendulum.com), where commentary can be quickly posted.

# TOP 12 of

## Occupy the World

The Occupy Wall Street movement may have begun in Manhattan's Zuccotti Park, but it didn't stay there long. In October, a group of Elon students traveled to New York to join the thousands gathering in loosely organized protests to draw attention to corporate greed and economic inequality. But the experience, which included a standoff with the NYPD and triumphant march into Times Square, didn't end there. In November, a small group of students assembled on the Moseley front lawn to launch a branch of the movement at Elon.



LAUREN ASTLEY

## Loss

The Elon University community was affected by the loss of both students and faculty members during the past academic year. Lauren Astley, an incoming student who would have joined the Class of 2015, was allegedly murdered by a former boyfriend last July. In April, her parents, Malcolm Astley and Mary Dunne, visited campus to commemorate Lauren's life and share the dangers of dating violence. Earlier this month, sophomore Jordan West died after developing breathing problems in the middle

## ... and

Elon welcomed fresh faces into positions of leadership on campus this year. In a runoff election, Darien Flowers was voted the incoming executive president of Student Government Association, campaigning on a platform of experience, transparency and relevance. His term, along with the other newly elected students, began April 1. The university also welcomed Tom Brinkley as the

## "Hypocrisy Exposed" controversy

Within a matter of days in December, The Pendulum published two controversial editorials in response to the university's policy of charging

students with Honor Code violations for comments published by the media. After a sophomore received a notification of a violation for

admitting to owning a fake ID in a front page story, The Pendulum ran "Hypocrisy Exposed," a front page editorial questioning Elon's approach to free speech.

The piece was met with much criticism from students and staff, and The Pendulum published a follow-up clarifying the stance of the organization.



## Construction

Bulldozers and orange construction wire have become just as common as squirrels and oak trees in some locations on campus, as the university juggles multiple building projects. This semester, Elon broke ground on the Numen Lumen Pavilion, which will serve as the university's Multi-faith Center, set to open next January. The Station at Mill Point, a

housing complex for upperclassmen, is on target to be completed prior to move-in day 2012, despite some pushback from locals. The Lakeside Dining Hall, an addition to the Moseley Center is set to open in December. Other projects include the construction of a career services area for the Elon Law School and a softball park.

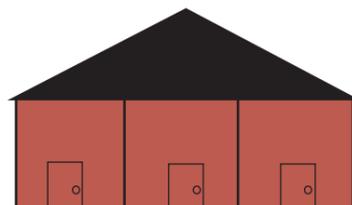
## Housing Selection

This spring, Residence Life revised the process for selecting housing, revoking the option for juniors and seniors to squat in university-owned apartments. With the addition of The Station at Mill Point for upperclassmen, The Oaks transitioned to a residential area primarily for sophomores. When the on-campus housing cap for juniors and seniors was met during the selection process, roughly 60 students were left on a waitlist without any definite housing plans for the fall.



## Elon re

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the community reflected on a decade of loss. Alumni and staff shared memories of that Tuesday afternoon. Witnesses of how their lives were forever changed and small victories of residing in a community. And on the morning of September 11, a ceremony in memory of the attacks.



# 2011-12

Caitlin O'Donnell  
Editor-in-Chief

## LGBTQ Life on Campus

The LGBTQ community on Elon's campus has enjoyed an active year, including the creation of an official office on campus, sponsoring of a successful Pride Week and vocally opposing Amendment One. Kirstin Ringelberg, associate professor of art history, officially took on the position of coordinator for the new LGBTQ office in December but has not been alone in her efforts to gain recognition and rights for the community and its allies. Ross Wade, assistant director of career services for the School of

Communications, maintains the QueErLON blog to share stories and the campus has repeatedly rallied against the amendment to the North Carolina constitution that succeeded in defining marriage between a man and a woman as the only legally recognized relationship in the state. While this month's pride week shed light on the stigma surrounding the LGBTQ community, the work is ongoing as, for example, junior Laura Lee Sturm leads the charge to offer gender-neutral housing on campus.

## General Studies

In October, the faculty voted down proposed changes to Elon's General Studies curriculum, concluding years of work by the General Studies Review Committee. Potential changes to the First-Year Core are currently in the works.



JORDAN WEST

es ...

of the night. An active volunteer both at home and within the local community, West is remembered as a bright, engaging student. The staff at Elon also lost some of their own last summer. Melody van Lidth de Jeude, a professor in the School of Communications, passed away in May 2011. In September, a bench was dedicated in her honor outside of the School. In February, Elon lost Jim Pickens, a former professor of psychology, and Brian Collins, former associate director of Residence Life, passed away in March.

## gains

new head of the revamped Student Professional Development Center and Cliff Parker as the new chief of the Town of Elon Police. Other additions included: Joan Ruelle as dean and university librarian, Susan Kirkland as assistant vice president of finance and Josh Hexter as the first coach of women's lacrosse. The search is ongoing for dean of the Love School of Business.



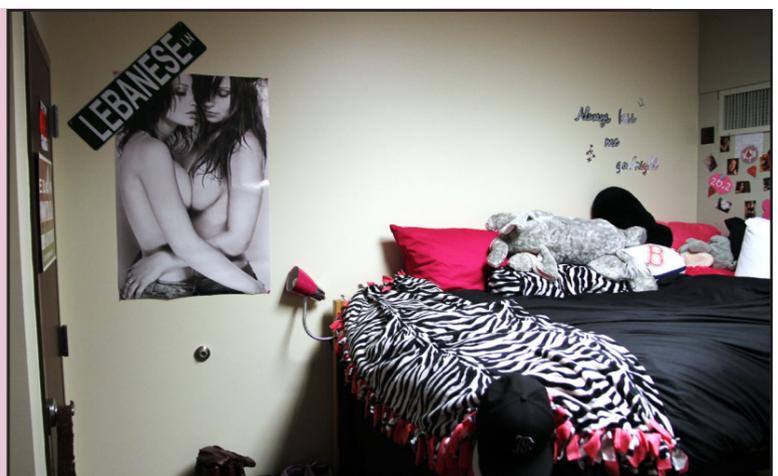
## Liquor by the Drink

In November, a referendum passed allowing liquor by the drink to be sold in the Town of Elon, following a push from local bar owners and an official vote. The idea was originally presented to the Board

of Aldermen by Peter Ustach and Jeff MacKenzie, owners of The Fat Frog Bar & Grill. The board discussed the measure in July and decided to add to the ballot a referendum, which passed with 75 percent of the vote.

## Limits of Diversity

Residence Life at Elon issued an official apology following the forced removal of a poster from the room of senior Taylor Ferguson, a resident assistant in the Colonnades neighborhood. During a special tour of the new residential area, Residence Life staff asked Ferguson to remove two posters from her wall — one showing two women kissing and a second with two shirtless women but lacking any full frontal nudity — without providing her with an explanation. Ferguson, who identifies as a bisexual, said the experience exhibited a lack of understanding of diversity by the university.



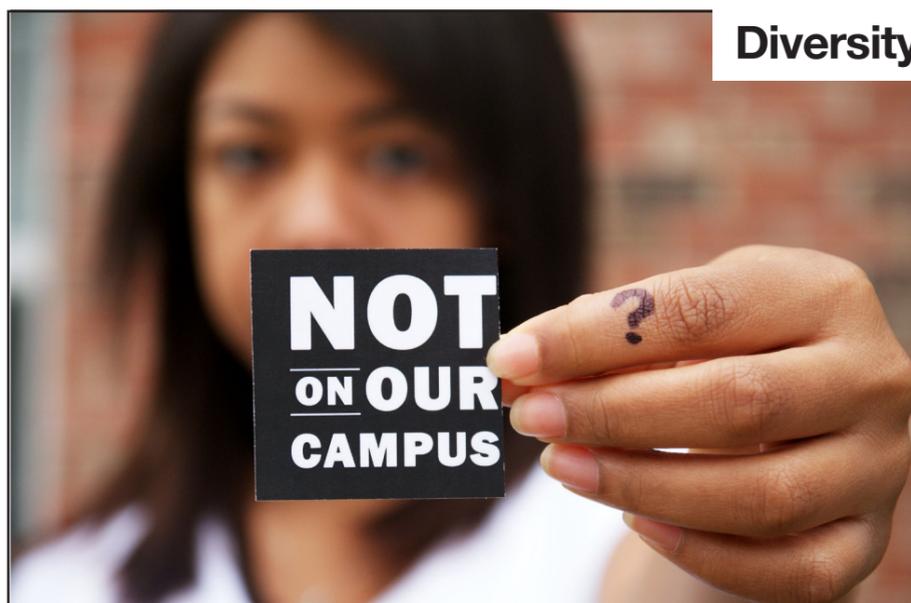
## members 9/11



anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, the university of change, growth and renewed hope for the future. of an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear on campus of the attacks relived their experiences and shared d. Muslim-Americans spoke of the daily challenges country that now viewed their religion as a legitimate t. 11, 2011, the campus community gathered for a

## Diversity & Discrimination

In September, two students were subjected to racial slurs while walking on campus and, within days, both the student body and university staff responded in force, forming movements intended to increase awareness of diversity. Following the creation of the Not On Our Campus slogan, presented during a speech by President Leo Lambert at a special College Coffee, a group of students responded with the Now What? movement, challenging the university's overall response to discrimination. In February, just weeks after a student reported being targeted with a homophobic slur, the faculty unanimously approved a new bias and discrimination policy simplifying the process of reporting such incidents.



# Boredom Busters

Sudoku – Easy

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

Sudoku – Medium

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

Sudoku – Hard

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

## Then & Now

August 2008

Four years ago, when the Class of 2012 stepped onto Elon's campus in August 2008, the world was a very different place. Here's a look at some things that have changed during their time at Elon.

May 2012

Compiled by Kate Riley  
Special Projects Editor

**BILLBOARD HOT 100 NO. 1 SONG**

Take a Bow  
by Rihanna

Somebody That I Used to Know  
by Gotye feat. Kimbra



**OSCAR'S BEST PICTURE**

No Country for Old Men

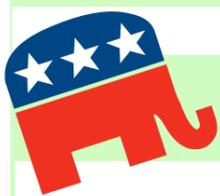
The Artist



**HIGHEST OPENING BOX OFFICE WEEKEND NUMBERS**

Iron Man  
(May 9, 2008 weekend)

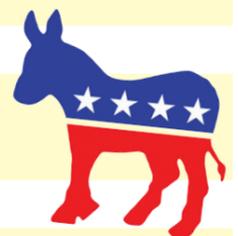
Marvel's The Avengers  
(May 11, 2012 weekend)



**IN THE WHITE HOUSE**

George Bush

Barack Obama



**WORLD POPULATION**

6,705,479,000

7,011,467,229

**U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.4%

8.1%



**BEST-SELLING MOBILE PHONE**

Nokia 1680 classic  
(475 million units sold in 2008)

Apple iPhone 4S



**VIDEO GAMES RELEASED**

Super Smash Bros - Brawl,  
Grand Theft Auto IV

Mass Effect 3

**SUPERBOWL WINNERS**

New York Giants



New York Giants

# Passage of Amendment One elicits strong reactions from many

**Katherine Blunt**  
Assistant News Editor

By midnight May 9, the results were finalized: Amendment One passed in the North Carolina primary elections with 61 percent of the vote. The strong amount of support for the amendment elicited strong reactions from all who had vied for or against its passage.

The amendment legally defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman and does not afford legal rights to any other form of partnership, heterosexual or homosexual. The issue drove many residents to vote in the primaries after weeks of campaigning both in support and opposition of the amendment.

Elon University's LGBTQ office held a debriefing on the results the evening of May 9, and the room was filled with emotion, said Emily Kane, an education and advocacy chair for Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance.

"There was a lot of anger and a lot of sadness and a lot of crying," she said. "A lot of people were just kind of tired. We put a lot into this fight, and to not win it is hard."

Many students and community members outside the LGBTQ community were disheartened by the results, as well.

"Students are upset, and rightfully so," said Darien Flowers, executive president of the Student Government Association. "That our fellow citizens decided to make it legal to take civil rights and liberties away from a group of their fellow North Carolinians is saddening."

But some students were pleased

with the outcome and the definition of marriage now enshrined in the North Carolina Constitution.

"I was proud of the state of North Carolina for looking past the propaganda and doing their research and recognizing that the state needed an amendment," said freshman Austin Faur, who publicly defended his viewpoint on marriage at an SGA Senate meeting two weeks ago. That night, the SGA passed a resolution stating the amendment contradicted Elon's discrimination policy.

The greater community of North Carolina ought to recognize the amendment as discriminatory as well, Flowers said, recalling a statement made by Newark Mayor Cory Booker in response to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's proposal of a similar amendment.

"Booker said the government should never put to a popular vote the civil rights of a minority group," he said. "When you do that, you effectively tell a minority group that their wellbeing or their rights to express themselves are left up to the majority."

The passage of the amendment raised Flowers' concern for the future of the state.

"It's organized and systematic disenfranchisement," he said. "With this kind of precedent, what's the next thing? I'm fearful that you're going to have more and more legislation introduced that limits civil rights of people in this state."

But some opponents of Amendment One assumed a more optimistic outlook.

"I don't see (the passage) as a loss," said Clinton Edmonson, an Elon graduate



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
**Kate Bruce, right, watches election results during an Amendment One opposition party May 8 in Raleigh. At Elon University, the community gathered May 9 to discuss the passage of the amendment, which received 61 percent of the vote.**

who followed the results online from Los Angeles. "Laws like Amendment One are achieving the exact opposite of what they aim to prevent. All these people (who voted for the amendment) really strengthened a cause they didn't have a chance to beat in the first place."

Faur, who has recently been the victim of several verbal attacks regarding his stance on the amendment, agreed the results intensified the opposite sentiment. But he is not deterred from his beliefs.

"My friends are supportive and

recognize that everyone who voted for (the amendment) is being attacked," Faur said. "The future will be interesting. There may be lawsuits or something like that, but a similar amendment has been passed in 30 other states, and I think people forget that."

But Kane said she believes the numbers can be overcome. The LGBTQ office might hold a meeting in the fall to discuss moving forward against the amendment.

"We are definitely not giving up," she said.

# Associate chaplain leaves Elon legacy of student engagement

**Mary Kate Brogan**  
Senior Reporter

He is easily identified by his bowtie.

When Phil Smith first arrived at Elon six years ago, he was one of few on the campus who wore a bowtie, but as he prepares to leave Elon University, the associate chaplain leaves a larger legacy behind.

He said he feels he has grown and learned a lot, and now it is time for him to move on. While teaching the life entrepreneurship program for sophomore students, he found the lessons were applicable to his own life, he said.

"I realized a lot of what I was sharing with them about knowing when you need to move toward something, I found myself speaking to myself," Smith said.

Throughout his time working with the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, Smith has witnessed the departure of chaplain emeritus Richard McBride, the search for and training of current chaplain Jan Fuller, the hire of program assistant Jan Register and the planning of a brand new Multi-faith Center.

While Smith said he has had a lot of spiritual growth at Elon, he has also learned a lot from other groups on campus.

"This job has really allowed me to be engaged with several other areas of campus outside of Religious and Spiritual Life," Smith said. "And those have been tremendous opportunities, especially with leadership. I've worked with the Isabella Cannon Leadership Program, Elon 101, learning about academic advising, helping students that might not have had a connection with our office. Working with them has been developmental education for me."

Jan Fuller, university chaplain, said Smith has worked hard for the past few years, comparing his will to that of the Energizer Bunny, and saying his detail-oriented nature is what made the two of them such a great team.

"I really have appreciated him, and I am going to miss him a lot," Fuller said. "He's got a great sense of humor. He's as hard a worker as I've ever known."

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, said while Smith has demonstrated his commitment to the university through his involvement in programs such as "Better Together," QUEST, the interfaith Morocco Winter Term trip and College Chapel, his greatest asset is his approachability.

"I think working with students on every level is where he's made a tremendous impact,"

Jackson said.

Many students have felt that impact. Sophomore Morgan D'Arcy, who has worked with Smith during his participation with Habitat for Humanity and Sigma Phi Epsilon, said he believes Smith has made a large impact on the campus as a whole.

"I think that Phil is someone who pretty much everyone on campus knows," he said. "Anyone I'm talking to, when I say, 'Oh, I'm meeting with Phil Smith later,' that person's like, 'Oh, I love Phil Smith.'"

Freshman Lianna Mills has known Smith since she was a young girl when he worked at her church, and since arriving here, the two have spoken on several occasions. She said she believes Smith has done a lot for the Truitt Center and for Elon.

"He's a spiritual stronghold for the campus," Mills said. "I think his presence will be greatly missed."

Smith said he is looking at several options for the future, but has not chosen a path quite yet. He does know his time at Elon has had a great impact on his life.

"I love what we do here," Smith said. "Elon is a place where the way we go about education, we do a good thing, so, yeah, it's going to be hard to leave that behind."



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS  
**Phil Smith poses at a Phoenix athletics event with the Elon mascot.**

### Phil Smith's words of wisdom for the Class of 2012

"First of all, beware of people dispensing words of wisdom. But if you are still reading, here are mine: Just when you think you have it all figured out, something or someone comes along and causes you to question everything and to recalculate and/or recalibrate."

Hopefully that has happened lots during your time at Elon and will keep on happening. That is probably how some of your best learning will take place."

**STUDIO APARTMENTS**  
STARTING AT \$445

**Modern Nails & Spa**  
(336) 585-1141  
1449 University Dr Suite B, Burlington

**Solar Nails**      **Waxing**  
**Get Nails**      **Facials**  
**Shellac Nails**   **Mani/ Pedicures**

**Elon Students**  
**Get 15% Off**  
**With This Coupon**  
Offer excludes combo packs  
Valid thru 05/31/12



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

Senior music theater majors take the stage during the Department of Performing Arts' Grand Night March 30 and 31. Members of the graduating class performed a mashup of "Somewhere" from "West Side Story" and "No One Is Alone" from "Into the Woods." They concluded the show with "I Will Turn to You," written by alumni Daniel Gibson, Class of 2009 and Christopher Staskel, Class of 2010.

## Performing arts students prepare for stage outside Elon

Stephanie Butzer  
Senior Reporter

After four packed years, seniors in the Department of Performing Arts are saying their final goodbyes to the stage and their scene partners.

Senior Leela Rothenberg said she is lucky enough to be in every main stage production since the spring of her freshman year. Rothenberg said she is always excited about theater, which has impacted her entire life, and thrives on the adrenaline she gets during a performance.

Rothenberg's favorite production was last fall's "Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical" because it was not only about love, but also senior year.

"I got to play Jeannie and it was a blast," Rothenberg said. "All of my best friends were in

the show as well, so it was a real bonding experience."

Rothenberg said she is unsure of what she will do after college, and will make post-graduation plans once auditions start. But she hopes when she moves to New York City, she will have a better grasp on her future.

"A dream would be to eventually get on Broadway, but more importantly be happy in whatever I am doing," Rothenberg said. "This business is hard to get into and stay in, so as long as I am doing something that makes me happy, it would be a dream."

Senior Paige Carter said she also hopes to make it to Broadway, but as an equity stage manager. In the immediate future, Carter is headed to Las Vegas to perform with Cirque du Soleil's "KA." After she

finishes her work with Cirque, she will start a year-long position with Olney Theatre Center in Washington, D.C.

"(I will) start working on gaining points toward becoming a member of (the Actors' Equity Association), the union for stage managers and actors," Carter said. "After that, I'm wide open. We'll see where life takes me."

Like Rothenberg, Carter said theater made her who she is today, because she was able to find herself and grow as a person. The theater at Elon is particularly full of energy, love and support for all of its members, she said.

"Everyone loves and cares about one another," Carter said. "Because of my involvement with theater, I've learned to be overwhelmingly accepting of others and, most importantly, myself."

Carter worked with the production and design side of the Department of Performing Arts, which allowed her to be involved with most of the shows at Elon. She was the stage manager for "Crimes of the Heart," a Winter Term show, and rehearsed long hours for those three weeks. She said she became very close with Fred Rubeck, department chair, as well as the cast.

Senior Kristina Loeffke, a cast member in "Crimes of the Heart," is a double major in BFA acting and BA theatrical design and production. She has also performed in "Jake's Women," "The Time of Your Life" and "Ajax," while serving as the director, scenic designer and sound designer for many other productions. Because Loeffke has worked with so many shows, she has made many friendships with other students, she said.

Loeffke is currently exploring her post-Elon options in Atlanta and New York and has received



FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN ALLENBY

Senior Ben Morris portrays Macduff in Elon's production of "Macbeth."

offers to work on a few television shows.

"I am excited to explore that medium more," Loeffke said. "I just want to make enough money doing what I love that I don't have to have a survival job."

Senior Ben Morris has directed, produced and acted in many plays at Elon, ranging from the 24-hour play festival to "Macbeth." He said he always looks forward to seeing who else will be in shows with him because it ranges from his best friends to people he doesn't know.

"Through working on the show, I get to spend time with my best friends as well as get to know new people," Morris said.

Morris will move to Chicago after graduation and take improvisational classes at Improv Olympic. He said his dream job is to continue improv while simultaneously working in theater.

Senior Anastasia Windeler has been involved with almost all of the dance productions during her four years at Elon,

as well as some music theater shows.

"Elon provides such great opportunities for becoming engaged in the learning process," Windeler said. "Not only are the opportunities there, but the people bring such a great environment. Everyone in the department truly cares for one another and extends such a friendly hand to those who are new."

Windeler said she has enjoyed observing her growth with fellow students in the performing arts. Aside from a dance major, she is also majoring in international studies, and the performing arts have given her a balance in her life, she said.

"While academics are so important to me, there is something so elemental and connective in the performing arts," Windeler said. "It has shown me that there is a deeper form of communication out there. The power of theater to make others think and feel is amazing, and I would never have realized the extent of that without my experiences at Elon."



FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN ALLENBY

Senior Leela Rothenberg (center) sings "Air" during a performance of "Hair."

~ shoes ~ handbags ~ accessories ~

**336-226-0687**

11439 St. Mark's  
Church Rd.

# Best Foot Forward

Come and get your  
Jack Rogers  
Rainbows  
Ugg's

# Delta heads to DC, lobbies for Greek legislation

Dan Quackenbush  
Opinions Editor

From sorority court to Capitol Hill, one Elon University student is leaving a mark on Greek life both on campus and across the country.

Junior Anna McCracken was chosen to become one of approximately 100 student representatives of the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee to lobby in favor of the proposed Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act in Washington, D.C.

If passed, the act would allow people to make tax-deductible donations to non-profit student housing organizations in the United States, as opposed to the current non-tax-deductible policy. Donations would be made primarily for housing improvements, including updated safety measures and more accessible houses.

While the bill is designated to support all non-profit student housing, its provisions stand to affect Greek (specifically male) collegiate housing environments most, including those at Elon University. Greek organizations represent the largest demographic of those students living in non-profit student housing options within the United States.

With more than \$1 billion of backed renovation projects for Greek student housing currently on hold in the United States, the majority of which are privately sponsored, McCracken said the bill stands to considerably alleviate the problem because of its low projected cost of \$148 billion during a ten-year period.

She also said despite the bill's practicality, the state of the current economy with regards to tax incentives may spell trouble for the bill's passage.

"Several of the offices that we presented to were wary of sponsoring tax-related legislation at a time where the economy is in the state that it is," McCracken said. "Basically, the offsets of the bill still haven't been found and the representatives want to know what they are first."

McCracken was chosen along with three other students to represent Delta Delta Delta at the conference. She said the process was extensive and time-consuming, but fundamental to their success while in Washington.

"I did have to apply for the position last October before I was granted the



Junior Anna McCracken was chosen to represent Delta Delta Delta Sorority in Washington DC, as she and 100 others lobbied for legislation affecting Greek students across the country.

opportunity," she said. "I actually first heard about the conference when I was asked to have dinner with a few of Tri-Delta's representatives who were visiting during our Fat Talk Free Week."

The application process required considerable research about Elon's Greek community so the chosen representatives could be accurately informed about the demographics of the university.

In addition, workshops and research about proper lobbying techniques and current hot-button issues on Capitol Hill were all invaluable bits of information that McCracken said made her job easier when the day came to actually lobby.

Armed with packets of information about housing, service and leadership opportunities for Greek organizations, McCracken and her group members, including Tri-Delta representative Cari Cook, Kappa Alpha Executive Director Larry Weiss and Kappa Alpha member Taylor Twine from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, visited 13 congressional offices.

McCracken said the majority of the offices visited belonged to Greek-affiliated senators and congressmen, so the provisions of the bill were easier to understand.

"It definitely helped that most of the offices we presented to belonged to politicians who were affiliated during their college years," she said. "It helped add a personal touch and connection to

them, so that we knew they understood where we were coming from as affiliated students who would be affected by this bill."

McCracken said making sure all the facts were correct was her biggest challenge. But having interned in a Senate office last summer, McCracken said the experience was illuminating as it helped her cross off a potential career path that she felt she was not suited for.

"I would rather be in a congressional office than a lobbyist, that's for sure," she said.

McCracken said she found the overall experience invaluable and was very impressed by the quality of work accomplished and the students who took part.

"This was a very valuable experience for me," she said. "I really enjoyed getting to meet not only Tri-Deltas from around the country, but members of other Greek organizations from all over the United States. It's amazing to see the impact it's had on others students lives in addition to my own. I was amazed by the quality of those present at the conference."

McCracken said she was extremely grateful for the experience, as it helped her rediscover her passion for politics.

"I've grown up in the political realm, so it has a different feeling," she said. "But once I got there, it certainly gave me a renewed sense of appreciation for the importance of fundraising and lobbying."

## The Last Supper

This week, college ended. Sure, I've learned plenty. From classes, I know what iron fertilization of algae means and



Andrew Tilden  
Columnist

how orographic precipitation is caused.

But more importantly, college is about exposure. Learning about different people and different lifestyles. Tearing down prejudices and consuming new perspectives.

This goes for eating as well, and my food review focused on gastronomic enlightenment.

As part of the reviewing job, I traveled through Elon's neighboring communities to explore what other cuisine was out there.

As food reviewer I shared with readers my sensual experiences. I typed out each word to best describe the sights, smells and flavors of my mesmerizing meals, instigating desire and lust. My success came with making them hungry and envious.

So, imagine it's a Friday night, and Piedmont Ale House is packed with locals. You're fortified with some local brew, and in front of you is a burger so sinful that it has bacon and guacamole. The Santa Fe is a hand-shaped, half-pound patty of Black Angus beef. A tomato, lettuce and red onions join the bacon and guacamole, while the pepper jack and jalapenos pack the heat.

Or, you're on a date in Saxapahaw, at the Eddy. The hipsters at the table next to you belt a harmonious laugh. But all focus narrows on the steaming, slow-cooked, beer-braised chicken. The problem is, it's not yours. It's your date's. Luckily, "thou shalt not covet thy date's meal" is not a commandment. With some sweet talk and a promised future foot massage, pieces of succulent chicken fall off the bone and into your mouth.

Or maybe Zack's Hotdogs is crowded on a Saturday afternoon and you can hardly fit inside. You finally move to the front of the line and holler for "two Bacon Combo Dogs with the works." The cook puts bacon, cheese, onions and slaw with the dog. Then he slops on top a ladle full of chili. Bright, unearthy, orange grease will run down your hands and arms as you bite into the mess of glory. It's not pretty, but you love it.

These were my favorite food experiences during my Pendulum career. And this one I selected to be my last as an Elon undergrad:

It's the night before the "big day." And the family just got in. You want to stay close to their hotel in Greensboro, so you lead them to Sticks and Stones. It's refined for a pizza place — the walls are lined with the obvious, namesake decor. The giant clay-domed stove with the glowing mouth is center stage. And the "Sweet Carolina" pizza is the star. The sweet Italian sausage is flanked by roasted chillies and spinach, surrounded by a bed of oozing mozzarella.

The real highlight was getting to know these neighbors. In most places, there is genuine care in what they place on the table in front of you. Pride goes into their food. And that ingredient makes their food who they are.

That's something you can't find at a dining hall managed by a national corporation.

No, the end of college is not the end of learning. So after Elon, wherever life may lead you, loosen your belt and expand your food horizons. Isn't that exciting?

## Students struggle to transition from international adventures

Katie Moran  
International Editor

With the semester coming to an end, a large percentage of Elon University students are returning from international experiences while others are preparing for their upcoming summer or fall semesters abroad. Either way, it is a challenging and stressful transition to make, especially when one feels like he or she is making it alone.

"Coming back from being abroad proved to be more difficult than one would anticipate," junior Michael Callahan said. "The lifestyle that I took part in when I was in Florence was much more different socially and academically. Coming back to the American lifestyle proved to be much more of a jarring transition than going there."

Going abroad changes a person so dramatically that even his or her closest friends seem hard to relate to upon first returning. Some want to share your experiences and adventures, and people generally don't want to hear every detail. They want the 60-second summary of how great it was, but then veer the conversation in a different direction. It can be frustrating and can make study abroad students feel alienated from peers they once felt they related to.

Jamile Tellez-Lieberman, a junior who spent the fall semester in Ecuador, experienced this firsthand.

"They want you to be the same person that they knew before you left," she said. "But you can't be because study abroad completely changes you."

Relationships are not the only obstacle to overcome. Reverse culture shock is the cause for temporary depression and isolation in returning study abroad students.

"It was like coming back to a whole new world after I had already adjusted to what I thought was a different world," Tellez-Lieberman said. "Everything here is easy and organized, and I found it was boring not having to worry about getting run over by a bus or maneuvering the

tricky Ecuadorian transportation all the time."

But the opposite is also true for some students. Junior Taryn Tonelli studied in Italy in the fall and said she didn't experience any reverse culture shock.

"Part of me felt like it didn't happen," she said. "Did I dream that? I wasn't culture shocked. It was so incredible at the time, and now I'm just back to normal."

The acknowledgment that life will be different back home is sometimes all you need to transition smoothly.

"Leave no adventure unaccomplished and you will be fine coming back," Tonelli said. "I mentally prepped myself for leaving by starting to pack a week early. But I felt satisfied because I knew I had completed everything I wanted to do in Italy."

Coming back to the Elon way of life and

the American stress level can be a hard transition after months of relaxation, travel and adventure. But the switch can be seamless if you're willing.

"If you're coming back from being abroad, just be prepared and be aware of the difference in your daily schedule and the difference in the atmosphere and anxiety that comes with the American way of studying and learning," Callahan said.

The biggest piece of advice previous study abroad students gave was to jump right back in. Immerse yourself in your favorite parts of the Elon community, and you will be welcomed with open arms.

So whether you're leaving, returning or holding down the fort at Elon, there is always someone else experiencing the same feelings of anxiety, culture shock or depression, even if you think you're alone.

**1 male and 1 female  
5 months old  
English Bulldogs  
FOR FREE  
to a good home  
due to relocation**

**Please contact:  
charlesmorris1958@gmail.com  
if interested  
for more information**

**Twinkleberry  
YOGURT**

**Buy 1  
Get 1  
FREE**

Present coupon at time of purchase  
Offer valid thru 05/15/12

**3253 South Church Street  
Burlington, NC 27215  
336-270-4954**

# Cuthbertson thrives in maroon and gold through coaching change

## Graduating offensive lineman reflects on collegiate career, specifically overhaul in 2011

Adam Lawson  
Assistant Sports Editor

It wasn't too long ago that Ned Cuthbertson had never heard of Elon University.

In December 2006, Cuthbertson was a senior offensive lineman at James F. Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C. While going about the normal holiday traditions, Cuthbertson got a phone call from the Phoenix coaching staff asking him to make an official campus visit.

Cuthbertson agreed to tour the campus and four years later, he still remembers that trip vividly.

"I just felt like this was the place," Cuthbertson said. "It just had that 'it' factor of everything I was looking for."

A three-time state champion at Byrnes, Cuthbertson entered Elon already well-versed in blocking for talented running backs. And there was nobody better than teammate and future University of South Carolina star halfback Marcus Lattimore, Cuthbertson's teammate at Byrnes for two years.

"Marcus was the man. Literally," he said. "He was the only freshman that started my entire career there."

Sixty-five months since receiving that phone call, Cuthbertson's career on the gridiron is over. The physical education and health major will

walk across the stage and claim his diploma May 19, exiting the life of a student and entering life as a high school teacher and offensive and defensive line coach at Chase High School in Forest City, N.C.

While his first four years at Elon (he redshirted as a true freshman) were a symbol of constants, Cuthbertson had to adjust on the fly to a new coaching staff his final year at Elon.

Former Phoenix head coach Pete Lembo left for Ball State University in December 2010, taking offensive line coach John Strollo with him. In came Jason Swepson, new offensive line coach Ron Mattes and a different style of offense.

"The only big change was our offensive line coach put us in a three-point stance," Cuthbertson said. "My entire football career I've primarily been in a two-point stance and so that was kind of shocking and new to me."

Cuthbertson adjusted to the changes — and there were many, among them the transition from four-year starting quarterback and Cuthbertson's roommate Scott Riddle, Class of 2011, to junior Thomas Wilson — and thrived in his last season, starting all 11 games. His efforts earned him the team's Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman Award at the year-end banquet as well as being named to the all-Southern Conference first team by the league's



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Graduating offensive lineman Ned Cuthbertson (77) is moving on to coach high school football.

coaches and the second team by the SoCon media.

"Ned is hands down a leader on and off the field," sophomore offensive lineman Gavin Billings said. "He's a guy with a lot of integrity, always positive and encouraging."

Four and a half years ago,

Cuthbertson would have seen no problem fitting into the crowd. Before he got a recruiting phone call, he couldn't have spotted Elon on a map.

But as he's about to leave Elon, Elon will never truly leave him.

"I bleed the maroon and gold now," he said.

# Golfer cherishes relationships created during time at Elon

Kyle Maher  
Senior Reporter

Senior golfer Tanner Norton will always remember the relationships he's made as a student-athlete at Elon University, both on and off the golf course.

"It was definitely a real good time," Norton said. "(I) had a lot of fun, met a lot of people and made a lot of relationships with people I'll never forget."

One of those relationships, with fellow golfer and sophomore John Somers, had begun even before the two were teammates at Elon.

"I've known him even since before Elon," Somers said. "I've know his dad for a while, so I've probably known Tanner four years, four or five years."

Norton, from nearby Graham, N.C., experimented with another sport before focusing on golf.

"I played soccer in high school for two years, and then I pretty much concentrated on golf," Norton said. "I wanted to play baseball, but the way the seasons were, I could only play golf."

Norton chose to play collegiately at Elon because of its proximity to his home.

"I wanted to come here because it was close to home and I was familiar with the area, so I was pretty much in my comfort zone," Norton said.

When he is asked what his fondest memory is as a member of the Elon



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Graduating golfer Tanner Norton was one of the top players for the Elon University golf team during his four years playing for the Phoenix.

golf team, Norton wastes no time in responding, "Probably that last hole at the (Southern) conference tournament (this year)."

At the SoCon Tournament this season, Norton tied for fourth for his best collegiate finish in his final tournament.

Once Norton graduates, he admitted he'll miss almost everything about Elon, but is happy about concluding one aspect of college.

"Definitely the schoolwork," he joked. "(I'll) probably miss my friends and the golf team. I'll miss playing a few of the courses we played, because they were pretty nice and I'll definitely miss most of the guys."

Somers knows how much Norton meant to the team, and appreciates the relationship they shared as teammates and friends.

"He's (brought) a lot of leadership," Somers said. "He's one of my good friends and I know he's one of the (people) I can go to. He's always willing to play a round (of golf) with anybody. We're really, really good friends."

Sophomore Stuart Kaufman, one of Norton's three roommates this year, reiterated how important Norton was to his teammates.

"He just meant the world to our team," Kaufman said. "He was pretty

much the captain — we don't name captains — but he's been in the leadership role all year."

Norton knows how hard it'll be to leave his teammates behind, which makes graduating that much more difficult to comprehend.

"(I'll miss the team) quite a lot," Norton said. "I really felt like everybody loved me and appreciated me on the team so I'll probably miss the fact that I won't be here to be that person anymore."

Somers had a similar view of what Norton might wish he could keep.

"He'll miss going to the tournaments, and probably getting a lot of the free food," Somers teased. "The van rides (to the tournaments) and playing some of the courses. The courses we play at are really nice, and I know he'll miss that."

But Kaufman believes it will be the relationships Norton has made with his teammates that he'll miss the most. Relationships are a common facet of college that athletes miss, but for these three, it is a little bit different. They all live together.

"Tanner's going to miss living with the three of us the most, no question," Kaufman said with a smile. "There are four of us that live together and we've gotten along really well and we're all going to miss each other."

Norton, Somers and Kaufman have the kind of friendship most athletes can only dream of having with their teammates. They're loose and comfortable around one another, cracking jokes and grinning when talking about the impact Norton has had on their team.

When trying to name Norton's most favorable quality, Somers paused for a moment and picked his friend's "confidence in himself."

"He's always willing to hit the shot, and he knows he can, so it's one of his good traits," Somers said.

Kaufman picked his friend's unselfishness and described how Norton would always put his teammates before himself.

"He cares more about what everyone else is doing than himself," Kaufman said. "If I go out and play bad he's going to care more about that than if he played bad because he wants his friends to play well and he wants his friends to enjoy their time."

Norton hopes to give professional golf a try after graduation.

"I'm going to try to play on some mini-tours and see what I've got while working," he said.

It might be a tough road ahead, but Norton is taking it one step at a time. He'll do everything he can to continue to play the game he loves.

**ELON PHOENIX WEEKLY**

Catch our latest episode  
on ESPN2 on Sunday at 8 a.m.

Get the inside look on all your  
favorite sports teams and beyond

Elon Phoenix Weekly

# Spradlin leaves legacy of leadership

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

It was a Sugarland concert barely two weeks before graduation, but it was Elon senior men's basketball guard Drew Spradlin's favorite memory of his Phoenix career.

The concert was in Raleigh, and Spradlin's posse was a who's who of the past of Elon men's basketball. Former Phoenix forwards Monty Sanders (now the director of men's basketball operations at Elon), TJ Douglas and Scott Grable, guards Chris Long and Terrence Birdette and center Daniel Watts were in attendance. Though Spradlin said Sugarland is not necessarily his favorite country band (while he does like country music a lot), it was definitely a highlight.

"My best friends, my teammates, the guys that will probably be there the rest of my life," he said. "It's at the end of the year, I'm about to graduate, it was really symbolic of the good that's come from all of it for me."

Maybe there is a particular sense of parallelism that can be drawn from that picture. When Spradlin walks across the stage May 19 to receive his diploma, his teammates will see an echo of what Spradlin saw when Long, Grable and Birdette graduated last year, Douglas in 2010 and Sanders in 2009: an older player who the young guys loved being with.

Because that is certainly what Spradlin brought to the Elon Phoenix this past season, as the only senior.

## Ball in his court

Spradlin grew up in the small town of Wheelersburg, Ohio, and attended Wheelersburg High School, where he was first-team All-Ohio, AP District III Player of the Year and coaches' District Player of the Year in 2007-2008, his senior year.

Not only did he find the basket with a round ball often during his high school career, he also threw a pigskin a fair bit. Spradlin was named the Offensive Player of the Year for his district during his senior year as the starting quarterback for Wheelersburg High.

Spradlin was recruited as a quarterback by schools such as Kent State University, the University of Akron and Youngstown State University at the end of his junior year, but he had signed at Elon, under then-head coach Ernie Nestor, early in December 2006. He got an early offer from the Phoenix and took it.

Spradlin came to Elon in 2008, the year after the Phoenix had advanced to the finals of the Southern Conference Tournament, when the Davidson Wildcats, led by current NBA star Stephon Curry, had knocked Elon out. The team was loaded with talent, such as all-SoConers senior guard Brett James and senior forward Ola Atoyebi. But, according to Spradlin, it was a letdown.

"It was a little bit of a disappointing year because we had a lot of talent, and as a team we just never really clicked the whole year," he said. "(Then-freshman guard) Josh (Bonney) was playing a lot, Chris (Long) was playing too, so it was tough to get some chemistry with two point guards that were splitting time a lot."

The team finished a lackluster 11-20 and Nestor was fired.

Spradlin had a solid freshman year though, averaging 4.6 points and 2.4 assists per game in 12.5 minutes a contest. He said his confidence was "spring-boarded" by his play at the end of the season. When Nestor was fired and then-Davidson assistant Matt Matheny was hired to replace him, it was a shakeup.

## Readjusting to the environment

"It's tough, but that happens a lot in college sports," Spradlin said. "It's a revolving door with the head coach. I was struggling, like most freshmen in college probably do. I wasn't sure if this was the right place for me. So when the coaching change happened, my dad was

like, 'If you wanted to leave, this is the time that you would leave.' But I wanted to stick it out. I didn't really consider leaving."

Neither did anyone else. Despite a whole new coaching staff, not one Phoenix player abandoned the roster. Matheny made sure of it.

"I met with the whole team in the locker room after the press conference," Matheny said of his first time meeting Spradlin. "And one of the first things I said was that, a lot of times when a coach takes over, people say, 'He's just gotta wait until he gets his players in here.' And one thing that I conveyed to all the guys in that meeting was 'You are my guys.'"

So when the Phoenix went 9-23 in Matheny's first year at the helm, the 2009-2010 season, it became a growing year. Spradlin said he understood it was a new staff but also said the relative inexperience of the team, which had lost seniors James, Atoyebi and Sanders, was a big part of that.

"I feel like it was a bunch of guys who maybe weren't young, but were on the court for the first time, where they had been playing as sixth or seventh men, first or second guys coming off the bench a lot," he said.

Long, Bonney, Douglas, Birdette and forward Adam Constantine played a big role in that, but Spradlin saw some major improvement. He started all but one of the Phoenix's 32 games and led the team in scoring with 13.3 points per game.

Even with the change and the less-than-satisfactory year on the court, Matheny said Spradlin's toughness was his best trait. He said it continued into the next year, when Elon's record improved to 14-17, but there were still some tough losses.

"He's been a major part of the growth of the program because we've had some tough, tough times," Matheny said. "He could have surrendered, he could have thrown in the towel and said, 'I don't have to go through the 9-23 year, and I don't have to fight through tough nights at Wake Forest when you lose by 40 (90-50 Dec. 13, 2009) or Coastal Carolina (University, 69-46 Nov. 17, 2009) or (the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (86-56 Nov. 29, 2009) here.' He could have just given up on all of that. But he didn't."

At the end of the 2010-2011 season, Spradlin could look back on another solid campaign. He averaged 13.6 points per game, good for second on Elon and twelfth in the SoCon.

But he maintained an attitude he learned from Nestor, even when he was selected as a preseason all-SoCon pick before his senior season.

"Coach Nestor always had these, we'd call them 'Nestorisms,'" he said. "He always said, 'Stats don't mean anything. Stats are just about who gets to play the most and who gets the ball in certain situations.' I feel like the more you play, the older I got, the more I realized it wasn't all about scoring, you're just trying to play at the highest level you could."

## Feeling the pressure from every side

Because of then-rising junior guard Bonney's redshirt year in 2010-2011, Spradlin came into the 2011-2012 season as the lone senior. He saw a lot of change in his gameplay and helped the Phoenix to a 15-win season.

"For my entire life, I've been a scorer," he said. "I was here to put the ball in the hole and obviously, I did that a lot while I was here. But the role itself was a little different, and it wasn't coaches pushing me towards it. I mean, they did to a certain extent, but I understood, I think, over the summer that we had a lot of talent and the ball needed to be spread around a lot."

His point per game total dropped from 13.1 the year before to 9.1 in the 2011-2012 season. But Matheny found that a lot of Spradlin's best games were when he may not have made a difference on the scoresheet, pointing out the Phoenix's 88-87 win over the University



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO  
Graduating men's basketball guard Drew Spradlin finishes his Elon career with the fourth-highest number of three-pointers in Elon history in 122 career games, averaging 10.3 points per game.

of Tennessee at Chattanooga in Alumni Gym, where he scored just five points but tied for a team-high five assists that game.

"Some of his better games this year were when he didn't score a ton of points but he helped connect us, like Chattanooga here," Matheny said. "I said to him after the game, 'You were great.' And he was, because of the way he defended, the way that he led."

Matheny said the team relied on Spradlin for almost everything, even restaurants to eat at and movies to watch on the road. He admitted that it may have affected his play, which fell off a bit from the previous year.

"This past year, the lone senior, can you imagine?" he asked. "That doesn't happen very often, where you're the only guy going through your last year. He's playing with juniors, sure, but sophomores and freshmen. So we dumped everything on his shoulders."

A place where Spradlin stepped to the plate was leadership. Matheny looked to him as another coach on the floor, a role which Spradlin was happy to step into.

"We have 15 guys on the team, and there are several times in practice that we need upperclassmen to pull guys aside and say, 'Hey, this is not how it is done. You've got to do it like this,'" Matheny said. "And he was great at that. He was really good at pulling (freshman guard) Austin (Hamilton) aside and saying, 'Here's where I want the ball. If you can get in the crack, and my guy bites, I'm going to come into your vision.'"

## Stepping out the door

Despite the way the season ended, Spradlin took a lot out of the season and the change of his style of play.

"I realized coming in (that the team has) a lot of talent that needs the ball, and I'm probably going to have to change the way I was playing," he said. And I'm not sure how that worked out, I'm still not sure how I feel about it, but I still think it was probably the right thing to do. And I did enjoy doing the little things."

Spradlin looks to take those smarts to law school. He is not sure where he is going to go, but he wants to use the skill sets he believes he has to go that route.

"I was always told you should do what you're good at, and that's kind of the model that I've followed most of my life so far," he said.

Wherever he goes, the Phoenix have something to look forward to, even though there will be a Drew Spradlin-sized hole in Alumni Gym.

## CAREER GAMES:

**122**

## POINTS PER GAME:

**10.3**

## REBOUNDS PER GAME:

**3.6**

## ASSISTS PER GAME:

**2.3**

## STEALS:

**75**

## FG%:

**40.8%**

## 3-PT. FG%:

**37.3%**

## 4TH IN ELON HISTORY IN THREE-POINT FGS:

**180**

## POSITION:

**Guard**

## HEIGHT:

**6-5**

## WEIGHT:

**202**

## HOMETOWN:

**Wheelersburg, Ohio**

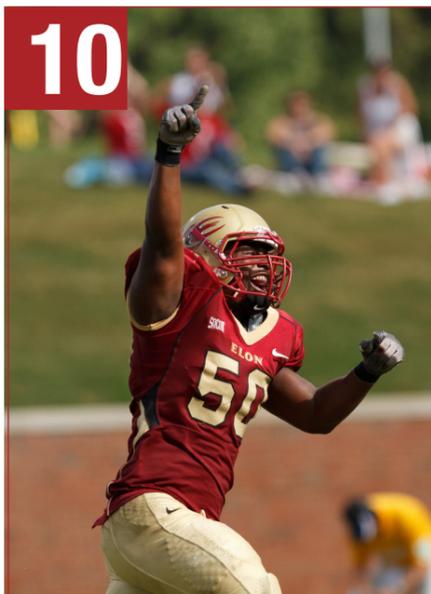
## HIGH SCHOOL:

**Wheelersburg High School**

DREW SPRADLIN AT A GLANCE

# TOP 10 in Elon Athletics for 2011-2012

Compiled by Zachary Horner - Sports Editor



10

**Joshua Jones interception helps football defeat No. 17 Furman**

Elon football was sitting at 4-5 with two games left and had very little to be happy about. But senior linebacker Joshua Jones intercepted a Chris Forcier pass and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown with 3:59 left in the fourth quarter to help the Phoenix to a 41-34 win over the 17th-ranked Paladins. Senior running back A.J. Harris had a season-high 120 rushing yards and junior quarterback Thomas Wilson completed 20 of 26 passes for 279 yards and four touchdowns, two to junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

9

**Volleyball earns SoCon Tournament berth with 3-0 victory over The Citadel Nov. 13**

The Elon volleyball team swept The Citadel 3-0 Nov. 13 to earn a trip to the Southern Conference Tournament and cap off a stunning run to get a playoff berth. The Phoenix was sitting 4-9 in SoCon play with three games remaining after playing a rough road schedule. But wins over the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Nov. 4 and University of North Carolina at Greensboro Nov. 5 gave Elon a shot into the playoffs against the Bulldogs, and they took advantage of it.

**Men's basketball three-game home winning streak Feb. 2-6**

The men's basketball season was full of ups and downs, including two five-game losing streaks. But one of the ups was a three-game winning streak, all games at home from Feb. 2-6. The Phoenix pulled out a 99-98 double-overtime victory Feb. 2 over the College of Charleston, 19 days after being embarrassed by the Cougars in a 63-44 loss. Sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger scored a season-high 34 points to help Elon to a 71-66 defeat of The Citadel Feb. 4. Nine days after an 81-66 rout of the Phoenix by Appalachian State University, the Mountaineers were on the down side of an 82-59 Elon win Feb. 6.

8

6

**Women's tennis pair Johnston/Jansaker go 20-2 and are ranked early in the season**

Sophomore women's tennis players Frida Jansaker and Jordan Johnston had a year to remember. They started the season with six straight victories and were ranked as the No. 43 doubles team in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Feb. 16. The team lost in the second round of the Southern Conference Championship to the College of Charleston April 20, but the duo earned first-team all-SoCon honors as a doubles pair, while Johnston was named to the first team and Jansaker the second team in singles.

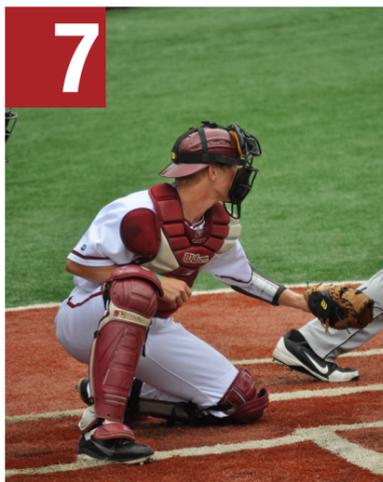


FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

**Ali Ford sets Elon women's basketball record for three-pointers**

Junior women's basketball guard Ali Ford broke the Elon University women's basketball record for most career three-pointers when she hit her 235th career three-pointer with 16:32 to play in the second half of the Phoenix's 67-53 loss to Samford University Jan. 28. Ford finished the year with 263 career three-pointers and led the SoCon this past season with 87.

5



7

**Alex Swim's 25-game hitting streak**

The baseball season may not be over, but the Phoenix has plenty to shout about already. Junior catcher Alex Swim had a 25-game hitting streak from Feb. 29-April 7. During the streak, he was named the Southern Conference Player of the Week and the National Hitter of the Week by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association for the week of March 26-April 1. On March 8, Swim was selected to the watch list for the 2012 Johnny Bench Award, given annually to the top catcher at the NCAA level by the Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission.

FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

**Rodney Austin signs with Detroit Lions**

Despite not playing a single game during his senior season of 2011, senior offensive lineman Rodney Austin was signed to a free-agent contract by the National Football League's Detroit Lions April 28 following the final rounds of the NFL Draft. Austin played 27 games during his Elon career and was named to the all-Southern Conference first team following his junior year.

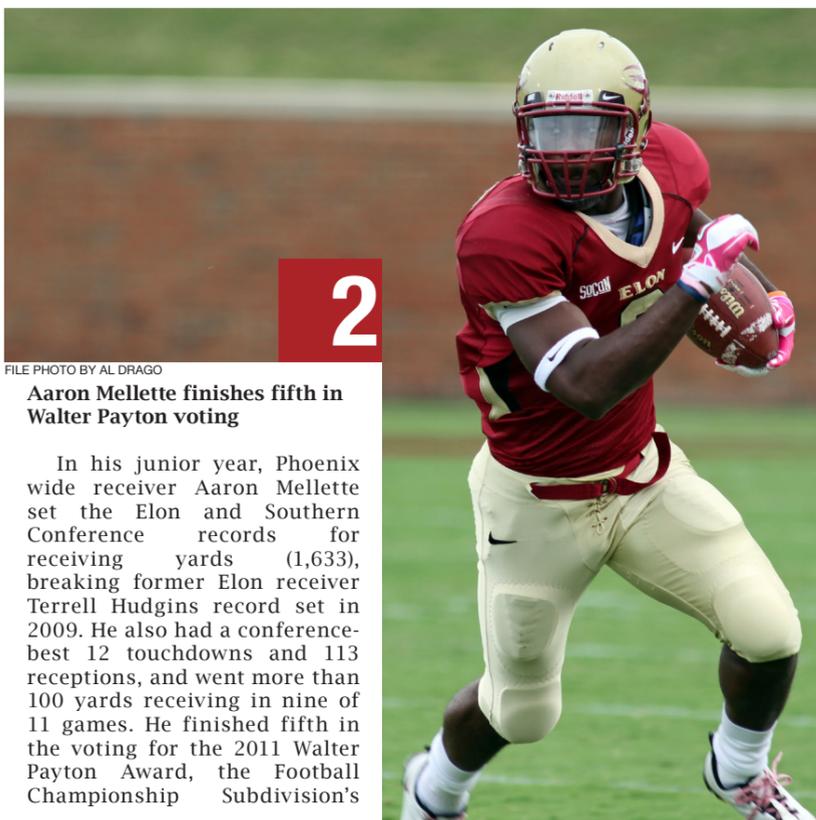
4



**Men's basketball win over South Carolina Nov. 11**

3

Even with sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger out due to a shoulder injury, the Elon Phoenix men's basketball team defeated the University of South Carolina 58-53 Nov. 11 for the program's first win over a Bowl Championship Series conference school in the first time a BCS program has visited Alumni Gym. Sophomore forward Lucas Troutman led the way with 14 points and five rebounds, while freshman guard Austin Hamilton, making his first career collegiate start in place of Isenbarger, added 12 points in a team-high 32 minutes.



2

**Aaron Mellette finishes fifth in Walter Payton voting**

In his junior year, Phoenix wide receiver Aaron Mellette set the Elon and Southern Conference records for receiving yards (1,633), breaking former Elon receiver Terrell Hudgins record set in 2009. He also had a conference-best 12 touchdowns and 113 receptions, and went more than 100 yards receiving in nine of 11 games. He finished fifth in the voting for the 2011 Walter Payton Award, the Football Championship Subdivision's



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

**Men's soccer SoCon championship/NCAA tournament appearance**

After finishing the regular season with a less-than-stellar 6-10-2 record, the Elon Phoenix men's soccer team swept three games against the Southern Conference Tournament's top three seeds to win the program's first SoCon championship and a berth into the NCAA Tournament. Junior forward Jordan Smith had two goals against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Nov. 13 to lead the Phoenix to a 3-2 win. The team lost 4-3 in the first round of the NAACs to No. 17 Coastal Carolina University.

1