



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Take a peek behind the scenes of a local wildlife rescue facility. >> PAGE 15



OUTSIDE THE BOX

Performing arts students put on double-header play festival. >> PAGE 19

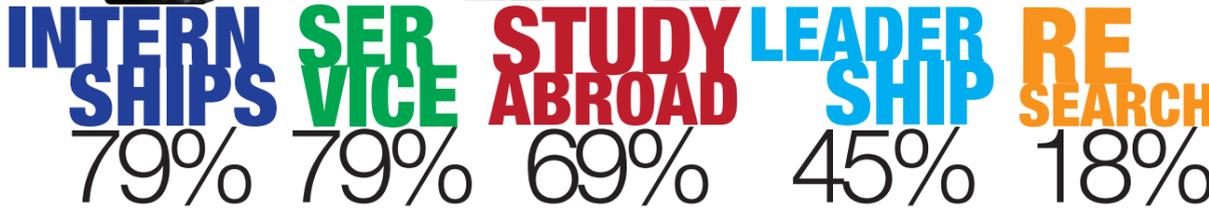
THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012 | VOLUME 38, EDITION 13

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DEFINING YOUR COLLEGE YEARS

Participation in Elon Experiences establishes university culture



*percent of seniors from the class of 2011 who fulfilled each experience
MADISON MARGESON | Design Editor

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Though the constant presence of construction materials indicates an evolving campus, it is student experiences that establish the enduring culture of Elon University. The Experiential Learning Requirements institutionalize certain learning practices and serve as an anchor between students, graduates and the transforming campus.

"They keep trying to connect to what hasn't changed, and that is the soul of the campus," said Connie Book, associate provost for academic

affairs.

In 1994, Elon defined service, study abroad, undergraduate research, leadership and internship as the five Elon Experiences. Students must complete at least one in order to graduate.

"We are constantly looking at these experiences and how they move the students, and it's a way to put learning into practice," Book said.

Although discussions about the requirements are not a constant presence in the classroom, student interests naturally direct them toward completion of one or more of the designated experiences, according to

Book.

"I came from a high school that had a very service-oriented community, so I'm going to continue with that," said freshman Ben Koffel.

Even though he is not fluent in the requirements for each experience and isn't structuring his college experience with the intention of fulfilling all five, he expressed an interest in leadership, study abroad, internship and service.

"We tend to attract students because they want to learn in this particular way," said Pam Kiser, professor of human service studies.

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Friends, professors reflect fondly on life of Elon sophomore

Katherine Blunt and Grace Elkus
Assistant News Editor and News Editor

Sophomore Jordan West died early Monday morning after developing difficulty breathing, according to an email from Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life. His roommates called 911 just before 3 a.m. and he was taken to Alamance Regional Medical Center, where he later died.

His friend, sophomore Marcus Brown, said he believes the breathing difficulties may have arisen from a preexisting heart condition that West kept somewhat private.

"I knew about the heart condition, but I didn't know it would pan out (this way) so soon," he said. "When we played basketball, he couldn't play as hard as everyone else."

But the condition didn't affect his love of sports, which he played and watched regularly, according to sophomore Mark Holmes.

"We always watched Eagles games at Varsity," he said. "He was always there early. You could always count on seeing him there, right before the game, (wearing) an Eagles jersey."

According to the email, West was majoring in marketing. His loss will be felt by professors in the business school, said Alexander Yap, associate professor of management information systems.

"This is a big loss," Yap said. "I was always impressed with Jordan's ability to work independently. He always tried to solve problems on his own, and I was always surprised at the good

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SGA passes resolution stating Elon's opposition to marriage amendment

Katherine Blunt
Assistant News Editor

After much debate last week, the Student Government Association passed a resolution expressing SGA's opposition to Amendment One during its regular Senate meeting.

The resolution states that Amendment One, which will appear on the North Carolina Primary Election ballot May 8, contradicts Elon University's discrimination policy by defining marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman and prohibiting legal recognition of all unmarried couples.

The April 26 SGA meeting was unusually crowded with Elon students, faculty and community members. Those who wished to express opinions on the resolution were invited to do so during open discussion.

Freshman Austin Faur was the first to address SGA.

"Before you all vote on this

(resolution), I ask you to consider two questions," he said. "The first, what is marriage? And the second, what does it mean to discriminate?"

Faur argued the government gives benefits to married, heterosexual couples because they are able to have children, which guarantees a future generation.

"Why should the government grant (homosexual couples) the benefits of marital status and tax breaks when they do not have the capacity to produce the very things for which these benefits are given — children?" he said.

Amendment One is not discriminatory against homosexual couples because they do not have the capacity to marry, he said.

"Amendment One is not discriminatory against homosexuals," he said. "Amendment One is simply defining marriage. Before you cast your vote, please consider (my initial questions)."

Several rose to counter his

argument. Randy Orwig, senior pastor of the Elon Community Church, said the resolution must be passed because the amendment threatens the rights of all people in the state.

"The idea that we come here only for purposes of procreation does not speak to what we are really wanting to get to," he said. "There are unintended consequences of this amendment. As a government, we need to recognize what it means to have equality. This amendment will write discrimination into the (state's) very constitution."

Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies, challenged Faur's definition of marriage.

"Marriage is not all about children," she said. "I am a lesbian, and I have the capacity to marry. Historically, marriage has not been defined in the same way. It has not always been a one man, one woman institution. I encourage you to think and remember that marriage does change over time."

Open discussion ended after junior

Lauren Clapp, advocacy and education chair of Spectrum and author of the resolution, localized the debate.

"I hope you think of this in the context of Elon," she said. "We have an institutional commitment to diversity. What kind of message would it send if we didn't pass a resolution saying Amendment One is discriminatory?"

After brief remarks from the Senate and the Executive Board, senators explained their positions on the resolution during open forum. Many argued to pass it.

"We just passed a resolution that defines diversity, and we have the responsibility to protect it," said Greg Zitelli, sophomore class senator.

But not all were in agreement.

"We're really here to support our constituents," said Ryan Budden, sophomore senator. "Making a broad statement that Elon does support this (resolution) is difficult because

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News

Students create visual art to fight sexual violence

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, SPARKS took part in The Clothesline Project, a national program that allows women who have been personally affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a T-shirt.

From April 23-27, students could pick up supplies to make the shirts from a box in Harden and then drop them off anonymously.

In addition to encouraging students outside of SPARKS to participate, SPARKS also encouraged participation in from other associated organizations, said Kyle Whitaker, a sophomore in SPARKS.

"We reached out to local organizations like the Women's Resource Center in Alamance County," he said. "They provide services to women who are going through abuse."

Kate Jablonski, a freshman in SPARKS, coordinated this year's event.

She said she really wanted to jump right in and get involved with SPARKS, and this was an event that she could personally relate to.

"It's meaningful to me because I was in a relationship once that was an abusive relationship in many different ways, but I was able to get out and speak to others about my experience and get to help out other survivors," Jablonski said. "I'm happy that SPARKS has given me a way to help out."

The problem that both Jablonski and Whitaker said they have found especially at Elon is that people are not sure how to categorize sexual assault, and the introduction of alcohol makes



Students decorated T-shirts last month through The Clothesline Project, which was organized by SPARKS to raise awareness of sexual assault. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

the situation more complicated.

"It's interesting because a lot of girls here have a mentality that it happens, so it's not a big deal, but it can be defined as sexual assault and they can report it — they just choose not to," Whitaker said.

Defining sexual assault is part of Sexual Awareness month, according to Jablonski. Along with The Clothesline Project, SPARKS put on Take Back the Night, an event at which victims could talk about their experiences, and Couple's Chemistry, where couples

answered questions about their relationships and problems they have gone through.

But the main part of the week and the month is awareness.

"It's not to scare people, but it happens and students are affected by it and I think the more that people recognize that things need to change on campus, the quicker they will change," Whitaker said. "If we continue to think that it doesn't happen, then nothing will change."



Freshman Kate Jablonski, SPARKS peer-educator, hangs up the T-shirt she decorated. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

**The People,
Places,
Things
You're a part of.**



**Class of
2012
Reflections**

**Reem Hindieh
Stuart Jones
Raj Rawal
Frank Stiefel**

**Music by:
L.E. Alexander,
Josh Goldstein, Jon Moore**

College Chapel
Where: Whitley Auditorium
When: Thursday May 3rd, 2012
9:50-10:20am

Take Back the Night unifies students, faculty against interpersonal violence

Katherine Blunt
Assistant News Editor

Shouts of "break the silence, stop the violence!" could be heard as more than 150 students and faculty members marched down North O'Kelly Avenue, through Loy Center and past Alamance before stopping at Whitley Auditorium at Elon University.

The annual "Take Back the Night" march organized by SPARKS to raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence, began April 25 with addresses from Elizabeth Nelson, associate director for health promotions and coordinator for interpersonal relations and community well-being, Carrie Heart, coordinator for violence prevention and response, and English lecturer Michelle Trim.

"What is darkness?" Trim asked the large audience assembled in the center of the Academic Pavilion. "The concept of darkness creates a space for bad things to happen. By talking about issues (of sexual assault and violence), we shed light on the darkness. Every survivor has the power to break the silence."

Students and faculty then paraded with a purpose, holding signs with anti-violence slogans and chanting as they marched.

"This is an issue near and dear to my heart," said senior Julie Anderson, who has worked for two and a half years at Family Abuse Services in Burlington. "I also came to support (my sorority sister) who is a survivor of sexual assault."

Her sorority sister walked beside her, as did other survivors. After being assaulted at a party last year, sophomore Hannah Knoblauch joined the march to show support to others who suffered similar experiences.

The long line of anti-violence advocates filed into Whitley Auditorium after completing the route, and anyone who had experienced sexual or domestic violence directly or indirectly was invited to share their stories.

At first, the auditorium was silent.

Then one woman volunteered to speak. Then another. During the course of the night, more than 30 female and male students conveyed their experiences of being raped, assaulted, violated or otherwise disrespected by members of the same and/or opposite sex.

"I encourage everyone to speak up," said Knoblauch, after describing her assault. "It was really hard for me to do, but I'm glad I did it."

Tears were shed, hands were held and hugs were freely volunteered.

"It was amazing to me to see how many people shared stories, people that I recognized," said Julia Denick, a SPARKS peer educator on campus. "It was so moving."

The number of experiences shared at the event proved that interpersonal violence is more common than some students recognize, Heart said.

"I hope students came away with a general sense of support and awareness," she said. "There are a number of formal and informal resources on campus that deal with these kinds of issues."



Elizabeth Nelson from the office of student development, addresses the "Take Back the Night" audience at the Academic Pavilion April 25. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Global Neighborhood site plan modified since inception

Grace Elkus
News Editor

The Global Neighborhood housing complex, which is scheduled to be completed in two stages by 2014, has been re-designed because of financial concerns and new conceptual ideas.

The original site plan consisted of four four-story buildings, each with a common space on the first floor and residence halls on the upper three. The new plan consists of six buildings, which will either be three or four stories tall. Five of the buildings will be residence halls and the sixth, called the Anchor building, will be built specifically for a variety of programming. The common space areas, which will include faculty and staff offices and multipurpose rooms, are now designed to be in the Anchor building.

One of the primary reasons for the re-design was the push to be more cost efficient, according to Mike Dula, Elon town manager.

"There was some dissatisfaction with the costs when they put it out for bid the first time, and they thought they could re-engineer it and accomplish the same purposes without quite as much cost," he said.

Specifically, the type of steel needed was adding to the expense, according to Brad Moore, associate director of planning, design and construction management at Elon University. But it was more than just the cost concern that inspired a new plan, he said.

"Because the common spaces were on the ground floor, it



Although the original site plan included four four-story buildings, the current plans consist of six buildings, which will either be three or four stories tall.

forced us to use structural steel, which is a lot more expensive than other building types," Moore said. "But also, I really like the design of Colonnades C, D and E, so we are using a similar concept to that and it allows us to put everything in the same building, but also get a more programmatic space."

The faculty and staff offices and multipurpose rooms will be larger than what they had been in the previous design, Moore said. The Anchor building will also contain a large grand hall, a small dining venue and a media room. The faculty offices and student meeting rooms will be located on

the second floor, and the Isabella Cannon International Centre will be on the third floor, he said.

Construction will begin following graduation, Dula said. The first residence hall will be completed August 2013, and the rest of the buildings will open August 2014. Although technically part of the Global Neighborhood, the dining hall attached to Moseley Center that is currently under construction is separate from the re-working and will be completed by December 2012.

The Town of Elon Board of Aldermen, which approved the original plan last year, re-

approved the plan for design, water and sewer hookups and traffic and parking, Dula said.

"It had to come back through with a new design, but it already had an approval, so it was just modifying that approval because the number of people involved is about the same," he said.

Despite major revisions, some parts of the plan did not change, according to Moore. The new plan still calls for 595 beds and a variety of room types, including some singles, doubles and individual single rooms that share a bathroom.

The new residence halls will be occupied by primarily

freshmen, but space will be reserved for sophomores, juniors and seniors as well. All students will have the option of joining a learning community, Moore said. He said he thinks the complex will be a very active and engaging place to live.

"The design encourages students to interact just going back and forth to class," Moore said. "I think it's going to be a very active part of campus, a lot of opportunities for people to run into each other outside the classroom and continue conversations they started inside the classroom. It's going to be a fantastic place to live."

SGA states Amendment One contradicts university values



SGA passed a resolution stating the university's opposition to Amendment One in a 25-1-12 vote April 26.

DECISION from PAGE 1

I have talked to students who are against (the SGA resolution)."

The forum was closed, and the voting procedure began. The resolution was passed in a 25-1-12 vote.

Clapp breathed a sigh of relief.

"I was really nervous coming into the meeting," she said. "I wasn't sure who our allies were, but I was surprised and happy about how much support we got from some of the Senate. I realized we have allies on campus we might not know about."

Although disappointed,

Faur said he was thankful for the opportunity to express his opinion.

"I think I got my point across," he said. "It wasn't a landslide (vote), and I think that's promising. There were a lot of insightful comments on the floor tonight, even (from) those I disagreed with."

The debate between members of the community and the Senate helped SGA reach a thoughtful conclusion on the resolution, said Darien Flowers, executive president.

"We would be doing a disservice to our constituents if we only discussed one side of the issue," he said. "If you or your organization has an

issue that pertains to you, you can write legislation and bring it to your elected representatives and know that they are going to discuss and give it the highest level of consideration."

Flowers said he hopes the Elon student body and community will attend future SGA meetings.

"We're really excited that so many people from the community came out to express their opinions," he said. "Hopefully we'll have an even higher turnout throughout the rest of the legislative year. We hope that people will see that they can come and participate in this process."

Community reflects on life of West

WEST from PAGE 1

work he turned over without my help. He was one of the best speakers in my class with the way he delivered his presentations spontaneously and the way he projected his voice."

Holmes said he will greatly miss West's presence in his Management Information Systems class.

"I could always count on his help (in class), and I always had someone to sit with," he said. "Going back to that class and looking right and knowing he won't be there — that's what gets me."

Amy Moorman, who taught West in Business Law, is also preparing herself for West's vacant seat.

"It will be extremely difficult to see his empty chair in the front row of my class (Tuesday)," she said.

The last time Moorman saw West was during his team presentation on business ethics. She said her complimentary notes from the presentation, which described West as "heartfelt," reflect how well she perceived him. Unlike many of her students, West never needed assistance to succeed in her notoriously tough class, Moorman said.

"While always friendly and respectful, he quietly went about the business of succeeding in business law without fret — no small feat, as my students will tell you," she said.

He demonstrated consistent success and was honored at the Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards April 28. His family attended the ceremony.

"It must be so hard for his

family," Holmes said. "They just saw him receive (the award) Saturday, and now they have to come back. At least they saw him at his best."

West's perseverance and academic success is an inspiration, Holmes said.

"I want to be able to go through all my problems and win a (Black Excellence Award) like he did," he said. "He was a great kid."

West left an impression on those who had only known him briefly. Sharon Hodge, chair of the Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, said although she had not known West for very long, she thought very highly of him.

"He truly had a wonderful and gentle spirit about him," Hodge said. "He will be missed."

But, the loss motivates his friends to action.

"We can't just sit around and shed tears," Holmes said. "We have to share stories of the people we love."

What: Gathering of friends for West
When: 4:30 p.m. May 2
Where: Moseley 215

For support: Call Counseling Services at 336-278-7280 and the Truitt Center at 336-278-7729. Counselors are also available after hours by calling Campus Safety and Police at 336-278-5555.

To see a featured online comment about West, turn to PAGE 9.

Elon Experiences complement classroom learning

Experiential Learning Requirements meld academic interests with social engagement

ELON EXPERIENCES from PAGE 1

1 Internships

Specific academic curriculums mandate participation in a designated Experiential Learning Requirement. The business and communication schools require students to complete an internship for credit, and other departments recommend students enroll in the internship course, according to Pam Brumbaugh, director of experiential education.

"From a learning perspective, when a student can take what they learned in the classroom and apply it to the real world, it's a great way to learn whether or not that theory works," she said.

While junior Neima Abdulahi said she values internship experiences because they provide individuals with networking opportunities that distinguish job applicants from other submitted resumes, others recognize a connection between the professional experience and current academic pursuits. For sophomore Elizabeth Greenberg, her internship enhanced her understanding of academic material, she said.

"I'm a very big hands-on learner, and having an internship allows me to apply what I learned in the class to an actual situation, and it kind of sticks in my brain more," said Greenberg, who interned at a non-profit organization last summer and earned an internship at a marketing firm for this upcoming summer.

Of the 2011 graduates, 89 percent indicated they completed an internship, and yet 79 percent received academic credit for their internship, allowing it to fulfill the ELR. This summer, each credit hour will cost \$420, but Brumbaugh said it is worth the money.

Students completing an internship for credit work with a mentor on campus that prompts interns to think critically about their work, she said.

"It's very powerful to have a guide by the side on site who is your boss and a guide at Elon who is your faculty sponsor," Brumbaugh said. "The boss gives you assignments and feedback. The role of the guide at Elon is to give you academic assignments that cause you to reflect and think about what you're doing and ways to challenge you to think about things that you probably wouldn't even consider if you were totally on your own without given credit."

Freshman Jenna Lockhart said she recognizes the importance of internships as a way to prepare for the future. While there is a contrast in the number of students who complete an internship compared to undergraduate research for credit, 79 percent and 18 percent respectively, Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs, attributed the difference to Elon students' post-graduate plans.

2 Undergraduate Research

While internships ready students for a career, undergraduate research has a stronger connection to graduate school preparation, Book said. About 30 percent of students attend graduate school after graduation, according to the 2011 Cap and Gown survey.

"I think it helps as a nice introduction to their professional community," said Paul Miller, exercise science professor and director of undergraduate research.

Freshman Mary Young, a biochemistry major, said she intends to participate in undergraduate research, which will help her later with her career aspirations.

The experience marries activity within the classroom to student life, Miller said.

"It feeds our curiosities and those are both professional curiosities as well as curiosities as educated people," he said. "It fosters our innate desire and need to be informed."

While specific disciplines may be more drawn to research, limited resources also constrain the number of students able to participate in undergraduate research, according to Miller. Faculty members are only allowed to mentor students for 12 credit hours per year and the 3.0 GPA requirement reduces the number of students eligible for the experience.



ELON EXPERIENCES 2010-2011 TOTALS

Service:	Internships:	Study Abroad:	Leadership:	Research:
79 percent	79 percent	69 percent	45 percent	18 percent

3 Service-Learning

Although, according to Greenberg, individuals' studies and interests determine college involvement and selected Elon Experiences, the service component extends across multiple disciplines, Kiser said. Enrollment in a designated service-learning course, marked by the SL prefix, meets the ELR and develops a connection between service and academics.

"It's embedded into the curriculum," Kiser said. "Students don't have to go out of their way to have these experiences."

The Global Experience course prompts students to think about their global impact, and the variety of service-learning courses indicates that despite one's major, there is a way to direct one's academic interests to serve the public, she said.

"Elon made a decision as an institution that they want to take this idea of global citizenship very seriously and produce leaders for the common good," Kiser said.

Students who are interested in fulfilling the service ELR, but are not enrolled in a course can work with the Kernodle Center and complete a workbook and reading assignments in order to still demonstrate the connection between service and study.

4 Leadership

Fulfillment of the leadership ELR also includes a mentorship component to more directly link the experience with an academic growth. Therefore, not all students who earn a leadership position fulfill the leadership ELR.

In an institution where the majority of students earn leadership positions, a mentor is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of a student's leadership and determine if it is worthy of credit for the ELR, said Abdulahi, who has held leadership positions but not fulfilled the leadership ELR.

It would be too easy of a fulfillment if it didn't have structure, she said.

"Through the intentional reflection process students are able to have a frame for how they are demonstrating leadership," said Steven Mencarini, director of the Center for Leadership. "Without this experience, the leadership they are demonstrating may be considered more random or episodic rather than being intentional."

The leadership minor does not qualify as completion of the ELR because it is based on theories rather than leadership practice, Mencarini said. Leadership practice is measured according to the book "The Leadership Challenge," which explains five basic practices of leadership.

The leadership ELR uses "The Leadership Challenge" by James Kouzes and Barry Posner. The five practices of exemplary leadership are model the way, encourage the heart, challenge the process, inspire a shared vision and enable others to act.

5 Study Abroad

Though study abroad also appeals to students from a variety of majors, Greenberg found a connection between her experience in Buenos Aires during Winter Term to her studies in the business school.

"In the business school, it is good to know how business works in different countries," she said.

Both faculty and students both emphasize the value of study abroad in order to better comprehend global relations.

"You can't learn about another culture easily without being immersed in it," said Donna Van Bodegraven, associate professor of Spanish.

Acknowledging one can foster an understanding for different cultures without traveling, Van Bodegraven said interaction with foreign people serves as an important learning practice.

"Studying abroad is a great opportunity during your college experience to get to see an unfamiliar place, but at the same time incorporate learning," Lockhart said.

Regardless of the topic, all Winter Term study abroad courses address academic goals, personal goals and cultural awareness goals, Van Bodegraven said. The preparatory courses for the Winter Term sessions provide more structure and strengthen the academic component of the experience, she said.

While Greenberg and Young agree the opportunity to travel attracted them to study abroad, the interest is characteristic of the university, according to Van Bodegraven.

"I believe what has been communicated to Elon 101 students is not if you're going to study abroad," she said. "It's when and where you're going to study abroad, so it's part of the ethos of the university."

Summer may bring surges at the pumps

News reports of rising gas prices provoke faculty, students to revise transportation methods

Ethan Smith
Senior Reporter

Although gas prices are currently dropping, by the end of the month, the national average is predicted to cost a whopping \$4.25 per gallon, according to predictions from gasbuddy.com.

This news has driven many in the Elon University community to restrict how much they drive and rethink how often they fuel up and even shop for groceries.

Ashley Burns, Elon University pre-doctoral fellow and political science instructor, commutes from Durham to Elon everyday, and despite driving a fuel efficient Honda, she said she is beginning to feel the pressure of filling up at the pump.

"I fill up my car every Monday and Friday," said Burns. "It costs me about \$25 each time."

Equating to \$50 per week just on gas, Burns doesn't travel much outside of her commute to work because gas prices are squeezing her budget, she said.

Burns also runs a summer program in New Orleans, and the program uses Chevrolet Suburbans to transport the participants to and from destinations.

"Last summer it cost \$98 every time we wanted to fill up the Suburban," Burns said. "I can only imagine how much it will cost this summer to do the same."

Elon junior Andrew Kidd lives off campus at Campus Trace apartments and takes the Biobus to get to class.

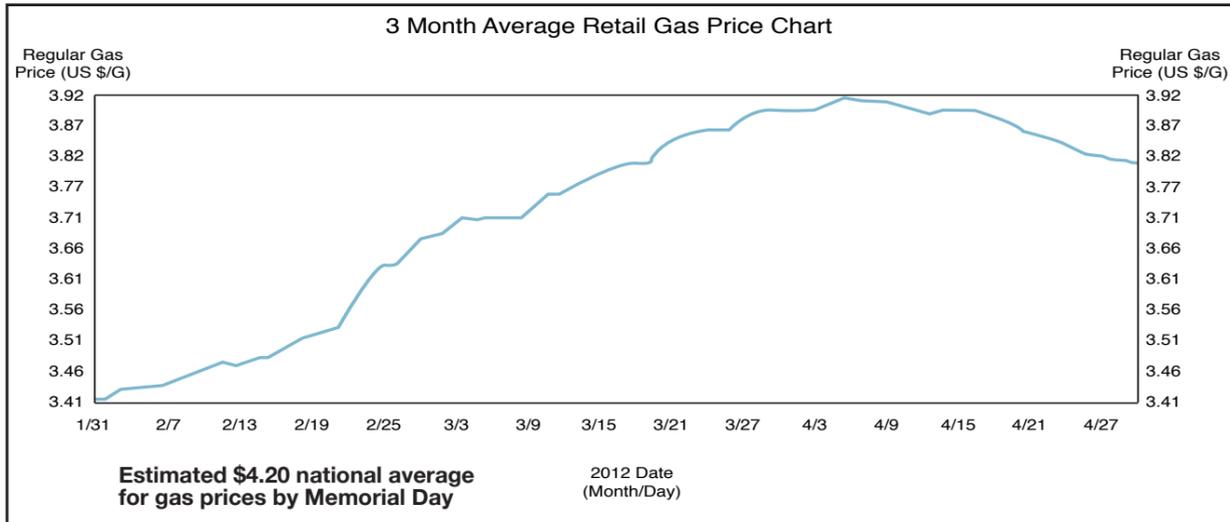
"Taking the bus helps me save on gas," Kidd said. "That way, I don't have to waste gas just to get on campus."

Kidd drives a Dodge Dakota truck, which is not a very fuel-efficient car, he said.

"It usually costs me about \$65 to fill up," Kidd said. "But I drive sparingly, so I only fill up monthly."

Driving less is an obvious and excellent way to cut down on gas usage, and Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, said he puts this into practice during the summer at his home in Durham.

"I try to ride my bike around Durham when I don't absolutely need the car,"



KRISTEN CASE | Design Chief



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

News concerning rising gas prices has encouraged students and faculty in the Elon University community to modify their driving habits.

Hatcher said.

In addition to using alternative methods of transportation, Hatcher also practices fuel-efficient driving habits.

"I also try to drive like a sane person," he said. "Sometimes I feel I am the only driver on the interstate that knows how to use my vehicle's cruise control in order to save gas."

Even with these fuel-saving habits, Hatcher said he still feels as though the commute to Elon is putting a significant strain on his gas tank.

"I certainly use a lot of gas during the academic year," he said. "But I try to make up for that with driving less during the summer months."

Hatcher is also a bit skeptical that gas prices will actually spike to \$4.25.

"There is no guarantee that prices will spike at \$4.25 or higher," Hatcher said. "I paid \$3.77 this week, down from \$3.91 last week."

He said he also feels that many will choose to not travel during the summer months.

"Driving will be up nationwide this summer, but many will choose to stay home," he said.

Faculty members to vote on possible changes to first-year core

Kristen Olsen
Senior Reporter

The General Studies program could be experiencing some new course changes in the near future.

Although the proposed changes to the entire General Studies program was voted down Oct. 28, 2011, all faculty and staff will vote on suggested improvements to the first-year core on Tuesday, May 8.

Jeffrey Coker, director of the General Studies Program, said he believes change is good to maintain the high-quality program.

"We want to have the very best program that we can," he said. "With that, we are constantly looking for ways to improve."

Changes will include revisions to The Global Experience and College Writing courses and the elimination of Health and Wellness from the required general studies course list.

Jean Schwind, chair of the University Curriculum Committee, is among those who worked to develop the changes to the General Studies proposal.

"It's our job to make sure the curriculum is consistent with the mission of the university," she said.

One of the proposed revisions is the complete restructuring of the College Writing course, whose title would be renamed to "Writing: Argument and Inquiry." The class will focus more on preparing students to develop their argumentative and research skills along with their writing, and will be open to any professor on campus to teach.

"We want this to be a core class for life to teach students how to write better at Elon and in the real world," Coker said.

The changes suggested for the Global Experience course include more focus on the global changes in the current world and to align more closely with the stated mission and goals of the General Studies Program, which are to help students cultivate the intellectual curiosity, abilities and knowledge required for lifelong learning as global citizens.

The last major change proposed is the removal of Health and Wellness from the First-Year Core. The course will remain available for students to take, but it will be a four-hour course entitled "Perspectives in Personal and Global Health." Students will be encouraged to take this course, but it will no longer be required for all first-year students.

"The General Studies program has been in place for 16 years now," Schwind said. "We are always finding new ways of teaching and learning."

If these changes are unanimously approved by faculty and staff, the new First-Year Core will be in effect for the 2013-2014 school year.

The changes being suggested are ones that were least controversial in the original proposal, according to Schwind.

The initial proposal included additional required language courses, two experiential learning requirements and different and broader elective subcategories, which would have increased the requirement from 58 hours to a total of 64 hours. The faculty approved of a revision to the mission and goals of the program in December 2010, but ultimately rejected the proposed curriculum.

The transition to implement these new changes to the First-Year Core is expected to be completed within three years.

Timeline of General Studies Proposal

2010 - Elon faculty members vote in favor of the New General Studies Mission Statement and Goals

August 2011 - General Studies curriculum is reevaluated

October 28, 2011 - Proposed changes to the General Studies curriculum voted down

November 11, 2011 - General Studies Council meets to discuss the possibility of implementing some of the proposed changes

May 8, 2012 - Faculty and staff will vote on suggested improvements to first-year core

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Recognizing the diversity of disabilities on campus

Students express need for increased awareness, enhanced support within Disabilities Services

Grace Elkus
News Editor

Although Elon University prides itself on its student-faculty ratio of 13:1, not all staff-related ratios on campus are quite as low.



SUSAN WISE

Susan Wise, Disabilities Services coordinator, is in charge of about 450 undergraduate students and 25 graduate students registered with Disabilities Services, and she is the only staff

member.

"Obviously, just meeting the day to day needs of so many persons is challenging," Wise said. "It is difficult to be proactive in addressing needs of current and incoming students, coming up with new plans and services, etc., in this environment."

Wise encourages more students who are qualified to receive accommodations to register, but knows she won't be able to provide them with the best services.

"I am sure there are students out there who could benefit from accommodations who have not registered with my office," she said. "Certainly, with additional staff members, we could provide better, more efficient and proactive services."

Senior Anne Lukens, who is registered with Disabilities Services for her ADHD, anxiety, dyslexia and dyscalculia, said a university's disability accommodations were a major consideration in her college search. She said that although she was impressed with Elon's services, she's personally been affected by

the lack of staffing since arriving on campus four years ago.

"Susan is busy a lot of the time," Lukens said. "She's really good at getting back to you, but she's also got to deal with tons of the student body. She campaigns tirelessly for us. She's great at what she does, there just aren't enough of her."

The solution starts with raising awareness, according to junior Amelia Maki, who is working with students in her women and gender studies capstone course on an awareness campaign. By spreading the word about the different types of disabilities that can be accommodated and the various accommodations available, she hopes more students will utilize Disabilities Services.

"The university doesn't really see the need to give more funding or get more staff," Maki said. "If more students sign up, (the university) is going to have to hire more people, and they are going to have to give more funding."

Wise has a number of things she would like to implement in Disabilities Services that would require additional staffing. Her "wish list" includes orientation programming for students with disabilities, a mentoring program for the students and more community outreach and awareness programs. She also hopes to work with faculty and staff about disabilities-related issues.

Senior Katie Atkins, who is working with Maki on the awareness project, also sees the importance in educating professors on how to interact with students with disabilities.

"The sense that we've gotten is that professors don't know what the protocol is for certain things," she said.

Lukens has experienced a range of reactions from professors regarding

disability accommodations, especially when it comes to needing a note-taker. One professor offered her his own notes, which she said was the most helpful solution. But not all professors have been as understanding.

"A lot of times, it's really difficult to get teachers to understand the concept of a note-taker," she said. "I have to either be paying attention or writing. I can't do both, because writing is hard for me."

Lukens, whose earliest memory is having a panic attack, is constantly frustrated when trying to explain what makes her different from her peers.

"Since everyone is differently abled, it's hard for someone else to get in the mindset of someone whose brain works different than theirs does," Lukens said. "My brain is wired differently, and I see the world slightly cockeyed. It's frustrating trying to explain the way I see things to other people."

One of the primary goals of the awareness project is to erase the stigma associated with disabilities. Although many people associate the word "disability" with a physical impairment, less than 2 percent of the student body is registered with a physical disability.

"I thought it was very interesting to see what a low percentage physical disabilities are on this campus," Maki said. "Which goes to show that this campus is not very welcoming, not very accessible. If Elon really wants to provide students with this diverse education and experience that they say they want to, you need to make it available to everybody."

The rest of the registered students have "invisible" disabilities, which accounts for a lack of recognition by the rest of the student body, Maki

DISABILITIES AT ELON

Attention/executive function
49.7%

Learning disabilities
45.3%

Chronic health conditions
15.5%

Psychological issues
15.2%

Cognitive disabilities
4.6%

Sensory impairments
2.4%

Mobility impairments
15.2%

At the end of fall semester 2011, 453 students registered with Disabilities services. Significant co-morbidity accounts for total percentages being greater than 100.

BREAKDOWN OF DISABILITIES

said. Lukens said she hopes students begin to become more accepting of every student on campus.

"Disease is incredibly unattractive," she said. "You don't want to find that there is something wrong with someone you care about. I can't tell them (that) sometimes, my anxiety gets so bad that I have to curl up in a ball, and my whole chest feels like it's constricted. It's scary for me, why should you be the one to recoil. I just want people to be patient with me."

the Swing

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This Thursday on The Swing...

Do over

If you had the chance to redo anything, what would it be? Emily Haring finds out.

Liven up your wardrobe

Fashion blogger Alison Ryncarz shows you 10 new ways to wear your old clothes.

Amendment One

Julia Boyd gets your thoughts on Amendment One.

The 60-Second News Desk

Don't have time to read the whole paper? Kassondra Cloos runs through this week's paper in one minute.

Possible voter identification law may alter voting process

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

As May 8 approaches, elections aren't the only things state officials are worrying about. The North Carolina General Assembly is in the midst of a battle to override Gov. Beverly Perdue's veto of a law that would require citizens to present photo identification before being able to vote. The law is only a few votes away from passing.

Chalmers Brumbaugh, professor of political science and election judge, said the law is a terrible idea and is an attempt to solve a problem that rarely occurs: voter impersonation. If there is a problem, it occurs at the registration stage, where voters, who should be asked for photo identification, are not required to present a photo ID, Brumbaugh said. Because voters would be required to bring photo ID on Election Day, it would delay the voting process as a whole.

"I just think this photo ID thing would be the kiss of death for what is usually a wonderful community day of voting together," Brumbaugh said. "I like the community aspect of it. People say hi to each other, they're smiling, (saying) 'How're you doing?' and that stuff. Now if they've been waiting for an hour, they're not high-fiving each other so much."

Brumbaugh said the law, if put in place, will affect students, particularly out-of-state residents, because they will not be able to vote without some form of North Carolina identification. Students from out of state are currently able to vote in the May 8 primaries as long as they have not voted in another state and have proof of residency. If the law passes, students will no longer be able to present information about their residency on campus because they will be required to show photo identification and thus may or may not be able to vote in future elections.

"This is pretty much a way for the Republican party to reduce

I just think this photo ID thing would be the kiss of death for what is usually a wonderful community day of voting together.

-Chalmers Brumbaugh
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR
AND ELECTION JUDGE

the Democratic (vote) because it disproportionately hits students, older people like my dad who no longer has a driver's license, people who simply don't have photo IDs who don't drive," Brumbaugh said. "And that tends to disproportionately be people of color."

But for the most part, students from North Carolina do not seem concerned about the possibility of the law getting passed. Freshman Sarah Neuhauser, a resident of North Carolina, said she doesn't see why people would disagree with the law to require photo ID because it prevents voters from voting under the names of others.

"(The law) is a little bit drastic, but I think it makes sense," Neuhauser said.

Sophomore Frank Garcia, also a resident of North Carolina, said he thinks the legislature is fine because it proves that a person is from North Carolina and prevents the possibility of students voting in two different states.

Brumbaugh said that while the law has passed in several states and is being discussed in many state legislatures across the country, he hopes the General Assembly will not pass the law in North Carolina.

"Photo voter ID is an absolute abomination as a solution to a really non-existent problem," Brumbaugh said.

Obama campaigns to university population

President addresses possibility of rising loan interest rates to students

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

President Barack Obama urged college and university students to inform their peers about the possibility of an increase in student loan interest rates. During a conference call 4 p.m. April 24, Obama, speaking from Air Force One, encouraged students to appeal to Congress to take steps to prevent the rates from doubling July 1.

"I always believe we should be doing everything we can do to put college education within reach," he said.

Upon graduation, students accumulate an average of \$25,000 loans, according to Obama, and, after July 1, there is a possibility more than 7.4 million college and students will see an increase in student loans if Congress does not vote to sustain a bi-partisan agreement established in 2007.

Obama traveled to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Boulder, Colo. April 24 to discuss the issue, followed by a trip to Iowa City, Iowa April 25 to continue the conversation. The cost of college was prominently mentioned during his State of the Union address, and Cecilia Munoz, assistant to the president and director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said discussions concerning the affordability of college will play an important role in the 2012 election.

The President hopes his remarks spur action from college students and build support from young voters, Munoz said.

He referenced the extension of the number of students that receive Pell Grants to demonstrate his dedication

to minimizing the cost of education. He also spoke about his work with state governments to maintain the level of funding awarded to education institutions.

"The way to prepare the economy is to make sure college education is affordable and making sure the college loan rate doesn't double," Munoz said.

Producing graduates with thousands of dollars in debt hurts the economy, Munoz said.

According to Obama, the rising cost of college provides fewer ladders for citizens to climb and improve their socioeconomic position.

"We need to create an economy where everyone is playing by the same rules," Obama said. "That's how we make a stronger middle class."

Obama expressed a personal connection to the debate regarding the cost of education and briefly mentioned how he and his wife both worked to pay student loans after graduation.

Obama criticized Congress for voting against legislation to make college affordable while voting in favor of tax cuts.

When participants on the conference call asked about Congress' motives for potentially increasing student loan interest rates, members of the Obama administration did not provide an answer, but informed listeners that legislative authority is required to keep the rates low.

Provided Congress prevents interest rates from doubling, the freeze will be effective for one year. The push for one year ensures the matter is addressed in the short term and inspires conversation in the long term, Munoz said.

Speech sparks discussion about rising college costs during speech at UNC

Kate Riley and Kassondra Cloos
Special Projects Editor and Copy Editor

If Congress takes no action by the end of June, the interest rates on government-backed Stafford loans will double July 1. It's a reality that millions of students face, but one that President Barack Obama said is not a high enough priority on America's agenda.

Obama spoke to an energetic crowd of several thousand students April 24 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He discussed current issues facing those with increasing debt and also explained his own experiences with paying for school, sharing that both he and his wife, Michelle, shared a "mountain of debt" when they first married.

"We only finished paying off our student loans — check this out, I'm President of the United States — about eight years ago," Obama said. "It wasn't that long ago."

But students today are struggling more than ever, and he said he is dedicated to solving the broken system, despite opposition.

Student loans and the rising cost of college should not be a partisan issue, Obama said. He also quoted "a Republican congresswoman" who said she had "no respect for students who graduate with debt, because there's no reason for that."

Although Obama did not name her, the full quote comes from Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.). He omitted her opinion was in reference to students who graduate with more than \$80,000 in loans without having worked to help pay for school.

Current college students are at a disadvantage compared to their parents, Obama said, because they're entering the workforce with much more debt. He acknowledged that there's still a lot of work that needs to be done to live up the economy and said investing in education by getting rid of subsidies for big oil and gas companies and the wealthiest Americans — including himself — is one of the best ways to do just that.

"We've got to make sure you're not saddled with debt before you even get started in life," he said, adding that he doesn't want students working two or three jobs just to get by.

Not surprisingly, many students at UNC Chapel Hill have student loans and found Obama's speech to hit close to home.

"I think anyone with student loans should be interested in this cause," said UNC Chapel Hill graduate student Maggie Ellis. "I care about a lot of things, but student loans are something that I deal with every day. I'll have to think about this probably for decades to come."

UNC Chapel Hill senior Katherine Bayard has dealt with loans throughout college, she said, and they aren't going away as she plans to attend graduate school next year.

"It's a daunting experience having to



KATE RILEY | Special Projects Editor
President Barack Obama addressed concerns about rising college costs to a UNC crowd.

pay off that large of an amount of money with a large amount of interest when you don't have any money to begin with," she said. "I will have more loans going into grad school next year as well. But I would like to know a little bit more about what he's planning to do exactly because I know that's the main goal."

UNC Chapel Hill junior Everett Lozzi said that while Obama made many promises and discussed getting more funding into higher education, it is necessary to know where that money is coming from.

"The one assumption he made was the tuition is going up, but he never really explained why," he said. "His solution just seems to be to pump money into something without providing more supply, and that's part of the reason why costs are going up. He doesn't talk about where that money is coming from. If we aren't paying as much in tuition, then somebody is paying for it, and that's a lost opportunity cost."

Despite uncertainty in Obama's full explanation, his emphasis was strong in that America needs to have a better, more affordable future for its students.

Additional reporting done by Jeff Stern, online managing editor.

MORE ONLINE

More photos from Obama's visit available online

<http://pend.lu/3c>

KATE RILEY | Special Projects Editor

Gingrich meets with Alamance Republicans



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich visited K&W Cafeteria in Burlington April 26 with wife, Callista. Gingrich, who has been campaigning for the nomination of Republican presidential candidate, made clear in his remarks that he will remove himself from the race and throw his support behind Mitt Romney, the presumed nominee. Gingrich announced he will suspend his campaign for presidential candidacy after winning only two state primaries: Georgia and South Carolina. During his address to local Republicans, he advocated for creating training programs to decrease unemployment rather than promote aid programs. Although attendees expressed concerns with the lack of Romney's conservative appeal, Gingrich assured party supporters that, compared to Obama, Romney best represents their interests.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Elon Poll finds North Carolina residents favor Obama, McCrory

An Elon Poll of 640 North Carolina residents conducted April 22-25 revealed the favorability of candidates running in the upcoming North Carolina primary and presidential elections. While more residents claimed to favor Barack Obama than Mitt Romney as a presidential candidate, Republican Pat McCrory was determined the most favorable candidate for North Carolina governor.

The results are listed below:

Primary Candidates:

Pat McCrory (Rep.)

- Favorable: 33 percent
- Unfavorable: 16 percent
- Don't Know: 50 percent

Bob Etheridge (Dem.)

- Favorable: 21 percent
- Unfavorable: 18 percent
- Don't Know: 60 percent

Walter Dalton (Dem.)

- Favorable: 18 percent
- Unfavorable: 13 percent
- Don't Know: 68 percent

Bill Faison (Dem.)

- Favorable: 8 percent
- Unfavorable: 14 percent
- Don't Know: 77 percent

Presidential Candidates:

Barack Obama (Dem.)

- Favorable: 49 percent
- Unfavorable: 42 percent
- Don't Know: 8 percent

Mitt Romney (Rep.)

- Favorable: 28 percent
- Unfavorable: 43 percent
- Don't Know: 28 percent

Residents were also asked their opinion of the North Carolina General Assembly, and the majority expressed dissatisfaction with its operation.

The results are listed below.

- **Approve:** 31 percent
- **Disapprove:** 47 percent
- **Don't Know:** 22 percent

Town of Elon Board of Aldermen consider solid waste management, trash pickup

At its regular agenda-setting meeting 6 p.m. May 1, the Town of Elon Board of Aldermen discussed the possibility of rollout carts for regular trash pickup within the town. The Board of Aldermen also resolved to endorse the 2012 Solid Waste Management Plan. A contract with a recycling cart vendor was also considered.

Elon physical therapy department hosts 24-hour relay walk

The Elon Department of Physical Therapy is sponsoring a 24-hour relay walk for childhood cancer 6 p.m. May 4 on the club sports fields behind Elon University's Francis Center. The walk will end at 6 p.m. the following day.

Team registration costs \$15 per person, and each member will receive an event T-shirt. Each team will strive to raise as many donations as possible, but \$200 per team is the goal of the event.

Raffle drawings, refreshments and a variety of entertainment will be available.

All event proceeds will be donated to Racers Against Childhood Cancer, a charity committed to defeating the disease.

Direct donations can be made at www.active.com/donate/raccfund/elonrelay, and more information is available through Elon DPT representative Chris Boettcher at cboettcher@elon.edu.

Search committee examines candidates for dean of the Love School of Business

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Elon University faculty, staff and students interviewed candidates for the position of dean of the Love School of Business, a position that serves the university on multiple levels, according to Art Cassill, co-chair of the search committee and professor of accounting.

The dean conducts business with organizations outside the university, representing Elon to the external institutions.

"The business school dean is uniquely situated to be the face of the university as well (as of the business school) because you are talking about the business community that serves all of Elon University and not just the Love School of Business," Cassill said.

Business connections translate to support for the university, he said. Establishing relationships with local companies cultivates avenues for financial support, international programs and job opportunities. Recognition of the dean's significance to the reputation of the university informed the search process.

"Being in the dean role is a position where that person can be in the spotlight, so it's important we have a good fit to represent Elon well," said Sarah Thomas, member of the search committee and director of undergraduate programs.

In order to support the university, Thomas said the dean would be expected to educate outside constituents about Elon, develop partnerships and sustain



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Candidates for the dean of the Love School of Business presented to faculty, staff and students throughout the past two weeks. The search committee aims to make an offer prior to next semester.

those relationships.

Students interacted with the candidates during their visit to Elon, walking the candidates to and from meetings and engaging in discussions with the potential dean.

"They bring a different perspective to a dean's candidate," Cassill said.

Although students are more concerned with more immediate results, such as job opportunities and programs, students' messages are consistent with that of the faculty and staff, he said.

"At the end of the day, they are both

interested in if this person is going to provide leadership and direction and going to make the school successful," Cassill said.

Candidates recognize the continuity of the message as well, according to Thomas.

"The overall goal is the same, no matter who you speak to," she said. "Our candidates have been impressed that Elon is a place where we say something, we mean it and we really want to live it."

The search committee aims to make an offer to hire someone prior to the start of next semester, Thomas said.

Human donor lab attracts students eager to study anatomy

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

Elon University's human donor lab, often referred to as the cadaver lab, may give some students chills, but this facility in the basement of McMichael Science Center offers students a unique learning opportunity to explore human anatomy as undergraduates.

"The human anatomy lab was a huge factor (in my decision to come to Elon)," said freshman Natalie McCarthy, an exercise science major. "I'm really interested in physical therapy, how the body works. And so learning that as an undergraduate you would get this opportunity to be in the human donor lab was pretty remarkable because not a lot of schools allow undergraduate students to do that."

The lab in McMichael was originally shared between undergraduate and graduate students in the doctor of physical therapy and physician's assistant program, but because the PT and PA programs have recently moved to the Francis Center, which has its own lab, the facility is now used mainly by undergraduate students, including McCarthy.

Because there has been demand for the lab since it was built in 1998, McMichael's lower level is currently undergoing some renovations to paint

"You learn an important lesson that every body is different. Even if the textbook says it's going to look one way, once you actually start looking at the body itself, it's really different."

-Natalie McCarthy
FRESHMAN EXERCISE SCIENCE MAJOR

and upgrade the space, according to Greg Haenel, professor and chair of the biology department. There will be more renovations this summer when classes are not in session. Currently, there are four labs serving a total of 72 students. The human donor lab course is available to students in any major.

Freshman Jordan Cottle, an exercise science major, said he thinks students should look into taking the course regardless of their field of study.

"It's an amazing opportunity that I think a lot of people should

take advantage of while they're here because it's not something many undergraduates get to do," Cottle said.

Haenel said the university opened the lab up to undergraduate students because the facilities were available and it was a good opportunity for engaged learning. He said he sees value in allowing undergraduate students to access the labs.

"I think it's very attractive to students that want to go into health professions broadly," Haenel said. "They feel like they're getting kind of a head-start, if you will. Anatomy is taught pretty generally at most colleges and universities. The difference here is that you're using the actual donors for part of the lab, and so that's perceived as you're gaining a little bit of extra experience, hands-on experience."

Although McCarthy said some students may find the lab unnerving or too personal, she feels her experiences learning about the human body were valuable.

"This was just a really great opportunity to be able to see pictures in the textbooks translated into a real-life kind of thing," McCarthy said. "And you learn an important lesson that every body is different. Even if the textbook says it's going to look one way, once you actually start looking at the body itself, it's really different."

May 2 – May 9

<p>May 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education On-Air Conference: noon-10 p.m., streamed on Google+ 	<p>May 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannon Celebration: 6 p.m., Oaks 212 • "Fused Moves" - Elon Dance Company: 7:30 p.m., McCrory Theatre 	<p>May 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornhole Tournament: 3 p.m., outside Koury Business Center • Twisted Measure: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium 	<p>May 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twisted Measure: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium • Walk to Defeat ALS: 9 a.m., Credit Suisse campus in Research Triangle Park
<p>May 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camerata Recital: 4:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium • Flute Ensemble Concert: 3 p.m., McCrory Theatre 	<p>May 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinelon Film Festival: 7 p.m., Carousel Cinemas in Burlington 	<p>May 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring semester classes end • Beta Gamma Sigma Induction Ceremony: 4:30 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre 	<p>May 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Day

International

Discussion with politician illuminates purpose of study abroad

There are moments in life, those irrevocable, implausible and painfully swift moments that change everything. Sitting in the parlor of one of Amman's swankiest hotels, seated across from a member of the Palestinian Authority, I had undoubtedly stumbled headfirst into one of those moments. We were discussing the Jordanian water shortage, and I had many questions about my role as an international student abroad.



Jasmine Whaley
International Reporter

The topic at hand was pressing and controversial, but instead of feeling as though I could fix it, I came away with a much better understanding of who I was as a citizen of the world.

To the outside observer, it could have been difficult to recognize this unassuming man, dressed in jeans and a windbreaker. His name is Hassan Saleh Hussein. Hussein is a prominent figure within the Palestinian Authority and the mayor of the City of Jericho, the longest-inhabited city on Earth. He graciously agreed to meet with three American

students who stumbled their way into the meeting with the help of nothing more than a powerful acquaintance and a well-timed phone call.

Settled comfortably in his chair, Hussein leaned forward and offered, in fluent Arabic, one word that would set the tone for the duration of the meeting, "Go."

The questions came, uninhibited and incredibly forthright, patched together with the messiest combination of Arabic and English. The answers were spoken with the same amount of tempered intensity. With the intent to inform, a rare and admirable undertaking for a politician, Hussein left no question unanswered and no detail unexplored.

"Jericho is said to fall to be a Zone A, meaning that it is under the complete authority of the Palestinian Authority," he said.

He told us that the city is home to 20,000 people, and is visited by approximately two million tourists every year. The water shortage affects everyone from tourists to Palestinians and has created tensions among nations.

We were told that the only well available to the citizens and the two million tourists that visit every year is located directly outside of the city limits and is considered to be Zone B.

This means that it falls under the partial jurisdiction of Israel and that the Palestinians are not allowed full access to their well water. They are also not allowed to drill for new wells, according to Israeli law.

The restrictions on movement within the West Bank are in violation of International Law and make it impossible for cohesive acts of political dissent within the West Bank.

Israeli settlements are almost always situated on a hill above the Palestinian city or village, which gives them an immediate strategic advantage.

The conflict is not a question of Muslims against Jews, because those communities coexist peacefully in Jericho and other places.

Palestinians will never be able to reach a just settlement without the help of the international community. "So what can we do to help?" we asked.

He told us something I will never forget.

"The only way to help is to come and see this for yourselves, and then go and tell your story," he said.

If the goal of studying abroad is to learn, to discover and to experience, then I believe that I have accomplished all there is for me to do here.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Dutch businesses forbidden to sell cannabis to international tourists

Dutch authorities have passed a law that prohibits foreigners from buying cannabis, or marijuana, in the Netherlands. It requires coffee shops to only sell cannabis to registered citizens, reversing a 40-year long period in which the Netherlands was known for its free sale of the drug. It will also prevent any coffee shop within 350 meters of a school from selling cannabis. The law will be in effect in three southern provinces first and will become nationwide next year. Coffee shops around the nation are trying to repeal this law.

Saudi Arabia closes Cairo embassy

Saudi Arabia closed its embassy in Cairo April 28 after a series of protests and arrests. The Saudi Arabian ambassador was sent back to Egypt and all the employees were recalled, sparking concern for a political rift between the two nations.

The protests surged after an arrest of an Egyptian lawyer in Saudi Arabia that caused controversy within Egypt. Egyptian authorities are calling the embassy closing a result of "unjustified demonstrations" and "hostile slogans."

Chinese lawyer escapes house arrest

Chen Guangcheng, a blind human rights lawyer, escaped his 19-month house arrest in China April 27 and is thought to have been taken to the American embassy in Beijing, although officials refuse to confirm this. Reports said he disappeared that night and left no indication of how he escaped.

He has said he does not wish to leave China, but he hopes to negotiate his freedom. There are no legal accusations against Guangcheng, but the Chinese government has heavily guarded his house for months as punishment for his representation of peasants and disabled people. American diplomats have confirmed this case does not require national security.

Explosions in Ukraine injure dozens

Several blasts believed to be terrorist-related injured 27 people in Ukraine April 27. Opposition parties suspect that Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's government instigated the attacks to avoid international attention for the abuse of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko while she was in prison. Bombs went off at a tram stop, near a popular movie theater and in the city center.

Despite the desire to deflect worldwide attention, nations are cutting ties with Ukraine and are contemplating boycotting the Euro 2012 soccer championship that Ukraine will co-host in June.

Gunmen open fire on Nigerian church

Bayero University's campus church in Nigeria was attacked April 29 by gunmen. They planted explosives within the church to force people to leave during the service, and when they got outside the building, they were shot at multiple times. At least 16 were killed and others were seriously injured. The gunmen fled on motorcycles before police could capture them. The reason for the attack is currently unknown, and no arrests have been made.

Counterfeit problems plague Italy

The Campania region in Italy has been exposed for its immense amount of counterfeit money. In recent years, the government has had to pull anywhere from 550,000 to 800,000 fake euros from circulation, and more than half of the bills originated in Campania. Banks and businesses are cracking down on the paper notes they accept for fear of cashing counterfeit money. Italian police are investigating sources for the fake bills, and arrests are becoming more frequent.

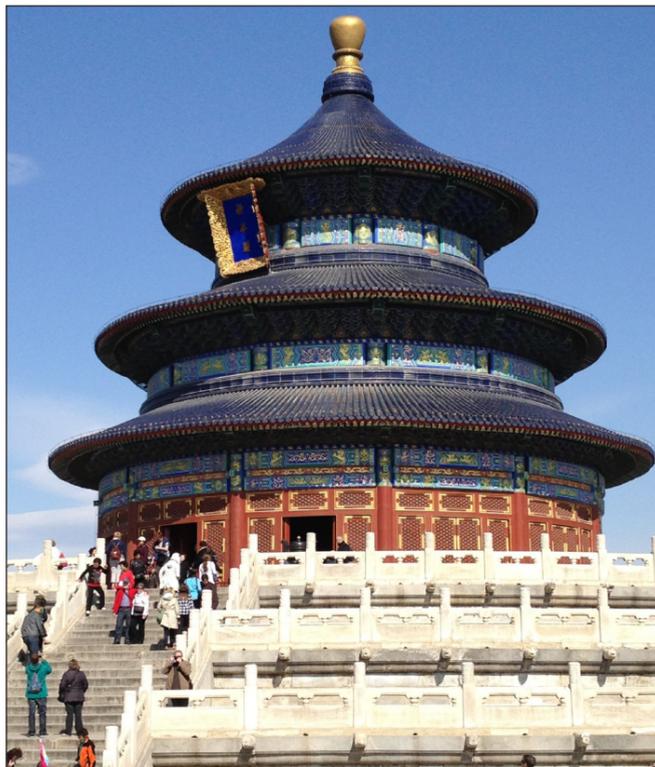


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY REBECCA CUMMINGS

Beijing temple recreates ancient ritual experience

The Temple of Heaven in Beijing reproduces the God of Heaven Praying Ceremony year round for tourists and visitors to experience the ritual of a music and dance tradition.

The ceremony was designed to preserve as much of the original atmosphere as possible. Rituals and dances within the ceremony are based on the historical record kept by the Qing Dynasty.

The ritual parade is composed of 320 guards, just like in ancient times, and the creator behind the experience made the emperor's sedan chair exactly as records claimed it was made.

The purpose of the God of Heaven Praying Ceremony is to demonstrate the importance of worship in Chinese culture and history. The show takes approximately 30 minutes but the recommended time to spend looking around the temple is two hours.

The Temple of Heaven is open 365 days of the year, just as it would have been in ancient times.

Correspondents' Corner

DAKAR, SENEGAL — I had the opportunity to stay in a village for a week and shadow Tostan, an NGO



KATHERINE WISE

that works for women's equality in Senegal. I lived in a village in the Kaolack region that spoke only Pular, a local language that I did not know. Despite the language barrier, I established many bonds with the people of the village. They had no electricity or running water, and the days were long and hot, but I have never lived in the moment as much as I did there. I believe this reflects that happiness exists in relationships, rather than with monetary items. Language is only a barrier if you make it one.

LONDON — I went hang gliding April 22 in the Swiss Alps. Not only was it one of the most adventurous things I



LEIGH ILER

have ever done, but it was also one of the best. Standing on the side of the mountain about to take off, I wasn't scared. Quite the contrary, really. Flying was the most amazing feeling and such an adrenaline rush. I was able to admire the beautiful landscape from an aerial perspective. The bright blue lake, luscious trees and snow-covered hills made for spectacular views. I have never seen anything as naturally breathtaking as the Alps. Interlaken truly is the prettiest place on Earth, and I am so grateful to have had this opportunity.

HONOLULU — We stopped for a couple of days in Hawaii to refuel, get supplies and go through immigration. We



REBECCA CUMMINGS

stepped foot on American soil April 25. All of a sudden, we were hearing American slang words, like "bro." There was a Wal-Mart and other American stores. The best part was that we had cell phone service again. We heard the voices of so many people we have not heard from in the past four months. Currently, we are in the middle of finals and finishing up the semester, and in a few days it will be time to pack our things and prepare to go home. People are ready to go home, but not ready to leave the ship yet. It has become home.

Editorial

Students speak louder through silence than speech

FEATURED ONLINE COMMENT

Contraception. The war on terror. President Barack Obama. Immigration rights. Same-sex marriage. Everyone has heard about these issues. And everyone is entitled to their opinion about them. But how many times do we actually hear what these opinions are?

Elon University would be better suited if its students were more vocal about their opinions, both social and political, as it would illustrate a more diverse and informed student body.

If you've been keeping up with The Pendulum, then you recently saw an excellent example of the importance of student opinion. Austin Faur, an Elon freshman, wrote a letter to the editor in support of Amendment One that ran in last week's edition.

Regardless of whether you agree with him, Faur took a considerable leap of faith by voicing his disagreement, an action that should be more encouraged at Elon.

But this should not serve as an impetus for students to blindly argue over trivial matters just for the sake of instigating discussion.

Implementing discussion over issues that divide us is part of Elon's perpetual goal to produce globally engaged citizens. And it is a goal whose success is largely dependent on the efforts made by its students.

In order to become globally engaged citizens, we must demonstrate an ongoing concern for the issues that envelop our society.

And while some Elon students are noticeably vocal about their social and political beliefs, it seems that most students are speaking louder through their silence than through their words.

Why students refrain from voicing their viewpoints varies with each student. Some students may be uncomfortable talking about their opinions in front of their peers for fear of being labeled.

Others actively avoid confrontation and disagreement in order to maintain the status quo. Still others may be uninformed or just apathetic toward social or political issues altogether.

But regardless of the reasons behind it, Elon students should not allow their silence to ring louder than their voices. Students should feel compelled to express their viewpoints without fear of social backlash.

Now, our conscious fear of disagreement and being labeled has allowed an overwhelming air of complacency to hang over our campus.

By complacency, we mean to suggest that there are bound to be some Elon students who do not necessarily agree with the actions and opinions that some of Elon's more socially outgoing students exemplify, but choose to remain silent so as to maintain the status quo.

Perhaps they disagreed with the significance of the recent Trayvon Martin protest

“College campuses are a place for differing opinions and debate, and they encourage students to broaden their horizons. It should not be a matter of what person or ideology is right or wrong, but rather what is best for the people on campus.”

march through campus. Others may have disagreed with the decisions made by SGA or The Pendulum to officially rally against Amendment One.

Whether lack of interest or fear of reprisal was the cause of their silence, we may never know. Those students seem to exist as the true unspoken minority.

Often, fear of being labeled as belonging within the minority, or the other side, is one of the predominant causes of lack of discussion amongst students on college campuses.

Human beings are social creatures, and our basic human tendencies propel us to want to feel desired and welcomed by our peers, not to be ostracized and shunned by them.

Unfortunately, our

society's current obsession with labels has now divided our population into two opposing factions on every issue. Liberal versus conservative, pro-life versus pro-choice, support our troops versus anti-war.

This self-imposed animosity between us deals more damage than any weapon ever could. It has allowed for the creation of an “us-versus-them” mentality in our society, one that is more restricting toward the free exchange of ideas and opinions than most recognize.

College campuses are a place for differing opinions and debate, and they encourage students to broaden their horizons. It should not be a matter of what person or ideology is right or wrong, but rather what is best for the people on campus.

These days, identifying oneself as a liberal or conservative isn't exclusive to politics. It's treated as a lifestyle now, one that colorizes one's cultural, familial and religious values.

Most students, however, do not want to be labeled as one or the other. Many college students today balance a combination of conservative and liberal beliefs, and are unwilling to take a side for fear of choosing the “wrong one.”

In this case, it is our complacency, our fear of disagreement, that is truly dividing us. Our students' silence is deafening, and must be quieted now.

The comment below was posted on The Pendulum's story about the death of Elon sophomore Jordan West:

"My name is Malyk Ellis, I am an 9yr old in third grade at Elon Elementary student that Jordan worked with, he helped me with my homework, he played with me, he meant so much to me, he was my best friend and I am really sad that I will not ever get to spend time with him again but my Mom is going to make me a locket with his picture in it and he will always be close to my heart <3 I will pray everyday! I am really sad for his family and all of his friends and I don't want to go to school tomorrow but I will, Loseing (sic) him is a big loss! He told me a few days ago that his back hurt and I wish there was something I could do and now he is gone but I will never forget him he was the nicest friend that I could ever have had! I am really sad :(Pray for me as I pray for you!"

Post your comments online at ElonPendulum.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I feel that someone should say this, even if it seems insensitive and maybe even counterproductive to a worthy cause: You shouldn't vote either way for Amendment unless you are an actual North Carolina resident. Did you grow up here? Does your family live in the state? Do you plan to live in the state beyond or outside your Elon experience? These are real questions that you and our school's representatives should ask before appealing for mass student support of this highly localized issue. We all know that most of the school are not North Carolina natives — 60 percent of us, in fact, come from outside the state. And yet numerous emails from student organizations and even Elon

University officials have called for all students to vote one way or the other, since technically, as students, they have the right to vote on the issue.

But, do they? I feel that this issue especially hits home with me, since I'm from New York, where cultural norms and social values are quite different from those traditional to the Southeast and North Carolina. Even though I personally believe that love is love regardless of the sex organs you happen to possess, who am I to have any say in how North Carolinians decide they feel regarding issues surrounding same-sex marriage and how they might affect taxes and the culture in general?

This issue really boils down to the idea of freedom of choice — the entire principle behind supporting the rights of others to pursue romance in whatever manner feels natural to them — and yet here we are, saying, “No, the beliefs and opinions of actual North Carolina residents matter less than the social justice perceived by our bubble community in voting against this bill.” Again, who are we to judge, and believe we have the right to influence the decisions of actual state residents.

Regardless of whether you support or disagree with the proposed Amendment, you are, in a way violating the principles of tolerance and respect for the

differences of others by assuming that your outside perspective is equal in value to those who may actually be affected by the results of the coming vote.

So, if you really support the implications of individual liberties that these types of legislative efforts are trying to address, please don't poke your nose in other people's business. Let the North Carolina residents decide for themselves, and if your license plate isn't red and white and says, “First in Flight” on it, do the right thing and stay at home. Maybe North Carolina will vote to ratify Amendment One — but that's their decision, not yours, Yankee.

Griffin Sager-Gellerman, '12

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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

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

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.ElonPendulum.com, where commentary can be quickly posted.

Opinions

American privacy being invaded under guise of national security

During President Barack Obama's first term in office, the new president and his liberal allies in Congress faced



Ryan Maass
Columnist

severe criticism for back room legislating and lax governing. Republicans, too, shared the blame, as they were deemed incapable of being able to block the passage of these laws.

With the economy still going under and the disputed "necessity"

of the wars abroad coming into focus, populist groups screamed louder against the growth of "big government," and changed the face of Congress in the process in 2010.

Now Obama is faced with the harsh reality of his record as president. Republican rival Mitt Romney is leading the polls and the charge is that the president has allowed government to grow beyond its financial means and constitutional limits.

While this charge is correct, we must realize the blood is on all of their hands in Washington.

One of the greatest myths in American politics today is the assumption that the Republican party is the advocate of small government conservatism. Akin to this is the assumption the Democratic party is the bastion of liberal big government.

The truth is they are two sides of the same coin, and the two parties have taken advantage of the limited choices Americans have in electing their governments.

Congressman Allen West (R-FL) recently tweeted he would be voting in favor of the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA). West has been a local Tea Party favorite in the district, a self-proclaimed, small government conservative dedicated

to preserving individual liberty and cutting spending.

But nothing about CISPA is in the least bit conservative. HR 3523's provisions would allow sharing of information between the Federal Government and technology companies, effectively limiting online privacy and civil liberties.

Republican Mike Rogers of Michigan originally introduced this legislation and has defended it staunchly, claiming it to be vital to national security.

We've all heard this argument before, one that the Founders warned against when they framed the republic.

Trading our liberties for perceived securities of any kind, perhaps financial or defensive, undermines the American experiment of a strong nation where individuals take care of themselves and one another free of tyrannical restrictions.

Tea Party favorites are giving into the temptations of statist power. Florida Senator Marco Rubio recently came under scrutiny by former supporters after revealing a preference for a "muscular, robust foreign policy." A policy of policing the globe that comes at the expense of American taxpayers and the security of our armed forces.

West and Rubio are known supporters of the Patriot Act, SOPA and the NDAA — all measures that have allocated (or attempted to) additional power to the executive branch to peer into the private lives of American citizens under the guise of national security. West and Rubio would recover conservative support by repudiating their mistakes and denouncing further assaults on privacy.

The general election draws near. All advocates of liberty and small government would do well to research those they intend to vote for, and keep their eyes on them once they have made their way into office. It is painfully apparent that this country cannot afford to let elected officials do as they please. Remember — they work for us.

Despite stereotype, not all women share same beliefs

Categorizing female vote an example of new-age sexism

Women, the 2012 candidates are after you. Whether it's the "Moms for Mitt" Facebook page or the "Women



Samantha Siberini
Columnist

for Obama Party Pack," available for purchase on the president's website, there is tangible proof that politicians are trying to single women out as a special group.

Would we ever see "Men for Romney" or "Guys for Obama" merchandise? Probably not, but there are racially targeted products like "Hispanics for Obama" shirts available online. With this logic, one would think that women are a minority group, when in fact, they are slightly more than half of the population.

It is as though all women have the same beliefs, and the candidates (or their strategists) think they can draw them all in at once with some magic words.

In a nation where "feminist" has become a dirty word for many, it is apparent that women aren't always wooed by the crusaders for women's rights.

Some care more about birth control, some care more about the economy and there will never be any kind of consensus reached among every female American.

The women's vote is just as much the human's vote. They will decide based on the issues that matter to them, not who is targeting them more during campaign season. Also, let's give women some credit; they know that once the president is elected come November, most of

these promises, if not all of them, are conveniently forgotten.

In addition, it is juvenile to think that the women's vote is based on the issues alone. Sometimes a person simply does not like or trust the candidate, regardless of their platform. Both Romney and Obama have been in the public eye for several years, plenty of time to make gaffes and get on peoples' nerves. The likeability factor should not be underestimated, because not everyone is rigidly adhering to a political party.

Also, one cannot discount religion in the decision-making process. If voters disapprove of Mormonism, they might choose Obama, whereas the people who believe Obama is actually a Muslim — and have a problem with that, for whatever reason — will more likely vote for Romney.

The media an individual consumes is powerful enough that one candidate may be favored over another based on conscious or unconscious biases.

With the magic of the Internet, a person can seek out the information desired rather than the information needed to make a fair decision. Then there are those who vote for whomever their family wants them to. Women can be influenced by any or none of the above factors, just as men can.

Politicians' attempts at seducing women to their side are somewhat akin to retailers making their products pink so that girls or women buy them. This is 21st century sexism, folks. Women have ideas of their own, and they can take their opinions to the polls. They can change their minds just as easily as men do.

The women's vote is not "a sure thing." Go find a real interest group.

Issues of immigrant rights found only minutes away from Elon

This semester at Elon, through a class in the religious studies department, I had the opportunity



Jessica Rexroad
Columnist

to intern with Faith Action International House, a social justice organization located in downtown Greensboro. I came into this class and the resulting internship expecting to learn a lot, meet new people and take

critical looks at what it means to be a Christian in today's rapidly changing world.

What I did not expect was to be confronted with very real injustices that are occurring not just thousands of years ago in the Bible, and not just across the world and in presidential policy debates, but right here in our neighborhood.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) centers are used to hold undocumented immigrants. According to ICE policy, individuals are held based on suspicion of visa violation, illegal entry or unauthorized arrival.

The practice of detaining undocumented immigrants in these centers began in the United States in the early 1980s, but was made mandatory by legislation passed in 1996.

Historically, these detention camps



Despite having entered the country illegally, the practice of detaining undocumented immigrants has sparked considerable debate on the neglectful treatment that many receive while confined in isolation.

reach as far back as World War II, when Japanese-Americans and other "suspicious" immigrant groups were forced to relocate during the war.

On any given day in the United States, approximately 31,000 non-citizens are held in about 250 immigration detention centers nationwide. In 2011, the average length of stay in one of these detention centers was approximately 27 days.

But many people do not live to see their stay come to an end. Dozens die while inside the centers from neglectful treatment or as a result of the inadequate access to health care. In some severe cases, inhabitants

of these detention centers are never even allowed outside.

While it would be easy to write this off as another far away political issue that will never penetrate the safety of our Elon "bubble," what if you knew that there is in fact an immigrant detention center right here in Alamance County, located in Graham?

How many students here even know this exists? Would it be any different if someone you know ended up there, a mere 20 minutes away from our picturesque campus?

Whether you belong to one faith, many faiths or no faith at all, I think most of us as Elon students can agree that a part of our own individual

value systems include the idea of human dignity. How then can we sit by as people coming to this country seeking refuge and the chance of a better life are wronged and mistreated?

Many other universities in the nation have begun visitation programs to centers like the one found in Graham.

What would it take for Elon to step up and do the same? How would our world change if we could only look at these people as neighbors, friends in need of assistance, rather than strangers?

With the upcoming presidential elections, immigration has once again been pulled into the spotlight of public policy. Because of the increased and often negative attention given to issues involving immigration during elections, citizens are left with muddled ideas about the immigrants themselves. Are they nuisances draining our economy? Invaders diluting our culture?

This division between citizens and immigrants not only divides our borders, but also divides our very notion of freedom in America. At what cost do we draw this line so that only some people can express their natural rights as human beings and only citizens have a share in the rights we take for granted as Americans?

Immigrants founded America in the first place, trying to find religious freedom. Why can't we embrace the different cultures that just want to share the American dream?

Operation Education Improvement

Kate Riley
Special Projects Editor

In reponse to lack of education funding, students, teachers, administrators rally in support of new initiatives

The Alamance-Burlington School System provides a public school education to students in and around Alamance County, including many children of faculty and staff members of Elon University. However, Elon President Leo Lambert said he has seen a trend of staff members sending their children to surrounding school systems because they're dissatisfied with education in ABSS.

"My perceptions are that in an ideal world, I would want the faculty and staff of Elon University to live in Alamance County and have their families and children involved in the ABSS school system," he said.

Lambert said Elon works with ABSS to improve education and believes there are multiple benefits to this relationship. But he also said he believes there are things that could be improved.

"I don't fault anyone for the choices they're making, but I just don't believe that Alamance County aspires to have a world-class school district — and it should."

The amount of federal, state and local money put toward funding education in various school systems across the country has decreased in the past few years. ABSS is no different. Federal and state budget cuts for ABSS for the 2012-2013 school year totals about \$5.4 million overall, and this number affects teaching conditions, supplies in the classroom, available institution technologies and other items that directly impact a child's education.

Elon faculty discuss

Although Lambert discussed his perception of what faculty members at Elon are doing in terms of their children's education, this is not always the case. Some professors have chosen to stay in Alamance County with their families but are still not completely satisfied with their children's education.

Faculty and staff at Elon who have children in the school system have

their own opinions about not only the education provided at various schools in Alamance County, but also the services and facilities that children receive. Paula Rosinski, associate professor of English, has two children, one of whom is in school at Elon Elementary. Her 6-year-old son Jake is in the first grade.

"We intentionally bought a house in the Elon Elementary district because we liked the idea of living, working and sending our children to school in the same district," she said. "We wanted to be a part of supporting education at all different levels in our community."

Rosinski said the leadership at Elon Elementary is strong and that Principal Jack Davern is working hard to improve education at the school. One of the main successes, she said, is the Splash! language immersion program. Splash! classrooms are created to allow students to learn a second language while also working in their core studies.

Rosinski said the county needs to think about the amount of tax money that goes toward funding education.

"The district needs to seriously consider this issue, because Elon Elementary is working hard to educate our children well, but the school is underfunded," she said. "That is a shame and it is an embarrassment. Parents have to donate basic supplies like toilet paper, tissue, Band-Aids, cleaning supplies, paper, crayons — how sad is that? The Parent Teacher Organization also raises money to pay for the art teacher's salary."

Chris Leupold, associate professor of psychology, agreed. He said although there are great teachers and his children have had a good experience so far, he said, the overall school system is "weak." This is partly because it is so poorly funded, he said.

"There are things that I wish we had — more languages, more resources for specials," Leupold said, speaking about classes such as art and music. "But in terms of pure education, my kids have had great teachers and have been appropriately challenged. I am also very happy with the

Spanish immersion program, which is an incredibly progressive thing for ABSS."

ABSS issues and proposed budget

In North Carolina, 37 percent of the overall state budget goes toward funding K-12 public schools. Although this may sound like a significant part of the budget, many school districts have had to cut their individual budgets, which include both state and federal money.

ABSS has a total of 36 schools and is the second largest employer in Alamance County, according to the superintendent's 2012-2013 proposed budget. Not only are budget cuts affecting 2,619 ABSS employees, but the school system is the learning environment to more than 22,000 students. Those students and teachers are dependent on federal, state and local money to help create new education initiatives and opportunities. But major federal and state budget cuts — about \$5.4 million for 2012-2013 combined, according to the state budget — have prompted ABSS to make some major alterations to its budget, according to ABSS Superintendent Lillie Cox.

"We are going to build our budget on what we need to spend, not what we have to spend," Cox said, referring to what she calls zero-based budgeting. "This way, we will have a more accurate picture of what we need to operate as a school system. We are trying to find some funds and save some money. I'm still going to have to cut positions, but hopefully this will make the major cuts of \$5.4 million a little more manageable."

These cuts affect numerous aspects of the school system, including teaching and other staff positions, classroom supplies, per-student spending and other changes that students might not be able to see directly, Cox said. She pointed out that some of the changes include things such as fewer custodians per school or the grass of a school not being cut as often — not always things that children might be able to name, but things that can impact a child's school experience. There are more

classroom-related items that might also affect a public school experience, such as more children in a classroom, which leads to less one-on-one attention. This also might mean something like a teacher who isn't trained in a general curriculum program, but these items vary across the state, Cox said.

"What I think that people need to understand is that you can't just make money up," she said. "It's going to take us years to get back to where we were, to improve the quality of teaching."

One of the ways Cox said ABSS is trying to "get back" to the way things were is through the Common Core curriculum. North Carolina adopted the Common Core State Standards Initiative in 2010, which was "developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce," according to the Common Core Standards website. The program offers a common curriculum across North Carolina that standardizes what is taught in each grade.

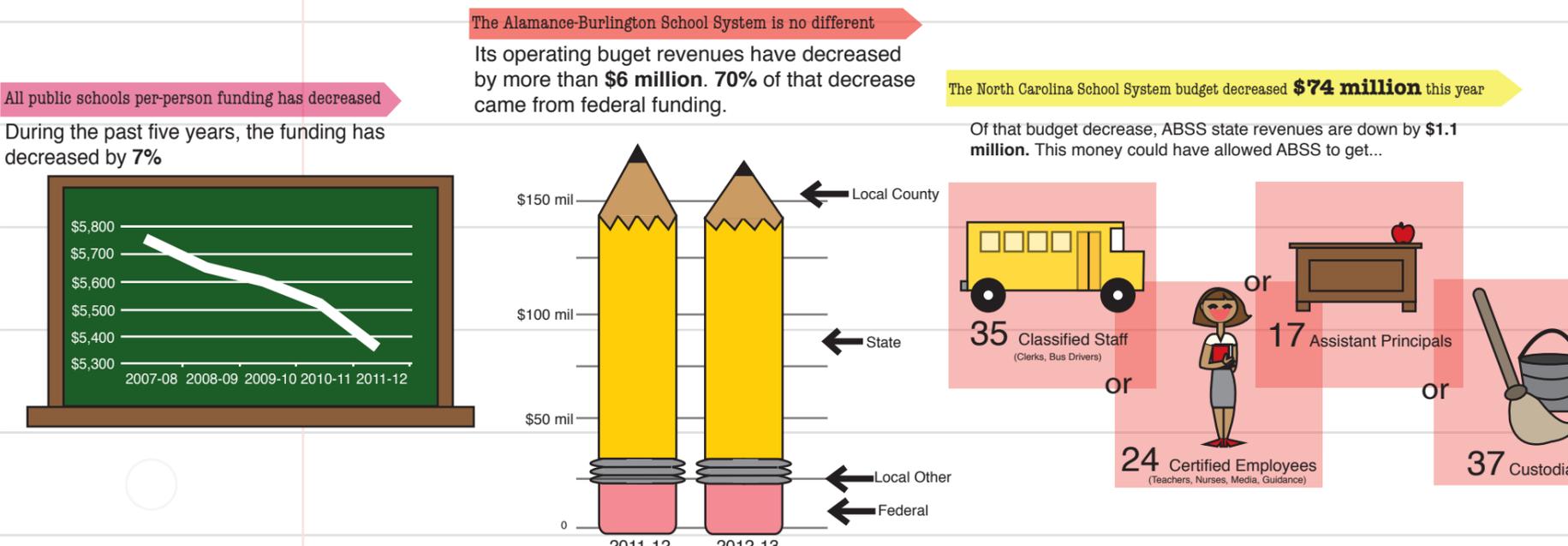
Superintendent's goals and initiatives

According to Cox, the program has enhanced student learning despite budget cuts, even for students who have to transfer schools, because each teacher will have similar curricula. This program also defines the skills and knowledge that students should gain during their K-12 years. Some of this includes the alignment with college and work expectations, rigorous content and application of knowledge through skills and building upon strengths and lessons of current state standards, according to the Common Core website.

Along with the continuation of the Common Core curriculum, one of the school system's big initiatives is an investment in technology. The 2012-2013 proposed budget allocates \$4 million to investments in technology. Despite these new initiatives, ABSS still has a lot of work to do to fully understand and use

Graphic by Paige Gregory
Interactive Projects Editor

How the public school's funding decrease plagues





ABSS provides in-classroom education to more than 20,000 students despite major budget cuts throughout the past few years. File photo.

the new items the best it can, Cox said. "We put a SMART Board, laptop, overhead projector and a document camera in every classroom grades 6-12," she said. "I could see how appreciative the teachers are. It helps with lesson plans and lets children get up and do things on the SMART Board. We are nowhere near where we need to be as far as its use." A main reason for the problems in ABSS education is a lack of professional development within the school system, Cox said. Professional development "helps teachers to increase their expertise in their fields and assists them in improving their teaching methods," according to the Annenberg Learner website, an organization devoted to teacher professional development. These programs enhance the abilities and qualities of teachers overall, but because of funding issues, have been cut. ABSS is trying to make up for this loss in various ways, Cox pointed out, but it does affect the quality of education for students in the classroom.

In the classroom: Putting education to the test

Although budgets have a great impact on a school system as a whole, direct teacher-student interaction is what produces certain test scores and graduation rates — students, teachers and administrators agree. In End-of-Grade tests specifically, the school system aims to improve. In the 2010-2011 school year, 65.1 percent of students grades 3-8 scored at or above a Level III on their reading EOGs and EOCs, or End-of-Course tests. The lowest a student can receive in North Carolina on an EOG is a one, the highest is a four and to pass, a child must receive a three or above. ABSS hopes to increase those scores by an average of 6.5 points, from 65.1 percent to 71.6 percent for the 2012-2013 school year, eventually achieving a 100 percent passing rate in the public school system. One of the problems, and solutions, for these test scores comes simply from

teacher and student interaction, and how material is taught, said Western Alamance High School English teacher and 2012 graduate of Elon's Master of Education program Stephen Stiegel. "It's not supposed to be the mere memorization of facts," he said. "We have to think about what it really means to be educated. People can memorize long strings of things, but they really need to know what questions to ask. It's scary how little critical thought there is." Stiegel then pointed out that ABSS can't really do anything about it specifically, but the emphasis needs to be more on how teachers work in the classroom. Principals monitor teacher progress and initiatives, Cox said, and ABSS works closely with principals to instruct them on how to best coach teachers to make them more effective which, in turn, helps education for children overall. "We have to teach children how to think, not just how to learn," Cox said. It's this idea that could help improve test scores and overall education.

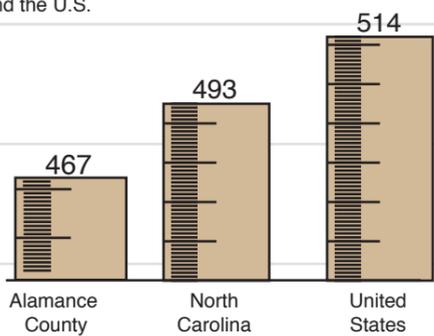
"In middle school, it would have been great to have more hands-on learning," said Graham High school senior Deann Bradsher. "I think that the teachers could have put more effort into their students to help them understand the concepts. But high school has been much better. Most of the teachers will work with you and help you. They didn't really push you in middle school, but now they do." Bradsher and freshman Melina Meza, both students at Graham High School, believe the difference in primary and secondary education is significant, in terms of teacher quality and helpfulness. "When I was in elementary school, teachers really didn't help me as much," Meza said. "In math classes, I still have trouble with basic multiplication sometimes. It's hard for me, but I can do it now. In middle school, you can pretty much get away with anything. When you get to high school, it's hard and the

See ABSS | PAGE 14

Supports the Alamance-Burlington School System's education

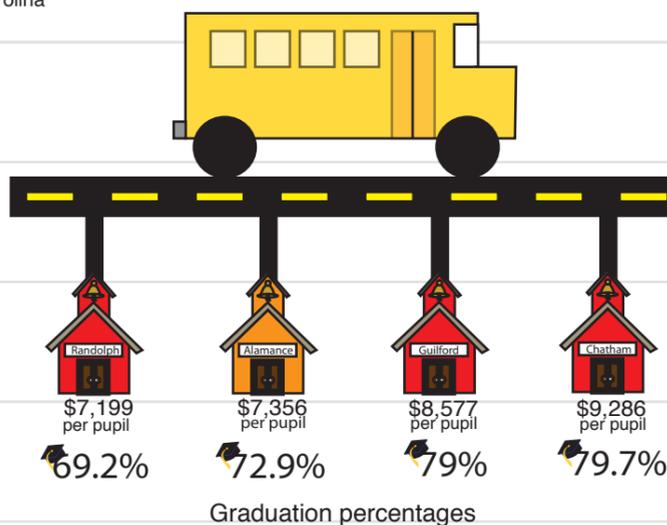
Alamance County has overall lower SAT averages

Its reading scores in 2011 were lower than both North Carolina and the U.S.



Compared to surrounding school districts, ABSS is behind

The more money spent per student in ABSS's surrounding districts, the higher its graduation rate is.



Elon University has many ways to get involved

How Elon reaches out to Alamance-Burlington School System

Elon Academy:
College access & success program for academically promising students

Contact: elonacademy@elon.edu

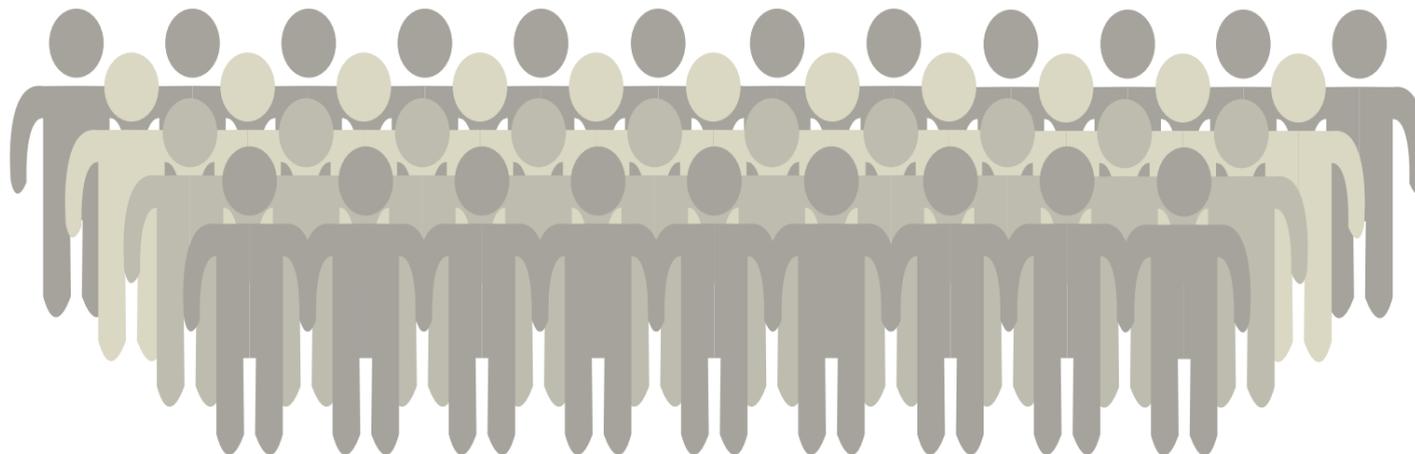
Elon Teaching and Learning Partnership
Contact: pfelten@elon.edu

Summer Learning and Enrichment Academy
Contact: jworkman@elon.edu

Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement
Contact: elonvols@elon.edu

Office of Education Outreach
Programs for public school teachers and other community-based opportunities for whole community
Contact: jrouse@elon.edu

ABSS is the 2nd largest employer in Alamance County



Elon community strives for ABSS improvement

ABSS from PAGES 12-13

teachers push you more.”

One of the major problems in how teachers present information to their students is that they do not trust new initiatives, Stiegel said. These include things such as the Common Core. He emphasized how it's not going to just fix everything automatically — teachers have to take the time to learn new information and how to present it in order for it to be effective. This issue reflects the lack of professional development and the effect that it truly has on teachers and students.

David Cooper, dean of the school of Education at Elon, said there is no magic solution to fixing overall

education standards and that it really needs to be a community-wide effort. There is evidence that school reform alone is not sufficient.

“We have to do a better job at recruiting highly qualified teachers,” he said. “We need those new teachers coming in more and more but they're coming in less and less. First-year teachers are among the lowest performing teachers, and half of them leave within five years.”

Cox realizes this as well. She said there are a number of things that could be done to improve overall education standards, as well as boost teaching in the classroom. She also said she realizes ABSS has flaws and that she, along with her administration, is trying to improve them.

“I am constantly pushing for innovation and new ideas, but not just to be new and different,” she said. “It's because sometimes I feel like the rest of the world is moving past Alamance County and innovation is easier to implement in other school systems. But it's really important that our children here can compete with children across the state and across the country. We have to help this community understand that we have to teach our children in a different way, and that's a major challenge for me.”

Initiatives

It's not just the individual schools and school systems that can aid in pushing new initiatives and improving education standards in the classroom. Elon University has a number of outreach programs that cater to the public school system in Alamance County.

Cooper realizes how vital a partnership between the university and the local community is — it's mutually beneficial, he said.

“More than three-fourths of teacher candidates do some sort of student-teaching or other practical work,” Cooper said. “It prepares student teachers in partnership with the teachers in public schools in research activities.”

One of the most widely known of these programs is the Elon Academy, a “college access and success program for academically promising high school students in Alamance County with a financial need and/or no family history of college,” according to the Elon Academy website. Ninety-eight percent of students who complete this program are enrolled in college.

Many Elon students act as mentors to students who are enrolled in the academy, whether College Access Team mentors (CAT mentors), Elon Academy Ambassadors or other tutors or academic coaches. These scholars have become experts in college planning and skills and are spreading that

message further, said John Pickett, Elon Academy assistant director of scholar support.

He said although the Elon Academy is strong in its initiatives, it is also a small program. It's going to take a push from many of students and faculty to create a solid, lasting relationship with the public school system and its students, he said.

“What has to happen is that there has to be a real commitment as a whole,” Pickett said. “I try to go to an elementary school once a week to eat lunch with students. It should be a university-wide initiative to go to local

schools and volunteer. But it should be inspired, not mandatory. It's a small thing you can do.”

Pickett emphasized the importance of getting off Elon's campus and going into the community, into the public schools as a student at Elon.

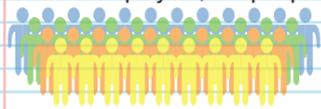
“Alamance County is full of diversity,” he said. “This could connect students with our neighbors. You are living here, but you may not know about the diversity or have been exposed to it. Our No. 1 initiative is supporting the students, but this is a real opportunity for Elon students to use it as a vehicle to experience diversity.”

By the numbers: ABSS facts

- Student-teacher ratio is 8 to 1



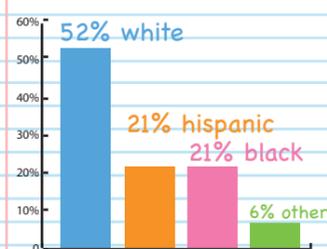
- ABSS employs 2,619 people



- There are more than 22,000 students in ABSS



- The breakdown of students in ABSS is as follows:



- 54% of student receive free or reduced-price lunches.

- ABSS has invested \$4 million in technology

KRISTEN CASE | Design Editor



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Elon students get wild at Conservators' Center

Sarah Carideo
Reporter

Some Elon University students are completely unaware of their neighbors — even when that includes lions, tigers, wolves and other wild animals. Only one town over in Mebane, the Conservators' Center rescues and provides homes for a variety of animals.

The Conservators' Center was founded in 1999 by Doug Evans and Mindy Stinner, and began as a conservation breeding facility with no intent to house big cats. But both founders had experience with large felines, and eventually people began seeking their expertise. As time went on, the once small, private conservation breeding facility transformed into a large, public organization with a three-part mission.

The mission states the Conservators' Center is a nonprofit organization that preserves threatened species through rescuing wildlife in need, responsible captive breeding and providing educational programs and support worldwide.

It describes the center's approach as "the home of last resort." They accept and care for the animals that no one else wants, ranging from cases of abuse and neglect, to owners simply being unable to care for these animals on their own.

Mandy Matson handles communications at the Conservators' Center and said that both founders "have a magical way with abused and neglected animals."

In addition to rescuing animals, the Conservators' Center also works to preserve obscure species through selective breeding. They follow an organized plan to ensure the species' survival, and are currently working with binturongs, New Guinea singing dogs, Geoffrey's cats and jungle cats. They do not breed big cats or wolves.

Education is the last portion of its mission, which supports the other two parts.

"The goal is to introduce people to species through meeting individual animals," Matson said. "The animals could be considered ambassadors for their species and people walk away understanding them more."

This is how the Conservators' Center differs from the average zoo. Exhibits at zoos are designed for people and are intended to display animals



A tiger sleeps lazily at the Conservator's Center in Mebane. The Center primarily houses big cats. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

for entertainment and educational purposes. The Conservators' Center accomplishes the same goals as a zoo, but through a different approach.

Instead of creating displays focusing on aesthetics to amuse visitors, the Conservators' Center designs the enclosures with the animals' needs as the primary concern. Additionally, to support the educational portion of its mission, visitors are taken on guided tours of the facilities instead of walking around alone.

In order for tours to happen, there is a structured, daily routine to ensure all of the animals are healthy and happy.

During the day, the animals are shifted out of their enclosures to smaller holding areas so that workers can go in and clean the area, change the water and leave food and any medications.

"It's very fortunate that the Conservators' Center is located in a rural area in a wonderful farming community that allows us to work with farmers and acquire chickens."

They also have agreements with grocery stores for additional meat.

The Conservators' Center accepts other forms of support, including intern and volunteer programs.

These programs allow students to work side-by-side with the keepers and learn all about working with the animals and maintaining the facilities.

Senior Anne Randolph Goddard said she wasn't sure what her volunteer

activities would be. She assumed she would mostly help with odd jobs around the compound and wouldn't have much interaction with the animals.

But she said her actual experience was completely different from her expectations.

"I am amazed with how close we are able to work with the rare and exotic animals," she said. "I'm in close contact with tigers, leopards, lions, servals and other exotics on a weekly basis. Of course, I follow safety rules and regulations and never come within a certain distance of them, but I cannot describe the experience of being able to stare into the eyes of an adult lion or having a tiger 'chuff' a hello to you."

Another senior, Natalie Butler, said she would recommend that others volunteer at the Conservators' Center.

"It's been an eye-opening experience for me, in discovering both how intensive exotic animal care is and also in becoming closer than ever before to animals that some people have never even seen," she said.

The Conservator's Center offers tours by appointment. Contact the center by emailing tours@conservatorscenter.org.

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World class dining at Morazi's Pizza & International Grill

At Morazi's International Grill, customers are not just customers — they're family. This restaurant



Andrew Tilden
Columnist

is so rooted in the community that locals simply call it, "Terri and Max's place." The International Grill has been a local fixture since 1987, when ownership was passed down from the

Highlander Seafood Restaurant. Generations of customers have dined at this community epicenter. Owner Terri Akhlaghi has witnessed regulars grow up, just as regulars have witnessed her own children grow up. When her children were in diapers, they set up a play-pen at the restaurant.

Off of Highway 87, Morazi's is a short seven-minute drive and a total of three turns from campus.

Terri Akhlaghi was born in Mexico City. Raised by a restaurant family, she's been around the business since early childhood. Her husband, Max, born in Iran, is the manager of Acorn Coffee Shop.

Terri Akhlaghi originally founded the place as a pizzeria, but she soon realized her advantage — she and her husband both have unique backgrounds. Thus, Morazi's International Grill was born. You can find anything from Mexican to Persian, Indian to Greek cuisines here.

But not so fast — the pizza at Morazi's is nothing to look past. They use homemade dough and sauce, recipes perfected during the last 25 years. They use a 50 percent whole milk and 50 percent skim milk mozzarella mixed with provolone to match New York-style pizza.

To honor the roots of the former Highlander restaurant, a seafood menu was recently added at Morazi's. This was by request of regulars who needed somewhere to satisfy their seafood fix. Whitefish is fried Southern-style and the hand-breaded fresh fish was a delightful surprise.

Requests from customers are welcome at Morazi's International Grill. I heard a story about one regular who does a lot of business in India and the Middle East. After his request, Wednesday nights are Indian or Persian nights at Morazi's.

Philly cheesesteaks are "as good as Philly," they claim. I've never been to Philadelphia, so I couldn't fairly compare. But upon my first bite, I was thinking I might need to take a trip up there sometime soon. The secret is the meat itself — it's quality ribeye shipped in from New Jersey. And they don't skimp on it either — the large cheesesteak will have eight ounces of the shaved meat accompanied by caramelized onions from the grill.

Fire-breathing fanatics are in for a treat here. My favorite option is the buffalo wings. For those brave enough, Akhlaghi will use homegrown habanero peppers to turn up the heat in her homemade sauce.

A place like this makes it tough for a food critic to be solely critiquing food. Yes, food is the main event here. And yes, the food does receive high marks. But as you sit in Morazi's and take it in, you realize food is only the part of the reason to come here. You feel like family here and no food can substitute that.

Visit Morazi's Pizza & International Grill at: 2085 North NC Highway 87

Unconventional E-Net post reveals hidden hypnotist on campus

Audrey Horwitz
Senior Reporter

It all started when sophomore Cameron Williams was at cross country camp in the 10th grade. As a breathing exercise, one of his coaches hypnotized the team. Williams was intrigued and decided to do some research of his own.

Since then, he has learned more about hypnosis through Internet research and practice.

"Hypnosis is the kind of thing you learn by doing," Williams said.

And for Williams, Elon University was a place to practice his skills.

April 25, sophomore Cameron Williams posted an ad on E-Net that read: "Stress relief through hypnosis."

Juniors Bryn Bair, Annie Fuller and Deirdre Loftus read his post on E-Net and decided to take him up on the offer.

"We weren't quite sure what to expect because none of us had ever been hypnotized before," Bair said.

They were skeptical, but found that his techniques worked for them.

"Cameron definitely helped to relieve our stress,"

Bair said. "We felt much more relaxed afterward. We were very focused and calm for the rest of the night."

Loftus was similarly soothed by the experience.

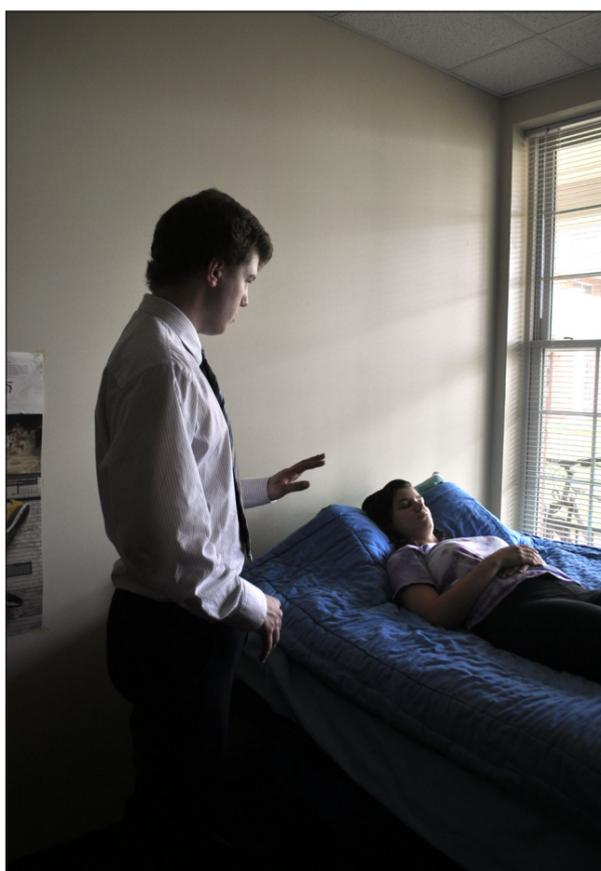
"I didn't really know what I was expecting," said Loftus. "I guess for someone to come and make me do things while I was under a trance, which I was a bit nervous about. I definitely felt really relaxed and at ease when he was done. It was like my legs had turned to jelly and I didn't want to get up because I thought it would ruin it."

Before posting on E-Net, Williams practiced on friends and family members. Once he convinced his brother that he was a bar of steel through hypnosis. Williams then proceeded to jump on top of his brother, who suffered no injuries.

At Elon, Williams is completing his degree in entrepreneurship.

"Both of my parents are small business owners," Williams said. "I always wanted to be an entrepreneur."

His father is an electrical contractor and his mother runs a consulting firm. His idea of a small business may be more eccentric than that of his parents, but that



Cameron Williams practices hypnosis on sophomore Tessa Kiefer. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

does not bother him. After graduation, he plans to find a place where there is a need for alternative medicine

and set up a hypnosis clinic. Until then, he hopes that Elon students will let him practice on them.

From class to farm: Students grow understanding of food production

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

The demand for food is expected to double by 2050, according to Jerry Dorsett, adjunct instructor of environmental studies at Elon University, and the need for sustainable agriculture is going to grow with it.

In North Carolina, agriculture is the largest industry, accounting for \$70 billion of the state's economy, according to Dorsett. He also said 17 percent of North Carolina jobs are in the production of food and 80 different agricultural

commodities are produced.

For Dorsett, choosing to teach students about the industry was a no-brainer. He decided to lead Community Agriculture: Spring Planting to bring the social, economic and scientific aspects of farming to those who don't know much about it.

"Most of the students who take my classes tell me that they love to eat, but understand little about where their food comes from," Dorsett said.

But, some students enroll in the class with an established interest in agriculture. "I'm very interested in the organic food

movement and I wanted to see exactly where the food comes from," junior Mary Schwarzwaelder said. "I became interested when I watched 'Food Inc.' and this class seemed like a good fit."

Dorsett focuses the course on sustainable planting and the importance of farms. The semester's major project involves designing a garden for a family of four using sustainable practices. The students learn about crop rotation, seed planting and other guidelines.

He often finds that this is the first exposure some students have to the farming process.

"At the beginning of each semester, I survey the students in each class to determine their knowledge and interest in agriculture," he said. "At the end of each semester I survey again, and most students communicate a better understanding and appreciation for agriculture."

Sophomore Diandra Verbeyst is one of those students. She said she learned a lot in the course that relates to her interest in agriculture, but also her career plans in marine resource management.

"Even though this class focuses just on gardening techniques, it's nice to learn about gardening food production," she said. "I can use the information we learn on field trips to compare to other situations."

Field trips to nearby farms and food markets take place every Friday. In addition, the class works on Loy Farm, located near South campus, on Wednesdays.

For many students, the interactive experience is what drew them to the

course.

"I took it because I'm an especially active person, and I knew the class would involve extending beyond the information we've learned in the classroom and we'll actually be able to put our planning for gardens into action," Verbeyst said.

Learning about agriculture far surpasses academic importance. With the increase in food demand there is likely to be a greater need for small farms.

"Food production doesn't meet the population rate that our world is growing at," Verbeyst said. "I'm trying to learn how to make my life more sustainable so I influence those around me once I get into the real world."

This sort of empowerment is exactly what Dorsett said he is hoping for.

"My approach as an instructor is to create a learning atmosphere that is both challenging and enjoyable, with the goal of changing student thinking," he said. "I wish all students at Elon University had the opportunity to learn about the basics of agriculture and to appreciate its role in maintaining this state as a beautiful place to work, live and vacation."

MORE ONLINE

See students get experience at a honey bee farm.

<http://pend.lu/garden>

SHERYL DAVIS | Multimedia Editor



Professor Jerry Dorsett identifies soil at Loy Farm. Students in the spring planting course visit the Loy Farm once a week to learn about success planting strategies.

Former dancer puts background to work as university accompanist

Claire Esparros
Photo Editor

Sandy Blocker was told he couldn't chase his dreams because he was white. As a senior about to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a BFA in dance, Blocker attended a class that he said changed his life.

"A friend of mine invited me to watch his African dance class," Blocker said. "I just watched, not the dancers, but the (African) drummer."

Blocker told the drummer, Hashim Sali, he wanted to learn to play the drums. Sali immediately told him no because he was white and didn't know enough about Africa. Blocker was too hooked to accept no for an answer.

"I went back with more information than he was ready for me to put on him," Blocker said.

Within a few semesters, he became the staff accompanist for UNCG's dance department, paving the way for his career.

Balletic beginnings

Blocker had been trained as a classical dancer from an early age. In 1988, he moved to Greensboro to attend UNCG, going back to the city where he was raised. After graduating with a BFA in dance, Blocker remained on staff at UNCG to accompany the dance classes as he continued to learn more about the

art of world percussion drumming.

But as time went on, Sali's words rang in his ears, and Africa was calling. He left for New Guinea and Senegal in 1995 for what would be the first of several trips across the Atlantic.

"I went to study in New Guinea, West Africa with Les Ballets Africains — the national ballet of New Guinea — for two months," Blocker said. "I lived with the dancers and the drummers — I studied with them."

Two years later in 1997, Blocker went to Mali to study the djembe with the indigenous Malian people. The djembe is a specific type of African drum, rope-tuned and skin-covered, played with bare hands, thought to have originated from the ancient Mali Empire.

This trip to Mali was an intense learning experience for Blocker as a musician, who felt he needed a more authentic comprehension to ground and define himself as a genuine world percussionist.

Transition to Elon

Blocker remained on staff at UNCG as the accompanist for 19 years before budget cuts cost him his job. Luckily, through a connection at Elon University, Blocker found out about the need for an accompanist in their dance department.

Sara Tourek, adjunct assistant professor of dance in Elon's performing arts department, met Blocker in graduate school at UNCG where she was



Sandy Blocker has been working as Elon University's accompanist since graduating from UNCG. His interest in world percussion began as an undergraduate, after a life-long passion for dance.

a student in a class he accompanied for. When she heard Elon was looking for an accompanist, she immediately thought of Blocker, with whom she had become better friends during her time as a UNCG dance student.

She knew he'd be a perfect fit for Elon's tight-knit performing arts department, where he would be able to have plenty of artistic freedom. Lauren Kearns, the chair of Elon's dance department, hired Blocker in August 2011. As the university accompanist, he plays the drums for the upper-level ballet, modern and African dance classes.

"We really like having his perspective and voice here," Tourek said.

She said she especially enjoys working with him because they have a performance background together.

"He is really open to trying new things in the classroom, and to lending his talents," she said.

Junior Carly Flynn, a dance major, enjoys the unique musical experience Blocker brings to her classes. The dancers had only previously worked with an accompanist who mostly played piano, so learning how to move in tune to the beat of Blocker's drums has been a fun and interesting adjustment, Flynn said.

"He's very in tune with us as dancers and very aware of our movement due to his personal dance background," Flynn said. "He even gives us great feedback about our dancing — supposedly he's an amazing ballet partner."

Heart and soul

Blocker loves being able to help people find music and connect to it through movement, he said.

"I love what I do. I get to play drums,

watch dancers dance and am challenged all the time by (adjusting to) the way people want to put movement to music," Blocker said. "It's really wonderful because I have a kinetic sense with the music. I have to dance it inside myself as I'm playing."

He is also able to further apply his more creative side through performing with Crystal Bright and the Silver Hands, a dark and whimsical band based out of Greensboro for which Blocker plays percussion as one of Crystal Bright's "Silver Hands."

Blocker and Bright met in 2001 at UNCG, where Blocker taught her African drumming. Crystal Bright and the Silver Hands formed in 2010 — Bright is the lead singer and performer, multi-talented as she simultaneously plays the accordion. The other members of the band, or Silver Hands, as Bright refers to them, play a wide variety of offbeat instruments to add to her very eclectic, otherworldly sound.

As a versatile world percussionist, Blocker contributes African, Middle Eastern and South American rhythms to the band by adding sounds from various percussion instruments such as the riqq, djembe and conga drums, the kick drum and cymbals.

"(Sandy) is a very versatile and amazing musician," Bright said. "He adds a world percussion flavor to the band and has great ideas that I normally wouldn't think of."

According to those that interact with Blocker, his character and spirit are some of his greatest trademarks, aside from his musical talents.

"Sandy is a great friend and collaborator — he keeps me grounded," Bright said. "He is very thoughtful, open-minded and funny."

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Family-owned general store serves up charm

Claire Esparros
Photo Editor

It's the kind of place that makes you feel at home, regardless of where your home may be.

Driving down North Carolina Highway 49 headed south, winding far out into Alamance County, lies Belmont, a quaint little area near Graham with an abundance of green pastures, farmland and a charming southern feel.

A small, unassuming store appears aside Belmont Mount Hermon Road. Surrounded by a small gravel parking lot, with neighboring rustic country homes and a church across the street stands the blue wooden storefront with red roof.

The General Store & Coffee, which opened Dec. 1, 2011, provides a warm community atmosphere and a selection of local products. It occupies a space that originally began as a general store in the 1940s, but evolved into a boat shop, lawnmower shop and eventually a junkyard. The plot of land is interlaced with the history of the Brooks family, headed by Tim and his wife Debbie, that owns and operates it today.

The Brooks' family history is deeply embedded where they work and reside. Their house sits at the end of the dirt road adjacent to The General Store. Robert L. Brooks Lane is family-owned, named for Tim's father. Their house and the dirt road have long-standing sentimentality to Tim, more so than the others.

"He's lived in this house his whole life except three years," Debbie said. "His roots are very deep. He is very local. Very few people can say they've lived on the same dirt road their whole life, much less the same house."

This deeply-rooted connection and long-standing history led them to purchase the lawnmower shop when it went up for sale and turn it into something for the whole family.

"My husband's family, which has nine siblings who all live around here on (either side of) this dirt road, wanted someone in the family to purchase the building because they own all the property from the store back down this way," Debbie said. "So we ended up buying it so someone in the family would have it."

Tim and Debbie have five daughters and one son. Two of their girls, Valerie and Kim, had the idea to start a coffee shop. But Tim also wanted there to be a little store, kind of like the one that was there when he was growing up.

The three of them cleaned out the place and did all the planning. In one year they transformed it from a lawnmower shop and junkyard to the store it is today.

"We spent a year just cleaning it up," said Valerie Brooks, the second-eldest Brooks daughter, who helped spearhead the initiative to open up shop. "It was a mess."

Valerie and Kim had always loved projects of their own. They approached their father with the idea to open up a family-owned and operated store. Within a few weeks, they bought the property and began renovations.

Their uncle, who lives next to the property, made the wooden white-painted, red-lettered sign that welcomes customers to the store and lists select items for sale, many of which are local products.

Tim and Debbie spend a lot of their time researching how and where to get as many local products as they can, but it isn't always easy or affordable — at least not so far, according to Tim.

"We can't say everything is local," Tim said. "I try as much as I can, but we sometimes have a hard time finding everything at a decent price."



Emily Brooks, a 19-year-old student at Alamance Community College, works at The General Store and Coffee between taking classes and spending time with friends. The store, completely family-owned and operated, is located on Mount Hermon Road near Graham.

The ice cream, which comes from Homeland Creamery in Julian, is by far the most popular local item. The eggs come from their own personal chicken coop, and some of the other products, such as the meats and wines, are collected from various individual vendors and distributors throughout the state — some as close as Burlington, others up to a few hours away. The rest of the products come from various distributors in other states, like Pennsylvania.

Debbie said she spends a lot of time searching for local products online, but she has found that customers are very helpful as well.

"You know, people are very helpful," Debbie said. "Customers have come in and said 'You should call this person,' so I have found that people are very interested in buying local (products). But (those products) are more difficult to find and can be more expensive."

Debbie has also noticed there are people who never thought about buying local until they saw the variety of products in the General Store. She said she enjoys providing these customers with the opportunity to make that choice.

Retta Bingham has been going to the General Store frequently since she first discovered it one month ago, she said.

"Friends told me they had seen the sign driving by, and another friend came in and highly recommended it," she said. "She loved the coffee and the friendliness of the baristas and all the local things. She's especially fond of the ice cream — she had just sung its praises."

As a Starbucks barista inside the Burlington Target, Bingham's worklife can get pretty hectic and noisy, she said. She goes to the General Store for the atmosphere, and funnily enough, for their piping hot coffee.

Bingham said she is also committed to the store to support the Brooks family.

"I like what they're doing and I just want to see them succeed," she said.

The family has received a lot of positive feedback — a fair amount from those who have expressed how the store has added something special to the small community.

"Everyone actually really likes our store because it's a lot different from

anything else in the area," said Emily Brooks, the second-youngest daughter. "It's also nice to have a coffee shop here so you don't have to go into town to get a cup of coffee."

But it's never easy, according to Tim. "I've got all this other stuff to do," he said. "I run a mail route, take care of cows and chickens, and then there's the store. But it's fun — as long as it pays off in the long run."

Debbie has found that people truly care about their well-being.

"We've made some new friends — people I had never met before that live right here in our community, and now they're regulars," she said. "They'll come

in and ask how we're doing. 'We don't want you closing,' they'll say. Sometimes I try to cut them a deal, but they insist on paying full price. They want us to make it, and that has been encouraging."

MORE ONLINE

See a photo gallery of the General Store.

<http://pend.lu/generalstore>

CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

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CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

The wide world of online shopping

We all have our favorite stores. But as college students, going out to shop seldom fits in our schedules.



Kanree Wright
Columnist

Luckily, there are ways around the bustling traffic in malls, the crying children in stores and, most importantly, skyrocketing gas prices. Online stores offer easier ways to shop, more items and

several online discounts that can make your purchase even cheaper.

I've found there are three online stores that top my own personal list, which rank high in the categories of popularity, affordability and resourcefulness. Based on my own experiences and reviews, I've rated these online stores. The list of competitors was extensive, including AMIClubwear.com, UrbanOutfitters.com and charlotterusse.com, but my personal winners should sound familiar to many college-aged shoppers.

- My second runner-up is LuLus.com. This site can be high-end in both price and collection of clothing, but I've found it to be among the most popular. Overall, the selection is very affordable and as far as resourcefulness goes, everything on this website is easy to find. The website also offers free shipping for purchases of \$75 or more. LuLu's has become one of the most talked-about online stores for girls, thanks in part to a great deal of advertising featured on PerezHilton.com.

- The first runner-up is GoJane.com. Not only is this site affordable, but it is also very fashion-forward. If you want to make a lasting impression when you walk into a room, then visit GoJane.com. I would describe it as a cross somewhere between Urban Outfitters, H&M and Forever 21. This site is gold.

- Drumroll, please! The No. 1 online store on my list for college-aged girls is Forever21.com. I receive large boxes in the mail from this store all the time. Not only are the clothes very affordable, but Forever 21 makes it even harder to get off the site by providing free shipping on purchases of \$50 or more, as well as daily flash deals that offer 21 percent off the price of featured items. The one negative I've found is the wait for the purchase. I'm always so anxious to receive the items that weeks feel like months to me.

Seizing the spotlight

Senior music theater major lands lead in Broadway tour

Kyra Gemberling
Design Editor

For many Elon University seniors, the day after graduation will be a time of relaxation used to celebrate and reflect on their achievements. But senior music theater major Kennedy Caughell will be boarding a plane for New York City to begin rehearsals for her lead role in the international touring company of "American Idiot: The Musical."

After auditioning for the show and going through an intense round of callbacks, Caughell was offered the lead role of Heather, one of many confused and angry teens who sing and dance to the show's score of Green Day hits.

"Heather is one of the lead girls and is the girlfriend of Will, one of the lead guys, and she eventually gets pregnant with his baby," Caughell said. "It's a big, dramatic teen angst musical — what else could you want? It's drama, sex and punk rock."

It all started during what performing arts students like to call "Hell Week," which is one week in the spring semester when Elon plays host to visits from casting directors looking to find new talent. Caughell and several others were called back to New York City during spring break to audition for "American Idiot," and after singing a small part of a song, Caughell advanced to the second round of callbacks.

"The second round was after spring break, and there were four of us," she said. "We walked into the room and the entire production team was there. It was kind of like, 'This is real. It just got real.'"

The next thing she knew, Caughell was practically reprising her role as Sheila in Elon's fall 2011 production of "Hair." The dance callback for "American Idiot" involved a lot of thrashing, just like much of the choreography in "Hair," she said.

Although Caughell thought she'd been cut because she wasn't asked to dance again, she received a call later that night telling her she was being considered for a leading role.

"Sometimes you can do an awesome job but you might not look right for the part, so I didn't expect anything," Caughell said. "But it just goes to show you that you never know what they're looking for, and even if you think you're cut, you might not be. It's a world of unknowns."

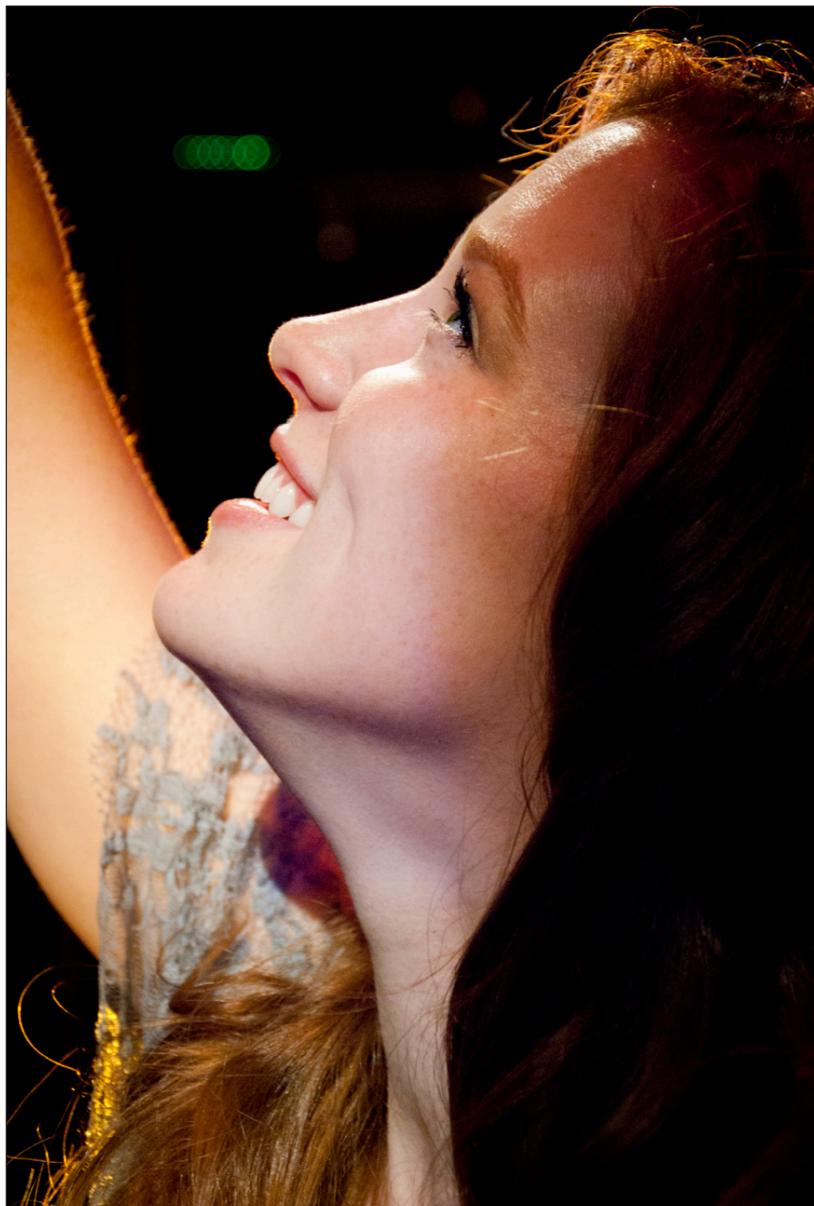
A few days later, Caughell got another call — she was officially offered the role of Heather. Senior Turner Rouse was also in the final round of callbacks with Caughell, and though he hasn't heard back about a role yet, he said he's grateful to have made it as far as he did.

"It was a good experience for me to help me grow and get another audition under my belt," Rouse said. "As far as Kennedy goes, I've known this girl was going to book something big for a while. She has a glowing energy about her when she performs that's unreal. She's so in tune emotionally with the music that all I can do is laugh because she is not human."

Though Caughell said she is excited about having a leading role in a Broadway musical tour, she's also looking forward to the experience abroad. The tour will be traveling around Ireland, Scotland and England to perform in the West End of London, one of the world's most famous theater spots.

"It's great because a lot of music theater people will be studying abroad in London, so it's kind of like I won't be alone in the city," Caughell said. "I'm hopefully going to see Elon people wherever I go."

Caughell said her Elon roots are especially important to her. One of the No. 1 lessons she'll be taking away from Elon is the importance of being a good human being, a lesson she learned from her "family"



Senior music theater major Kennedy Caughell is all smiles after landing an "American Idiot" role.



Caughell plays Sheila Franklin in the Department of Performing Arts' fall production of "Hair."

of performing arts students and professors.

"A lot of other schools have a cutthroat music theater system, but here at Elon we love each other," she said. "We're a tight-knit community and family. You're not worth working with unless you're a good person and fun to be around."

Caughell credits Linda Sabo, associate professor of performing arts, as the faculty member from

whom she gained the most during her time at Elon. Sabo said she's happy to have worked with Caughell, and she's not surprised Caughell was offered a role at this level of prestige so soon.

"It was apparent to me from the beginning that Kennedy was going to be a dynamite triple threat performer, and she is showing herself to be a true contender in a highly competitive business," Sabo said. "This is just the beginning for Kennedy."

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Black Box Festival showcases hit productions

Small-stage shows tackle social issues of a generation, provide opportunities for life reflection

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

Where exactly did Charlie Brown and the other childhood heroes from "Peanuts" end up? Right on the stage of "Dog Sees God," an entirely student-directed production conducted as part of the Black Box Festival at Elon University April 24-28.

The festival, produced in part by Alpha Psi Omega, the theater honor society, is the only organization-funded student opportunity to direct a full-length show. After three months of intense rehearsals, the festival opened to the public.

"Dog Sees God" revealed the "Peanuts" characters in high school as they faced drugs, sex, parties and the stresses of fitting in. Senior Dylan Moon, director of the play, said the relatable topics were perfectly suited to a college audience.

"The show shows they are not the perfect little children we remember them as," Moon said.

Although many theater shows are driven by the need to entertain, there is still a very serious point the play tried to convey to its audience, Moon said.

"I hope people will see it and kind of think about maybe if they weren't the nicest person to somebody in school," Moon said. "If it makes the audience think afterwards, I will pretty much

consider it a success."

Freshman Meg Machonis said she believes the issues of the play were timely, especially on Elon's campus.

"The company dealt with such heavy and relevant topics in a beautiful and poignant way," Machonis said. "I saw the show three times and each performance was new and thrilling. 'Dog Sees God' was hilarious and heartbreaking — a show that everyone must see in their lifetime."

"Dog Sees God" and "A Man of No Importance" switched off each night in the Black Box. The latter, a musical about an amateur theater group and their director, Alfie Byrne, took place in Dublin. Alfie, played by senior Clark Kinkade, struggled with his identity, much like the grown Charlie Brown, or CB, in "Dog Sees God."

Like many other theatrical productions this year, "A Man of No Importance" required students and faculty to work for months. Rehearsals took place during Tuesday-Thursday class periods for most of the semester, expanding to weekends from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. as opening night approached.

"It is a labor of love, but it does take many hours to create art," said Lynne Kurdziel-Formato, associate professor of dance and director of "A Man of No Importance."

Kurdziel-Formato said it is



Senior Clark Kinkade (center), surrounded by fellow cast members, portrays Alfie Byrne in "A Man of No Importance."

crucial for students to attend shows like those featured in the Black Box Festival. Students should seize the opportunity to see shows for free, when it will cost more than \$100 to see Elon students perform in other venues after graduation, she said.

Moon agreed it is vital for students to take advantage of the free admission.

"I know it's tough to make every single one, but every once in a while, just take the night off," Moon said. "It's nice to get away sometimes, and hear some beautiful music and hear a really good story."



Sophomore Kim Zlogar acts as CB's sister during a scene in "Dog Sees God." The show focused on famous "Peanuts" characters in their high school years.

Student musicians exhibit talents in multiple spring performances

Lindsay Kimble
Senior Reporter

As the spring semester draws to a close, Elon University's student musicians are taking advantage of the final weeks to show off their hard work.

The Elon University Orchestra, Saxophone Studio and Camerata and Chorale choirs all performed concerts April 24-26 that showcased musical pieces developed throughout the semester.

Junior Nathaniel Hodges, who has been involved with the studio for three years, said the studio wanted to deliver music that was not only well-written, but also fun to play.

"It's all about pushing boundaries and forcing others to be curious about pushing boundaries as well," he said.

Hodges said he credits Virginia Novine-Whittaker, adjunct instructor of music, for the group's success thus far, as well as at Wednesday's concert.

"(She) is a widely known saxophone teacher and is incredible at getting the most potential out of her students as possible," Hodges said. "For years we've had healthy numbers because she just tends to attract and then foster talent."

The Elon Chorale and Camerata choirs performed their Masterworks concert April 26 in McCrary Theatre. The combined choirs sang the masterwork "Misa Criolla," a Spanish mass with a tenor soloist.

Junior Tricia Williams, a member of Chorale, said the other six selections performed encompassed a wide variety of genres under a "global" theme.

"The music included a masterwork piece from Hispanic-American culture, a Japanese war song and numerous African-American spirituals," Williams said. "This was the first time 'War Song' had been performed in the area. It is an extremely difficult piece and performing it was a unique opportunity."

The choirs also sang "Earth Song," a selection about peace, and ended the show with four spirituals, which junior

Tina Lanciotti said aided in conveying a message of global awareness.

Attendance at the choral concert was fair, but community members outnumbered students in the audience, according to Williams.

"In the future, I hope that more students attend," Williams said. "We worked really hard and it was a great performance."

Lanciotti, a member of both choirs, noted that while McCrary is spacious, attendance could have been better.

"Elon students should watch so that they can hear the beautiful music that Elon University is capable of," Lanciotti said. "All of the vocalists within the choirs come from so many different backgrounds, and it is great to hear all of the voices come together to produce such beautiful music."

Elon's Spring Music Concerts

Elon University Orchestra

- Performed with Brad Linde, Class of 2001, guest musician on saxophone
- Showcased Handel's "Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op. 6 No. 10," written by the Baroque composer in 1741

Elon Saxophone Studio

- Presented "Beyond Classical: Saxophone Music for a New Millennium"
- Explored 20th and 21st century classical music
- Performed "Improvisation 1" by Japanese composer Ryo Noda, as well as Movement One through Five of Carleton Macy's "Four Saxes"

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Senior Spotlight



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Elon senior shortstop Garrett Koster is in his second season for the Phoenix after transferring from Walters State Community College and has started and played in 44 games for the maroon and gold this year. He played his freshman year at Winthrop University after being rated as the top high school shortstop in South Carolina by Diamond Prospects in 2008.

Dog piles, home runs key moments for Koster at Elon

Andrew Wilson
Senior Reporter

With just a handful of games left, there's still a chance for senior shortstop Garrett Koster and the Elon University baseball team to create memories. The Phoenix are still in contention for the Southern Conference regular season title, but they need help and probably will have to pull it straight out of a hat to take the title. For now, Koster recalls the memories he's already made in his time at Elon, and they have a consistent feature: a dog pile.

"Last year, we played College of Charleston (at Elon) in a three-game series," Koster said. "It was really a big series and we had a walk-off win and a huge dog pile out on the mound. Actually (former Elon player) Jared Kernodle got hurt and ended up missing the rest of the season with a wrist injury, but that was definitely the best."

Koster's other favorite dog pile was after winning the SoCon regular season championship last season on

the Phoenix's home field. Following the win, the team piled on the mound again, but this time, it was injury-free.

Playing college baseball — or any college sport — is not the only thing that matters in the world. It's about becoming a better person and maturing into a young adult. That's what college athletics is all about, and Koster knows it.

"Coach Kennedy does a great job of helping us become better baseball players and better people," Koster said. "He makes us go to class, and I've become a much better student since I got here, and I have become a better person."

Majoring in sport and event management, Koster has one more semester to go before he can graduate, but he already knows what he would like to do after graduation.

"I want to get into coaching or even the front office of a minor league (baseball) team and work my way up to the major league level," Koster said.

Koster transferred to Elon following one season at Winthrop University and one season at Walters State Community College. At Winthrop, he made 19 appearances for the Eagles in 2009, hitting .239. The following year at Walters State Community College, Koster hit .343 with 45 runs scored and 41 RBIs.

Following the season at WSCC, Koster found himself at Elon — a decision he doesn't regret.

"I couldn't have asked for a better time at Elon," Koster said. "I recommend Elon to all of my friends younger than me, anyone who wants to play baseball, I always tell them Elon is the place to be."

According to Koster, it's not just baseball. It's the overall experience as a student.

"The people here are awesome," Koster said. "(At Elon) you have a great time. You come here and have a good time and meet new people and make really good friends."

Koster knows his time is short at Elon, but according to Kennedy, he's been nothing but valuable to the baseball program over the last two



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Garrett Koster (left) is one of Elon's top power hitters, striking 11 home runs and 34 RBIs this year.

years.

"He plays all over," Kennedy said. "So he really frees up our lineup."

In his career, Koster played both infield and outfield for the Phoenix, but it's more than just his abilities in the field. Koster has developed into one of the better hitters on the team. This season, he leads the Phoenix in home runs with 11 and RBIs with 34. Kennedy said one of his favorite things about Koster is watching him hit a baseball.

"When he really gets a hold of a baseball, he hits it a really long way," Kennedy laughed. "He's got four or five of those that really stick out. He can hit it a long way and they're fun to watch when he gets a hold of them."

As well as growing as a baseball player, Kennedy said Koster has shown an immense amount of emotional maturity that has propelled Koster to a leadership role on the baseball team in just his second year at Elon.

"When he got here he struggled a bit, but he's really grown," Kennedy said. "He's grown so much to where we made him a team captain. The way he's grown has been tremendous and

this is a kid that's only going in the right direction."



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

A senior from Fort Mill, S.C., Koster was a four-year all-region selection at Fort Mill High.

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Elon Phoenix Weekly

Senior shortstop relies on friendship of teammates for consistency

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Her teammates call her "DL." When fellow seniors, pitcher/designated player Erin O'Shea and catcher Kaitlyn Piazzolla, were asked about senior shortstop Danielle Lafferty, with her still in the room, they laughed awkwardly.

"Danielle is a very competitive (person) and a really good teammate," O'Shea said. "She always has your back and is going to lay out and do whatever it takes to help this team out."

The catcher was no different.

"I would second what Erin says," Piazzolla said. "It's always reassuring to know that when the ball is hit to DL, it's in safe-keeping and it's going to be a sure out, or something is going to happen positive for the team."

Lafferty has developed a consistency in play and strong relationship with her teammates, particularly O'Shea and Piazzolla, who live with her. Their connection was significantly helped by the softball team winning its first Southern Conference championship in 2010 during their sophomore year.

"We've had some good times," Lafferty said. "With Erin and KP, we've grown to be best friends over the years, living together. Just being around my teammates and having those fun times together, it's been great."

Athletic from the beginning

Lafferty is from Bear, Del., and attended Caravel Academy, where she played three varsity sports in eighth grade, one in each season.

"In the fall, I went to the state championship as an eighth grader for field hockey, the semifinals in basketball, then the state championship for softball," she said. "It was a great year. It was crazy because I was this little eighth grader, just going out there and playing and had all that kind of stuff happen. It was pretty cool."

She helped Caravel win two softball state championships and a pair of state runner-ups during her high school career and earned first-team all-state accolades during her junior and senior years.

And that's despite her never playing a crucial childhood bat and ball sport.

"I actually never played T-ball," she said. "I started when I was about 10. I just joined a Little League team and it started from there. Going through travel ball, high school and now Division I."

She also considered playing basketball for Elon, like current junior infielder Ali Ford is doing this season, after being recruited for softball. But she said former Elon coach Patti Raduenz would not allow her to do so because she had some injuries playing basketball.

Lafferty came to Elon when she "fell in love" with the campus while the school was recruiting her.

"Throughout the recruiting process, Elon kept coming up," she said. "The team was great. They were a good team, and I fell in love with it and decided to come here and continue my career."

Champions in their own right

After she started 45 of 46 games for the Phoenix in her first season in the maroon and gold, Lafferty started in all 58 games in 2010, hitting .243 with five home runs and 31 RBIs, the latter first for Elon — a pretty solid sophomore year.

Not to mention, the Phoenix also won the SoCon championship that season.

"It's never happened before for softball, so to have that ring, it's great," Lafferty said. "A lot of people coming out of Elon don't get a ring, so for us to do that was great and it was an awesome experience."

Second-seeded Elon defeated No. 4 University of North Carolina at Greensboro 6-3 May 14, 2010, to tally the program's 38th win that season, most in the school's history.

Lafferty was named to the preseason all-SoCon second-team the next year. She had a solid year in 2011, earning Player of the Week honors April 25 and batting .299 over the season.

"They mean a lot," she said of those personal awards. "It goes to show how hard my work has paid off in the end and that people do recognize what I've done. It's an honor."

Now in her senior season, Lafferty has started all 42 games this year, continuing a consistency not many have.

"Not a lot of people can say that they've done that in their four-year career, so it's just built my experience over the year," she said. "I've gone through injuries and all that kind of stuff. It's been fun, and I'm very appreciative that my coaches have given me the opportunity over the years to be the starting shortstop."

Phoenix interim head coach Kathy Bocock said Lafferty has been a leader, even last year when she had several seniors around her.

"Shortstop is a big place to be," she said. "It's kind of like basketball. You've got a coach on the floor, the point guard. And it's the same thing in softball. She's our coach on the field and helps us do the things that we need to be taking care of. Whenever we run plays, we run them through Danielle."

Developing a leader

Lafferty is always good for a laugh off the field, according to her roommates.

"She has this dry sense of humor," O'Shea said. "She doesn't know that she's funny, but when she says something, you're like, 'OK, DL.'"

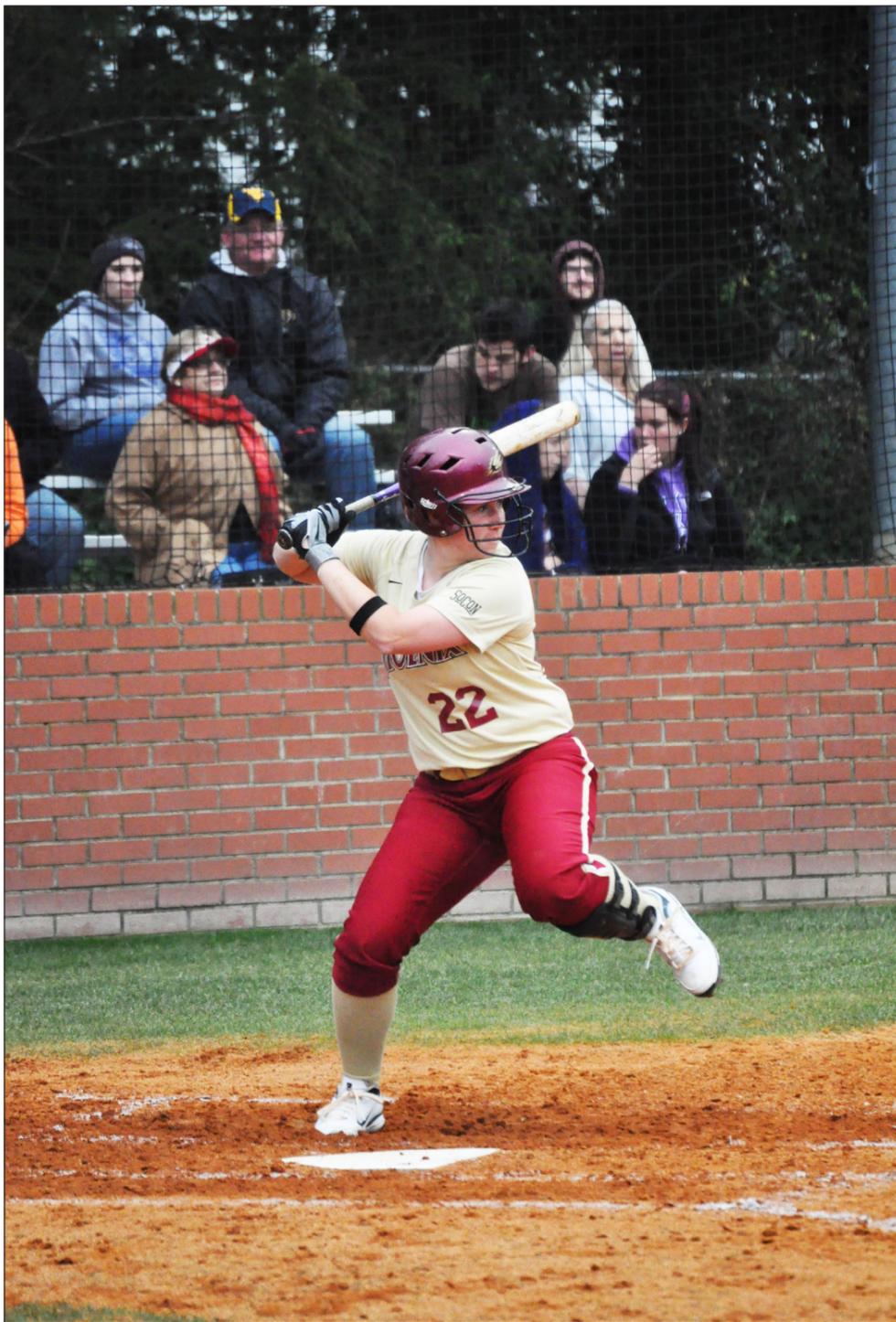
Piazzolla agrees.

"DL is the person that comes out with a funny comment every once in a while," she said. "It's definitely something that sticks in your head the rest of the night."

Bocock sees her as a laid-back person who has an ability to lead.

"She doesn't get worked up about things," her coach said. "Even in her personality, she goes with the flow. She's that silent leader that a lot of these girls can go to and know Danielle is just going to say, 'You know that's where it is, so just go with the flow, do your job.' She's doesn't get worked up, she's not irrational, she's just a very easy-going person."

Both Piazzolla and O'Shea



Senior shortstop Danielle Lafferty is in her final year in a Phoenix uniform and is attempting to make the most of it. She is currently batting .295 with 33 hits, fourth-best on the team in both categories in 42 games.



Along with being one of the team's top hitters, Lafferty sports a .914 fielding percentage with five double plays.

testify that Lafferty is one of the players that will stand on the fence in the dugout, cheering on her teammates. O'Shea called her "not just a one-dimensional player. She's involved in every aspect of the game."

For Lafferty, that leadership has developed over time.

"You definitely learn a lot about yourself and your leadership," she said. "You

can relate to the freshmen, as where, when you were a freshman, you kind of look up to the seniors. Well, now you're in that role. It's kind of guiding your teammate and being that leader — bringing the best out of each player, getting those big wins against the big teams and get that conference championship."

Her coach insisted on one thing she wanted to say about Lafferty. Bocock was a

volunteer when Lafferty was recruited and has watched her grow as a player over the last couple of years. Now as her head coach, she has very nice things to say.

"It's been a real pleasure for me to coach Danielle," she said. "She's always been very supportive of me, and I appreciate her and her personality and who she is. She's a great person, great young lady."

Losing streak continues for softball team at 8 consecutive defeats

Andrew Wilson
Senior Reporter

The Elon University softball team had a rough week, dropping its eighth straight game and falling below .500 for the first time this season.

After ceding both games of a double-header April 25 at the hands of Division I independent Longwood University, the Southern Conference's top team, Georgia Southern, swept a three game set with Elon during the weekend in convincing fashion, shutting out the Phoenix in games two and three.

In a weekday series with Longwood, game one featured a combined 16 runs on 21 hits for the two teams, with 11 of those runs coming in the fourth inning alone.

Elon's bats were quiet for the first three innings before heating up in the fourth. With one on, sophomore Johanna Spencer put one over the fence in center for her first home run of the year. Four batters later, sophomore Carleigh Nester pushed across three more runs with her rare inside-the-park home run to take a 5-2 lead after 3 ½ innings.

The lead didn't last long, though, as Longwood struck back in the bottom of the fourth to regain the lead, 8-5. After three runs came across to tie the game, junior Brooke Short broke the five-all tie with a two-run home run. Another home run off Elon reliever Chelsea White gave the Lancers an 8-5 lead after four innings.

A late comeback attempt by the Phoenix fell short, as Elon got another run in the sixth inning, but gave up two more runs over the final two



Senior pitcher Erin O'Shea has a 13-12 record this year with a 3.22 ERA through 150 innings. She is also batting .284 with four home runs and 25 RBIs.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

innings, falling 10-6.

In game two, Elon had its chances, but couldn't push a run across, dropping the second game, 6-0.

During the weekend, Elon played the SoCon's top team tightly, but the Eagles proved to be what their record indicated, shutting out the Phoenix in both games two and three, taking the series three games to none.

In game one of Saturday's double-header, the Eagles scored two in the bottom of the first, but Elon fought back to take a 4-2 lead on some small ball and a three-run home run from junior Tomeka Watson to

left center to go up 4-2.

But like game one against Longwood on Wednesday, in the bottom of the frame, Georgia Southern fought back with three runs of their own to regain the lead, 5-4.

The Phoenix again stormed close, scoring one run to tie the game in the top of the seventh. Camille Hill got it going when she was hit by a pitch, then Ali Ford dropped down a sacrifice bunt to get Hill to second before sophomore Lauren Oldham singled to left to get Hill to third. After Watson walked, senior Erin O'Shea singled to left to bring Hill home to tie the game.

But it was all for naught, as freshman Lexi Allen scored on a walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Georgia Southern a 6-5 win.

Game two of the double-header saw Georgia Southern sophomore pitcher Allie Miles stifle Elon's bats, as she held the Phoenix to just one hit as the Eagles were victorious, 4-0.

Game three on Sunday was a similar story. Elon could only manage two hits off of Georgia Southern's starter, Sarah Purvis, as the Eagles used a three-run sixth inning to take a 4-0 lead and sweep the series.

"We're struggling a bit

offensively right now," interim head coach Kathy Boccock said following Sunday's loss. "We're a young team. We just need to make some adjustments and we'll be fine."

Looking ahead, the Phoenix looks to end its eight-game skid May 2 when Elon finishes its long road trip with a double-header against North Carolina A&T before coming home to cap off the regular season on May 5-6 against College of Charleston.

"We want to finish strong on senior weekend and get ourselves a little momentum going into the tournament," Boccock said.

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Tight end vaults into gaping hole at No. 1 running back

Rising junior Matt Eastman's change of position gives Phoenix running game potential

Andrew Wilson
Senior Reporter

All is quiet in the backfield for the Elon football team. Well, kind of. Though second year head coach Jason Swepson has known senior Thomas Wilson will be the starting quarterback come September, the running back position was a major question mark coming into the spring of 2012.

Just a few months ago, Swepson had three senior running backs that each saw playing time, and had two more in reserve. It's a completely different case now.

Those three seniors are graduating

next month, and the other two backs are no longer with the team for various reasons, which left Swepson zero running backs on the roster coming into spring practice.

"You live and learn," Swepson said. "I should've taken a couple more (running backs) in my first recruiting class, but that's how things go sometimes."

To the rescue was sophomore Matt Eastman. Though he was originally recruited to play tight end for the Phoenix, Eastman had experience in the backfield as a fullback in high school at Armwood High School in Florida.

"The first two weeks, I didn't really

comprehend that I was a running back," Eastman said. "After practice, I'd go hang out with the tight ends still and Coach Pincince would always have to tell me, 'Come over here. You're a running back now,' so they had to pound that through my head."

Through spring practice, which culminated with Saturday's annual spring game, Eastman instilled a bit more confidence in himself, rushing the ball a total of 14 times for 52 yards, including a one-yard touchdown run in the second quarter after bouncing off would-be tacklers. Eastman also knows what he can bring to the table for the Phoenix come next fall.

"I thought I did pretty good,"

Eastman said. "I'm just the type of runner that'll put my head down and try to get five to 10 yards every time I touch the ball."

Eastman's confidence turned out to be infectious, as both Swepson and quarterback Thomas Wilson liked what they saw on Saturday.

"I was a little worried going into the spring," Swepson said. "But after Eastman, I knew we were going to be OK. He's a big body, and with all the passing we do, we needed a big body up there that could pick up the blitz. But he's also a load when he runs the ball, so I think it was a great move. He made the transition and I think it's made us a better football team."

Wilson appreciated Eastman's toughness.

"He ran the ball hard and that's what we're looking for and he's doing everything we've asked him to do," he said.

With two freshmen coming in this summer as part of Swepson's 29-man recruiting class, Eastman welcomes them with open arms.

"I'm hoping the freshmen will come in and step up too," Eastman said. "It's not a one man show. You need three running backs to get through a season."

What was a lackluster season running the ball in 2011, which saw ball carriers take the ball 376 times, but only gain 1,120 yards total for an average of three yards per carry, Swepson hopes Eastman will add a different dimension to the Phoenix backfield this season.

"If he can give us some power at the run game, we'll be successful," Swepson said.

If you asked Wilson, though, there is one knock on Eastman. It has nothing to do with his pre-game superstitions or his words on the field.

"He's got to do something different with his hair," Wilson said. "He's got it slicked back and pulled back, but hey, whatever works for him."

For now, the Phoenix will take whatever works in the backfield.



Rising junior running back Matt Eastman (40) was a tight end last season for the Phoenix, catching three passes for seven yards and notching two touchdowns. This spring, he transitioned to running back when Elon had zero running backs on their roster.

SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

Spring Game highlights backups, potential game-changers for Phoenix football

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

It was not a normal college football game for the Elon Phoenix. But they played a game made up of three 12-minute "quarters." The first two were regular timekeeping while the third used a running clock.

The Elon University football team played its annual Spring Game Saturday, and Team "Elon" was victorious 13-0 in what looked like a practice scrimmage in full uniform.

The game started slowly, with no first downs until sophomore wide receiver Kierre Brown took a hand-off 16 yards with 4:30 left in the first quarter for "Elon."

"Obviously, we looked a little sluggish out there," said Jason Swepson, Elon's head football coach. "We had a big practice on Friday, so that's expected. The defense (was) flying around, fast-paced. (I'm) very happy with where the defense is at right now."

The defense controlled most of the game. Sophomore cornerback Akheem Langham picked off senior quarterback Thomas Wilson's pass on the third drive of the game, sophomore defensive back Alexander Dawson blocked sophomore kicker Lawson Furr's field goal attempt near the end of the first quarter and junior defensive linemen Jordan Jones and Brandon Brant (twice) and sophomore defensive linemen Gary Coates and Michael Pearson (also twice) picked up sacks.

"Just tremendous speed and power and strike," Swepson said of the defense.

On the offensive side of the ball, junior running back Matt Eastman had 14 carries for 52 yards and a one-yard touchdown run with 1:23 left in the second quarter. He showcased an ability to bruise his way through several tacklers, pushing back strong

junior safety Chandler Wrihtenberry on a run. This is Eastman's first spring practice as a running back — he was a tight end and H-back last season.

Wilson, who completed 15 of 19 passes for 135 yards and a touchdown as well as the pick, was happy with his new No. 1 running back's play.

"He runs the ball hard, he knows what he's doing, he's smart in the backfield," he said. "Hopefully, that will carry over for us into the summer and into the fall. But he's really done real well for us stepping into that position."

Swepson was impressed with senior tight end Chris Harris, who moved from wide receiver this spring. Harris caught a seven-yard reception from Wilson in the back of the end zone for the first score of the game.

"Chris Harris had an impressive spring for us," he said. "He's got all the tangibles. He had a touchdown catch today, and he's only going to get better. If we can get him playing at a high level in conference play, watch out, because there's going to be mismatching."

The Phoenix was without star senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette, who was not injured but was held out for safety reasons, although that's not what Mellette would say.

"It was definitely tough," he said before joking, "I wasn't trying to come out here and embarrass the defense."

Instead, sophomore wide receivers Danny Sellers and Montario Hunter had a significant impact on the proceedings. Hunter had four catches for 50 yards, including a 32-yard grab from Wilson leading to the Eastman touchdown.

"They had two good days today," Mellette said. "I'm going to need a break sometime, and those two guys will be right behind me, trying to earn that spot right behind me, step in for me, because I'm not going to be able to play a whole game. As long as they're getting



The Elon football team played its Spring Game April 28 at Rhodes Stadium to a 13-0 score.

SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

better and getting confident, the future looks bright for the Phoenix."

Also getting significant time was third-string redshirt freshman quarterback Blake Rice, who was 5-5 for 34 yards. Swepson said he liked where Rice and second-string sophomore quarterback Mike Quinn are right now while Maryland transfer sophomore Tyler Smith is sitting out with an injury.

"Quinn had a great spring, and I like where Blake is progressing," Swepson said. "They're going to have three more chances in the summertime for preseason camp in scrimmages, and then we'll see who No. 2 is. I think we've got a solid group. With incoming freshmen coming in too, it's going to give us a lot of depth at that position."

Wilson said the team needs a little bit more time to work together, especially on the offense.

"A lot of them haven't played together too long, and it's about them

getting the calls out there and working together as a group," he said. "That falls on me too, as a quarterback, getting them to jell together and making sure everybody's on the same page and doing what they're supposed to be doing. It's a place where we're struggling right now, but I've got all kinds of confidence in all five of my guys up front and Eastman protecting me in the backfield."

Eastman added there are still improvements the Phoenix needs to make.

"We've definitely got a lot of work to do," he said. "We had a lot of mental errors out there, a couple missed blocks and missed blocking schemes by the O-line, but that's going to happen. We've just got to keep getting better."

Elon's football season begins Sept. 1 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Until then, it's off-season workouts, then fall practice.

Sports

BaseBald touches heads, hearts for kids' charity

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

Garrett Koster is sitting in a chair positioned at home plate at Latham Park, posed to destroy everything he's been working on for the past two years.

The senior shortstop is motionless as his girlfriend of two years, junior Emily Swapp, turns on a set of clippers and starts to trim away at Koster's curly locks.

He is one of 39 players and coaches on the Elon University baseball team participating in BaseBald, a charitable initiative benefitting the St. Baldrick's Foundation and childhood cancer research. It's a great cause, but one that leaves Swapp nervous. She hands the clippers off to a barber, who finishes the job.

"I've seen (Koster with little hair) once and it wasn't pleasant," Swapp said. "So now I'm nervous because it's taken him two years to grow it out."

As Koster steps out of his chair, bald, he wonders aloud how on Earth he will be able to fit into his size 7 1/8 hat. It's a common worry among the bunch.

Quinn Bower has perhaps the longest hair on the team, yet he's still almost indecipherable from his twin brother Blaine in the eyes of head coach Mike Kennedy.

"There's no way coach can tell the difference between me and my brother now," Bower said. "He even got us wrong today and I still have (my hair). There's going to be no way."

Bower said he may have to stick newspaper in his hat to get his lid to fit properly because he's not sure new caps are in the budget.

But budgetary concerns weren't a problem for Tyler McVicar. The freshman infielder raised a team-high \$5,445 for St. Baldrick's, a surprise to nobody within the Elon program.

"He was asking people

back home, his school (for donations)," Bower said. "Five thousand dollars is a lot of money. It's awesome."

McVicar's motivation was personal. Back in 2008, his childhood friend, Danny Williams, passed away from osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer.

McVicar and Williams grew up playing sports together in Melrose, Mass. The two didn't talk as much when McVicar chose a different high school, but McVicar still maintained contact with Williams until he no longer could.

"He got to a point where he was sick and a lot of people couldn't get in touch with him because his immune system was too low," McVicar said. "I got a call from one of my friends one day and he said that he passed away."

McVicar wears a green wristband each day to honor his friend. The band reads "Always in our hearts. Danny. 10-25-08," a constant tribute to a friend lost far too soon.

On this day, before play has even begun, McVicar's teammates have a surprise for him, a surprise that has the freshman choked up.

"I guess Coach (Mike) Kennedy talked to my dad about the green bracelet I wear," McVicar said. "I came out to the field today and Garrett put his wrist in my face. The whole team and all the coaches are wearing the bracelet with his name on it. It's pretty cool."

While it's true that hats won't fit correctly, girlfriends will need to adjust to their boyfriends' altered looks and coaches will have to separate once again identical twins, McVicar said things could be worse.

"After seeing what my friend had to go through and the stuff he had to do, I think shaving our heads is nothing compared to the pain he looked like he was going through," McVicar said.



Elon baseball head coach Mike Kennedy (right) had his head shaved for the St. Baldrick's Foundation April 29.



Elon student assistant coach Tyler Robinson (38) rubs his shaved head after it was sheared April 29.

Sweep of Spartans jumpstarts Phoenix baseball

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

With one majestic swing of the bat, Elon University sophomore catcher Ryan Kinsella cleared the dugout and sent their victims, UNC-Greensboro, home on the wrong side of a three-game sweep.

It was the bottom of the 10th, the score tied at 1-1. Two outs had been recorded and an 11th inning seemed inevitable. But Kinsella launched a 2-2 fastball over the wall in left center field for a two-run walk-off home run and a three-game winning streak.

"It was just a fastball up," Kinsella

said. "(UNCG pitcher Tyler Hollstegge) has been throwing a lot of fastballs and I tried to sit on it and make something happen."

The reason the Phoenix was even in position to win its series finale was the man on the hill.

Junior southpaw Spencer Medick struck out a career-high 13 hitters in a career-high 9.1 innings pitched. Brilliant location (zero walks) and damage control (only one batter crossed the plate) gave Medick a chance to keep his team in the game.

"I had two, three pitches working today," Medick said. "It's all about executing pitches."

His performance earned him rave reviews from his head coach.

"I've been here 16 years, and I'm about 100 percent sure we've never had a guy go into the 10th," coach Mike Kennedy said. "He was just so good. I'm looking up, thinking to myself, 'I got to get him out of there.' But the innings got easier."

It was a series that ended a 2-4 stretch over the previous two conference series and brought a winning attitude back to the Phoenix dugout.

"Winning's fun," Kennedy said. "When there's a good atmosphere around losing, then I'm going to get away from it. I don't want that a part of our program."

Elon (26-20, 16-8 Southern Conference) has a home-and-home two-game series with Wake Forest this week before hosting Western Carolina University for three games May 5-7.

The Phoenix has had no luck against teams from bigger conferences this season. Elon dropped all nine games it has played against opponents from the Atlantic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference. It's a feat the team will try to change against the Demon Deacons this week.

"It's not so much that it's the ACC," Kennedy said. "It's just that we're coming off a three-game series and we want to keep playing well. You want to enjoy that energy that comes with winning so we definitely want to do that."

With just six conference games left, Elon is deadlocked in a third place tie with Samford University. The Phoenix will attempt to overtake the Bulldogs before the conference tournament begins May 23.

"(The series against Western Carolina) is definitely real important," Kinsella said. "Every game's important. But they're a team that can really take a series from us and we can't let that happen."

If Elon can produce dramatic home runs and timely pitching, perhaps they won't let it happen.



Junior catcher Alex Swim continues to lead the Phoenix in batting average (.356) and hits (67) through 46 games. Elon is 26-20 in the 2012 baseball season.