



**Younger players carry their weight on tennis team**  
page 12

**Dining hall workers provide friendly atmosphere for students across campus**  
page 7



# THE PENDULUM

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KATY CANADA | Managing Editor



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KATY CANADA | Managing Editor

## Moldy discovery in Loy Center

*Mold spores outdoors may be the cause, says university*

Michael Bodley  
News Editor

It's been a moldy start to the school year for Elon University.

One house in the Loy Center has been recently evacuated, and another has been given the option because of poor air quality stemming from a mold buildup inside the Delta Delta Delta house at Loy Center R and the Sigma Phi Epsilon house at Loy Center N.

The new mold woes have arrived on the heels of similar documented incidents in the Danieley Apartments earlier this month, with some blamed on a backlog in Physical Plant work requests.

As of publication, no one cause has been determined, according to Eric Townsend, director of the Elon University News Bureau, but the environment is a suspected culprit, with spores in the air outside thought to exceed safe levels. Large HVAC filters pull in air from outside into the houses, which can suck in mold spores floating in the breeze.

Residents in Loy N and R have complained of coughs and cold-like symptoms that may be rooted in the steady, cloying humidity in air thick with the smell of mildew.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), living in close proximity to mold has been linked to symptoms of congestion, as well as eye and skin irritation.

Townsend said Health Services has seen a single-digit uptick in students treated for potentially mold-related respiratory issues.

But for those who are allergic to mold, a type of fungi, reactions can be more severe. Sophomore Katie Quick, who lives in Loy R, the Delta Delta Delta house, is allergic to mold. From the beginning

of the school year, she noticed her room upstairs remained constantly damp and humid — a recipe that spelled disaster for her immune system.

Calling her symptoms “allergies that turned into a nasty cold that never went away,” Quick said she and the other girls learned to live with the unpleasant conditions.

Between two and three weeks ago, the sophomore and her roommate, who is also allergic, found a white mold covering boots and sandals.

But it wasn't until the end of last week that the house's captain — similar to RAs elsewhere on campus — did something about it. Despite consistent coughing and congestion paired with a sense of lightheadedness, Quick said she and the others had been too busy to dwell on the problem.

Once reported, Quick had no qualms with Physical Plant's response. An independent contractor was brought to campus by Physical Plant the same day to perform air quality tests.

“There were really quick, and they were really accommodating,” she said.

An Elon-specific minimum benchmark for air safety indoors, 50 percent of outdoor spore levels, was exceeded inside Loy R when test results came back Sunday. The same day, the university evacuated residents, and booked rooms in a hotel for those didn't stay with friends.

Built within the last five years, the remaining new residences — N, O, P, Q and S — were tested Monday, with results due back Tuesday evening.

Though the next steps for the university were to be determined by the test results, conditions inside Loy N, the Sigma Phi Epsilon house, were similar enough

See MOLD page 2

## Oak House settles in after first month

Morgan Abate  
Senior Reporter

Phil Smith and the staff of The Oak House have started to settle into their routine as the bar and coffee lounge's opening month on campus draws to a close.

The month has gone better than Smith expected, despite some of the challenges that come with running a business.

“We're still learning what works and what doesn't work,” he said. “Every single day I learn something new.”

Opening hours have already shifted from 7 to 7:30 a.m. during the week. After the first week, there were only a few people coming in between 7 and

7:30, so management made the change. The half-hour change saves The Oak House money and allows student baristas an extra 30 minutes of sleep.

Technological issues with the router and point-of-sale system prompted Smith to invest in Square, an iPad, iPhone and laptop service that makes buying and selling faster and more efficient.

The POS system has shut down multiple times, preventing customers from paying with credit cards. Paying with Phoenix Cash has not been an issue because it runs on a different system. Although it takes several minutes to fix the system, a backup option keeps the line of customers moving.

Even with the setbacks, technology will serve as an important communication tool when student staff members are only working two or three hours a day.

“There's not a lot of consistency with people coming and going a lot,” Smith said. “We don't really have shifts.”

Smith said he wants to use the Notes app on the iPads in The Oak House more effectively, which will allow the constantly rotating staff to stay updated throughout the day.

As the bar and lounge continues to “put out the fires,” business continues to grow.

Customers have started to request items like breakfasts

See OAK HOUSE page 5

## Uber arrives at Elon to target college consumers

Michael Bodley  
News Editor

Uber has arrived at Elon University.

The nationally known ride-sharing service based in San Francisco recently expanded to 25 colleges and universities across the country, recognizing the untapped potential of college students who have places to go but no transportation of their own to make it happen.

Operated through a free mobile phone application available on both iPhone and Android operating systems, Uber uses GPS technology to pinpoint the locations of drivers and their pas-

sengers. Once a ride is requested through the app, an unoccupied driver picks up the passenger. The driver's progress can be traced in real time, through a tiny car icon that meanders through streets enroute to pickup.

The latest section of the Piedmont Triangle to experience Uber, the university and the surrounding area, could use more in the way of reliable, affordable transportation, according to Uber spokesperson Taylor Bennett. The affordability comes into play on cross-campus hops. An Uber fare from Danieley Center to West End Terrace falls between \$5 and \$7, even less when split between

See UBER page 3

**MOLD**  
from cover

to what was observed at Delta Delta Delta that the university extended the same hotel option to residents of Loy N in the meantime, while they wait for the test results to come in.

Inside the fraternity house on Monday, an unpleasant smell lingered in air that felt damp to the touch, wetting anything porous left out — towels, blankets, clothes and furniture.

According to sophomore Freddy Harbamboure, who lives in the house, one Physical Plant worker remarked on “how much the filters and air vents are not clean, and humidity in the air is one of the main reasons why.”

Townsend said the university is “looking at everything right now” but had no knowledge of lackluster vent-cleaning or filter-replacement habits by Physical Plant.

“If students feel that we are not properly maintaining their residence halls, we certainly do want to know where, so we can make sure all buildings are healthy places to live,” he said.

The spread of the mold has raised concerns for other Loy Center residents living in older houses that have not been evaluated for mold by Physical Plant.

“If they took off our vents and found something, I wouldn’t be surprised since these newer houses have mold, and ours is much, much older,” said sophomore Olivia Morrow, a resident of the Sigma Sigma Sigma house.

In the meantime, the residents of Sigma Phi Epsilon await a resolution. Many have experienced one ill effect or another they suspect is from the mold and mildew — from difficulty breathing to sickness they

haven’t been able to shake.

“None of us can really have towels lying around,” said sophomore Reid Burns, a resident of the house. “And there’s just always the smell. You can’t shake it.”

Adding that he’s been sick and stuffy for the past week, Burns said he doesn’t blame Physical Plant for his house’s problems because “they just found a bad situation.” Having not seen a doctor, he’s not sure his sickness is because of the mold.

In an effort to dry out the wet and heavy air, residents earlier this month set up a large dehumidifier that sits on the second floor. An air quality-tester Monday categorized breathability in the house in the “red zone,” the poorest air quality on the scale.

Sophomore Andrew Sommer, another resident of the house, has been hit worse than most, with on-again, off-again symptoms that have left him uncomfortable at home.

The condition of the house didn’t help things, joked sophomore Ken Crew, who lives there.

“It’s a frat house, so it’s always a little dingy inside,” he said, pointing to stains on the carpet and an overflowing laundry room.

Still, despite efforts to tidy the place up and blast the dehumidifier on high, nothing has stayed dry for long.

“It’s uncomfortable,” Sommer said. “You notice when you come home.”

*Assistant News Editor Kaitlin Dunn contributed reporting. Check online at [www.elon-pendulum.com](http://www.elon-pendulum.com) for the latest updates on this story as the new tests become available.*

*Experiencing mold issues elsewhere on campus? Email The Pendulum at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) to share your story.*



Sophomore Ken Crew, who lives in the Sigma Phi Epsilon house, said he first noticed a “bit of a funny, not great” smell when moving in that hasn’t gone away since. The mold has given him cold-like symptoms. KATY CANADA | Managing Editor

# The Elon Noyce Scholars Program

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**UBER**

from cover

up to four people for standard Uber vehicles, as allowed by the app.

So far students have seemed to agree. New Uber driver Billy Futch has grown his steady passenger base bit by bit since becoming a driver almost a month ago. The recently retired Town of Elon resident has been filling his days driving strangers, what he called a “welcome break” from the monotony of the television-fueled days that came before.

Though he was a bit apprehensive at first, the experience has been a good one for Futch, who said his passengers have been respectful and courteous.

Because all Uber drivers are independent contractors, each sets his or her own hours and schedules, which can vary week to week. Futch logs off the app and stops giving rides by 10 p.m. during the week. Weekends sometimes go a little later, depending on traffic.

Though the Internet is rife with Uber horror stories from drivers who pick up unruly, and often intoxicated, customers who wreak havoc on the interiors of vehicles, Futch hasn't had such problems so far.

Averaging a couple of dozen rides each week, the new Uber driver's only complaints have been with patrons who request a ride, then cancel, causing Futch to get in his car needlessly — not that he minds, much.

“I'm sitting right here watching TV, and when the phone goes off, I go,” he said, adding that the notifications from pending riders are more a cause of excitement than of annoyance.

And his customers have not just been students. Businessmen and professors on lunch breaks and commuters bound for Raleigh via Burlington's train station have been added to a growing list of repeat patrons, in recent weeks.

Uber's advantages — lower fares than cabs, drivers with thorough background checks and the sort of instant-gratification the service provides — help Futch's business expand.

“I just want the kids to be comfortable,” Futch said. “I want to hold a conversation. I want to get them there safely and get repeat



Billy Futch has taken up driving passengers through Uber as a part-time job, transporting students and businesspeople alike to destinations all over town. NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

customers. It's good for me, and it's good for them.”

Known for fares cheaper than traditional cabs, largely due to a lack of regulatory fees from state and local agencies, the ride-sharing service has taken chunks of business from them.

But cost tends to even out over longer trips, which are expensive for Uber drivers who must make the trek back after dropping off customers. Burlington-based Golden Eagle Taxi Service, whose owner could not be reached for comment, charges a flat rate of \$85 for a trip from Elon University to Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Uber, by comparison, starts at \$87 for the 50-odd mile trip, and ranges up to more than \$100.

Extensive safety features built into the service comfort weary first-time customers, of whom Futch has had many.

Before the ride, passengers can view their driver's photo and see specifics on the vehicle that will be picking them up. All Uber-au-

thorized vehicles must be from 2004 or newer, be mid-to full-sized and fit an “excellent condition” descriptor, though Uber does not inspect individual cars.

Unlike the cars that pick them up, Uber passengers and drivers are rated after each trip. On a one-to-five scale, both parties are graded in terms of courtesy and respect. Uber has drawn widespread criticism for allowing passengers to see driver ratings, but blocking the same passengers from seeing drivers' ratings of them.

Rival ride-sharing services such as Lyft, which lets passengers see their own ratings, are causing more anxiety on the part of passengers and drivers seeking to raise their “score” through fake nice behavior, Bennett said.

“We're trying to keep this as authentic as possible. When you have those scores, then there are efforts to manipulate those scores,” Bennett said.

Elon junior Brandon Coxall-Europe, who

has been one of the early Uber adapters, said he wishes the service was a little more transparent, but he doesn't think it'll stop students from using it. Besides, drivers aren't going to turn down easy money, he added.

“I don't think it's that big of a deal,” Coxall-Europe said. “If a driver really wants to make some money, this is not New York or a huge market where they're going to make lots. We're in Burlington. If people really want to make some money, they're going to pick you up, anyway.”

Futch, who likes to joke his new side job “keeps me out of my wife's hair,” said the atmosphere in his car is a good one, often upbeat, always casually conversational.

But he knows he has a for-the-moment monopoly on the area, one he's not willing to let slide without a fight.

“I really just enjoy this,” he said. “It's not a full-time job. It's not a way of life. But it keeps me busy, keeps me feeling a little younger. I don't want to give that up.”

# Peace Corps program offers service opportunity

**Cameron Saucier**  
Senior Reporter

The Peace Corps Prep Program at Elon University offers a hands-on way for students to connect with the university's guiding principle of global citizenship.

The program is part of Elon's environmental studies department and fosters skills in sustainable agriculture, responsible architecture and environmental management, according to the Peace Corps Prep Program website.

“It fits in really nice,” said professor Steve Moore, director of the Peace Corps Prep Program's advisory committee. “The Peace Corps and our emphasis on engaged learning and global citizenship are all really key parts of graduating and continuing the Elon tradition.”

The prep program was created February 2013 after President Leo Lambert approved the initiative, forging a collaborative relationship between the university and the Peace Corps.

“We wanted to provide them skills in sustainable food systems,” Moore said. “As their projects evolve, they can develop their own skills.”

The Peace Corps is a highly selective service program that sends Americans across the world to aid the pressing needs of developing countries. Volunteers work to improve the infrastructure of their chosen countries and assist local populations

by teaching them skills in sustainability and self-sufficiency, said the Peace Corps website.

Junior Philip Gurley is currently enrolled in the prep program. As an international studies major with a concentration in Latin American studies, Gurley said he's primed to work in South America after he graduates.

“My uncle was involved with volunteer work in Africa,” Gurley said. “I'd like to follow in his footsteps and do humanitarian work in Latin America.”

The prep program, which currently has around 150 enrollees, allows students to get experience and learn valuable trade skills. The skills students learn will prepare them for construction or farming-related assignments, if they choose to join the Peace Corps after graduation.

“It's definitely been rewarding so far,” Gurley said. “Last year I started some environmental science courses. Now I'm actually taking a garden studio class during the spring. This ties into the sustainable agriculture expectations for the Peace Corps.”

On July 15, the Peace Corps reworked its application and selection process. Resulting in a more personalized, shorter and efficient application system. Applicants are now able to choose which programs and countries they wish to apply to and know whether they are accepted into the program earlier.

While Peace Corps applicants like Gurley will apply with the new, streamlined application system, past applicants weren't so fortunate.

Elon graduate Kylee Bushway is currently waiting for her departure date for Madagascar as a Peace Corps volunteer. Applying under the old Peace Corps application, Bushway wasn't able to choose her destination.

Even so, Bushway said she is excited to become a community health adviser

in Madagascar, teaching its citizens child health, water sanitation and preventative measures against STIs.

“I bought into the whole Elon global citizen thing from the first year on,” Bushway said. “Being a public health major, I've already studied and been exposed to international health issues.”

While Bushway didn't go through Elon's Peace Corps Prep Program, she said it's “a good way to open up Elon students' eyes earlier as undergrads.”



# Fellows programs grow through the years

Kimberly Honiball  
Senior Reporter

Elon University's Fellows programs offer students looking for more rigorous coursework a path to pursue an added challenge.

The fellows programs include Honors, Elon College, Business, Communications, teaching and leadership. Each program has different requirements for participants, and some have undergone changes for the 2014-2015 school year.

"I found that a lot of Communications Fellows were not applying for the Lumen Prize," said Communications Fellows director Naeemah Clark. "A part of that is that we don't think of ourselves as involved in academic research, so we are encouraging students to see the theoretical component and requiring 15 hours of research per year from each student."

Although some students think research is an important component of an education, they don't think it's the only thing.

"While we aren't spending hours and hours on research, we are comparatively spending our time involved with hands-on work," said senior Communications Fellow Brian Mezerski.

Changes in other departments, such as in the Elon College Fellows deal with student engagement

Originally, Elon College Fellows attended events designated for an in-depth review of research focused on one area of study.

"I'm not sure we were engaging students as well as we would have liked to," said Nancy Harris, associate dean of Elon College. "Most students don't rapidly want to hone into their discipline, so now we are encouraging an interdisciplinary focus."

Students in the Elon College Fellows program will be exposed to interdisciplinary approaches at three different events — one of which is open to the public Nov. 11 to discuss the various approaches to un-

derstanding disease — to stress the importance of perspective on the understanding of far-reaching issues.

Harris also noticed a change in research — not in the requirements, but in what the students are producing.

"Elon students are better," Harris said. "Faculty are doing more scholarship across the board, and students are doing deeper work. We aren't mandating it, but it's happening because the students we recruit are really good students."

While students are encouraged to find a

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**NANCY HARRIS  
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ELON  
COLLEGE**

mentor and pick a research topic early on, some still feel the pressure.

Sophomore Honors Fellow Maryclaire Schulz is currently looking for a mentor to help her prepare her proposal for the coming year. With a strong emphasis on preparing research in the Honors Fellows program, Schulz is looking forward to nailing down a thesis and finding a mentor to help her through the lengthy process.

Research is not the only added requirement for Fellows students. Many also hold leadership positions and maintain an active

presence on campus in organizations.

"I feel like it's all about finding your niche on campus," said senior Communications Fellow Tim Gillman. "Rather than getting involved in twenty different clubs as a member, [Fellows advisors] encourage you to find your passion and then become a leader in a club that lets you act on that passion."

While the Fellows program does encourage students to find what they love, it also supports them to be well-rounded students.

For example, Teaching Fellows study abroad their second semester sophomore year and complete service.

"We are preparing them to be well-rounded teachers," said Jeffrey Carpenter, director of Elon's Teaching Fellows program. "All of our teacher education programs are excellent. Fellows just get more experiences that familiarize them with the trends in education earlier on."

Faculty members maintain the idea that being in the fellows program does not put any one student above another at Elon.

"I think that, whether you're a Fellow or a non-Fellow, you have a good experience," Clark said. "You have access to so much that students at other schools don't."

Students agree with faculty that anyone at Elon can take advantage of what the university has to offer.

"Everyone always says that being a Fellow is nothing really special. We come to Elon to come to Elon," Mezerski said. "Everyone still has equal footing and grounds to be the best individuals. It's just something that has helped me make my Elon experience even more enjoyable."

While class sizes, academic requirements and extracurricular expectations may differ, students involved in a Fellows program can agree on one thing: it is a great way to make instant connections at Elon.

"I immediately gained, within the first three days on Elon's campus, a friend group," Mezerski said.

# Students partake in Colorful Run across campus



LANE DEACON | Staff Photographer  
The colored dye used in the Colorful Run is considered a symbol of joy and goodness.

Hannah Durbin  
Senior Reporter

On Saturday, 448 paint-covered Elon University students, faculty and staff were scattered all over South Campus after participating in the Colorful Run. Students ran and walked the 1.7 mile course to raise money for Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center.

As participants followed the course along the cross country trails, they navigated through clouds of colored powder thrown in every direction.

"The fact that I got to run with my friends, get covered in colors and raise money for such a deserving cause was incredible," said first year Ian Heaton. "I'm definitely going to do this every year."

The Colorful Run, which is based on the Hindu springtime celebration called Holi, involves blasting festival-goers with a powdered cornstarch dye as a symbol of joy and goodness.

The walkers and runners paid a \$15 registration fee to participate, with the money going directly to Duke Children's Hospital.

First brought to Elon in 2012, the Colorful Run is sponsored by Elonthon and Campus Recreation. The "fun factor" of the event motivates people who wouldn't typically be active to participate and make the most of the experience.

"Collaborative exercise, as well as adding fun into the mix, encourages a lot of people who don't regularly participate in physical activity to get involved," said Health and Human Performance lecturer Elizabeth Bailey.

The run is a part of a growing national trend toward cloaking exercise in fun guises, such as the Raleigh Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, which has grown a faithful following thanks to its unique style of blaring rock music while marathoners run the course.

Members of the Elonthon committee were cheerleaders for the day as they stood alongside the course and motivated the participants. In the midst of the craziness and excitement, it was easy to forget the reason for running that day. But thanks to the Elonthon committee members, students were reminded of the real reason for the run — it's all For The Kids.

"Since I'm a part of the Elonthon committee, I see a lot of the hard work that goes into planning events like this, and it's awesome to know how much of a difference things like this make for the families who need us," said junior Katie Dalton.

The 2015 Elonthon Dance Marathon is scheduled for April 10-11 in Alumni Gym. Last year, it faltered with a drop in donors and participants, from which organizers seek to rebound for this year's event to come.

# Sister of executed man talks 'Human Face of Death Penalty'

Dalton Cox  
Senior Reporter

Elon University hosted the event "Troy Davis: The Human Face of the Death Penalty" Thursday. Troy Davis' case incited international controversy when the state of Georgia executed him in September 2011, despite compelling evidence to invoke reasonable doubt.

The program featured a discussion led by the sister of Troy Davis, Kimberly Davis, and co-author of "I Am Troy Davis," Jen Marlowe. The seats, aisles and even the stage of Yeager Recital Hall were crowded with Elon students, faculty, staff and community members. Elon's Criminal Justice Studies, Pre-Law Program, African and African-American Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies sponsored the event.

"The fight to end the death penalty —

that is the fight that the rest of Troy's family is still fighting in the trenches, day in and day out," Marlowe said.

The presentation began with Davis recounting the details of her brother's long legal battle. Troy Davis was convicted for the 1989 murder of police officer Mark MacPhail in Savannah, Georgia, in spite of a lack of substantial evidence.

During the 20 years between Davis' conviction and execution, he gained public support worldwide, including that of Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former President Jimmy Carter and the human rights organization Amnesty International.

An evidentiary hearing held in 2010 presented affidavits in which seven of the nine murder witnesses changed or recanted their previous testimony. Despite such defense efforts, the prosecution used further contro-

versial evidence, which eventually resulted in Troy Davis' conviction being upheld. The U.S. Supreme Court denied the appeal of Davis' case and he was executed Sept. 21, 2011.

"It was a case I didn't know about," said junior Emily Usher. "I really like the message they promoted, which was fighting against corruption in general."

After Davis presented the details of Troy Davis' struggle, Marlowe introduced several community members who read passages from her book, "I Am Troy Davis."

The readers included Elon senior Alex Dawson, sophomore Tucker Kelly, University of North Carolina at Wilmington professor Kimberly Cook and human rights activist Tory Brown.

Marlowe reached out to the Davis family after seeing Troy Davis' sister, Martina Davis, on the television show "Democracy Now." During Troy Davis' stay in prison, Marlowe was able to frequently correspond with Davis through writing letters. Marlowe used veiled questions in her letters, so Davis was able to aid in writing Marlowe's book without being detected by strict prison officials.

After Troy's execution, Martina received a letter from her brother urging her to write the book. Martina and Marlowe began worked on the book for the next two months, until she passed away from breast cancer.

Kimberly Davis urged audience members to fight against injustice.

"We need to take information into the community and stand up for something that's right," Davis said. "We need to stand up for what is right and stand up for justice."

Following the presentation, Marlowe had T-shirts with "I Am Troy Davis" on them, with proceeds going to the educational fees of the Davis family children.



KAITLIN DUNN | Assistant News Editor  
Jen Marlowe, author of "I Am Troy Davis" and Kimberly Davis, sister of Troy Davis, gave a presentation on Troy's case and led a discussion about the ethics of the death penalty Thursday in Yeager Recital Hall.

## OAK HOUSE

from cover

sandwiches and omelets. But both Assistant Manager Alex Ward and Smith have said they are not ready to offer a full menu.

“As much as I love an omelet and would love to serve it, we are not in a position right now to serve from raw to plate,” Smith said.

Ward explained expanding options at The Oak House means hiring more staff, including chefs. The Oak House, he said, focuses on specialized drinks and the space, not on food.

Both Ward and Smith also understand adding too much too soon could put The Oak House in the same position as the restaurants before it.

“We want to meet people’s needs, but we don’t want the idea of The Oak House to be compromised,” Ward said.

Fewer food offerings and a less complex menu makes the staff more versatile. They can move from the bar to the coffee line based on need, prepare appetizers, clean the equipment and close up without Smith.

Peter Walpole, a barista at The Oak House, said the staff juggles multiple roles well.

“We’re always asking ourselves, ‘What can we do to serve customers best, to be more efficient?’” he said.

Walpole said he sees the same customers several times a day and has started to form relationships with them.

Smith has picked up on customer habits and patterns, too. In just one month, The Oak House already has regulars. There are the guys who come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays, drink a beer and talk about philosophy before heading to their philosophy class.

There’s the group of girls who eat dinner at Pandora’s Pies, enjoy a half-price bottle of wine at The Oak House and head down to the Fat Frogg for Trivia on Tuesday nights.

And there are the cooks from The Root who end their Thursdays with a beer at The Oak House.

Smith did not think the lounge would be as busy as it is; in fact, he thought he’d be closing early. He has the opposite problem now: students do not want to leave.

Representatives from student organiza-

tions have even started to approach Smith and Ward about hosting events at The Oak House.

Student Union Board SUBLive co-chair Charles Racioppo met with Smith to plan the SUBLive Open Mic Night held during Family Weekend. After the event, students asked Racioppo when The Oak House would host the next SUBLive event.

“There’s nothing definite for next semester,” Racioppo said, “but we want to go out of the box and expand a bit. We want to do something we haven’t done before.”

At the moment, The Oak House is working on ways to attract the community outside of the university. Winter and summer breaks can hurt small businesses at Elon. Smith wants locals to come in, but with floods of Elon students, faculty and staff, he worries that they may not have the best experience.

“We need to plan in thoughtful and intentional ways,” Smith said, “so as to achieve balance without turning away the crowd, but also welcoming the folks outside the Elon community.”



The Oak House is not interested in diversifying their food options at the moment in order to support sustainable growth in downtown Elon.

MORGAN ABATE | Senior Reporter

# Volunteering through organizations rises as Kernodle Center makes changes

Kimberly Honiball  
Senior Reporter

Elon University students hoping to complete an Experiential Learning Requirement need look no further than the John R. Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, more commonly known as the Kernodle Center.

The Kernodle Center offers students opportunities to get involved with yearlong service organizations or special events, and Elon Volunteers! operates as an umbrella organization for services on campus.

“We have 130 student leaders who plan, implement and evaluate service programs for students,” said Mary Morrison, the assistant dean of students and director of the Kernodle Center. “All of that is engaged with the community.”

Elon Volunteers! offers programs, events and service organizations. Popular events include blood drives and Special Olympics, service organizations include Safe Rides and Habitat for Humanity, and their programs include Students Helping Animals Regain Equality and Lunch Buddies.

S.H.A.R.E. gives students the opportunity to interact with the animals of Alamance County, according to sophomore Chelsea Weber.

“I chose to volunteer in hopes of gaining knowledge about how to deal with different types of dogs, but I also just really missed my dog, and this helped fill the void,” Weber said.

Other students on campus choose to participate in awareness volunteer programs such as Invisible Children or the Campus Kitchen Project.

During the 2013-2014 school year, more than 11,000 pounds of food was collected and donated to community members through Campus Kitchen.

### Volunteering through the years

From 2013 to 2014 the number of volunteers increased by 23 percent, and more than 120,000 hours of service were completed.

Morrison speculates these changes have occurred because of increased class sizes and better outreach.

“We’ve been doing a better job of reaching out to student organizations and asking them to report their hours,” she said. “We have more students and more students engaged in service.”

Last year more than 3,000 students volunteered through on-campus initiatives, including both service organizations and service-learning courses.

Service-learning courses require students to apply what they are learning in their classes to help the community. For example, students enrolled in a public relations class can work for real businesses or non profits to create materials for them that they otherwise could not afford.

Students can also complete the service ELR requirements by reporting their volunteer hours.

“Many students don’t feel a need to get credit for their service, but we are trying to help them understand that we want to let the Elon community know all the good work that students are doing,” Morrison said. “It’s an important part of the Elon education, being engaged with the community through service.”

### Kernodle Center access and changes

There is now a Downtown Center for Community Engagement that students can rent out for group meetings or conference. The space features a space for 15 to 20 people, a flat screen to display presentations and white boards to record notes.

Making it easier to access the Down-

town Center is the BioBus, which has been around for a couple of years but is less popular than other routes.

The BioBus route is roughly an hour long and travels to all of the community partnerships with whom Elon volunteers interact.

Morrison encouraged students without cars to look into the bus route because they can still easily volunteer in the community. She also suggested students simply ride the bus to see the work that Elon students are doing in the community.

Despite these improvements, the Kernodle Center “always wants more folks involved,” Morrison said.

With more than 30 volunteer organizations on campus, students can find a cause they feel passionate about.

“A lot of people tend to think of volunteering as work, but if you pick something

you enjoy, you’ll look forward to doing it,” Weber said.

Getting involved early can lead to other volunteer opportunities in the future.

“I’m so thankful that S.H.A.R.E. opened my eyes to the needs of animals at shelters so I could pursue volunteering at home as well as at Elon,” Weber said.

### KERNODLE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Phone:  
336-278-7250

Email:  
evols@elon.edu

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# Cheat Sheet: Hong Kong protests



Want a complicated news story explained?  
Email [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet

By the News Editors

As protests in Ferguson, Missouri continue, raised hands have become the symbol of solidarity for those concerned with the killing of Michael Brown by local police. But this same symbol has arisen on the other side of the globe as student protests in Hong Kong continue.

Hong Kong is designated as a “special administrative region” of the much larger People’s Republic of China (PRC) and, as such, has different procedures and rights for its citizens. When Great Britain conceded Hong Kong back to the PRC in 1997, part of the deal ensured Hong Kong autonomy and allowed the country to conduct open, multi-party elections, compared to the PRC’s one-party system.

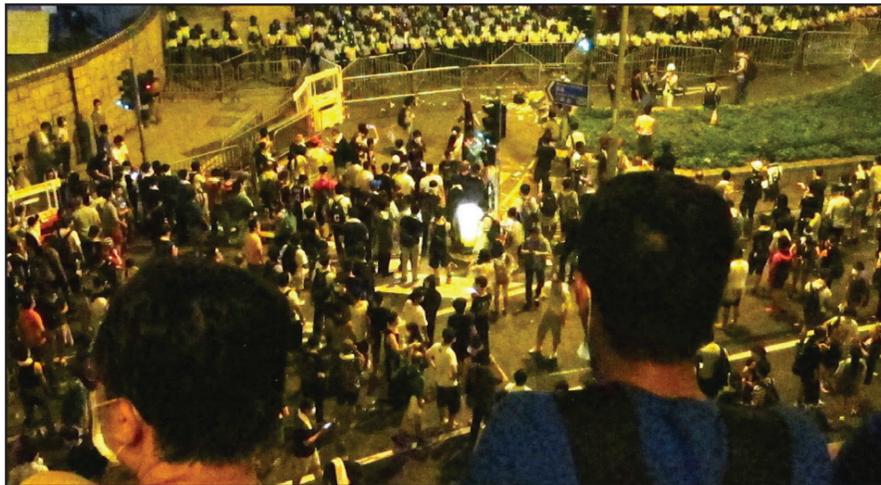
Currently, the chief executive of Hong Kong — the head of the region’s government — must be approved by the PRC after they are elected. But when the deal with Great Britain was reached in 1997, the PRC said in 20 years, that election would become open.

Now that the deadline is three years away, the PRC changed its position and the candidates for the chief executive election must be approved before the election begins. This led to pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, both in the region’s downtown area and in front of the Hong Kong government building.

Protests in Hong Kong are nothing new. Attempts to institute pro-PRC education in schools in Hong Kong were rejected in 2011, and sweeping security policies were similarly protested and undone around the time of the Iraq War. Even earlier this year, when it looked like the PRC would renege on its promise of full democracy, protesters marched in Hong Kong.

But now, police are using tear gas and rubber bullets to a degree not seen in Hong Kong’s history since leaving British control. Hong Kong’s current chief executive, Leung Chun-Ying, publically supports the police’s actions, as has the PRC’s leadership in Beijing.

These protests coincide with the National



Protests over Hong Kong’s ability to elect its own chief executive led to harsh push back from police. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Day of the PRC, a national holiday commemorating the country’s founding on Oct. 1, 1949. Historically, Hong Kong has been culturally distinct from mainland China, thanks to around 150 years of colonization. Hong Kong is more affluent than the rest of the PRC and the residents have other rights beyond open elections.

But with Beijing leaders changing their position on granting Hong Kong full democracy, it remains to be seen what other rights will be preserved or taken away. The leadership of the PRC is trying hard now to end protests in Hong Kong. There are already demonstrations going on in Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang inside the PRC, and culturally, large shows of force in Hong Kong may worsen views that Beijing has taken the place of London in the region’s oppression.

The other popular comparison in the media is to the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 when Chun-Ying said the PRC’s military will not enter Hong Kong to avoid the situation here from resembling Tiananmen Square. These student protests meant to expose leadership breakdowns inside the PRC and push for liberalizing government policies. As the state’s military pushed into Beijing, protesters attempting to block to push were killed. Accurate numbers of how many civilians were killed are unavailable; Beijing’s party secretary at the time report-

ed 218 while an American NSA cable in the George Washington University archive says between 180 and 500.

Student-run protests are a recurring theme in Chinese history, dating back to student support in the early 20th Century for an end to imperialism after the Treaty of Versailles to student support for communist reforms. While students were a significant part of the current round of protests in Hong Kong, the movement has become much broader.

Hong Kong is not united in its opposition to the PRC, however. In a poll conducted by the South China Morning Post, 39 percent of Hong Kong citizens said the revised election plan from the PRC should be approved. In addition, 86 percent said these protests have little to no chance of changing the central government’s mind on reforms. There are also varying opinions on a shared Chinese identity as well as greater law and order offered by the PRC.

Hong Kong is a bustling region, with the 25th highest nominal per capita GDP in the world. But as it shrinks from 18 percent of the PRC’s GDP to 3 percent and Beijing officials begin to back out of experiments with democracy, it remains to be seen what will happen to this autonomous piece of China that takes up less land than Alamance County.

## News Briefs

### Kristof, WuDunn to visit Elon for convocation

Renowned journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn are visiting Elon University October 2 to be the headlining speakers at Elon’s annual fall convocation.

Kristof and WuDunn won the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China’s Tiananmen Square protests, making them the first husband and wife duo to do so.

The couple have also co-authored three books, “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide,” “China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power” and “Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia.”

Kristof was at Elon in 2010, when he was the keynote speaker at Spring Convocation.

Previous fall convocation speakers include poet Maya Angelou and Steve Wozniak.

### North Carolina distributes private school vouchers

North Carolina began distributing money for school vouchers Monday, allowing students to pay for tuition to private and religious schools. The money, \$1.1 million of the \$10 million allocated for this year, is currently in the appeals court after a Superior Court judge ruled the vouchers unconstitutional.

According to The Associated Press, the two schools that received the most in state voucher money are Greensboro Islamic Academy in Greensboro and Word of God Christian Academy in Raleigh.

In the superior court’s decision, justice Robert Hobgood said the vouchers violate the First Amendment because it would spend government money on schools that can discriminate who attends based on religion.

### Premier Sport and Event Society endows new scholarship for students

Sport and Event Management Department Chair Hal Walker presented Rob Baccus, director of annual giving with a \$20,000 check for an endowed scholarship for students majoring in sport and event management at a Premier Sport and Event Society meeting Monday.

The money was raised by five students, sophomore Brian Ahern, junior Jane Domeck, and seniors Aly Yarwood, Jake Stalzer and Matt Robertson who assumed leadership roles at concessions tents at the U.S. Open in Pinehurst, North Carolina in June. The students recruited volunteers, worked the stand and coordinated inventory.

“This is the thing I am the most proud of that I have contributed to at Elon,” Walker said.

The money raised this year adds on to money raised in the past, bringing the total of the endowment up to nearly \$50,000.

PSES students were in attendance at the presentation of the check, as well as several SEM professors and Communications Dean Paul Parsons.

## Alamance County serves up diverse flavors

*Elon Community Church event introduces students to county’s arts and cuisine*

Morgan Abate  
Senior Reporter

Elon University students and community members explored the cuisine, arts and recreational activities Alamance County has to offer through Welcome to Your Neighborhood, an event sponsored by the Elon Community Church.

The event was created last year after discussions between the church’s university relations committee and Elon faculty and staff.

“When we formed in January 2013, we met with faculty and staff at Elon,” said Committee Chair Sherry Scott, “We asked what the needs of the students were.”

According to Scott, University Chaplain Jan Fuller said students need to learn what the area outside of Elon has to offer them. She wanted to come up with a way to help students find restaurants off campus.

That proved to be a difficult feat for the committee.

“We had no way of helping students find restaurants,” Scott said. “So we decided to bring the restaurants to students.”

Scott and the rest of the university relations committee sought out a variety of restaurants from Italian-American to South-

ern to, of course, North Carolina barbeque.

Next, they reached out to local recreational facilities like Burlington Parks and Recreation, Alamance Battleground Friends and the Burlington Velo Club.

Scott explained that Welcome to Your Neighborhood not only introduces students to food and recreation, but also to local artisans.

If a student likes to paint, they can talk to an artist who gives lessons. Students who want to act or volunteer can look into Stanfield Walker Studios and Studio One, the two theaters in Alamance County.

“Everyone’s happy with who they’re meeting,” Scott said. “And they’re finding out things they wouldn’t otherwise know.”

First years Lea Silverman and Micaela Soucy did not know the Burlington Co-op took Phoenix Cash until they were directed to the church on their way to Acorn.

“I don’t know the restaurants in the area, so it’s good to get take-out menus,” Silverman said.

Sophomore Kelly Reagan agreed. “It’s good to see what’s in the community,” she said, “Especially since I have a car this year, and I don’t really know what’s around.”

The gathering is also a good way for lo-

cal businesses to find support from the Elon community.

Antioyne Rone lived his whole life in the town of Elon and has watched the university grow. He left the area for Atlanta in 2001, and when he came back, he was surprised at how much Elon had increased in size.

“It needed people,” he said.

Now, Rone said he hopes the growth will benefit his family’s new restaurant Delightful Soul, a Southern-style restaurant that opened five weeks ago. The business had been a catering company for 10 years, but customers clamored for a restaurant.

One of the organizers of Welcome to Your Neighborhood approached Rone at Delightful Soul and asked if he would set up a stand at the event. He jumped at the opportunity.

“We needed exposure,” he said. “We cook from our heart and soul, and it shows in the food.”

Reagan, Silverman and Soucy want to support Rone and the other small business owners in the area.

“It makes us more aware of what’s in the community, especially since Elon is a bubble,” Reagan said. “We need to support Alamance County.”

# Dining Services staff form lasting bonds with students

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

It's easy to dismiss your dining hall experience as a business transaction- you swipe, you eat and you go. But for many students at Elon University, a visit to a dining hall carries with it more comfort and familiarity because of the people behind the counters who serve with a smile.

Elon Dining Services staff members have been forming lasting relationships with students, serving as a source of comfort and a family away from home. These friendly relationships, built from thoughtfulness, have helped foster a sense of community for both students and staff members.

Laura Haith, often seen managing the swipe counter at Lakeside Dining Hall, is popularly considered by students as one of the many staff members who works to create a homelike environment for students. From memorizing names, faces and birthdays to keeping up to date with campus activities, Haith has been forming strong connections with students for the past ten years.

"Nobody wants to go anywhere and feel cold," she said. "When you walk through that door, I want you know that somebody cares."

As the mother of two children, Haith said she understands how difficult it might be to be away from family for an extended period of time.

"I wouldn't want my sons to be away from home and feel no kind of love," she said. "So I treat every student the way I treat my children."

The bonds she has created with students have lasted beyond their four years at Elon- former students still call her on a regular basis and invite her to events such as wedding showers.

"The fact that they want me to be a part

of their next step in life is just so amazing," she said.

First year Sam Fisch said it's the personal touch that makes all the difference.

"Many of them are like second moms," he said. "We talk about how my weekend is going, how I'm feeling and even about whether there are any girls in my life."

Fisch said the warm environment is the reason why he looks forward to coming back.

Julie Wilson is a familiar face to many students who form long lines in front of Lakeside Dining Hall's omelet station every morning. Despite the crowd around her station, Wilson creates a personal experience for each student, asking them about their days and how they're feeling, as she carefully prepares their orders. Wilson even goes out of her way to memorize the orders of some regulars.

It was during one of these conversations that first-year student Mae Schwelkert formed a connection with Wilson.

"She knows about my family, my running and even about my injuries," Schwelkert said.

Wilson said it is a joy to interact with students on a regular basis. Having started her eighth year at Elon, Wilson said the relationships she shares with students are the reason why she goes to work every day.

"I want to be more than just a server here. I want to be their Elon mom or whatever I can be for them," she said. "So I try to start their day off with an omelet made with love."

Junior Najah Short, who has formed several friendships with Dining Services staff members said it doesn't take much to respond to such levels of kindness.

"Most of my friendships started from a simple, 'How are you doing?'," she said. "As I kept coming back, the relationships just kept strengthening."

Short said she believes it is an honor for the staff members to be taking some of their



Julie Wilson, an employee at Colonnades Dining Hall, has built lasting bonds with Elon students.

time to genuinely care for students.

"They could come to work with a frown on their face or just do the bare minimum, but they don't," she said. "A lot of them go out of their way to make sure that students feel welcomed."

Class of 2014 alumnus Joe Bruno said words cannot express how thankful he is for the friendship he developed with Ashley Curtis, who works at Acorn. Serving as an escape from the stresses of working late nights in McEwen, Curtis' perseverance and backstory inspired him to keep pushing through his own hard times.

"She played the role of my mentor, mother and at times a best friend," he said. "We continue to keep in touch on Facebook, and all the stories of her kids, Sophie and Mason, brighten my day."

Similarly, Class of 2009 alumnus Peter Ustach said his friendships with staff members Krystal Neil and Antoine Downey con-

tinued to grow.

Ustach added his friendly relationship with Neil began through simple conversations about life while she would prepare his order in PanGeo's, a former dining option on Elon's campus. Those conversations would continue everyday, and the two have kept talking ever since.

"I consider him one of my closest friends in Burlington," he said. "We go to Greensboro Grasshopper games, and we see each other on a regular basis."

As many members of the Dining Services staff continue putting in extra effort to genuinely care for students, Ustach stressed that it is important to recognize their work.

"It's more than seeing the person in front of you as just someone swiping your Phoenix Card every day," he said. "Once you take that extra step by just saying 'Thank you' or asking 'How are you?' meaningful relationships can be created."

# New exchange student embraces, adjusts to life at Elon

Brett Gubitosi  
Senior Reporter

Takasuke Tsuji arrived at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport Aug. 19. He had been on an airplane for nearly 24 hours, but he was almost at his destination: Elon University. He knew he was in the United States the moment he saw cars driving on the right side of the road. In his home country, Japan, drivers drive on the left.

Elon's global exchange program introduces international students to the culture and academics of Elon. Having spent his first two years of college at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan, Tsuji, a Kyoto native, eagerly arrived this semester, passionate about strategic communications and ready to immerse himself in the English language.

Since he arrived last month, Tsuji has noted many cultural differences.

"When someone sneezes, you say, 'Bless you,'" Tsuji said. "When people sneeze more than once, you say, 'Bless you, bless you, bless you.' In my country, no one says anything."

Tsuji chose Elon because it offered both a marketing major and a communications major.

Coming from such a different culture, Tsuji has experienced many difficulties adjusting to Elon's way of life. For example, he said he must be more assertive in classes to earn participation points. "Students hardly talk during lectures at Japanese universities. It's seen as embarrassing," he said. "Here, students talk very much."

Tsuji's professors have worked with him in his transition to Elon.

"While I am sure he has some adjusting to do, I am going to guess he is in no way intimidated by his current surroundings," said Daniel Haygood, Tsuji's Communications in the Global Age professor. "I do not sense any real hesitation at all in his willingness to

speak or contribute."

The United States appealed to Tsuji because the English language fascinated him. He said he realized his passion for English after participating in a semester-long homestay study period in Malaysia during high school. He wants to speak English to sound like Hollywood action movie stars, whom he has always admired.

"Hollywood actors are cool," he said. "It's kind of neat if you can speak their language."

Tsuji added he still struggles to understand some parts of the language, especially in detailed discussions and during fast-paced conversations.

Though he is always trying to practice English, he said he speaks his native Japanese with older Japanese students on campus, especially senior Atsushi Hiyakawa. He does this as a sign of respect. Unlike American culture, respect for one's elders in Japanese culture includes all people, even people only a year older.

"I have to be polite to Atsushi," Tsuji said. "In English, we are both equals, so that makes things awkward."

Hiyakawa was in the same exact position as Tsuji last year. He was a junior who had just arrived at Elon from Kansai Gaidai. He did not have many friends, felt left out in classes and conversations and struggled to adapt to a culture so unlike his own. Hiyakawa said he feels more confident and comfortable a year later.

"I know how life here works now. For example, I learned how the BioBus works and how to print at the library," Hiyakawa said. "I'm not confused anymore."

Hiyakawa said he has acted as a mentor to the new Japanese transfer students. He plays ping pong with them on the weekends, introduces them to his American friends

and teaches them about other campus resources.

Hiyakawa said he hopes Tsuji and the other exchange students can become as comfortable as he has become.

"I've become more expressive and talkative," Hiyakawa said.

Hiyakawa also noted that making friends early was the most important thing for him to do last year. He hopes Tsuji can do the same.

Junior Tony Weaver, one of Tsuji's friends at Elon, is confident Tsuji will fit in well on campus.

"I think that Takasuke is adjusting well to Elon," he said. "He is a nice person and is making a lot of friends."

Tsuji knows there are difficulties he has to face both culturally and linguistically, but he is satisfied with his decision to study at Elon.

"I'm just happy being in an environment where I can actively learn English," he said.

A year removed from Kansai Gaidai, Hiyakawa knows coming to Elon was one of the best choices he has made and has learned to see things from many new perspectives.

One of these new perspectives relates to peoples' work habits.

"When people work in Japan, they look tired," Hiyakawa said. "American people are more relaxed. Everyone here works, but they look happy."

Overall, Hiyakawa said he feels more globally aware. "This experience at Elon is very beneficial for my life," he said.

Hiyakawa said Tsuji will become more comfortable on campus as the semester continues. He offered some of advice to Tsuji, "Elon is not as easy as college life at Kansai Gaidai, but it's advantageous for your life."



Senior Atsushi Hiyakawa (left) has mentored junior Takasuke Tsuji (right) as Tsuji adjusts to life at Elon.

## Familiar faces and fresh produce make up local market



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

The Elon Community Church weekly farmer's market is held every Thursday from 3-6:30 p.m. on N. Williamson Avenue. It gives buyers a wide selection of produce, baked goods, soaps and plants.

Catie Willett  
Senior Reporter

Students, families and vendors flocked to the Elon Community Church parking lot Thursday, as they do every week, to sell and purchase goods and share stories. Vendor tents are filled with flowers, fresh vegetables and baked goods as sellers smile and make conversation with their customers.

At the Elon Community Church farmer's market, vendors reconnect with each other and community members. Each business owner has a story of inspiration that led them to be an entrepreneur.

### Cooking and baking for cause

Addie Graves, of Graham, is known for her sugary cakes and is one of the most beloved and longest-returning vendors at the farmer's market.

She discovered her love of baking after experimenting with different cake recipes with a friend. Graves experienced some failure with her baked goods, but a final attempt found one that was surprisingly tasty. After giving one half of her cake to her beautician and the other to a local shopkeeper, they both agreed Graves had a knack for baking. The support and encouragement of local businesspeople inspired her to make baking a significant part of her life.

"That's how I started making cakes, with a half a cake," Graves said.

She has always had a passion for the fresh, home-style food offered at the market.

"I love to cook, and I love gardening because I grew up on a farm, and I love fresh vegetables," Graves said.

Her father was an established farmer, known for selling his corn and other produce to local restaurants. Graves took on the responsibility of cooking his fresh produce and planning meals for her family of nine since she was a young woman.

"I loved to cook, so I cooked and I always invited people in," she said.

Her love of cooking for large groups of people is increasing as she volunteers with her daughter to feed the hungry.

"I do a lot of casseroles because I feed a lot of people," Graves said. "And [Graves and her daughter] feed the hungry."

Graves used her cooking abilities to fuel her entrepreneurial spirit. Not only did she start her own business, "Taste-n-See", but she also recently published a cookbook.

"I do have a cookbook. I'm trying to

get a new one out preferably by this fall," Graves said. "It's all about dessert, but this one coming out is going to have dessert and casserole."

The sales and business aspects of the market aren't the only things that keep her coming back each week. It's her love of the community that inspires her to return.

"It's a really nice area. I look forward to see these children," Graves said.

She feels a difference in the market when school isn't in session and misses interacting with different students from across the country.

"In the mid summer it's real lonesome out here," Graves said.

### Hobby turns into family business

The market is also home to young business owners. For 14-year-old Faith Thompson of T5-Farms, life consists of working with cows and chickens, keeping them fed and watered, picking the best vegetables to bring to markets to sell and putting on a grown-up smile. She asks "How do you do?" to customers as they graze her produce.

"I do a little bit of everything," Thompson said.

She explained how this farm-to-market lifestyle was not always her family's plan.

"My dad is an engineer surveyor, and when the housing market crashed and his job really slowed down, we just started expanding," Thompson said. "We've always lived on a lot of land, always had a big garden and always had cows and chickens, and so now it's coming into a pretty large production."

Regardless of what led her and her family to farming, Thompson plays a key role in her family-owned farm in Southern Alamance County.

"Right now, we have sweet potatoes, pumpkins, winter squash, eggplant, peppers, okra and cherry tomatoes," Thompson said. "We sell at three other markets, [but] when the students are in, business is a lot more."

Thompson sits beside her younger sibling and educates customers about their pesticide, antibiotic and hormone free produce. She has found joy and community from the unexpected life change.

"I really enjoy [working with the students]. It's a lot of fun," Thompson said.

For Graves and Thompson, a life dedicated to giving back to the community in healthy and locally beneficial ways is a long established tradition.

### New career born

Ray Whitaker has recently retired from his job as a licensed respiratory therapist. With this newfound time, Whitaker has picked up gardening.

The former respiratory therapist switched from a highly intensive position as a respiratory therapist, a job filled with the daily pressure of cardiac arrests and "keeping people on this planet", to an independent way of living with his dog and tending to his water plants. His lifestyle has shifted from saving lives to helping grow and build new ones.

"I found growing things a good way to relieve worries from work," he said. "Healthcare is a very stressful job. If you're in clinical practice, it's very busy."

Since his retirement, Whitaker has taken his stress-relieving hobby and transformed it into a business.

"About five years ago, I took a section of my back lawn, about an acre and a half, and built a greenhouse and four ponds," he said.

Now, his business, which started with just two aloe plants, has expanded to water plants, purple bearded irises, sweet irises, water lilies and several others.

"I raise everything. You have to have a green thumb to start," Whitaker said. "From there, you have to have a real love for plants. And that is the start of it all, it doesn't matter what you grow."

Although he doesn't consider his gar-

dening business work, he urges others to not spend their lives too wrapped up in their own careers.

"Having a balance in your life is very important: recreation, work, recreation, work," Whitaker said.

North Carolina is home to 202 farmer's markets, a number that is steadily increasing. According to a study on the national demographics of shoppers at farmer's markets, out of a sample of 336, 16 percent of shoppers were between the ages of 20 and 24.

Although the study states that the majority of customers comes from the 22 to 45 age group, students make up most of the customers at the local market within the Elon community.

Their interest lies not only in the fresh, organic foods available to them, but in their genuine concern for the community.

"I think [the farmer's market] supports the local community and keeps smaller businesses in business because there are bigger businesses trying to push them out of business, so I think it's important," said senior Anna Johnson, a frequent market visitor.

Although every local farmer's market is important to a community's local health and economic well-being, it also builds the culture and relationships within the community.

"I think [the vendors] all offer something different, so it's great diversity for everyone," Johnson said.

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# Autumn activities abound

*Step outside the 'Elon bubble' for fall adventures in NC*



**Casey Brown**  
Senior Reporter

As fall descends upon North Carolina, there is so much to look forward to besides pumpkin spice lattes. But what Elon University students may not be aware of is just how many fall-centered activities are available outside the "Elon bubble."

## Scarowinds

Carowinds Amusement Park, located about two hours away in Charlotte, gets a little more sinister come October. Re-branding itself as Scarowinds, the amusement park offers a new type of thrill, which Park Representative Julie Whitted said is meant to scare anyone who dares to enter.

"We have over 500 monsters come in to our five mazes and our eight scare zones while also roaming around the park," she said. "Our No. 1 goal is to scare people and make people scream."

But Scarowinds isn't just about being spooked. The rides will still be open during the Halloween attraction, which runs on select weekends between Sept. 26 and Nov. 1.

Whitted said the rides as well as restaurants and restrooms are safe zones from the scare actors.

Whitted said Elon students should come out and join the fun at Scarowinds.

"Forget about your school assignments, forget about exams. Come and have a good time," Whitted said. "It is a visit that people remember for years to come and so many people make it a tradition to visit every year. It is an experience that your group of friends will talk about again and again."

## NC State Fair

The North Carolina State Fair, hosted in Raleigh, runs from Oct. 16 to Oct. 26. The fair offers a wide range of activities

for all ages, from rides to performances and fair foods. Fried Oreos, anyone?

For college kids on a budget, public information officer Heather Overton suggested the fairly priced musical acts appearing at the fair, from Joan Jett and the Blackhearts to Vanilla Ice.

She also recommended visiting the fair Oct. 23, when five canned goods earn fairgoers free admission. Proceeds go to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.

This year's fair is called the October Original, which Overton said is a perfect way to describe this classic North Carolina experience.

"It's a good time to be had by all," Overton said. "The fair is a rite of passage in North Carolina. It's an experience you can't find anywhere else. Some people may come for food, others to compete in shows or even just to people-watch. We want people to come and customize their own fair experience."

## Woods of Terror

If students are looking for a more traditional scare during the fall, the Woods of Terror in Greensboro is the place for them. Open on select dates between Sept. 26 and Nov. 8, the Woods of Terror prey on guests' greatest fears, from phobias to zombies to undead stalkers among the corn fields.

## Ganyard Hill Farm

Milton Ganyard, an eighth-generation American farmer, has been growing pumpkins at Ganyard Hill Farm, his second of two locations, for 20 years. He said his farms offer an authentic experience compared to most farms in the area.

"The most important thing [is] we grow pumpkins right in our fields that you pick them from," Ganyard said. "Some [farms] claim they grow them, but they truck them in. You walk among our

vines, and there are tens of thousands of pumpkins, which makes us unique."

Along with pumpkin picking, visitors to Ganyard's farm can go on hay rides, navigate the corn maze or just enjoy the day outside.

Ganyard said his other college visitors tend to like the same attractions as his younger customers.

"We get a lot of students from Duke University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State, and they all enjoy the same kinds of things the kids do," Ganyard said. "They jump in the corn crib and climb on the hay mountain and run through the maze just like [the kid visitors]."

## Haw River Trail/Paddle Trail

With cooler temperatures and changing foliage, some students may opt for outdoor fall adventures. Brian Baker, Upper Haw River trail coordinator, said the

Haw River hiking and paddle trails open in this county offer countless opportunities for Elon students on a fall weekend.

"There are 35 miles of river you can paddle right now and 10 miles of unpaved hiking trails to explore," Baker said. "You can start in the Shallow Ford Natural Area and do some hiking trails, paddling or even backcountry camping in the area."

Baker suggests two outfitters, Haw River Canoe and Kayak and River Run Outfitters, as places Elon students can rent river crafts for the paddle trails. Maps of the hiking trails are available online at thehaw.org.

Baker added through the hiking and paddle trails, students may appreciate seeing a different side of Alamance County.

"Students spend a relatively short time in Alamance, and most of what they see is Alamance Crossing and Target," Baker said. "Paddling and hiking the river is such a unique perspective. There is no other way to see it."



Ganyard Hill Farm allows visitors to pick pumpkins, go on hay rides and roam the corn maze. JANE SEIDEL Staff Photographer

# 'Reckless' showcases humor, dark themes

**Diana Stancy**  
Senior Reporter

Starting on Oct. 2, Elon University students will showcase the first performance of the play "Reckless" in the Black Box Theatre.

Written in 1983 by Craig Lucas, "Reckless" is a dark comedy that follows main character Rachel, who learns her husband has hired someone to kill her. What follows is a series of adventures where Rachel learns more about herself and the world.

Kirby Wahl, associate professor of performing arts and director of "Reckless" commented that this play is humorous, while allowing the audience to step away and think about the darker themes.

"It has an absurdist inclination, but it's not really that kind of play," he said. "There is meaning to be found in the play."

For Rachel, her experiences serve as a journey of self-discovery. Initially, she views the world through an optimistic lens, but she experiences a paradigm shift throughout the play.

"Her 'Pollyanna' view of the world is definitely challenged throughout the course of the story," Wahl said.

Sophomore acting major Nicole Bloom was cast as Rachel and said she has grown from portraying a character like Rachel.

"My character, Rachel, is a bit of a goofball at times. Immersing myself into her world has, among other things, allowed me to feel more comfortable with my own sense of humor," she said. "I've kind of fallen in love with Rachel's zest for life, and exploring how she views the world has definitely had an impact on me as an actor."

Auditions for "Reckless" and "Titanic" were held simultaneously on the first day of classes. Acting and musical theater majors primarily auditioned for each, although anyone could audition.

Students could only be in one performance because the rehearsals, which began the following week once casting had been announced, conflicted with each other.

During the audition process, Wahl wrote a list of descriptors for each character and actively chose students who embraced those qualities.

"Reckless' is very well-cast," Wahl said. "That is sometimes said to be the director's most important task. They [the

actors] brought a keen intelligence to the script."

He said he was ultimately pleased with the eight members and eight understudies he selected to be cast.

Some actors were required to embody a wide spectrum of qualities. In the case of senior acting major Kimmi Johnson, she adapted to six different roles as each of Rachel's therapists.

"Each therapist has her own physical quirks, theories and speech patterns," Johnson said. "The second, third and fourth doctors I play each speak with different accents. It was at first challenging to delve into each character. Now that we are using costumes and props, it has become much easier to separate all six."

"Reckless" cast and crew will have 24 four-hour blocks of rehearsal time to bring the entire show together.

One of the challenges the cast faced was this short span of rehearsal time. Additionally, this process takes up a majority of the students' time.

"This fall is one of the most academically challenging semesters in the acting program, and so I've had to balance my time as best I can," Bloom said. "You do

have to spend extra time outside of rehearsal when working on a show like this, especially on memorizing lines."

Wahl claimed he can see growth from the actors in just the few weeks of working on this play.

He is looking forward to having the students shine in their roles.

"Everybody in the cast brought something really helpful to the project," he said. "Their understanding of the roles is much more nuanced now."

Wahl added he hoped the audience will be responsive to those nuances. The reaction from the audience impacts the actors. Engaged audiences often generate better quality performances.

Likewise, Wahl hopes the audience enjoys the performance but encourages them to think critically about the performance afterwards.

"The play, for the most part, is fun and full of surprises, but it's very much about Rachel's effort to determine if the universe is benevolent and supports happiness and self-realization, or if it is a frightening place of chaos and unpredictability," Wahl said. "All of that sounds heavy, but it's a pretty funny show."

## Staying aware to keep safe on campus

*In light of recent disappearances, Elon students should be aware of resources*



NICK FOLEY | Opinions Editor

Safety features like blue lights help Elon students stay safe and ensure a rapid response on campus.

The recent disappearance of University of Virginia sophomore Hannah Graham has sent shock waves through the country. Graham's disappearance serves as a tragic reminder that college students must use extreme caution when walking around after dark.

At Elon University, the easiest and most effective way to keep safe at night is to travel around the campus with a group of friends. If, for some reason, you become separated from your friends or find yourself walking alone, Elon Campus Safety and Police offers a security escort service every day of the week from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

It is a common misconception that walking home alone is safe as long as you are on the phone with someone. The office of Campus Safety and Police strongly disagrees. This practice does more harm than good.

If you are talking on your phone, it leaves you unaware of your surroundings and more likely to be approached by someone. Being distracted makes you an easy target for burglary or assault.

If you find yourself in an unsafe situation, seek out the blue lights around campus, which serves a twofold purpose. First, it allows students, faculty and staff to raise alarm and connect

with security during an emergency. Secondly, it is to give the campus a secure feeling.

While in the presence of blue lights, students know there is a way to get a rapid response when needed.

According to Dennis Franks, the director of Campus Safety and Police, Elon's campus has 35 blue lights across its campus. New blue lights are added as needed, and Franks's office evaluates requests for new blue lights from the community.

Recent additions to the blue light system include Loy Farm and Arts West.

Typical to any college, most on-campus crime at Elon results from Liquor Law Violations. With that said, the campus is not immune to violent crime. During the 2014 spring semester, a local man was charged with rape and burglary at an off-campus house party on West College Avenue.

Although the administration and campus security make every effort to keep Elon safe for all its students, it is important to remember that incidents like the Graham case can happen to anyone, anywhere.

No matter where you are on campus, it is critical to practice caution and to be aware of your surroundings.

### NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Elon Safe Rides**  
336-278-7433

**Campus Security Escorts**  
336-287-5555

**SAFELine**  
336-278-3333

**Student Health Center**  
336-278-4730

**Office of Student Life**  
336-278-7220

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor 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 may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. The Pendulum is located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center on Williamson Avenue.

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## Family Weekend leaves lasting impact

It's hard to believe that it has only been two weeks since hundreds of parents, grandparents and siblings poured



Tim Melton  
Columnist

onto campus for Elon University's annual Family Weekend. As we return to the rigor of college life, it is appropriate to reflect on Family Weekend and what we can take from such an event.

To many students, especially first years, Family Weekend provides a crucial period of levity after weeks of relatively independent living.

To me, Family Weekend is about strengthening connections. For many students, the weekend is about reconnecting with loved ones, sharing stories, detailing progress in classes and more.

Although the university hosted many wonderful events to keep students and families occupied, I found the most rewarding moments to be the honest, face-to-face conversations with my family.

In short, the value of Family Weekend is derived from time spent together, no matter the circumstances.

I realize that the time is not just spent on re-establishing familial connections, but also on preserving them. I'm sure the majority of students have had their parents give them the standard

assurance to "feel free to call if you ever have any problems." Some have probably heard it a million times.

Family Weekend is a special time when these assurances are put in motion — when loved ones from all over the country come to Elon with the express purpose of seeing us.

We are children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters. These are the roles which we inherit and which we should accept. Family Weekend only reminds us of the strength of those bonds.

As such, even those who didn't have family visiting should take from Family Weekend that college should not be seen as an opportunity to isolate yourself from your family. It's no secret that college life is difficult.

In this transitional period from dependent to independent, we are so often faced with moments of stress and indecision.

We like to think that we can overcome all the challenges of college living by ourselves, but the simple reality is that everyone has a breaking point. It is when we reach this point that it becomes more important than ever that we have people to depend upon — our families.

Of course, there's always the risk of becoming over-attached to one's family, which is counterintuitive to the aim of independence.

But what makes Family Weekend so effective is that it allows us to regain the feel for living independently before having the family come back into the picture. It represents what I think is a necessity for our development — balance between dependent and independent living.

Whether we choose to include our loved ones in the experience of growing up as a college student, the point is that

we're given the choice.

As children, relatives were naturally a major aspect of our lives, but now we are given much more freedom to decide whether we still want that.

As we continue forward from Family Weekend to the stress of midterms, take the time to think about your relationship with your family.

The occasional call or text can be enough to strengthen that relationship.



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Students and parents watched Elon football claim its first victory during Family Weekend.

# Smoking ban should be implemented across campus

*Survey results show majority of respondents believe university should prohibit smoking*

There are no secrets about the dangers of smoking cigarettes. Our generation has been educated about the harmful side effects of smoking since we were toddlers. Yet, according to the Center for Disease Control, each day 3,200 people under the age of 18 smoke their first cigarette. Our generation should be the generation to end smoking, but we have not.



**Nick Foley**  
Columnist

Why hasn't Elon University kept up with the science on the harmful effects of cigarettes and banned smoking on campus altogether? What good comes from allowing students, faculty and staff to smoke?

Current Elon policy dictates that those who wish to smoke on campus must do so more than 30 feet away from any university building. This policy is not well enforced, for too often students, faculty and staff smoke within this 30-foot buffer zone. Moreover, 30 feet is not too far for harmful secondhand smoke to travel.

Elon is a private university, which means it has more freedom to dictate rules and regulations on policy. For example, guns are not allowed on our campus, but if you travel just an hour down the road to the University of North Carolina



Students disregard the 30-foot smoking ban outside of Smith Hall. A campus survey revealed 209 respondents said the current smoking policies are adequate. HUNTER STRAUCH | Staff Photographer

at Chapel Hill, you will find students are allowed to carry guns on that state campus.

Since Elon has the jurisdiction to enforce stricter policies, I challenge the administration to ban smoking across the campus. No more 30 foot buffer rule, no more cigarette butts strewn about for Physical Plant to pick up, no more smoking at all. We have nothing to lose from this policy.

We are an institution of higher education. We are a university that offers a public health major. According to the department's website, public health "prepares students with the knowledge and skills to address the public health challenges of the 21st century." Smoking is a known public health hazard. The CDC states that smokers die ten years earlier than non-smokers on average, and smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the world. Why would we want our students to harm themselves on our campus?

Elon consistently seeks out the best faculty and students to further enhance the university. Elon's tremendous growth is a result of risk taking, inventive thought and a gathering of great minds. Smoking is an old-school dirty habit that causes horrific illness and death. Smoking is not in line with Elon as a leader and an intellectual community.

Historically, North Carolina made much of its fortune on tobacco. Regulation on smoking is not an easy sell, but Elon now has a national student body. We were not started with money from a tobacco heir and are not beholden to tobacco interests.

Some people might claim banning smoking on campus would be a sort of Big Brother move or part of a nanny state. They claim this would prevent students, faculty and staff from participating in a

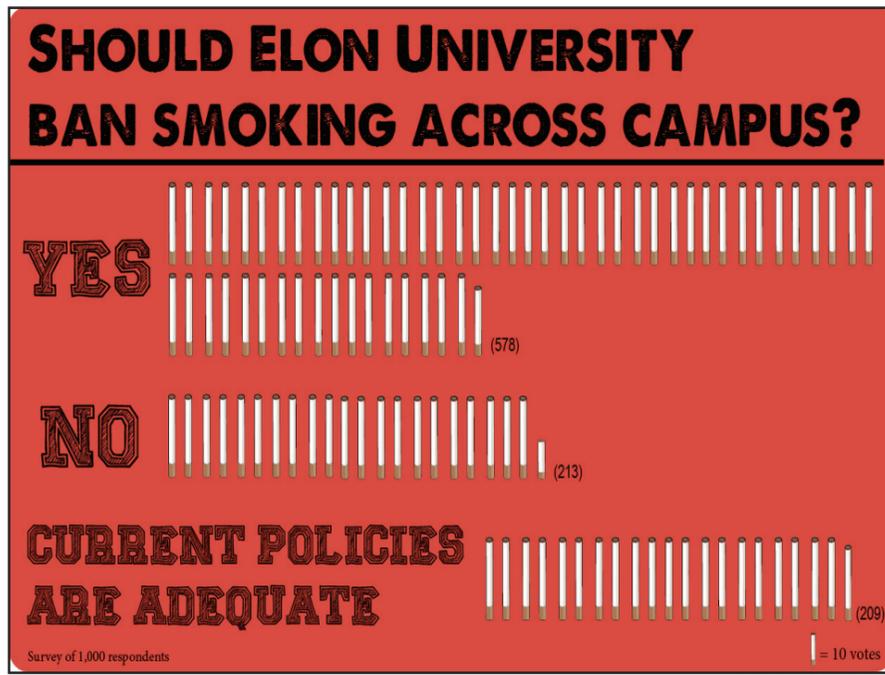
legal activity on our campus.

But hold on – it is perfectly legal to carry a gun in North Carolina, yet you can't carry on Elon's campus. Is that a Big Brother type of policy too? Just like the ban on carrying weapons on campus keeps Elon's students, faculty and staff safe, a smoking ban would protect the health and well-being of everyone on campus.

Secondhand smoke is a serious issue. It has been directly linked by the American Cancer Society to 3,400 deaths from lung-related illnesses in non-smokers, 42,000 deaths from heart-related illnesses from non-smokers as well as up to 300,000 lung infections in non-smokers each year. Breathing should not be a casualty on a college campus.

The data collected by a survey of Elon students suggests that the community would support a campus-wide ban on smoking. 578 students said they believed Elon should ban smoking. This was more than double the amount of students who said they did not believe Elon should institute a campus-wide smoking ban.

Our university has never shied away from making progressive change in order to secure a better future. A campus-wide ban on smoking would be another step in the right direction for Elon as the university continues to ascend the ranks of nationally recognized high education institutions.



# Fitness center segregation driven by societal standards

For those of us new to Elon University and the opportunities it provides for athletic engagement, walking down the stairs into the free weights section of Koury Fitness Center can be a nerve-racking experience. Aside from the jitters that accompany every first visit to a new gym, this anxiety is not only unnecessary but entirely unwarranted.



**Ailee Ballard**  
Columnist

In the five weeks since I arrived on campus, I have heard many people, specifically women, refuse to walk down those stairs for fear of what awaits them below.

To be fair, it took me a week to gather the courage to enter the lion's den. Herculean athletes who could crush a cantaloupe in the crooks of their elbows dominate the floor, but after a few minutes it becomes obvious that they aren't there to intimidate or drive away their

fellow gym-goers. They are there only to use the tools the fitness center provides, just like everyone else. Besides, they are just fellow students, as friendly as anyone else on campus.

I recognized a trend shortly after I began using the free weights center. Rarely do I ever see female athletes venturing downstairs. They instead dominate the treadmills and stationary bikes upstairs.

Although this trend runs far deeper than a mere fear of going down to the second level, it is frustrating that so many of these young women may avoid using the free weights out of sheer intimidation.

As I said, the trend does not begin and end with Koury Fitness Center. Society has long fed into the minds of young women the idea that they should utilize gyms solely for the purpose of making themselves thinner — for running, biking, or perhaps rolling out the yoga mats. Rarely are women encouraged to lift weights and push themselves to make their bodies as strong as they are capable of being.

This isn't news to anyone who has seen magazine covers and television advertisements, or has read stories of how Photoshop is used to make print models appear thinner. The beauty standards stressed by advertising companies suggest to us from a young age that women should strive to be thin, and that by doing so, they will become more desirable.

By the same token, men are told that they must become the strongest iron-pumping behemoths in the general vicinity in order to prove their masculinity or self-worth.

While women are taunted by Photoshopped images of thin, confident models, men are equally taunted by ideals of He-Man-type bodies that are deemed more desirable to women. So they flock to the free weights to gain mass, and women flock to the treadmills to lose it.

These standards may not represent all the reasons for the de facto segregation that occurs in the fitness center, and no short article will undo years of societal preachings. But whenever I see two dozen

women using cardiovascular machines and a mere one or two lifting weights, I can't help but wonder if intimidation is at the root of the issue.

Elon prides itself on defeating sexist societal standards such as these, and many students fight for the equality of all genders, so why then do we see such disparity in how students use the fitness center?

Empowerment comes in many forms, and in this age wherein women have shown their equal capability to men, they should know that they can use the gym's tools in the same way as their male counterparts. It may seem frightening at first to descend into the realm of six-foot-tall rugby players wearing muscle tanks, but it is your gym as much as it is theirs.

If you simply prefer to run or bike, then by all means, those machines are there at your disposal. But know that every inch of the fitness center belongs to every Elon student. If you want to engage in strength training, then that lion's den is waiting for you, too.

# Jonathan Spain conquers Elon all-time tackles list



Jonathan Spain has made at least 10 tackles in three of Elon's four games and leads the team in that category by 10 tackles. He's recently moved into eighth place all-time in program history for tackles made. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

**Matt Mallian**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Jonathan Spain is confident when it comes to sports.

He's racked up 279 tackles as a three-year starter on the Elon University football team, recently moving up to No. 8 on the all-time tackles list.

Still, Spain couldn't have imagined being in this position five years ago.

"I always wanted to think I was going to have a successful career," Spain said. "I wouldn't call myself a cocky guy, but I'm pretty confident when it comes to sports. So if you were to ask me, 'Are you going to be one of the best ever?' I would probably say, 'I don't know, man, that's crazy.'"

A fifth-year senior linebacker, Spain has cemented himself in the record books during his career as a Phoenix.

His 10-tackle performance against Coastal Carolina University on Sept. 27 moved him into eighth place in program history.

Spain has started every game for the Phoenix over the past two years, garnering a second-team All-Southern Conference award in 2012 and the team's Most

**"[SPAIN] IS AN UP-TEMPO DUDE THAT JUST HAS A HIGH INTENSITY MOTOR."**

**MIKE QUINN**  
SENIOR QUARTERBACK

Outstanding Linebacker award last year.

Elon head coach Rich Skrosky got to know Spain and his family well during the recruiting process in 2009, when Skrosky served as Elon's offensive coordinator.

Skrosky was one of the lead recruiters whose assigned recruiting area encompassed Greensboro, Spain's hometown. Prior to Spain's freshman year, Skrosky left Elon for Ball State University.

"He's just a character guy," Skrosky

said. "His work ethic is unquestioned, he's a highly moral character guy, and that shows up on the field in his leadership role."

Spain, along with senior Odell Benton and sophomore John Silas, is part of a core of linebackers that has been positive for the Elon defense in recent years.

"We lean on [Spain, Benton and Silas] to set the right example for the rest of the team, and [Spain's] at the forefront of that," Skrosky said. "He means a ton to our defense, he's a talented kid, he's played a lot of football and he's definitely a great asset to what we're trying to build here."

But Spain's career at Elon hasn't come without challenges. In his five years at Elon, he has played under four different defensive coordinators.

As a freshman, he was tutored by defensive coordinator Jay Bateman, only to be thrust into a new system the next year after Bateman left for Ball State. Ed Pinkham followed, serving as Elon's defensive coordinator from 2011-2012. Brad Sherrod took over defensive coordinator duties for Elon last year, but was ousted after one year along with head coach Jason Swepson. Now, Jerry Petercuskie is in his first year as defensive coordinator.

"You have to stay in the [playbook]," Spain said of the key to being consistent in many different systems. "It's pretty hard when you have different verbiage. Kind of the same things are going on — defense is defense — but it's different words you have to get used to, so that's pretty difficult."

Despite this, Spain has been the definition of consistency for Elon, leading the Phoenix in tackles the past two seasons, as well as through four games this season.

"It's special to get recognized," Spain said. "It's special to have a successful career at a school like this. It's also humbling at the same time because guys I've played with — Josh Jones and Brandon Wiggins — are up there too [in tackles] and still ahead of me."

Spain said it's still a goal of his to pass his former teammates Jones and Wiggins on the all-time tackles list. That mentality is what was taught to him by his father, Steven Spain, who played football for two

years at Iowa State University.

"He always said, 'Spains don't quit,'" Spain said of his father. "That's what he instilled in me as a young guy. Even when I played basketball and baseball, I remember he used to get mad at me if I were to back down or quit at something. When I started playing football in high school and became more mature and aggressive, that kind of flourished."

Spain's relentless attitude is something his friend and teammate senior Mike Quinn is used to seeing. Quinn, a quarterback for the Phoenix, has lived with Spain for years.

"[Spain] is an up-tempo dude that just has a high-intensity motor that keeps going and going," Quinn said. "He's that type of guy you can put anywhere, and he'll probably be one of the best players on the defense wherever you put him."

As freshmen, Skrosky lined up Spain and Quinn as roommates.

"That was a good call by him," Quinn said, with a laugh.

Now that Spain is in his last year at Elon, his role has changed. Next year, he will have to pass the torch on to the next wave of Elon players that will lead the program in the future.

"I'm trying to show every day how it's done," Spain said. "I've been through it. I had guys ahead of me like Jones and Wiggins that showed me how it was done, and I really look up to those guys."

Spain is taking advantage of the time he has left in an Elon uniform, doing all he can to leave his mark on a program to which he has meant so much.

"I hope when I'm done they'll always remember Spain [as a guy who] did everything right, balled out on the field, always had fun doing what he did and didn't complain a lot," Spain said. "I want to be known as someone that enjoyed the process and did things right."

## Previewing Elon's game against New Hampshire



—New Hampshire is 3-1 on the season and ranked No. 4 in the FCS media poll and No. 6 in the FCS coaches poll.

—The Wildcats are 1-0 in the CAA with a 29-26 victory on the road against Richmond Sept. 20. They routed Dartmouth 52-19 last week.

—In its season opener, New Hampshire fell 54-20 to FBS Toledo. The Wildcats earned their first victory Sept. 13 against Lehigh, a 45-27 final.

—Sean McDonnell is in his 16th season as the head coach of his alma mater. He's guided the Wildcats to 10 straight FCS playoff appearances, the longest streak in the nation.

—The Wildcats have been ranked in the Top 25 for 146 consecutive weeks, the longest in the nation by 83 weeks. The streak dates back to Sept. 13, 2004.

—Last year, the Wildcats went 10-5 and advanced to the NCAA Semifinals.

—The Wildcats are averaging 36.5 points and 503.2 yards per game while only attempting three field goals (and making just one) all year.

—Quarterback Andy Vailas was named CAA Player of the Week after tallying 331 all-purpose yards and four total touchdowns in filling in for injured Sean Goldrich.

—Jimmy Owens is the team's leading rusher with 209 yards on 45 rushes with three touchdowns.

—Akil Anderson and Nick Cefalo each lead the Wildcats with 27 total tackles.

—New Hampshire is one of five teams Elon is playing for the first time ever this season.

# Phoenix works on set pieces, goalkeeping

Jordan Spritzer  
Senior Reporter

The signs were promising for the Elon University women's soccer team as it began Colonial Athletic Association play. The Phoenix had won three straight matches, and junior midfielder Alissa Pantuosco put Elon ahead in the 10th minute of its first CAA game against preseason conference favorite Hofstra University.

The Phoenix would come crashing down to reality as the Pride scored four unanswered goals to snag the win. It only got tougher for Elon as defending conference champion Northeastern University came to Rudd Field less than 48 hours later. Elon kept the match scoreless for the opening half hour, but the Huskies went on to score four goals of their own en route to their second conference win of the season.

"Just because we didn't take points off of both Hofstra and Northeastern, arguably the best two teams in the conference, does not mean that we can't make the conference tournament," said Elon head coach Chris Neal.

Neither junior defender Mel Insley or senior defender Bethany Houpt played against Northeastern because of knee injuries. Both are typically starters.

After playing two of the toughest teams Elon will face for the rest of the season, this weekend served as a valuable lesson moving forward.

"We learned that putting in the hard effort isn't enough," said sophomore midfielder Rachel Hallman. "We have to finish the chances we get, because we're only going to get a few."

Despite the optimistic outlook on the remainder of the season, the Phoenix still has a couple of question marks — goalkeeping, scoring and defending set pieces.



Freshman Hannah Macauley earned her first career start at goalkeeper for Elon against Northeastern. Sydney Branson had started all nine previous games. NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

Neal said set pieces are the difference between winning and losing a CAA match.

"We try to take a lot of pride in defending and attacking corner kicks," he said. "Scoring on set pieces, if you're going to be successful in the CAA, is a must. Conceding them is something you must not do."

While some teams resort to complicated set piece routines to trick the opposing defenses, the Phoenix has taken a different approach.

"We've tried to simplify things as much as possible for the players," Neal said. "The first thing that has to be good is service. If the service is erratic, it makes everything else difficult."

In addition, Neal wants the team not to give up if the first option doesn't yield a goal.

"The thing about our corner kicks specifically that needs to improve is the second-phase part of the corner kick," Neal said. "We don't necessarily have to score off the initial header or volley, but we have to do a better job of keeping it alive."

Between the pipes, Elon has yet to find a goalkeeper to nail down the starting role. The Phoenix has used a two-goalsystem dating back to last year with junior Sydney Branson playing the first half and senior Kate Murphy, a reporter for *The Pendulum*, playing the second half.

"We've been giving up a lot of goals, so it's not different to a field player situation," Neal said. "It was my hope either Kate or Sydney would perform and take a hold of the starting role, but that never materialized."

Against Northeastern, a third goalkeeper was thrown into the mix, freshman Hanna Macauley. The San Diego native played all 90 minutes, having previously played sparingly against West Virginia University and Francis Marion University.

"With us giving up goals and with a freshman who had a great week of training, she deserved her chance to play just like anybody else on the team," Neal said.

The Phoenix will have a third chance to get its first CAA win on Friday when they travel to take on the College of Charleston. The Phoenix will then face the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on Sunday.

"We might be upset, but we'll come out next weekend with wins, and our confidence will be right back up," Hallman said.

## Elon measures progress entering CAA

*Four of final eight opponents for the Phoenix ranked in FCS Top 25*

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

With the uncharted waters of the Colonial Athletic Association approaching, a trip to play Coastal Carolina University served as a measuring stick for the Elon University football team and first-year head coach Rich Skrosky.

After the game, it seems the main area of focus is an offense that's failed to score touchdowns in two of four games, keeping what's been a stout defense on the field too long.

Elon (1-3) couldn't capitalize on three turnovers and two missed field goals in a 31-3 loss to No. 3 Coastal Carolina, which left Skrosky searching for answers from his offense.

"We have to evaluate it," he said. "I think we're making progress. When you have breakdowns up front, it's hard to get in a rhythm. We have to evaluate offense and evaluate personnel."

The Phoenix has managed just 48 points in four games, its highest scoring total of 20 coming in its lone victory against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Sept. 20. A number of drives have stalled out in the red zone, leaving behind opportunities to seize control of games.

"Right now, offensively, we're not executing at all," Skrosky said. "Whether it's drops, unforced penalties, wrong reads; up front, we have a ways to go from an execution standpoint."

Elon's been relying more on senior quarterback Mike Quinn and the passing game

more than its ground game. Quinn completed a program-record 43 passes against Charlotte and threw 59 total passes, resulting in 331 yards, also a career high for Quinn.

Drops have proved to be costly, and the run game was worked into the offense more. Against Coastal Carolina, Elon began the game with four run plays, all hand-offs to sophomore B.J. Bennett, on its first drive before throwing 11 consecutive times midway through the first half.

Bennett and junior Tracey Coppedge have shared carries for Elon, but Bennett went down with an arm injury early in the fourth quarter. Coppedge provides more speed whereas Bennett's 6-foot, 218-pound frame sets him apart.

Senior Kierre Brown has led Elon's receiving corps thus far with 26 catches for 362 yards. Sophomore Demetri Allison has emerged as another weapon, catching 19 passes and gaining 205 yards.

The pieces seem to be in place at skill positions, but Skrosky has pointed to a developing offensive line as an area that needs more improvement.

Of the five starters on the offensive line, three of them — redshirt freshman Ikenna Nwokeji, sophomore O'Shane Morris and sophomore Austin Richardson — hadn't started a game before this year, and junior Jacob Ingle had started just once. The only holdover is senior Austin Sowell, who had 25 starts entering this year, but he's transitioned from the tackle position to center.

"The biggest thing right now is up front, we have to start executing," Skrosky said.

The loss to Coastal Carolina left Quinn speechless in terms of finding the problem on offense.

"The offense is proven with Elon 3 to 4 years ago and Ball State [University]," he said, pointing to Skrosky's success as Elon's offensive coordinator from 2009-to-2010 and as Ball State's offensive coordinator the past three years. "The throws are there, the catches are there. I don't know what it is. We need to make plays. I don't know what it is."

The schedule only gets tougher as four of Elon's final eight opponents, all in CAA play, are ranked in the latest national poll. It starts with Saturday's home game against No. 4 University of New Hampshire.

As for playing teams slated in the top five, Skrosky said it's still too early to go with the rankings.

"Whether or not [Coastal Carolina] is the third-ranked team in the country, I don't know," Skrosky said. "They're there, though, because of the success they had last year, and they're 5-0 right now. It's just like where Alabama would be. You have to let the season play out."

But through nonconference play, Skrosky knows there's lots of work to do, and that it needs to happen fast in order to succeed against the high level of competition in the CAA.

"I know this about our team: we have a long way to go before we're competitive on the elite level in the FCS," Skrosky said.

*For news and game updates on all Elon athletics, please follow @pendulumports.*

### THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Volleyball @ James Madison, 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 3

Cross country @ Notre Dame Invitational, South Bend, Ind.

Women's tennis @ Wake Forest Invitational, Wake Forest, NC

Women's Soccer @ College of Charleston, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Football vs. New Hampshire, 1:30 p.m.

Women's tennis @ Wake Forest Invitational, Wake Forest, NC

Men's Soccer vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.

Volleyball @ William & Mary, 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCT. 5

Women's tennis @ Wake Forest Invitational, Wake Forest, NC

Women's Soccer @ UNC Wilmington, 2 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 7

Volleyball @UNCG, 7 p.m.

ELON PHOENIX ATHLETICS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 7

# Elon implements new style of blocking

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

Despite its experienced core of middle blockers, the Elon University volleyball team has been in a transition period this year as it installs a new style of blocking.

Elon's been using a technique called swing blocking that results in more elevation and momentum into its blocks.

Instead of just jumping straight up when blocking, players swing their arms to get an extra push going up. They cross over their feet instead of shuffling to help with that momentum as well.

There have been some challenges so far, but overall, Elon head coach Mary Tandler is happy with what she's seen from it. She said it's especially helped with some of the shorter blockers Elon has, such as 5-foot-9-inch senior Danielle Smith.

"We're able to get over the net higher and press a little more," Tandler said. "Sometimes we get in trouble with it, but for the most part, we're doing a good job of it."

Elon's main middle blockers are senior Kris Harris, junior Catherine Head and sophomore Ally Karle, but with injuries to a number of players recently, others have had to step in to help fill the void.

The new style of blocking was installed last winter by Tandler but took a while for everyone to adjust.

"We had some individual sessions and practices where it did not go very well," said junior outside hitter Megan Gravley. "But we picked it up and got it under control."

So far, there's been a noticeable im-

provement in the blocking aspect of Elon's game. The Phoenix has 128.5 blocks overall with just 14 errors. Opponents have 111.0 total blocks and 25 errors.

"I'm proud that we've been closing blocks with the new swing approach," Harris said. "It helps us get there quicker and helps us get up more."

The adjustment was harder for Harris, who missed the second half of last season because of a knee injury. She's been back since the season opener but still wears a brace on her knee.

Harris toyed with swing blocking while playing club volleyball in high school but had never really pursued learning it.

"I was able to see what everyone was doing but couldn't physically do it," Harris said. "I had to kind of learn it in a different way. I'm definitely improving."

While Elon's blockers could practice it as much as they wanted to, there was still a bit of unknown when the style was first employed during a match. The Phoenix blockers adjusted based on the style of sets the opponent uses, whether it's high and to the pins or lower and closer to the center.

In all, it's meant to keep the opponent's setter and hitters guessing.

"It's still a work in progress," Tandler said. "It's harder for hitters on the other side to see where we're coming from because they come up at the last second. It's not a static block. They can't see someone right in front of them."

Through 17 games, Tandler said she's happy with how the style has come along. According to her, it's here to stay.

"It's working well, and it's something we're sticking with," she said.



Ally Karle, left, and Kris Harris, right, are two of the Phoenix's primary blockers.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

# Youngsters contribute to men's tennis success in the fall

Miles Garrett  
Senior Reporter

Redshirt freshman Neal Port came to Elon University expecting to contribute to the tennis team. It just came a lot sooner than he expected.

The Phoenix relied on Port and many other inexperienced players throughout the summer and during the Elon Fall Invitational Sept. 26-28 because of injuries.

Senior team captain Stefan Fortmann said he has a lot of faith in the youthful roster even with the numerous absences.

"A lot of young guys have stepped up,"

Fortmann said. "With most of our injuries occurring over the summer, the freshmen have had to rise to the occasion. We're moving in the right direction."

Fresh off a Southern Conference Tournament championship in the spring, expectations are high for the less-experienced roster. Port, in particular, has earned the respect of his teammates through his persistent hard work.

Head coach Michael Leonard has taken notice of Port as well.

"[Port's] one of the hardest workers on this team," Leonard said. "He is trying to figure out how to put it all together. There's a lot of things that go into winning that you have to develop through match play, and

he's learning that."

The recent success can partially be attributed to Leonard introducing a stronger weight lifting and conditioning program for his players. Based on the results he has seen, it's been paying dividends on the court.

Sophomore Chris Humphreys relates his recent fall success to his individual work with Leonard over the summer. Specifically, he's been working on improving his forehand play by getting more height on the ball with his swing.

"Summer workouts were good. I came here and got to work out with Coach one on one and play a lot of tournaments," Humphreys said. "That really helped me get

ready for the fall season."

Senior Brian Kowalski said he was proud of his team's maturity over the summer while he was recovering from his injury. He was most impressed with the play of the freshmen.

"A lot of the guys came back stronger than what they were last year," Kowalski said. "The freshmen came back and they were ready to play as well. It's been a good start to the year so far."

Elon has put together another strong outing in the tournament with the play of their younger members.

The Phoenix will look to build on its recent success when they compete in the Wake Forest Invitational Oct. 10-12.



Sophomore Chris Humphreys gained a lot of experience through summer workouts. He made his first championship appearance in his flight of the Elon Invitational, finishing second.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

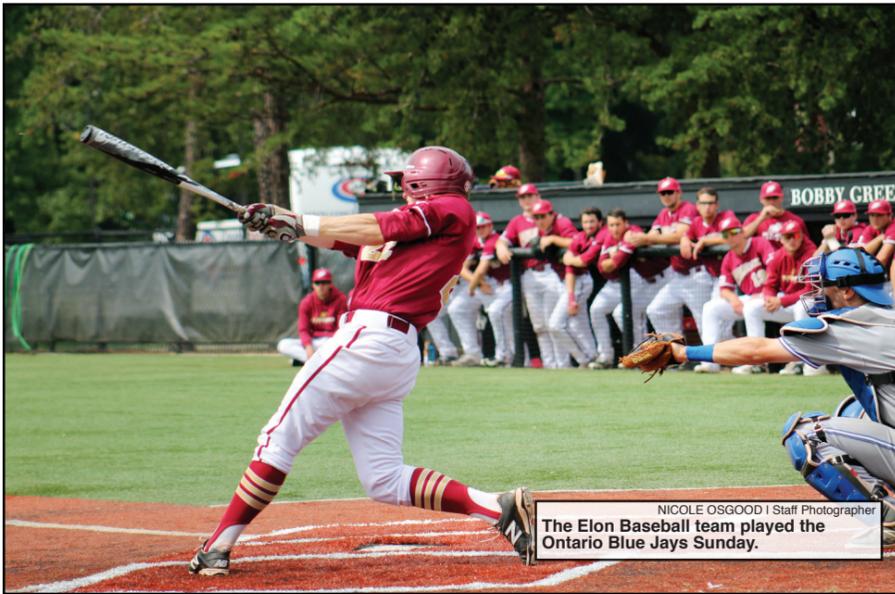
# Top Photos



MADDY WETTERHALL | Staff Photographer  
A student spends his weekend walking on a slackline outside Moseley.



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer  
Twisted Measure performs with Vital Signs Friday at SUBLive in Oak House.



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer  
The Elon Baseball team played the Ontario Blue Jays Sunday.



LANE DEACON | Staff Photographer  
The third annual Elon Colorful Run, co-hosted by Campus Recreation and Elonthon, took place Saturday on South Campus.



MADDY WETTERHALL | Staff Photographer  
Jonathan Russell plays the community piano in Moseley for students.



ANNA ZWINGLEBERG | Staff Photographer  
SGA provided free Smitty's ice cream for students outside Moseley on Thursday.

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