



PHOENIX PREVAILS

Men's basketball wins three straight at home.

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POSTSECRET AT ELON

Shh! A spread of secrets from the community.

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THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012 | VOLUME 38, EDITION 3

www.elonpendulum.com



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor
Some Elon University students, including freshman Evan Lutvak (above), have expressed concern that the use of their common living spaces as classrooms limits their opportunity to use an area they paid for. According to the Office of Student Life, the rooms, located in Kivette and Staley Halls, were constructed with the intention of being used for both living and learning. This semester, students must rearrange furniture to have access to their common room.

Financial concerns provoke group to lease Elon School

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

The Elon School, an independent high school adjacent to the university, is searching for a new home for the 2012-2013 academic year. Elon Homes and Schools for Children will give the school, in name, to a local parent group that intends to operate the school after the senior class graduates in June, said Fred Grosse, president of the Elon Homes and Schools for Children.

The Elon Homes and Schools for Children operates foster care programs in 12 counties in the state, in addition to the Kennedy Charter Public School in Charlotte. Economic struggles motivated Grosse to lease the Elon campus' facilities, but he said he is confident the local parent group will find a new location.

"We opened in 2007, which is exactly when the economy bottled out, so it's been a challenge to operate everything that we do," Grosse said.

The facility originated as a Christian orphanage in 1907, but after a piece of legislature mandated children only be placed in orphanages in their respective county, the number of children the Elon orphanage could serve diminished, prompting the Elon Homes and Schools for Children to examine other functions for the building.

"The best thing we can offer this county is an independent school," Grosse said.

Grosse relies on tuition dollars and fund development to maintain the operations of the school.

"What we found here is this is something we cannot do long term, and there was a group of local parents that said they were interested in taking over and running the school," he said.

Although Grosse and a local parent group have discussed transferring the school, no plans have been confirmed. Grosse predicts an agreement will be finalized in two weeks.

"We think it's best, and the local group thinks it's best, that local families run the school," he said.

The governance body belonging to the Elon Homes and Schools for Children is comprised of individuals throughout the state.

"The economy is a certain part of (the transition), but it also gives them a chance to be hands-on and run the school," Grosse said.

The change in ownership challenges the new governing board to find a new physical location for the school. Elon Homes and Schools for Children will lease the property where the Elon School is currently located. Various companies have expressed interest, but no agreement has been confirmed, according to Grosse. He expects to use the revenue generated from leasing the facility to offset expenses needed to operate the organization's other operations, he said.

"We want our organization to have a solid financial future, and we believe this is a very prime location and we will find people to lease this," Grosse said.

Although Gerry Francis, executive vice president of Elon University,

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Classes push too close to home

Academic initiative transforms living environment, concerns residents

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

Elon University students have expressed concern about the use of their common living spaces as classrooms for spring semester courses. Currently, common rooms in Kivette and Staley Halls, are being used for a total of four classes throughout the week. The buildings were constructed with the intention of being used as common living and learning spaces, according to Niki Turley, assistant dean of students, and were used for Elon 101 classes during the fall semester. Unlike the fall classes, courses currently using the space require a change in the furniture, drawing the attention of residents accustomed to using the room regularly and raising concern that they weren't

notified of the change.

"If they have concerns, they should let us know and we're willing to talk to them," Turley said. "It wasn't a matter of not telling them. I mean, I'm sure we've communicated it. The spaces were designed that way."

Freshman Ben Morse, who remained on campus during Fake Break, said mid-way through that week he entered the common room and realized the furniture had been removed and replaced with large round tables. According to Morse, none of the students living on the hall had been notified of the change in furniture arrangement and the room's use, his biggest concern. On the final day of Fake Break, they received an email from Dawn Morgan, assistant director of Residence Life for Colonnades, regarding the courses.

"Personally, I don't want to learn where I sleep," Morse said. "The main point is we weren't notified until several days after the fact. We weren't asked, we weren't notified, there wasn't a vote, I don't think our area office voted on it. It was just kind of done."

Students are allowed to use the room anytime it is not in use as a classroom, but are responsible for moving the common room furniture, now stored in the lobby, and then ensuring the tables are arranged correctly for class.

There has been a change in the group dynamic of the hall, Morse said, as the students generally are discouraged from using the room because of the need to move the furniture repeatedly. Morse, and freshman roommate Evan

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Residence Life publishes new housing selection process

Juniors, seniors can return to residence hall location, must apply for on-campus apartments

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Residence Life distributed letters to rising juniors and seniors with revised information concerning housing selection for the 2012-2013 academic year. Based on student feedback, rising juniors and seniors can return to their same residence hall space during phase one of the housing process, said Niki Turley, assistant dean of students.

Residence halls do not refer to university-owned apartments.

Rising juniors and seniors can apply for housing at The Station at Mill Point, the Oaks, Danieley O and P and the Crest during phase two Feb. 23, provided that the number of students applying to live in these residence areas does not exceed the number of spaces designated for juniors and seniors.

"We've always had a cap," Turley

said. "We've had to. We would love to say, 'here's housing, come on,' which is why we are building."

Nevertheless, the number of juniors and seniors that will live on campus during the 2012-2013 academic year will match the number of juniors and seniors currently living on campus this year, according to Turley. Those living at The Station at Mill Point are considered on-campus residents, in turn reducing the number of spaces available in other on-campus apartments.

"We know our beds will be full," she said. "We have the demand. We have amazing housing, but we want to have the right housing based on students developmental needs and class year."

Changes in the housing selection process reflect students' demands, according to Turley.

The Board of Trustees approved The Station at Mill Point to offer co-ed

"We've always had a cap. We've had to. We would love to say, 'here's housing, come on,' which is why we are building."

-Niki Turley
ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

apartments.

"It reflects students' friend groups and that all your friends are not single gender," Turley said.

Feedback shows students are excited about the new housing, according to Turley, but are still waiting for the exact price to be revealed after it is determined by this year's budget.

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THE VOTE AGAINST PROJECT

Elon responds to NC amendment

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

The message is simple enough — vote against.

"This project will give you a voice — what are you going to vote against?" the welcome video for the movement asks. "Discrimination, government intrusion, hate, bullying, religion-based discrimination, the destruction of families."

Liv Dubendorf, a senior studying media arts and entertainment, recently became involved with the Vote Against project that launched last year in response to a constitutional amendment banning legal recognition for all unmarried couples.

"America is at a crossroads right now — the issue of sexual orientation equality is our generation's hot button issue," Dubendorf said. "We must decide as a nation if this is an issue of humanism or of morality. I'm very interested to see what happens in this vote, as I think it will affect how we view rights issues in the future."

Leaders of the movement, impressed

with her work on other documentaries and short films, approached Dubendorf. As videographer for the project, she has filmed personal testimonials and created a welcome video for Vote Against. She is also working on a longer documentary scheduled for completion in May about the amendment and movement with senior Dan Koehler.

"The reason I took this project on was, most importantly, to educate the public," Dubendorf said. "I feel it is our responsibility to show people what the issues really consist of. Regardless of one's political leanings, I wanted to show people the real North Carolina and the facts of what they're voting for or against."

Last September, after the bill cleared both the state House and Senate, the North Carolina state legislature moved to put the amendment on the upcoming May 8 ballot. While same-sex marriage is already illegal in the state of North Carolina, the amendment would make the definition of marriage stricter by prohibiting civil unions and rights for domestic partnerships and voiding the benefits domestic partners in the state



Senior Liv Dubendorf is a videographer for the Vote Against movement, which aims to educate state voters about a proposed amendment banning legal recognition of all unmarried couples.

currently receive.

Often framed as a gay-rights issue, the amendment also affects all people in North Carolina, particularly unmarried, heterosexual couples, Dubendorf said.

According to results from the Elon Poll, opposition to a ban on same-sex marriage has remained relatively steady since 2009, while state opinion on the definition of marriage has remained more varied.

In September 2011, 56 percent of respondents to the Elon poll indicated they oppose the amendment, an increase of 5 percent from March 2009. Thirty-four percent indicated they oppose any legal recognition of same-sex couples, while the remaining responses were generally split in what rights same-sex couples should be provided — 29 percent indicated support for civil unions or partnerships and 33 percent showed support for full rights.

Based on her research, Dubendorf said there are parallels between the arguments of both those for and against the amendment, all of whom want legal recognition for their relationship.

"People on the side to support the amendment of this magnitude view it as a moral issue — they are trying to protect the values they hold dear and they are reluctant to change because they are worried about the sanctity of their family," she said. "Ironically, people against the amendment are equally concerned for their families — this amendment would proclaim an unmarried couple's union not protected by law and not afforded the same legal privileges as a married couple."

North Carolina is the last state in the South to pass a constitutional amendment of this nature, which dictates marriage between a man and a woman as the only legally protected relationship. As same-sex marriage is already illegal, passage of the amendment represents a step backward in civil rights and social justice, according to Kirstin Ringelberg, associate professor of art history and inaugural coordinator of Elon's LGBTQ office.

"I think we're at a point in our culture where the gradual gain in some areas of a sense of freedom and equality among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people has caused a more dramatic reaction against us from those who feel fear about what that signifies," Ringelberg said. "For a lot of people, recognizing that sex, gender and sexuality aren't inherently binaristic (founded in clear opposites) requires a radical rethinking of their worldview, and such changes are always painful and

come with a lot of resistance."

It's comparable to inequality faced by blacks during the Civil Rights movement, she said.

"Just as many white Southerners felt that segregation of water fountains, movie theaters, sandwich counters and denial of equal voting access were not just normal but required laws and violence to maintain," she said, "so many people feel that non-heteronormative couples should not have the same rights as they think they deserve."

Currently, Elon is one of many private institutions that offer domestic partner benefits regardless of sexual or gender identity, which could be impacted by passage of the amendment. The university could potentially be forced to change insurance companies if the current insurance provider is prohibited from providing benefits, Ringelberg said.

"Certainly, other non-married couples, queer or straight, who work for other companies in the state might face total loss of rights they currently have, with no hope of achieving them in the future," Ringelberg said.

But the impact of the amendment would also be felt by businesses, which would not only lose their ability to offer competitive benefits to the best-qualified applicants, but also to afford to cover current employees, she said.

"Imagine if you own a business that is forced through this law to stop offering those benefits," Ringelberg said. "You thereby lose valued, long-time employees who can no longer afford to work for you because they are not getting health care at a reasonable cost."

Ringelberg said she is excited about the energy surrounding the Vote Against movement. More than 500 people have already shown up at events held around the state, according to Dubendorf.

"We have to get people to the polls," she said. "If people don't vote, it doesn't matter what they actually believe in, because they haven't made their voices heard."

Want to learn more?

Various campus organizations are sponsoring Race to the Ballot from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 15 in McKinnon to educate the community about the amendment and encourage voter registration.

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Faculty revisits concerns about grade distribution

Number of A's given to Elon students yearly continues to increase

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

With a new semester beginning, students are seeing plenty of syllabi, enough to probably know what kind of work merits an A or a B. According to the 2011-2012 academic catalog, an A denotes "distinguished performance" in a course, yet, according to Elon University's recent grade distribution reports for fall 2011, the average grade point average is 3.19, significantly higher than the average GPA, 2.37, in 1978, as first recorded by Mark Albertson, registrar and assistant to the provost.

Elon faculty members continue to examine grade distribution to better reflect student performance and intellect.

"When I look at the data about grading, I see compression," said Peter Felten, assistant provost and director of the center for the advancement of teaching and learning. "Most grades are in a very narrow range and that could be okay if student performance is in a pretty narrow range, but in the classes I teach I see a distribution of students who do really, really well — their performance is amazing — and some students who don't perform as well."

This distribution of grades



JEFF STERN | Online Managing Editor

does not accurately reflect the variance in student academic performance, according to Felten. He said he is concerned that grade compression deters the best students from being challenged to do their best work.

"I want students who are struggling to be supported, but I also want them to be challenged," Felten said. "I don't want them to feel like they can coast along."

For several years, Tony Crider, chair of the physics department, has been updating a set of motion charts he created to illustrate the increase in A's and B's Elon students have received since 1978. Crider is concerned that, as data indicates, an A is now the most common grade being given to Elon students.

Steven House, provost and vice president for academic

affairs, said there are many reasons why the number of A's and B's has increased in the past 34 years.

"You have a different faculty, you have a different type of student, you have a different way of teaching," House said. "By the time you combine all of those in there, you have so many variables you don't really know what variable is responsible for a change or an increase in

a grade. Clearly, students are brighter than they used to be, as demonstrated by the average SAT (score). It's probably 200 points higher just going on the scale of 1600."

House said his job is to share the data from the grade distribution reports with faculty members so they know how each professor and department compares to the target amount of A's.

Recent land purchases remain unused, administration still focused on Elon's growth

Rebecca Smith
Senior Reporter

Elon University administration have said they are confident that currently vacant land will soon be incorporated into the university.

Students walking along West Haggard Avenue pass the empty plot of land where Walker Dance Studio was located. Elon acquired the land in May and tore down the building in October.

Other purchases remain unused. The historic Cable School, which the Cable family gave to Elon University in August 2009, has not been fully incorporated into the

university. Although Elon secured the structure, the administration continues to wait for grant money to continue renovations and make the building accessible to students.

Although the university has no current plans for the recently purchased land, the space symbolizes the growth of the institution, according to Gerry Francis, executive vice president.

"The future of Elon is found in the contiguous land, it's where we will grow and find room for all of the projects that will enrich our university," Francis said.

The history of Elon demonstrates that unoccupied

land develops a purpose, Francis said.

"I have been here since 1974," Francis said. "At that point, you could look at what was formerly Harper Center and everything to the right was not there, there was no Moseley Center, parking lot, Colonnades or Greek Houses."

In the 1980s, a wall marked the end of campus where the archway to Academic Village now stands.

"If we had not bought all of that land, where would we be now?" Francis said. "I remember how, when we moved the Health Services into the building that is now the Financial Aid office, they were upset because they thought

they were far away from campus. Now that is a central point of campus. When there is contiguous property, it can be a smart investment for the university."

Currently, Elon does not have any plans for the land that was formerly the Walker Dance Studio, said Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology.

"It depends on what the land is and where it is for us to decide if we are going to buy it," Whittington said. "I don't think it's something that is a policy. If it is something that would be of obvious importance to the university, then we talk to the current

landowner."

When the university started building the Alumni Field House, the owners of the Cable School were going to tear the historic building down. The owners gave the house to the university — Elon boarded up the windows, repaired the roof and stabilized the property.

"It is important for us to preserve the property and make it available to those who have an interest in that area, people who are doing research and interested in the history of the area," Whittington said.

The money from the grants will be used to renovate the historic structure and incorporate it into the university, Francis said.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Elon Homes and Schools for Children will lease the property at the end of the academic year, but a local parent group expressed interest in providing new direction and facility for the high school.

Elon School must find new location

ELON SCHOOL from page 1

said the university is interested in purchasing the land contiguous with the intramural playing fields, which previously belonged to Elon Homes and Schools for Children, the

university has no intention of leasing the facility from the organization.

"If we were to lease it from them in a minimum amount of years, we would have spent as much as it would have cost to buy, so it is not a good investment," Francis said.

Price of housing options dependent on new budget, not yet determined

HOUSING from page 1

A four-person apartment in The Station at Mill Point will cost the same as a four-person apartment in the Oaks, Turley said. Currently, a four-person Oaks apartment costs \$610 per month, but Turley predicts a 4 percent increase, which is standard for all university housing, she said.

The Board of Trustees will determine the price Feb. 14, before housing selection begins.

This year's housing process begins earlier than in the past. Housing selection will finish at the beginning of March, as opposed to the end of March, as in past years. The new timeline for housing selection mirrors that of the apartment complexes, said Elaine Turner, director

of Residence Life, in a previous interview with The Pendulum,

"I know that sometimes the off-campus apartment complexes can push up their dates, so as to ensure their full occupancy," Turley said. "But I would tell students that they should go through our process, if that is ultimately what they want, see if they get what they want, and if not, it's still early March, then look to off campus."

Turley said she expects construction to be completed by the end of the summer. Students that elect to live at The Station at Mill Point will enter a nine-month lease beginning in August.

For more information or specific questions, contact Residence Life at 336-278-7300 or attend an information session.

Information sessions about the housing selection process:

Date	Topic	Time, Location
Wed. Feb 1	Res Halls	7 p.m. Colonnades B 105
Tues Feb. 7	Apartments	6 p.m. Daniele Commons
Mon Feb. 13	Relocation	5 p.m. Belk Library 206
Mon Feb. 13	Res Halls	7 p.m. Harden B
Sun Feb. 19	All Housing	6:30 p.m. Daniele Commons
Mon Feb. 20	Apartments	6:30 p.m. Oaks 201
Mon March 5	Res Hall & Apartment	5 p.m. West Commons

Residents concerned about living space

COLONNADES from page 1

Lutvak also leave their room open for tours on Fridays, during which time Morse did homework in the common room until the tour was complete.

"With classes there, I can't do that," Morse said. "The building is not mine. We chose to do the tours. We did not choose to have the common room used as this space."

Lutvak said he sought the assistance of Morgan, who then sent the email to residents. While Morgan was unavailable for comment, Lutvak said she told him she had not been informed and could not do anything about the situation.

"The school just raised \$100 million and you're telling me they can't find classroom space?" Lutvak said. "That's great, if you want to test this out. That's fantastic. But either inform us about it and make sure we're OK with it, and if you're not going to check with us, refund us what we paid for that space because we can't use it."

According to Turley, using areas for both living and learning is a major initiative of the university and will be employed in the intended global neighborhood.

"In terms of communicating excitement about residential campus, students are eager to have spaces where

they are having continued conversations," she said. "We don't want to isolate or limit the learning experience. It's really exciting because we already know Elon has amazing engaged learning and we know that students are engaged learners and that learning isn't isolated to an aspect or a classroom."

"I do not want strangers to have free access to the building nor do I want to be woken up for a class that I do not have to attend."

-Ashton Harris
JUNIOR COLONNADES RESIDENT

Junior Ashton Harris said after paying a fee to live in a location on campus, she expected to have access to every part of the building.

"I am not paying for a freshman global class to be able to have the 'comfort of home' in their classroom," she said. "If I, along with the other residents on my floor, are not able to sit in our common room when we want or be able to do work in our common room when we want, we should be reimbursed a nominal amount for the time we are unable to occupy the room."

She said she is most concerned that the classes are scheduled in the early morning and her bedroom is near the classroom space.

"Starting around 7:45 a.m., I hear freshmen banging on the door to be let in since they do not have swiping ability," she said, noting her classes don't start until later in the morning. "I do not want strangers to have free access to the building nor do I want to be woken up for a class that I do not have to attend."

American Studies provides insight to diversity

Hannah DeLaCourt
Senior Reporter

The American studies minor at Elon is an interdisciplinary minor that provides study in American history and American literature. But many students are unaware that Elon offers such a program, or that many of the classes they have already taken can count towards the minor.

Samuele Pardini, the new director of the American studies program, said he is focused on changing this lack of awareness.

"It's a minor that was created in 2008, but it hasn't been publicized a lot," Pardini said. "One of my hopes is to publicize this option to students because it gives you a really good perspective of American culture."

The minor is essential to helping teach about diversity at Elon, where significant emphasis is placed on promoting diversity, Pardini said.

"It's no exaggeration that American culture brought diversity, and learning about (diversity) all started with American studies," Pardini said. "This is the field that welcomed minorities to America and brought the issues of gender diversity, race relations and imperialism to the forefront."

The American studies minor can be beneficial to Elon because, in many ways, the student body is homogeneous, Pardini said.

"One thing American studies can do is bring up the diversity that is already

present in the student body, but that the students and the university may not be aware of," he said. "I think it will help the university, because within the student body we have here, it can expose them to walks of life that they have never encountered."

Junior Robert Shapiro is an American studies minor and had Pardini as a professor last year. He said the minor interests him because he thinks it is a fresh way to study America and American culture.

"Rather than strictly focusing on history or literature or art, it takes all of them into account to develop a more vivid, complete picture of American culture," Shapiro said. "I think it's a minor that easily diversifies one's learning experience, which is certainly something I have enjoyed about it."

Shapiro views the minor as a supplement to his major in literature. He hopes the minor can act as a springboard into other areas of study.

"I've always loved American literature, and it's wonderful to contrast these novels and poems to movies, music and historical texts," he said.

Pardini said he is looking forward to having more students show interest in the minor. But he does not just want to publicize to students from the United States. He said he thinks international students could learn a lot from having a minor in American studies because they often come to America with preconceived notions.

"They come with the knowledge of the land of

opportunity, but it is much more complicated than that," Pardini said. "I think it is good that they are exposed to the diversity and culture of American culture, which is what American studies is all about."

There are a number of classes associated with American culture that can count for credit toward the minor. Only 24 credit hours are needed for the minor, and Concepts in American Studies, an introduction to American studies, is the only required class.

"The discipline now is evolving," Pardini said. "While it keeps the traditional path of history and literature concentration, some classes, like the study of media and how television or new media affects American culture, could count for American studies."

Pardini also hopes to create new classes that will give credit toward the minor. He is working on designing a new general studies course that explores the effects of sports on American culture.

"It's not valued how massive the importance of sports are on American life," Pardini said. "For example, you can do the history of male ethnicity through boxing and racial studies. So I would like to get a class that combines American studies and sports."

But right now, his main focus is to promote the minor.

"I've been talking to students lately, and they didn't know that the minor existed," he said. "But when I told them what it was about, they got excited."

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Obama administration proposes reforms for affordable education

Grace Elkus
News Editor

In his State of the Union address Jan. 24, President Barack Obama spoke about his proposed reforms for keeping the cost of college low and attainable for all Americans, the specifics of which were organized in a blueprint released Jan. 27. The plans include creating incentives such as the Race to the Top College Affordability and Completion program and a First in the World competition to promote low costs and quality, redoubling federal support and empowering families to make informed decisions about education.

In an on-the-record conference call with student journalists, Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan gave detail to these proposals and emphasized the responsibility shared by the government, states, colleges and universities in working to keep college affordable.

"The goal is not just access, it's all about attainment, completion," Duncan said. "We want to challenge states to continue to invest in education, and we have to be a full and equal partner. When universities are doing really creative things, we want to not just recognize it, we want to incentivize it and learn from it."

The incentives would be for states that, largely due to the recession, have cut into aid to state universities and community colleges. Schools

who think resourcefully about how to cut costs and demonstrate long-term value will be backed up by federal dollars, Biden said. The administration also plans to double the number of work study programs currently in place, dedicate a significant amount of money to Pell grants, make an expansion of Perkins loans to serve an estimated 3 million students and make an effort to keep the interest on student loans at 3.4 percent as the interest prepares to double this summer.

The Obama administration's interest in affordable education stems from its recognition of the necessity of a college education.

"It's an overwhelming interest in this country that everybody who is able to get a college degree get one," Biden said. "This is about the national interest. It's about the basic bargain with the middle class. It's about the American dream."

Obama and Biden also recognize the importance of being able to compete internationally. Currently, the United States ranks 16th in the world in the percentage of the population that graduates from college. Obama and Biden's goal is that, by the year 2020, the United States ranks No. 1.

"This is about excellence," Biden said. "This is about promoting the best we can. And folks, I think we're in the cusp of once again emerging into the most powerful economy in the world. I think this is our century. This is the best money we can spend."



Audience members snap photographs after President Barack Obama gave a speech about college education on the campus of University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Jan. 27.



President Barack Obama talks to a crowd of 3,000 about the price and worth of a college education on the campus of University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Jan. 27.

As college costs rise, Obama puts forth plan to punish expensive schools

Kassandra Cloos
Producer of The Swing

The grueling task of paying for a college education — private or public — is often terrifying for the thousands

of middle and lower-class families who take out loan after loan, year after year.

For some, the federal government offers sufficient aid in the form of scholarships, grants and subsidized loans. But for others, whose families

need but do not qualify for financial aid, tuition payments are increasingly painful.

President Barack Obama recently presented a federal tuition assistance proposal that would include using federal aid as an incentive for institutions to keep costs low. The program rewards more affordable schools by offering their students increased aid.

Obama also proposed extending lower interest rates for Stafford Loans and permanently offering tax breaks to families paying for college, both set to expire this year.

The plan has not yet gone to Congress for debate, and many of the provisions are vague and unresolved, according to Adam Short, a political science lecturer at Elon University. Students made up a large portion of the demographic that elected Obama in 2008, and Short said that may influence Obama's decisions about education in light of the upcoming election.

"It's an issue of concern to young voters and it's an issue of concern to parents of young voters," he said. "If he feels that's a vote-moving issue for them, that's something that might factor into his decision-making. In a year like this, it's hard to say because the economy still is not doing great, so that's going to be a driving issue for voters. This plan is sort of tied to that, but I don't know to what extent education is a vote-moving issue."

While the terms of "punishment" have not yet been defined, more expensive schools may find their students have limited eligibility for some types of aid, like federal work study and Perkins loans.

Elon is consistently ranked as a good value school among its competitors and is not in danger of being punished under the proposal, according to Patrick Murphy, director of Financial Planning. But Obama has yet to define a "good value" in the context of his proposal, and Murphy said he thinks punished schools may see their diversity suffer.

"Schools can always fill the seat, it just depends on how you want the class to look," he said. "If you start losing financial aid, you're going to

lose diversity. It makes the school less interesting. That's the part of the plan I don't think has been well thought out."

Senior Brittany Moore, who is responsible for her own tuition and living expenses, said she would not have been able to attend Elon without a combination of federal aid and institutional scholarships and grants. She has a part-time job and has been working since high school, but she still has thousands of dollars in loans.

"Hopefully (Obama's plan) would mean pushing (expensive schools) to lower things and give out more aid and such," she said. "But if it doesn't, it could limit a lot of people who can't afford it who would be great for that school."

Republican presidential contender Newt Gingrich has spoken sharply against heavily subsidizing college tuition with federal dollars, saying students don't rush to graduate because they have the funding.

But freshmen Niki Molinaro and Dash Jepsen, both of whom do not receive federal financial aid, said the government should work harder to help students pay for college.

Molinaro, who filled out the FAFSA form and did not qualify for aid, said she thinks it's difficult for families to get the assistance they need because of restrictions on eligibility.

"My stepdad talked about how he went through law school at St. John's and paid for it all working as a bartender," she said. "But the price of schools has gone up so astronomically that that's not really an option anymore. We can't work as a waitress or work as a bartender and pay for college with our tips, especially with this job market and not having the guarantee of getting a job when we get out of school."

Jepsen, who said both of his parents put themselves through college and have talked about the corresponding challenges, said he thinks working excessively while in school affects students' studies and undermines the value of their education.

"If we want to succeed as a country, we need to promote higher education and the government needs to help out in that regard," he said.



Professional Discovery Week 2012

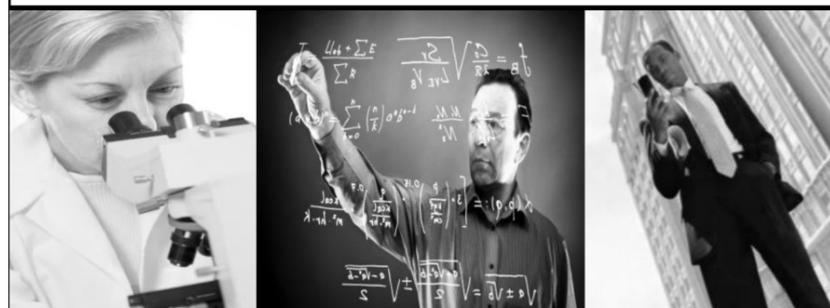


Explore the Possibilities

Monday, Feb. 13 - Thursday, Feb. 16

Check www.elon.edu/careers under Coming Events for more information.

Questions? Visit the Student Professional Development Center in Moseley 140 or call 336-278-6538.



Library hours extended for spring semester

Emily Hines
Assistant News Editor

Belk Library is testing out extended hours of operation for the spring semester. The first and second floors will remain open for 24 hours, along with the circulation and reservation desks.

The library staff decided to make these changes after several requests from students. Freshman Julia Denick said she often finds herself in the library late at night and disliked having to switch floors once the second floor closed at 1 a.m.

"My preference is the second floor, because you lay out whatever you need to study," she said. "Then 12:45 would hit and I wouldn't be done. It would be frustrating because I would have to pack up and move downstairs. If it is a busy night, (the first floor) is a little more crowded and distracting."

Kate Hickey, dean and university librarian, said the reason for having previously closed down the second and third floors was for security purposes.

"The only reason we closed them down is that there is one person monitoring the building, and it is a pretty big building," she said.

In an effort to battle security

issues, the school installed security cameras in the library and Dwight Davis, the night manager, will make rounds, Hickey said.

Despite the fact that Davis is the only staff member present in the evenings, Denick said she's never been concerned about her personal safety in the library.

"The library is a very safe atmosphere," she said. "I have left my stuff out before to go get a cup of coffee from Moseley and come back to find that all of my stuff is still there. Maybe that is not the smartest idea, but I feel comfortable doing that. I have seen the librarians making rounds and I don't think I would feel unsafe."

And students aren't the only ones excited by the extended hours. The library staff expects the hours will change students' study habits and encourage people to spend more time at the library.

"I think it will increase the library usage, and I feel that the students will stay longer and later in the library being they will not have to move to the first floor," Davis said.

The extension of hours is only a trial, and Davis said if safety and security become an issue, the extended hours might not go into permanent effect.



Dwight Davis, the night manager at the library, is the only employee on duty during the newly extended hours. The university installed security cameras in the library and Davis will also be making rounds throughout the night.

GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

German government invites Elon senior to cultural program

Katherine Blunt
Senior Reporter

Senior Olivia Feldman spent the final week of January in Berlin — not as a tourist or student, but as a guest of the German government. Feldman was one of only two Jewish



OLIVIA FELDMAN

Americans selected to participate in the Bundestag Youth Encounter Program, a weeklong affair intended to spark dialogue between German youth and Jews from around the world. This was not Feldman's first time traveling to Germany. When Feldman decided to study abroad in Heidelberg, Germany during her junior year at Elon, her Jewish peers were more ambivalent than supportive. Their reactions ultimately incited her interest in German studies through a Jewish lens.

"I am Jewish, and I love Germany, but I know a lot of people who are Jewish that can't understand why anyone Jewish would want to go there," Feldman said. "That made me want to get more involved and learn more about how Germany's identity has been shaped by the Holocaust and what they're doing to reconcile that history."

Feldman returned again to Germany for 10 days during the summer of 2011 as a part of the Germany Close Up program, a 10-day fellowship designed to acquaint Jewish American students with modern-day Germany. Participants in the program were then invited by the German government to apply for the Youth Encounter Program, and Feldman was one of 80 selected worldwide.

"The Youth Encounter Program is very highly respected, and for an Elon student to be one of only two American students selected is an amazing testament to both Olivia and to the university," said Scott Windham, associate professor of foreign languages and chair of the

foreign languages department.

The week, which began Jan. 22, consisted of visits to museums, synagogues and Holocaust memorial sites. The week culminated Jan. 27 with the German Day of Remembrance for the Victims of National Socialism, which Feldman witnessed from within the Reichstag building. Open discussion between group participants and leaders was highly encouraged.

"It was amazing that the (German government) brought people from all over the world to have a dialogue," Feldman said. "This group was so interested in learning how Germany is dealing with the (Holocaust) history now, and it says a lot to me that (the government) is willing to bring people all the way from the United States so we can have that presence in that dialogue."

Through conversation with young Germans, Feldman said she realized German national pride is a relatively weak sentiment, even throughout the younger generation.

"A lot of people think that Germans

haven't done anything to (make reparations for the past) but really, a lot of them are afraid to say they're proud to be German," Feldman said. "They have tried really hard to make sure their memorials are very present. We got to talk to people our age about how they feel about their history, and it is really a difficult issue."

Feldman brings back to Elon's Jewish community a message of hope, a testament to the continued remorse of the German people and the goodwill they continue to offer.

"There is a legacy of discomfort with Jews going to Germany, but I think that this (program) is the kind of encounter that soothes that discomfort," said Nancy Luberoff, Hillel campus director. "I think other students had a similar reaction (of discomfort) to her studying abroad in Germany, but I've already had three or four other Jewish students tell me they are interested in doing the Germany Up Close program next summer. I hope that the partnership between Elon and that program is a permanent one."

iMedia students put real-world skills to test with fly-in projects

Ashley Fahey
Copy Chief

Graduate students' winter fly-in projects couple professional experience with social action.

In January, iMedia graduate students at Elon University took the course COM 570 — Interactive Project for the Public Good, during which they worked in teams to create an interactive media project for the common good in a foreign country.

"The students get a chance to put the skills they've learned to date in the program to use in an accelerated project, one that's far greater in scope than anything they've worked on so far," said Phillip Motley, assistant professor of communications, who led one of two Costa Rica programs. "They get the opportunity to find out just how much they know, what they're good at and how sophisticated their current knowledge of interactive media is."

The iMedia students divided into five different groups that traveled to either Costa Rica,

Iceland, Mexico or Panama. Each group worked with a nonprofit organization, including Proyecto Campanario, a Costa Rican conservation effort dedicated to preserving tropical ecosystems, and Citizens Foundation, an Icelandic nonprofit that aims to develop tools for citizen democracy.

During the fly-in, iMedia students worked on projects that included interviews, audio clips, video clips and photography. For one week, the students worked in their assigned country before returning to campus for the rest of the term to make their footage and information into a publishable multimedia package.

"My fly-in group spent nine days in Reykjavik, Iceland learning about Your Priorities, the Citizens Foundation's web service used to promote online, democratic debate to improve communities," said Lindsey Huston, an iMedia student. "Our goal was to clarify the nonprofit's mission and promote their success, in order to reach a larger international audience.

After our nine days in Reykjavik, my group worked 10 days on Elon's campus in order to achieve this goal."

The project involved several aspects of the iMedia curriculum, from web design to social media.

"We created a social media strategy, six promotional videos, a mission statement, new English copy and a redesigned WordPress website," Huston said.

Each fly-in experience had different challenges and experiences, Motley said.

"Our main challenges were how much time we spent traveling from place to place and meeting the high expectations of our client," Motley said. "(Our main client) was highly ambitious and wanted a lot of work done for her in terms of the website we created. The main challenge was managing her expectations and making sure that we could complete the project and at the same time address her needs and solve her problems."

According to Motley, the fly-

in experience allows iMedia students to gain tools and experience useful for a future career.

"They get a lot of exposure to professional issues such as client management and education, working in a large group towards a common goal, using technology to create appropriate outcomes for a client and the opportunity to work in an international context, something that will be possible for many of them once they graduate," he said.

The winter fly-in has been a part of the iMedia graduate program for the past three years, Motley said. Due to its success, he said the winter fly-in will likely continue in years to come.

"It's one of the most meaningful experiences in the program for the students," he

said. "I'd like to see us exploit the opportunities for pedagogical research more. That's happening now with some of the faculty who teach the course but could be expanded in a way that we

could learn a lot about the service-learning aspect of the course."

To Huston, the work she and her teammates did was both personally and professionally rewarding.

"Not only were my seven classmates and I able to help spread the Citizens Foundation's dream, but also we were able to take one step closer to our dreams by fostering our skills," she said. "I am proud that my group was able to contribute to the dream of the Citizens Foundation, and thankful that they allowed us to take a step closer to our own dreams."

-Phillip Motley
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

SGA elections challenge student apathy

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

The Student Government Association will host university-wide elections Feb. 21 and 22. The electronic voting process is open to all current students, but participation in SGA events and issues are not a top priority for some students, according to Sam Warren, SGA executive president.

"I don't think necessarily all the time that people have the interest to come in and ask questions or go through the records," Warren said.

This political disinterest on campus fluctuates, according to Rachel Long, SGA executive vice president. In previous elections, candidates in many slots have run unopposed, but SGA expects to eliminate many vacancies in the upcoming election.

"Last year, as far as regular elections in the spring, we had a little bit of a dip, but the year before was a really high surge," Long said. "Just in talking in the office and hearing people outside of SGA running, it looks like a lot of races will be contested this year."

Wavering commitment from students challenges SGA.

"It's sort of a catch-22 because you want every race to be contested, but you want every race to be contested by people that want to 100 percent be there," Long said. "We've been fortunate that every position that's been filled, those people have always been really dedicated."

Elon's emphasis on engaged learning and global citizenship encourages students to be dedicated participants in extracurricular activities, but according to Grant De Roo, the election committee co-chair, such engagements may deter students from participating in SGA.

"Ideally, there would be a number of students running for each position, but the reality is that they might not have the time to commit to the Student Government Association," De Roo said.

Although time commitments and indifference stifle student involvement, the SGA executive staff has taken strides toward making a clearer presence on campus.

"People have discussed running for some pretty major decisions that

weren't on the senate this legislative year," Long said.

"I think that kind of is a physical representation of how we've been trying to make SGA a more integral part of campus."

This integration began in April 2011, when the newly elected executive staff responded to skepticism from campus.

"Transparency was one of the pushpoints that we felt really strongly about because a lot of things came up last year where SGA was questioned in that aspect," she said. "I think that we've done a really good job making information public. We've done really well to push transparency this year and make issues known to the student body, but at the same time, people have to want to know about the issues."

With transparency well established, SGA executives hope for increased student involvement during the



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
Elon Student Government Association Executive Council (from left to right) Samuel Warren, Rachel Long, Ross Garner and Nicholas Livengood lead weekly SGA meetings on Thursdays.

upcoming election.

"I want to encourage people to take those risks," Warren said. "It takes a week or two to figure things out, but go for it because it's really a friendly organization once you get in and aren't intimidated by the structure and parliamentary procedure behind it."

Applications for class officer positions are due Thursday, Feb. 9.

Bloomberg Assessment Test now free for students

Katherine Blunt
Senior Reporter

Last semester, the Bloomberg Assessment Test (BAT) was offered to Elon students for the first time. The online test is a standardized aptitude test and serves as a recruiting tool used by more than 20,000 financial institutions worldwide.

"It is a business-driven test that requires a lot of knowledge and experience," said senior Tim Johnson, a business fellow and Bloomberg ambassador. "I recommend it to people that are very comfortable with what they have learned in upper-level business classes."

Comprised of 11 sections, the BAT is a three-hour exam consisting

of questions primarily regarding finance, economics, math and analytical reasoning. Test scores are automatically submitted to an anonymous database accessible to potential employers through the Bloomberg Institute Talent Search. Only the university name and test score are included in the search listing, ensuring that all participants are considered objectively.

Companies can further narrow their searches to yield candidates with specific strengths, as measured by each section of the BAT. This feature benefits both potential employers and potential employees by increasing the likelihood that candidates will excel in a given position.

"A (student) may be weak in some

categories but really strong in others, and that might be attractive to certain companies because (those strengths) apply to the position they're looking for," Johnson said.

After interning at Bloomberg L.P. during the summer of 2011, Johnson assumed the ambassador position upon returning to Elon in the fall. Marketing and administration of the test are among his responsibilities on campus.

The BAT is entirely separate from the Bloomberg Certification Test, which is also offered to students. The Certification Test is for use of the Bloomberg Terminal and appeals mainly to students interested in careers in investment analysis, while the BAT is more business-driven and

appeals to students with a wider range of interests.

"The two tests are fairly similar, but the BAT requires a broad knowledge of investment terms while the Certification Test is more in depth and (more specific)," said Gary Tsarsis, director of the William G. Reed Finance Center and Elon lecturer.

Sixteen Elon students took the BAT last semester, and it will be offered again for free later this semester.

"This standardized test is a good way to even the playing field (between schools)," Johnson said. "It also helps Elon as a whole because if Elon produces great scores, that will show to recruiters that Elon is producing well-educated students who are prepared for the business world."

Periclean Scholars bridge academics, social action

Emily Hines
Assistant News Editor

Ten of the 25 Periclean Scholars from the Class of 2012 traveled to India this Winter Term to execute projects planned throughout fall semester. The first of these projects was the creation of a training video that will instruct volunteer groups on how to quickly build housing in slum areas.

"The video allows cost saving in terms of labor," said Martin Kamela, the adviser for the Class of 2012. "It is an income generation scheme for families in the area who will be experts at building houses. Groups like ours can plug in and raise funds for materials, and foreign groups could look at the video that we created and they could then fund and build a house."

Some of the other scholars worked on the Corporate Social Responsibility Summit. The class invited 20 companies, 80 non-profit organizations and influential individuals, all from India, to come to the summit. Individual meetings were set up between a company and a non-profit organization, and workshops were also held where larger numbers were represented.

The students also went to a farm in the Indian countryside to help with chores and mingle with the women who worked there.

"Although it was not a specific project with a tangible outcome, I got the most out of the farm project because of the connections with the women," said senior Aisha Mitchell. "The farm rehabilitates women who have AIDS. I learned so much being there, more than you can ever learn from books. The women were amazing."

Another ongoing project the group is working on is a documentary about conditions in India. Senior Jack Dodson said they got lucky in several

situations, as they were allowed to get footage at times they did not think it would be possible.

"Partly because we are students and partly because we are a small group, we got to go into the government hospital and talk to them," Dodson said. "We got information on everything from general hospital work to seeing how crowded it was. There were people camped out."

Thomas Arcaro, program director for Periclean Scholars, said although the students may feel like they got lucky, the success of the trip was due to their planning.

"To someone who doesn't know a lot about the project, their question is 'how did you do that?' The answer is three years, a lot of work and a lot of emails," he said. "I am a firm believer that things happen when you are prepared. Luck does happen, but you made the luck for yourself. You did a lot of ground work and you made things happen."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
A group of Periclean Scholars is creating an instructional video to educate volunteer groups on how to quickly build housing in slum areas.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
The 2012 Periclean Scholars class invited 20 companies and 80 non-profit organizations from India to participate in a summit to discuss Corporate Social Responsibility.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Students visited a farm in the Indian countryside and interacted with the women who work there.

Royals' front office brings alumnus closer to his goals

Tyler Brooks
Reporter

Commitment and experience earned Ryan Keur, who graduated from Elon University in January, a step closer to achieving his ideal job. Keur was named the new assistant general manager for the Burlington Royals minor league baseball team Jan. 23 after completing a summer internship with the company.

"I'm extremely excited about my new position and believe that there is great room for growth in the ball club," Keur said. "This was a great opportunity for me to step in a front office position in minor league baseball."

Although Keur earned his position recently, his relationship with the Burlington Royals ball club and its front office staff is anything but new. During the spring of his senior year, Keur interned with the team, completing a variety of tasks off-field. His duties included season planning, group sponsorship sales, planning promotional events and working with ticket and concession sales.

"My time as an intern was a great opportunity for me to experience minor league baseball from a different perspective," Keur said.

Following his internship, Keur decided to stay on during the team's summer season. Keur's decision to work through the season helped him see how the planning he had done in the spring directly correlated with the summer results, said Ben Abzug, general manager of the Burlington Royals.

"Ryan was very good at seeking out jobs that needed to be done, and completing them successfully," Abzug



Ryan Keur landed a job with the Burlington Royals' front office after graduating in January.

said. "He was a good problem solver."

The skills Keur demonstrated and his experience with the team ultimately led the Royals to hire Keur as a full-time assistant general manager, Abzug said.

The work Keur had done as an intern showed the Royal's front office, specifically Abzug, that he was a hard worker, knew the system's inner workings and was knowledgeable enough about the game to become a full-time employee. When Abzug was promoted to general manager after last season, he was faced with the task of hiring someone to work under him, and said he knew Keur was the right choice.

"He has a very good idea of how the operation runs, what he's expected to do, and I knew he would not require much training," Abzug said.

Although the internship introduced Keur to his current employer, Keur credits his success to his days at Elon.

"I believe each of my courses at Elon was beneficial in my progression as not only a student, but in becoming a professional," he said. "I definitely need to acknowledge my professors at Elon for all the hard work that they do in helping their students."

Nevertheless, Keur said his current position is a step toward fulfilling his goal of working with a major league team.

"From the moment I stepped foot on (Elon's) campus, I had set some goals," Keur said. "I wanted to work in business, and in sports, primarily baseball. I one day aspire to be in a major league front office and believe this can be a great stepping stone in my journey."

Law school Diversity Day encourages participation in legal education

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

Elon University's School of Law will hold its fifth annual Diversity Day on Feb. 11. The goal of Diversity Day is to attract and recruit diverse students to the law school, and thereby encourage them to apply to and enroll at Elon Law.

Maximillian Armfield, an admissions recruiter for the law school, said the event is held to serve minority students in the community who want to learn about legal education. By interacting with practicing attorneys and law students, those students can more easily envision themselves following a similar path.

He also said it is a service to the legal profession.

"Great strides are being made by the American Bar Association, its member law schools, and the Law School Admission Council to help eliminate the disparity of minority representation in the legal community, for a diverse legal profession is simply a smarter profession," Armfield said. "Where there are different views and different experiences, better questions are asked. With better questions comes more thoughtful analysis, which leads to better solutions."

There will be a law school admissions panel, at which the steps to applying to law school will be discussed. The program will also include a panel of currently enrolled law students who will answer questions on what it's like to be in law school. Attorneys from various areas of the profession will speak about their jobs and engage the students' questions. There will be a keynote speaker, followed by a law school fair, where students can meet with representatives from North and South Carolina law schools.

The program is open to the public, but Sharon Gaskin, associate dean of admissions at the law school, said the groups that are most encouraged to attend are high school students and college freshmen and sophomores, so they can begin to learn about courses and programs that will prepare them for the rigors of law school and the demands of the legal profession early in their education.

The keynote speaker for this year will be Judge James Spencer, who has had a distinguished career on the federal bench.

He was the first black assistant U.S. attorney to be assigned to the Major Crimes Division in Washington, D.C., and to be nominated as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, where he was the first

black chief judge.

"He is known as a talented speaker, and he enjoys speaking to young people about the law and seeking a career in the legal profession," Gaskin said.

The title of this year's program is "Diversity in the Legal Profession: The Unfinished Work," which Armfield said he thinks sums up their goals for the day.

"An Elon Law program like Diversity Day, which is open to students who might not have ever been on a college campus, helps students to reach long-term educational and professional goals by providing tools to help them stay in school and be successful there," Armfield said. "We point them to resources to help them prepare for the Law School Admissions Test and, through our law fair, allow them to 'travel' to seven different law schools without having to leave one room."

Armfield said Diversity Day is not only important to the legal profession, but also to the Elon community because it continues its unprecedented commitment for diversity. But he said there is always more that can be done.

"We've made some important and significant strides in advancing the roles of minorities in law, but there's a lot more progress to be made," he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Elon community mourns loss of friend, colleague Jim Pickens

Jim Pickens, a former Elon University professor, died Friday, Feb. 3. Pickens worked as a professor of psychology for more than two decades at Elon before retiring in 2007.

"He, with a couple of other people, served as a conscience for the university in some significant ways," said Jeffrey Pugh, professor of religious studies at Elon University.

Pickens served as adviser to the Students for Peace and Justice throughout his time at Elon, according to an article published on E-Net. He motivated the creation of the non-violence studies minor and traveled to Nicaragua and Guatemala as part of Witness for Peace trips.

Elon University awarded Pickens the Periclean Award for Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility. The award designates a commitment to education and citizenship, the goals of Project Pericles.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12 at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter in Burlington.

Elon alumnus nominated to lead U.S. Fleet Force Command

President Barack Obama nominated Bill Gortney, Class of 1977, to head the U.S. Fleet Force Command. He is waiting for the Senate to approve the nomination. Gortney currently serves as director of the joint staff.

U.S. Fleet Force Command organizes, mans, trains, maintains and equips Navy forces and develops and submits budgets. The command provides operation and planning support to Combatant Commanders and integrated warfighter capability requirements to the Chief of Naval Operations.

The position would enable Gortney to execute the nation's mission and continue his personal passion of working with sailors, Gortney said.

He entered the Navy as an Aviation Officer Candidate in 1977.

"I had no intention of making it a career," he said. "It was just something I wanted to do until I figured out what I wanted to do with my life. I'm still determining that."

Gortney graduated from Elon with a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science. He delivered the 121st Commencement Address at the commencement ceremony for the class of 2011.

Elon University celebrates Black History Month

Elon University has organized cultural activities throughout February in observance of Black History Month. Campus and community programs celebrate achievements of blacks throughout the nation's history.

Programs include a midnight poetry slam at Midnight Meals Thursday and a film screening of director Tyler Perry's production of "For Colored Girls" Saturday.

For a full calendar of events, visit www.elon.edu/e-net.

Elon Law Leadership Fellows organize service project

Elon Law Leadership Fellows collected nearly \$3,000 in health and personal products for homeless residents of Greensboro as part of their Winter Term course titled "Lawyer, Leadership and Professionalism."

Students collected bags filled with shampoo, lotion, deodorant, soap and a variety of other items. Students delivered the items to the local YWCA Jan. 21.

Elon University hosts first National Networking Day

Graduates, parents and friends attended Elon University's first national networking day Jan. 25, during which events took place in 15 cities, including Baltimore, Boston and Charlotte.

Programs ranged from networking socials to keynote addresses.

Feb. 8 - Feb. 15

Feb. 8

- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus, 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

Feb. 9

- "Building Peace: Lessons from the Rwandan genocide," 7:30 p.m., LaRose Digital Theater
- "She Loves Me," 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theater

Feb. 10

- "She Loves Me," 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theater

Feb. 11

- Fifth-Annual Diversity Day: 9:30 a.m., Elon University School of Law
- "She Loves Me," 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theater

Feb. 12

- "She Loves Me," 2 p.m., McCrary Theater

Feb. 13

- Professional Discovery Week: Networking Step by Step: 6:30 p.m., McKinnon Hall
- Damian Yanessa, "Shifting Ground" opening reception: 12:30 p.m., Arts West Gallery

Feb. 14

- Elon University Jazz Festival Lunchtime performance: 12:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
- "The Vagina Monologues," 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Yeager Recital Hall

Feb. 15

- Professional Discovery Week: Tips for Getting the Job You Want: 5:30 p.m., Koury Business Center 101
- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus, 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

International

Danes celebrate handball championship



HEATHER CASSANO | Staff Photographer

Against all odds, the Danes proudly celebrated their national handball team's success in the European men's championships at Radhuspladsen, otherwise known as the town hall square Jan. 30. Hundreds of people gathered at the square to catch a glimpse of the national men's handball team, eagerly waving the Dannebrog, or Danish flag.

After barely gaining a spot in the semi-finals, it seemed unlikely that Denmark would achieve the gold. The team went on to a dramatic win against Spain, continuing to the finals against Serbia.

The tournament was held in Belgrade, Serbia. Despite Serbia's home court advantage and a key penalty putting Denmark a man down, the Danish team managed to secure a victory.

Danish player Mikkel Hansen played a key role in Denmark's last win. The gold medal in the European men's handball championship secures Denmark a qualifying spot in this year's London Olympics.

Jordan: Unrest in the nation or American misunderstanding?

Jasmine Whaley
International Reporter

AMMAN, JORDAN — To the common observer, it is very easy to overlook the differences among the political climates in the Middle East. The Arab Spring and subsequent uprisings have all but disturbed the fragile balance of stability and the somewhat peaceful relations between nations in the Middle East that have existed in the region in previous decades. The nuances are easy to miss, but one fact that cannot be glossed over is that the Middle East is not homogeneous. Although the Middle Eastern countries largely share similar cultures, the political makeup and governmental systems vary by country.

Situated in the middle of Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel (along the always contentious West Bank), it is safe to say that Jordan is located in a fairly rough neighborhood. Despite the problems in the nations that surround it, Jordan remains one of the most stable countries in the Middle East. That is not to say that Jordan is without its problems--in the past year alone, Jordan has experienced upwards of 4,000 protests, according to a security briefing given by the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. The king also released the entirety of his cabinet last October and installed a new Prime Minister.

To anyone not familiar with Jordanian politics, this may seem like an extreme measure. But, the king replaces his prime ministers with a

fair amount of regularity--Jordan has had five different prime ministers in the same amount of years. The truth of the matter is that unrest is largely nonexistent in Jordan. There are people who disagree with the monarch and are actively voicing their preference for a democratically elected prime minister and more transparency within the government.

"The major thing that sets Jordan apart is that they (the people) like the king and don't want to get rid of the monarchy," said Yazan Fattaleh, a native Jordanian who studies political science and economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

To Fattaleh, the monarch represents a key reason that Jordan has been able to maintain its stability. Citing Iraq as an example, Fattaleh detailed how tribal differences among vying religious groups helped to completely destabilize the Iraqi government. Less than a week after U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, issued an arrest warrant for the Sunni vice president, Tariq al-Hashemi. Less than 48 hours later, all of the Sunni representatives in Iraq's Parliament resigned from their posts, sparking a wave of sectarian violence across the country.

"It is what it is, and it doesn't pretend to be something that it's not," said Fattaleh, in reference to the Jordanian monarchy.

Jordanians experience a similar amount of frustration with their government that Americans do.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS
King Abdullah of Jordan, poses on January 18, 2012 at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

High unemployment rates, rampant inflation and the global economic turndown have produced the same feelings of resentment in Jordan that they have in America. The difference is that due to limitations of freedom of speech and censorship, Jordanians are much more likely to express their dissent in a protest. A certain amount of safety can be found in large numbers, as opposed to a scathing letter to the editor, which is generally seen as a more acceptable form of protest in the U.S. Both can be viewed with the same amount of indifference and caution.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Severe, unusual drought hits Mexico with force

Mexico is experiencing the most severe drought in recorded history. Two million people are without access to water, and nearly half of the country's cropland has been devastated.

The tribal communities are among the most seriously affected, and the price of produce in Mexico has increased dramatically. The growth of illicit crops has also been damaged; marijuana fields have dried up, causing a setback for international drug sales.

Tropical depressions in Mozambique cause turmoil

Mozambique's death toll has now reached 32 since two tropical depressions hit hard with heavy winds, rain and flooding mid-January.

Some victims drowned while fallen power lines electrocuted others. Thousands of people are still stranded by high waters across the country.

Involvement in Afghanistan winding down

The United States began winding down involvement in Afghanistan a year earlier than expected. This plan relies on shifting the responsibility to Special Operations forces that hunt rebellious leaders and train troops. American conventional forces will be the first to leave Afghanistan while the Special Operations forces may remain in the country even after the NATO mission ends in 2014.

Americans face trial in Egypt because of foreign funding fraud

Nineteen Americans face trial by the Egyptian government in a politically charged investigation of the foreign financing of international nonprofit groups. The United States and Egypt have maintained a 30-year alliance in foreign funding, but recent investigations into its integrity are sure to cause problems. The outcome of this trial could potentially impact America's relationship with Egypt.

Citizens in Moscow rally in disapproval of government

Protestors in Moscow gathered for a third rally against the government on Saturday Feb. 4, attracting a huge crowd in disapproval of Vladimir Putin's presidential campaign. Politicians are almost 100 percent certain that Putin will win a six-year presidential term in the elections next month.

This is the first surge of public disapproval in his 12 years of power, but the protests do not seem to be ending any time soon.

Cold weather shuts down European nations

Europe has been blanketed in snow by an unusually cold wave of wintry weather.

Thousands of people have been trapped, hundreds have died and travel has been almost completely halted. Eastern Europe was hit the hardest, with 131 deaths in Ukraine alone.

Southern countries like Italy have been put out of commission, while the Netherlands is enjoying a 125-mile skating race held through the nation's canals. Thousands of flights have been canceled and helicopters have been sent to rescue those stuck in six feet of snow.

Correspondents' Corner

Learn a new lesson about culture each week through the Correspondents' Corner, where international reporters will share their personal experiences abroad.

Keeley Franklin
International Reporter

PARIS — What has amazed me most about Paris is the difference in social norms. In America, we typically view the French as being snobby and condescending, but I have found the exact opposite to be true. People always say "Bonjour," and they expect you to reciprocate. The French are nice and friendly--they are just not tolerant of those who do not respect their culture.

Leigh Iler
International Reporter

LONDON — I have always been enamored with British accents, and my time here has only confirmed this. As much as I love their accents, I sometimes have difficulty understanding them, but I am sure that they are having an equally hard time trying to interpret my dialect. I am fascinated by how we can speak the same language so differently. One of the items on my study abroad bucket list is to obtain an accent by the time I depart. However, seeing as that may be asking for too much, I could suffice with just a good impersonation.

Rebecca Cummings
International Reporter

MANAUS, BRAZIL — I am discovering the world one country at a time on the Semester at Sea ship. This week we are in Brazil, which is more difficult than we imagined because people don't speak English and don't use the U.S. dollar. We use Reais and point and gesture because we do not know Portuguese. But, the people here are so kind. They help us in any way possible by writing down the prices, and we were welcomed to the port by a military band as we walked down the gangway.

Editorial

Going Greek isn't the only way to go

Sorority. Fraternity. Rush. Pi Chis. Bids.

Elon University has been abuzz recently with all things Greek, marking the time of year when underclassmen struggle to decide whether to rush. With the results of female recruitment still fresh in students' minds, and men's recruitment coming right on its heels, there is only one thing for sure at this point: Some students will get exactly what they want, while others will be disappointed. But regardless of the outcome, every student should remember that Elon is a place where you don't necessarily have to be sporting letters in order to have the best college experience.

We've all heard the stories, seen the Greek letters emblazoned on students' clothes and bags, pictures of the formals, bid day — you name it. There's no denying the Greek presence is strong here at Elon. Some students believe the Greek system to be an integral part of the ultimate college experience, while others find the lifestyle of being non-affiliated equally rewarding.

Now, don't get us wrong. The benefits of joining a Greek organization are many, and we recognize the contributions that they bring to the Elon community. Many students find ample opportunities for leadership, social networking, community service and extracurriculars through their involvement in the Greek system.

But when the excitement of rush week ends, if you happen to find yourself without a bid to the house you wanted, don't despair. College, much like life, doesn't begin and end because you didn't get what you wanted.

Janis Baughman, director of student activities, shares this belief.

"We have noticed that students at Elon tend



MADISON MARGESON | Design Editor

to allow the emotional and social component of recruitment to create false ideas about the supposed difference between the kinds of organizations we have at Elon," she said.

Baughman, who also serves as an adviser to a Greek organization, also explained how the opportunities available to affiliated students have an added element of appeal to them, despite their wide availability to all students.

"Students often forget that the same opportunities for leadership or social networking can be found in every organization on campus, not just Greek organizations," she said.

Another thing to keep in mind is that members of any Greek organization look for students whose interests and personalities mirror their own, as a means of furthering its own goals and strengthening their bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood.

If you are one of those people who feel they were at one point short-changed by a Greek organization, consider this: Just because you didn't get the opportunity you wanted on a silver

platter, it doesn't mean another opportunity isn't still present. Would being accepted into a group, one you may find you don't have anything in common with, really be worth it? College is too short an experience to spend invested in something you are not fit for. Put your time into something that really captures your passion. With Elon's 203 on-campus organizations, 23 of which are Greek, the options for on-campus involvement are sizeable, to say the least.

College represents a period in life that is meant to enrich learning, creative

thought and individuality. Some find that source of inspiration through involvement in community service. Others find it through student media. Still others find the Greek system to be the best fit for them.

Only you can decide if a fraternity or sorority is right for you. You might find that you are not as cut out for Greek life as you had hoped. But, to borrow an overly used cliché: When one door closes, another one opens. Remember that not getting what you wanted now may end up being what you need later.

MORE ONLINE

Check out our online opinions podcast at:

<http://bit.ly/EPtopics2-6>

Check out the new Pendulum blog, Matter of Opinion, at:

<http://bit.ly/opinionsblog>

Do you like cartoons?
Do you like to draw?

If so, you could be the editorial cartoonist for The Pendulum.

For more information, contact Opinions Editor Dan Quackenbush at dquackenbush@elon.edu.

TO COMMENT ...

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

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

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

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

Pendulum comic blast from the past



COMIC BY LARS BRENALD

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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Opinions

The Pendulum welcomes student representative

The philosopher Voltaire once said, "Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers." On a campus where dorms are always changing, 10 year plans are expanding and the student body is continuously growing, we are used to having a lot of questions as Elon students.



Will Brummett
Guest Columnist

But, do we ask the questions when we have them? And are we even being heard?

In short, the new role and privilege I have as serving as the Student Body Representative to The Pendulum is to help your questions and thoughts come to light in a new way.

In a weekly meeting with the hardworking Pendulum staff, I am here to provide an outside perspective, ask the hard questions and make sure your ideas and perspectives are heard.

Maybe you feel underrepresented or misunderstood by something that has happened on campus or was written in the paper, or perhaps you have a great idea and perspective to bring to a story that simply isn't being told. In any of these cases or countless others, I want to bring forth those concerns in a way that The Pendulum may not have considered beforehand.

As a religious studies major, I have very limited insight and investment into the newspaper business. I have no important ties to deadlines or print orders.

I am not running for an office position or promotion and, luckily for The Pendulum, I will get nowhere near handling expensive equipment. I am simply here as a student, for the students. That is my purpose.

Now, some of you may be thinking, "How can one student accurately represent the whole student body?" and that is a great question.

As your representative, I am under no illusion that I either have all the answers or know exactly what the student body is thinking all the time. But that is the beauty of this role as it is simply not my position, but rather our position.

Yes, I may be the one that sits in the regular meetings, but it is the collection of your voices that I will take with me to speak at the table every chance I get.

It's not going to be easy, and there may be a few bumps and adjustments along the way. I promise to do my best to work together with you as we navigate this new opportunity The Pendulum has graciously given us.

Therefore, I invite you to come along and join me at the table by giving The Pendulum and myself some of the wide array of thoughts, opinions and ideas that make Elon the great place it is.

If you any questions or comments, I can be contacted 24/7 at wbrummett@elon.edu, and I promise to respond as promptly as I can to your questions and concerns.

Let us be remembered for our questions. Let us leave a legacy through our activism, and most of all, let us continue to do these things together as we work with The Pendulum to let all voices be heard in a great student newspaper and at the greatest university in North Carolina.

Elon, take a real stand on underage drinking

What do the presidents of Duke University, Dartmouth College and Colgate University all have in common? They have all signed the Amethyst Initiative, a proposal to lower the drinking age. These presidents, along with 133 others, agree that 21 is "just not working."



Mattie Cragin
Guest Columnist

The signatories believe that college students, whether underage or not, will drink alcohol, but the dangers of "binge drinking" can be reduced if the legal age is reduced as well.

The Initiative states "that the problem of irresponsible drinking by young people continues, despite the minimum legal drinking age of 21, and there is a culture of dangerous binge drinking on many campuses. The Initiative calls for an "informed and unimpeded debate" on lowering the drinking age.

Elon University President Leo Lambert is aware of the alarmingly high number of students that engage in high-risk underage drinking at Elon. In 2007, Lambert created the Presidential Task Force on Alcohol. Lambert, along with Professor Jack Clark and Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, created a set of "increased sanctions" to hold students who violate campus policies on underage drinking "fully accountable for their actions." For serious violations, he held that students could be suspended or lose the privilege of studying abroad. This was discussed in his "straight talk on alcohol abuse" letter, where he states that he is "deeply concerned" about this issue. The numbers are clear: 15 students suspended and more than six hospitalized for alcohol abuse last year alone.

Lambert admits that the Elon community cannot "turn away from this problem."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HEATHER CASSANO

Some students find that the legal drinking age does not help prevent overconsumption by minors.

According to students, Elon is putting in a grand effort to tackle this problem.

"The cops broke up parties after just an hour all fall," senior Liz Skube said. "The school doesn't provide many other options on weekend nights and we are college students. What are we supposed to do?"

Skube is right. The efforts made by Elon to combat underage drinking are just driving kids into drinking clandestinely, which is exactly what the Initiative is against. According to a 2010 article by The Pendulum, in the past five years, the Town of Elon Police Department arrested 297 people for drug violations and 186 people for alcohol related charges. There were only seven arrests for robbery, and Skube said that students under 21 are more likely to get caught drinking than stealing at Elon.

The Presidential Task Force is not working. It is obvious that Lambert needs to rethink his approach to underage drinking at Elon. The Amethyst Initiative is a great start- there is a reason that 136 reputable names are attached to the document. Donald Eastman, president of Eckerd College, signed to represent both his school and his family. "I signed because my 35 years

in higher education and my 30 years as a parent to three sons convinced me that the 21-year-old drinking age is hypocritical, ineffective, guilt-inducing and counterproductive," said Eastman.

So why is Lambert hesitant? Is he afraid to taint the reputation of Elon, despite the fact that on websites such as College Prowler and College Confidential, Elon is repeatedly listed as a "party school?"

Ripon College President David Joyce urges other college presidents to consider their responsibilities to their students. "As educators, we are missing an opportunity to teach young people about responsible consumption of alcohol. All of us know the difficulty of managing a residential campus where roughly half of the students can consume alcoholic beverages and the other cannot," Ripon stated.

Elon's initiatives, such as SPARKS, "Party Smart" and the Presidential Task Force, attempt to teach underage students how to drink safely, but each year there are still students taken to the hospital for consuming too much alcohol. If nothing else is working, then signing the initiative may be the perfect way to shake things up.

Is Facebook's first IPO really for the 'public'?

Now a household name, Facebook has transfixed and inspired a generation, as well as given the social media world a major renovation.



Elizabeth Nerich
Columnist

Facebook is about to jump from the screen of our computers, smartphones or tablets to Wall Street. Facebook is going IPO soon and the world is abuzz talking about it.

So, what is an IPO, exactly? IPO stands for Initial Public Offering. It's the first

public sale of a private company. Many people are saying that an IPO is exactly what Facebook wants, but it's actually the complete opposite. Facebook is being forced to turn into a public company because of its size. In America, companies must go public once they reach above 500 shareholders.

Startup companies are normally attracted to going public because doing well in the stock market would lead to a major cash flow for the company. Facebook, on the other hand, isn't a small startup anymore, and they hardly need the cash, even though it's been estimated that Facebook could get \$5 billion by being on the stock exchange.

Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg has been delaying Facebook's transformation to public company. He's even gone to Congress lobbying for a bill that would allow companies to stay private until their shareholder number reached 2,000.

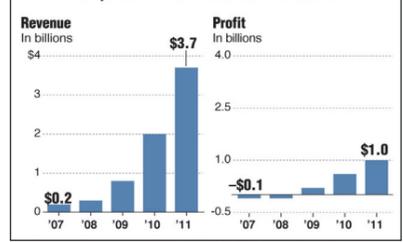
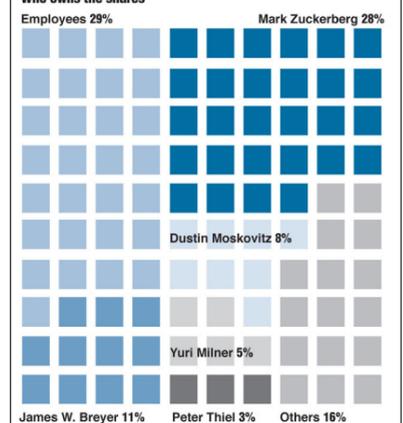
So, why is Zuckerberg so shy to get that company stock symbol? The CEO hasn't talked much to the public about his thoughts or ideas, but I think the cold feet to go public is for an obvious reason. Zuckerberg has been the boss of Facebook since its creation. But once Facebook goes public, there will be a new boss in town: shareholders. These won't be your average Joe shareholders, either. I severely doubt that everyday people will be able to afford stock in Facebook, or at least enough stock to really have a say. Also, Facebook is selling very little stock of its company, so its very likely there won't be enough to go around.

Facebook's primary concern should be convincing big companies buying it out, whose shareholders will demand Facebook exist as a for-profit company. Also, Facebook can no longer be such an opaque company. Now that it will be public, we will know exactly how much the company makes and how they make it. We will also know any legal proceedings against them, what kind of risks they have and we will get some sort of idea on where the company will be headed for the future. My personal favorite is that

Inside Facebook

Facebook's S-1 filing in preparation for its initial public offering gives a peek inside the company for the first time.

Who owns the shares



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

we will also learn how much those executives bring home.

When Facebook hits the market sometime in May, it will certainly be an interesting day for the stock market, but probably won't affect the day-to-day Facebook users yet.

POSTSECRET

ELON, N.C.
FEB 8
8 - AM
2012

Welcome to The Pendulum's sixth edition of PostSecret. All secrets were written and submitted anonymously by the Elon University community.

These local secrets were inspired by PostSecret.com, the largest advertisement-free blog in the world that has had more than 500 million visitors so far.

Didn't get a chance to submit your secret? Send it to The Pendulum's campus box 7012 and it will be featured online.

I wish
would
for
bac
so
tell

I Sometimes dream of
being a FROG! ^{rabbit}



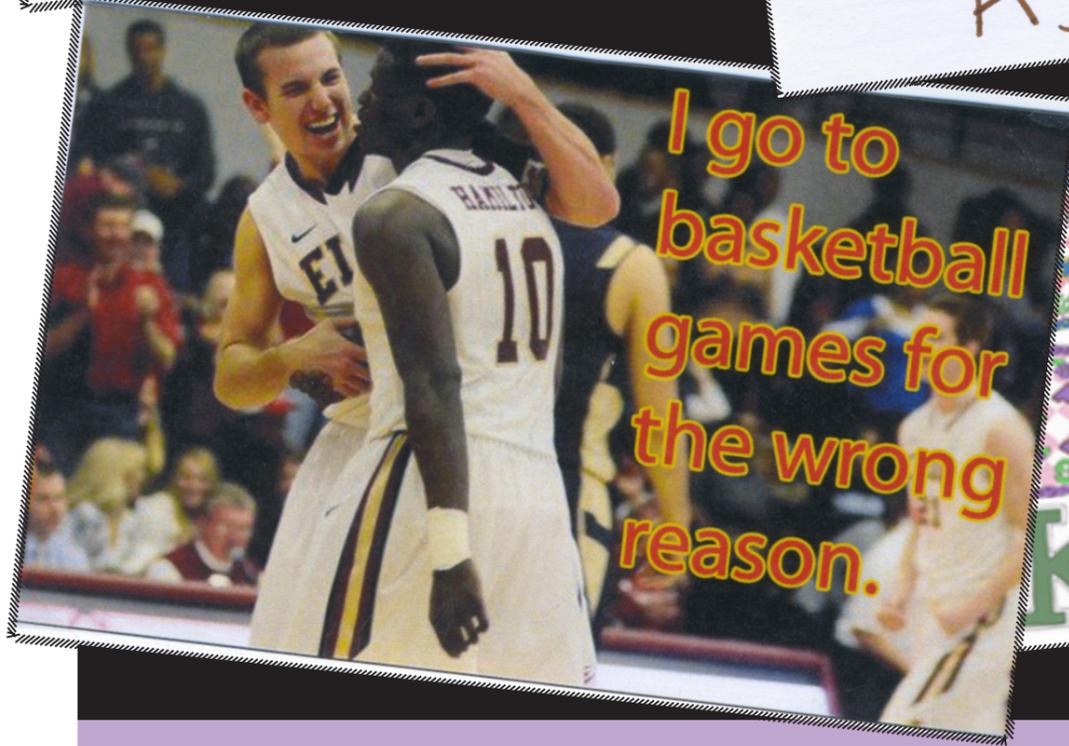
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becoming a Journalism
major AND I DONIT WANT TO

I Sometimes
shave the hair
off my TOES...



ALMOST EVERY GUY
AT THE GYM SEEMS LIKE
AN ASSHOLE

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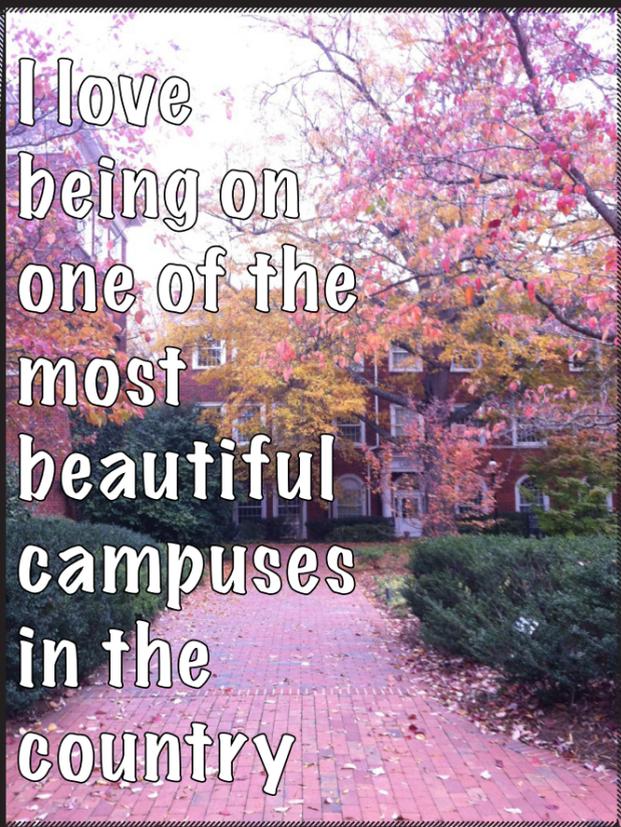
you
ask
me
just
I can
you

No

I'm allergic to toilette paper



I love being on one of the most beautiful campuses in the country



i used to yell "SLUTS!!!" at girls out my car window and i don't regret it

i met my ex-boyfriend's best friend 3 days after we started dating ...i was naked.



the religion.
i pretend i don't cause my friends love the

LORD

The Greek Alphabet
PRONUCIATION OF GREEK LETTERS

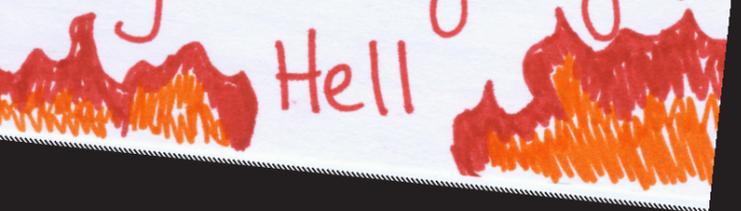
i think that **FRATS** are for guys who are too scared to be their own person



There's no space on this campus for a non-flaming, regular gay guy.



people think i'm really nice but really i'm going to Hell



i <3 my **pinterest** wedding more than my **BOY FRIEND**



Style

The modern day confessional *Spilling secrets, helping heal on Elon's campus*

Sheryl Davis
Multimedia Editor

Go into any college dorm room and piles of textbooks litter the floor. But when it comes to a guide to life and how to make it through, students are often on their own. And when it comes to dealing with the harder issues, many students are at a loss.

Emotional issues used to be discussed at the family dinner table, or for many, answered in church. But where are students turning now?

Frank Warren, the founder of PostSecret, created an online outlet for expression by asking random people to fill out postcards with their secrets and mail them to him. Seven years later, his company has exploded.

The anonymity of the site generates honesty and connections, but are people really getting the support they need?

Relief of honesty and restrictions of anonymity

Megan McCarthy, a sophomore at Elon, had an opportunity to hear Warren present his initiative in high school.

"What struck me the most was that so many people were willing to stand up in a room of hundreds of people and admit secrets that they have never told anyone," she said. "I think it showed a lot of courage because

"It is way more helpful to talk to people about your problems. PostSecret is a very one-sided relationship," he said. "If you really want to feel better about something, then you need to speak to a person. Just posting your problem really doesn't make you feel much better."

Luke, who has gone to counseling, said that in his experience, it does not reach a level of comfort necessary for healing. Instead, he turns to close friends, meditation and a dose of perspective.

"I have close friends I speak about things to," he said. "And if it weren't for them, I would be in a lot worse mental state than I am in now. I cope by meditation. I cope by realizing what is important at the moment, and what is not."

Relationships seem to be a key ingredient in emotional health.

In an informal survey of 75 Elon students, 56 respondents said they go to friends to cope with pressing issues, while only four go to online forums or blogs. The second highest response, with 35 respondents, was to use activities including sports, hobbies or working out as an escape and coping mechanism.

Widespread issue of poor emotional health

According to Princeton University, emotional health is defined as a state of

for student development and substance education at University, specializes in substance prevention and works on programming for student issues. Perry believes trying to hammer statistics into students doesn't effectively prompt motivation.

Perry's work through supervision of Blackout Elon, a campaign aimed at educating students on drinking habits and misconceptions of binge drinking, as well as her work in classrooms, allows students to talk about the reason behind substance abuse.

"Stress is a primary one," Perry said. "Another is students are influenced by their perceptions of their social environment. Most students perceive that other students drink more and more often than they actually do. When students have that perception, it can influence their behavior."

What are students seeing in their emotional environment?

"We present these facades of being very put together, but on the inside we are human beings making mistakes and doing the best we can," Perry said. "I think the reason PostSecret really resonates with people is that it makes you feel you are not so alone, knowing that other

people have those thoughts and experiences. It makes you feel that you are connected to other people in this digital age."

As a substance educator, Perry notes the helpfulness of the Elon PostSecret campaign.

"I think one thing that for us has been really helpful, is it is almost like a different form of data," she said. "We get some qualitative data. These postcards are another way of telling us about what is going on around campus."

Another program on campus that tackles a broad range of health issues is SPARKS, a student-led peer-education group which promotes healthy living choices on campus focusing on a variety of health topics.

Kelly Little, a senior psychology major and team leader for SPARKS, said she saw a gaping hole when it came to emotional health outlets.

M o s t

and of the campaigns that Elon has reflect on something in that has happened," Little

good to see the full spectrum of human emotion; it normalizes the experience of having many different emotions."

Little hadn't read PostSecret until SPARKS began supporting it. Now she finds a stronger and sometimes humorous connection to the secrets.

"I think one of the biggest things is realizing that other people out there are going through the same problems as you," she said. "It provides a comfort and security. Not to mention that half of them are really funny. You read the one that is hilarious and makes you laugh," she said.

Little reiterated the importance of mental health awareness on a campus and the outreach to provide to students at all stages of emotional stability.

"Elon PostSecret was a way of working it in without being blatantly obvious that we are working on mental health," Little said. "We are working on a way to present them that is not pointing anyone out or making a scene for anyone."

Appleby said she hopes displaying powerful messages will bring the Elon community closer.

"I hope that Elon students become more aware of what is happening on this campus, and the kinds of struggles and joys that are happening in the lives of other students," Appleby said. "It can be easy to forget that everyone has a story. I think PostSecret gives us a very small glimpse into the stories happening all around us."

GOALS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT ACT

- Increase access to mental and behavioral health services on campus
- Prevent mental and behavioral disorders and promote mental health and well-being
- Better identify and treat at-risk students
- Improve collaboration and development of mental and behavioral health care
- Increase efficiency of outreach

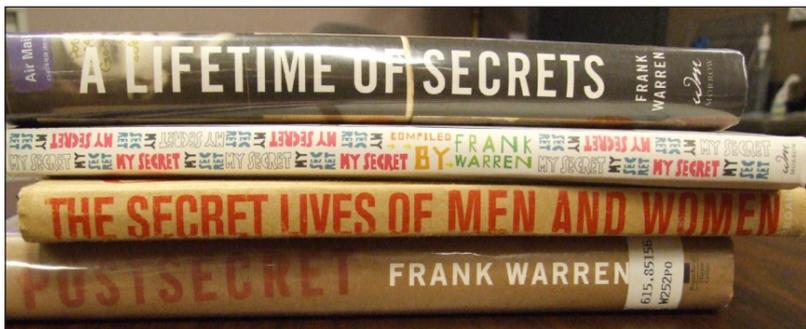
said. "For example, this racial discrimination campaign (Not on our Campus). And the federal program grant that started SPARKS was in response to an increase in students reporting issues with alcohol. They really aren't supporting mental health campaigns at Elon, and this is our way of creating a mental health outlet for students who might be experiencing issues that aren't necessarily supported by the university, or spoken about by the university."

Students' efforts to spill secrets

SPARKS began a localized PostSecret project at the prompting of Lizzy Appleby, a senior philosophy major and SPARKS member. She said the power of connectedness she witnessed at a PostSecret event inspired her.

SPARKS began asking students to fill out postcards and address them to the SPARKS campus box.

"I think there can be a lot of pressure to be positive all of the time," Appleby said. "But the reality of life is that there are some times when we all experience great sadness, anger, embarrassment and many other not-so-positive emotions. It's



SHERYL DAVIS | Multimedia Editor

PostSecret Creator Frank Warren has printed five PostSecret books since the project's inception.

you could tell that it was difficult for them to do, but you could tell that after the fact, they look relieved."

But McCarthy questioned the anonymity of the blog.

"I think being anonymous has both positive and negative effects," she said. "I think that if you are someone who is too fearful to admit something to another person and want to get rid of a secret or problem, then it could benefit you. But, I also think it can hinder you from ever being able to learn how to socialize with people and talk about those issues."

Some readers feel adamant about the lack of responsibility an anonymous site offers when it comes to spilling secrets.

"It gives people a place to get rid of their regrets," said Elliot Luke, a junior at Elon. "It is like an Internet confessional, because people know that whatever they put on there, they are getting it off their chest without the consequences of doing it."

Luke said the secret sharer avoids the confrontation that could come from telling the truth and the possible loss of a relationship with another person.

psychological well-being in which an individual is able to use his or her cognitive and emotional capabilities, function in society and meet the ordinary demands of everyday life.

"More students — with more serious psychological issues — are showing up at campus counseling centers," said a headline plastered across the American Psychological Foundation's Journal in April 2010, detailing the increased emotional health situation for students.

More than one in 10 students sought counseling help, and a high number were for serious depression or anxiety reasons.

The American Psychological Foundation reported on the findings of the 2009 National Survey of Counseling Center Directors that dealt with 302 counseling centers at undergraduate schools.

Sen. Dick Durbin and Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois proposed the Mental Health on Campus Improvement Act. The act will tackle the lack of funding and overlooked mental health of the millions of college students who seek counseling.

Jordan Perry, the coordinator

MORE ONLINE

See the secrets Elon students submitted to The Pendulum.

<http://bit.ly/EPsecrets>

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Alumnus joins forces with local musical talent

Kate Riley
Special Projects Editor

North Carolina native Alan Fox finds beauty in the music he produces and wants to inspire his listeners.

But it was a long road to get to where he is today. Fox had to work different jobs and undergo numerous experiences in order to reach success. The Oak Ridge native made appearances in "The English Teacher" with Julianne Moore and played the male lead in Taylor Swift's music video for her song "Fifteen." But this wasn't Fox's dream—he wanted to make music of his own—and Elon graduate Max Cantor helped him achieve it.

"My passion was always music," Fox said. "I slowly but steadily worked on stuff and wanted to make a go at it. And things just kind of worked out."

Although his career in music was still fresh, Fox found he wanted to promote his work through videos. This is where Cantor, Class of 2010, came in.

Cantor moved to New York City three months after graduating from Elon. He applied to places around the city for employment while also working on personal video productions on the side. Not much later, he found himself developing and working on Elon's current admissions video shown to all students who visit for a campus tour.

From this project, Cantor said he gained a lot of work in New York City and shortly after, he began working with Fox to direct and edit his music videos.

"Alan and I both do these projects that are 'pay the bills' projects," Cantor said. "And we make the most of them and they're fun. But there is still that itch to do the bigger projects and the projects that we really care about, and I think hopefully we are getting closer and closer to doing projects like that."

One such recent project was a

music video by Fox, "Mirrors," which Cantor directed and edited. The two worked to try and create a finished product that would actually mean something to the audience.

"The idea of this song is that it is about someone that we all know," Fox said. "We don't really see the good in ourselves as much as we see the negative."

This is one project the two have worked on together. Another one of their favorites, they said, was the song and video "Lost and Misled." Both said they feel close to this song and liked the message it sends to listeners, and that they want most of what they produce together to carry meaning.

"There are a lot of white college rappers that are kind of indistinguishable from one another and there are kind of 'flavor of the week' songs," Cantor said. "That's not something I'm into, and I know that's not something that Alan's into. I think that we have loftier aims, but I also



Alan Fox, pianist and rapper, has "loftier aims," according to Elon alumnus Max Cantor. Together, they create music videos for Fox's songs. PHOTO SUBMITTED

want to make sure that the messages are substantial."

Cantor emphasized how important it is in this industry to be different from the rest of musicians, pointing out that Fox does this particularly well.

"If you have a good work ethic, if you're smart and you write well, people will listen and they won't pay attention to their preconceived notions about what they thought about you," Cantor said.

Fox said it is also one of his main goals to create that type of reputation for himself and he is willing to try hard to bring forward his best work.

"I just really believe that if you're not going to put out your absolute

best quality, then why do it?" he said. "One thing that I really like about Max, is he has a feeling for what is as good as it can be. I think that there is something to be said for really crafting something that you're proud of, and then doing it."

MORE ONLINE

Watch the music video Max Cantor made for Alan Fox.

<http://bit.ly/EPalanfox>

First Friday lights up downtown Greensboro shops, restaurants

Lauren Ramsdell
Senior Reporter

Downtown Greensboro's Elm Street is a popular place on Friday nights. Natty Greene's Pub and Brewing Company, the Green Bean Coffeehouse and the nearby Carolina Theatre are hoppin' nighttime destinations. But what about those who don't want a beer, a coffee or to see a show?

Downtown Greensboro, Inc. and the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro joined forces in 2008 to bring evenings of live music, art and food to the downtown community. Each participating store decides what event to host: a poetry reading, a metal band or an art exhibition. Every month is a different experience.

Gil Fray is the music director of the F-Art Ensemble, a loose group of artists who come together each First Friday to play at a local women's clothing boutique, Mack and Mack.

"As a collective, it can be anybody and everybody who shows up," Fray said.

The F-Art Ensemble was active from 1980 to 1990, but was revived around three years ago to play First Friday events.

"For May, I'm hoping to have a Mayday parade," Fray said. "We used to have guerilla theatre events like that, so that's a fun thing to do."

Around the corner from Mack and Mack is Loaf, a brand-new bakery in a clean alley off the main street sidewalk. It has been open for just six weeks and has only seen the last couple of First Fridays.

Angela Gregory, one of the co-owners, said the first time Loaf was open for a First Friday, business was slower because it came post-holiday. The one on Feb. 3 was their first real event, she said.

"Tonight we're showcasing a local metal artist, his name is Jay Jones," Gregory said.

Jones' sculptural and nature-inspired mobiles hung over the dining portion of



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Peter Zlotnick plays percussion in the F-Art Ensemble at the clothing store Mack and Mack Feb. 3.

the bakery.

Gregory said she was unsure about First Friday's ability to bring in a lot of new business, but that it was only their second foray into the event.

"We've had a really good day and had a really good evening," she said. "I do feel that it will (bring in business)."

Other stores were offering discounts on certain items or had performances by other musical guests. First Fridays have been going strong for more than three years, and Greensboro's budding downtown may reap the benefits.

MORE ONLINE

Hear from store owners and musicians who participated in First Friday.

<http://bit.ly/EPfirstfriday>

LAUREN RAMSDELL
Senior Reporter

the Swing

Watch The Swing at
youtube.com/TheSwingElon

Head online to check out The Swing, a new way to experience The Pendulum.

This week on The Swing...

Elon School

News Editor Melissa Kansky discusses the plan to relocate the Elon School.

PostSecret

See some of the secrets that didn't make it into the print edition as Multimedia Editor Sheryl Davis discusses her research on the increasingly popular books and their purpose.

Will Brummett Interview

Watch a special interview with The Pendulum's new student representative. Have a reaction or information to share? Post a video response on our Facebook wall.

The News in Brief

Don't have time to read the whole paper? The Swing's Producer, Kassondra Cloos, will catch you up in less than two minutes.



Freshmen George Guerrero, Emily Grizzard and Kate Shafer, left to right, practice their conversational Spanish in El Centro.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Multicultural Center struggles to define diversity, self-promote

Edith Veremu
Reporter

When George Guerrero came to Elon University last fall, he knew he wouldn't have trouble finding his niche on campus. As a freshman international student from the Dominican Republic, Guerrero is part of the 14 percent ethnic diversity represented in the Class of 2015. Although still new on campus, Guerrero said he has found a place where he feels at home and can share his culture and learn from others — El Centro de Espanol.

"El Centro is a way to show people my culture, a place where I can be who I am, just be myself in my own environment and speak with Spanish-speaking natives," Guerrero said. "I came to Elon because my sister graduated from here, and I feel like I've made the right decision."

But this isn't the case for all students. The Multicultural Center, like El Centro, seeks to work with students of different backgrounds and lifestyles and promote cultural understanding within the university community. Multiculturalism itself hasn't been clearly defined, making it difficult for the center to be visible on campus, said

Leon Williams, Multicultural Center director.

"Multiculturalism is a term that was introduced in the '80s to replace such offices like 'minorities,'" Williams said. "I'm not quite sure we have implemented it in the U.S. and that we understand what it is. I prefer students of diverse backgrounds as a term."

Although most visitors to the Multicultural Center are black students, the center offers resources to Hispanic, LGBTQ students and scholarship recipients, and is working to change the school-wide opinion that the center is primarily for blacks, Williams said. He said students often say the center isn't inclusive and some in a focus group held by the center expressed their concerns that The Multicultural Center continues to cater to black students.

"There isn't as wide a welcome center as I'd like," Williams said. "We understand the perception, and we're working hard to educate students that this is their Multicultural Center. It may be an unfair assessment because we collaborate in programming with other offices and departments on campus, whether it's for National Hispanic Heritage Month, Women's History Month or National Coming Out Day."

El Centro has been a large part

of many Spanish-speaking native students' time at Elon, as well as students who are learning the language and about different Hispanic cultures, according to Raquel Cortes Mazuelas, assistant director of El Centro. She said she views the center as a place of cultural exchange, not just a language center. Even though El Centro focuses mainly on the Spanish language, the office also works with the members of the Hispanic community in Burlington and celebrates their different cultures.

"It's all the same goal to work with the language and culture," Mazuelas said. "We're not just a language center. We're a culture center and we teach culture along with the language because culture is language and language is culture."

To Guerrero and Mazuelas, diversity extends beyond ethnicity and language. Visitors to El Centro aren't always learning Spanish or getting homework help. They could be friends of the student workers or just people interested in learning how to salsa, find out about the various cultures represented in the center, Guerrero said. This year marks Mazuelas' seventh year at Elon, and she said she's seen many improvements in terms of the community being open to students from different backgrounds.

"It's a mental switch, not just at Elon," Mazuelas said. "You can't just snap your fingers and expect to see change immediately."

"You can't just snap your fingers and expect to see change immediately."

- Raquel Cortes Mazuelas
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF EL CENTRO

Young alumnus encourages budgets, savings

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

Alumnus Bobby Hobbs, Class of 2010, applies the knowledge he gained as a finance major at Elon University to his job as a commercial loan officer at Bank of Clarke County in Virginia. The Pendulum asked what advice he had for current students and graduates to help establish solid finances.

Q: What can a college student do to get off on the right foot financially?

A: Everyone wants to be financially secure, if not wealthy. The simple answer is that it's not about how much money you make — it's about how you control your spending. As a loan officer, I'm always surprised to see how many people making 100 grand a year are financially worse off than someone making 50K. So, how can you keep from becoming the person pulling in a six figure salary and struggling to make ends meet? That's the million dollar question.

Q: How can they get started?

A: Create a budget. Even if you don't perfectly adhere to it, the fact that it's there makes you more conscious of your cash inflow and outflow and will help fortify good spending habits in the future. The most challenging thing for most people when it comes to budgeting is underestimating expenses or neglecting to include them in the budget entirely. Items that you will find on an independent person's budget

include the following: rent or mortgage, car payment, heating, electric, cable, water, groceries, alcohol, gas, student loans, haircuts, gifts, parking fees, car repairs, taxes, medical expenses, clothing, glasses, insurance, vacation and cell phone bills.

Q: How are you supposed to afford all of that on a newly minted graduate's salary?

A: Well, you'll most likely get some type of help from your parents on some of those items, at least for a short period of time, and your employer may take care of some as well. The easiest way to organize those items that are left for you to pay is to create an Excel spreadsheet. Once you know your salary, simply itemize your expenses between paychecks and see what you're left with once those payments are made. It's possible to plan out an entire year's budget in this manner, and if you prove adept enough at budgeting, you can know how much money you will have in your bank account at the end of 12 months with a relative degree of accuracy. For items that are hard to predict, like car repairs and maintenance, use a monthly average, say 15-50 dollars per month depending on the age and condition of your car.

Q: What else can you recommend?

A: One other piece of advice is to open a credit card. It's important to start building a credit history as early as possible so that when you need to borrow money, you can. Credit scores

improve with time, so the earlier you start a profile, the better off you will be. Credit is kind of like food — you don't realize how important it is until you need it and don't have it, and too much is bad for you.

Do you have a question to ask an Elon graduate? The Pendulum has teamed up with the Young Alumni Association to answer questions on a monthly basis. Send your questions to The Pendulum at pendulum@elon.edu

Want to be a tour guide?

To find out more, come to an information session!

Tues. Feb 21st at 4 PM
Wed. Feb 22nd at 5 PM
Moseley Commuter Lounge

Do YOU have what it takes?

You MUST come to an information session to receive an application!

How to reduce food waste

Recycling is one of my favorite eco-friendly practices because it's so easy to do. Well, this is true until expired foods in the fridge need to be sloughed out of their containers before they can be recycled. Then,



Sarah Carideo
Columnist

when I'm up to my elbows in old pasta sauce, balsamic dressing and pesto, I literally gag at the thought of recycling. To avoid this, I've started cutting down on the food waste in my apartment.

Food waste is a 34 million ton problem in the United States, according to the EPA. In addition to the environmental problems created by so much waste, it also has serious financial consequences. Throwing away food is like throwing away money — it's as simple as that.

Luckily, there are equally simple ways to prevent food waste that will help your finances, community and the environment. The advice for recycling actually applies to food waste, as well: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Step one: Reduce. Plan your meals in advance for the week to make a specific shopping list before going to the grocery store. Once there, just stick to the list and avoid impulse buys.

Be realistic about the amount of food you buy. If it's going to be a busy week, don't shop as if you'll be cooking everything from scratch. Buying only what you can use in the near future will save you the hassle of cooking, freezing or preserving extra food before it spoils, according to Earth911.com.

Storing food properly will also help it last longer, and the National Center for Home Food Preservation is a great resource for consumers to learn a range of techniques to increase the shelf life of food.

Speaking of shelf life, confusion about the different dating methods on foods baffles many and results in food being thrown away when it's still good.

According to the USDA:

- "Sell-By" date tells the store how long to display the product for sale. You should buy the product before the date expires.
- "Best if Used By (or Before)" date is recommended for best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- "Use-By" date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. The manufacturer of the product has determined the date.

If you're still confused, check out StillTasty.com to find out if you can keep it or toss it.

Step two: Reuse. While leftovers might not be the most appealing item in the fridge, try creating a new dish using them instead of just going for the garbage bin. Lovefoodhatewaste.com is one of many resources that provide a database full of delicious leftover-based recipes.

Step three: Recycle. Other than recycling the containers, there are other ways to reduce the impact of food waste. If you just bought too much of something and won't be able to use it before it expires, contact your local food bank to donate it. Donating food that you don't plan to use is a great way to save food while helping to feed those in need in your community, according to the EPA.

These simple changes will help you, your wallet, your community and the world be a less wasteful place.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Seniors Kenny Francoeur (left) and Alexa Magnotto put the finishing touches on a scene for the upcoming production of "She Loves Me." The show will run from Feb. 9 to 12 in McCrary Theatre.

Final rehearsals underway for spring musical production

Lindsay Kimble
Senior Reporter

Bickering co-workers, secret pen pals, a flashy playboy and a young and eager deliveryman round out the quirky cast of the 1963 musical comedy "She Loves Me."

The Elon University Department of Performing Arts' production of the show is wrapping up its final week of rehearsals in preparation for a weekend-long run from Feb. 9 to 12 in McCrary Theatre.

The musical revolves around Georg Nowack and Amalia Balash, played by seniors Adam Kaplan and Emilie Renier, respectively. Nowack and Balash are often-bickering colleagues at a Budapest parfumerie who unknowingly become pen pals after responding to a lonely hearts classified ad.

"Inevitably, Georg and Amalia must realize the truth about each other and their own feelings," said director Linda Sabo. "But not before there are a few farcical mix-ups, sad misunderstandings and hard-won journeys to self-knowledge."

"She Loves Me" is based on the same Hungarian play that inspired the film "The Shop Around the Corner," as well as the popular 1998 film "You've Got Mail," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

Sabo, an associate professor of performing arts, said the decision to stage "She Loves Me" at Elon stemmed from a desire to add contrast to the program's repertoire. The musical was penned by composer Jerry Bock and lyricist Sheldon Harnick, who are known for musicals like "Fiddler on the Roof" and "The Apple Tree."

Elon hasn't performed one of the duo's musicals for many years, and Sabo said she felt students would benefit from working on the score

and learning more about the musical team.

"In particular, for me, I felt the difficulty of this score, paired with the depth of character available to actors in the roles written for this musical would pose a challenge our students could rise to and perform well," Sabo said. "I thought we would be able to cast it well with the wealth of talent in our department."

Sabo said she took a traditional approach to the material when interpreting Elon's staging. The show's dance component is its most unique aspect, as choreography and dance were not present in the original 1963 Broadway production, she said.

"The main difference in this production than probably any other is the choreography created to be danced to the Entr'acte music, which uses a central foundation of ballroom dances built around the Viennese ballroom flavor of the Entr'acte music itself: waltz, polka, rumba and quickstep," Sabo said.

There is also a tango at the end of Act One, choreographed by junior Michael Callahan.

Matthew Webb, an instructor in performing arts, is the musical director and conductor for "She Loves Me." Webb said the score of "She Loves Me" reflects various styles of music inspired by classical forms, as well as samba and Russian dance music with an underlying tango theme.

The score has proven fairly difficult for the vocalists and instrumentalists involved, Webb said.

"We have very talented students who have been training specifically for this production for several months," Webb said. "It has been a challenge, but certainly our musicians have risen to the occasion and will wow the audiences each night



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

(Left to right) Junior Andrew Keeler, senior Jeffrey Todd Parrott and senior Adam Kaplan rehearse a musical number.

with their musical precision, agility and drama."

Sabo said she thinks the love story following the two main characters will directly appeal to college students and the young at heart.

"This show is very different from the past few shows that people have seen from the Elon music theater department," said junior Sean Ronayne, an ensemble member in the production. "It is a very classic and standard musical comedy."

Ronayne said final rehearsals are going well, but tend to be long and tedious.

"Every little detail needs to be worked out so that the show can run smoothly," he said. "This show has several set pieces and the changes need to be carefully coordinated."

Aside from the regular performance, the cast will perform a special show Saturday, Feb. 11, featuring the understudy cast and benefiting Little Pink Houses

of Hope, an organization that provides retreats for breast cancer patients and their families.

"She Loves Me" will be of the highest quality in terms of singing, acting and dancing - the performance triumvirate that we champion at Elon," Webb said. "We always strive to provide innovative, thoughtful and dynamic performances at Elon and our production of 'She Loves Me' will be no different."



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Senior Emilie Renier prepares to embody the role of Amalia Balash in a dress rehearsal for "She Loves Me."



Secondhand strut: Greensboro shows off Goodwill fashion

Lauren Ramsdell
Senior Reporter

The thought of sifting through donated clothing might make some shoppers uncomfortable. But Goodwill Industries stores carry much more than old T-shirts and faded jeans. The third annual Rock the Runway event in Greensboro worked to disprove any negative stereotype about the secondhand clothing stores.

Goodwill marketing specialist Ashley Watkins said many people have a preconceived notion of Goodwill as being a fashion-less place, with clothing full of holes or stained beyond repair. Rock the Runway showcases outfits put together entirely from Goodwill store stock, effectively dismantling that claim, according to Watkins.

"The event has a twofold purpose," Watkins said. "To showcase great looks and to show that you don't have to shop name brand for them."

More than 600 philanthropists, fashionistas and recessionistas alike attended the cocktail-attire event, hosted at The Empire Room in downtown Greensboro. There were attendees who love fashion at any price, and some who find their inspiration on the hangers at Goodwill.

Brenda Humphrey of Greensboro, a first-timer at Rock the Runway, said she came out this year both to support a good cause and to get out of the house.

"I'm a regular at Goodwill," she said. "I hope to see different ideas and different fashion tonight."

Humphrey shared a table with Dianna Fenley, another Greensboro resident who was also a newcomer to the Rock the Runway scene.

"It's a really good way to support a good cause and have a good time," she said. "There are a lot of 'goods.'"

The runway show began after some drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a raffle drawing. Models walked to '80s pop hits and sported fresh springtime attire from Triad-area Goodwill

stores. Many of the items came from the Goodwill on Battleground Avenue in Greensboro.

"Rock the Runway basically exposes the community to the great fashions and styles that are available in our retail stores," said Bryan Broughton, manager of the Battleground Avenue location. "Eighty-seven cents of every dollar spent there goes back into our job training and community resource centers and programs that benefit the community."

The money raised from fashion show ticket sales will also go to provide jobs and training to unemployed and underemployed people in the Triad, according to Watkins. With a larger crowd than ever before and more than 600 tickets sold, Rock the Runway rocked outside of the bargain box this year.

"We are trying to get to the point where Goodwill is a household name for good reason," Watkins said. "For selling good clothes and helping out in the community."



Spring show reveal evokes mixed reactions

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

The Elon University Student Union Board announced Mac Miller and The White Panda will perform at the Spring Show during the final timeout of the first half of Saturday's men's basketball game.

"I think it was an awesome reaction," SUB President Amanda Long said. "When the first artist came on the video, people went crazy. It's been on Twitter, and people have been texting us. I think it's just a great reaction to the artists we chose."

Students expressed mixed feelings about the announcement. Many positive tweets and Facebook comments confirmed Long's perception, but some students were dissatisfied.

"I'm impressed by SUB's ability to get a less enticing Spring Show

every year," senior Jack Ruley wrote on The Pendulum's Facebook page. "Consistency is important, I guess."

Despite complaints that students had no impact on the decision process, Long said she worked with SUB Music Chair Jenna Thrash to gauge student interest using an annual survey.

According to Joe Ziemba, director for marketing and promotions for SUB, Mac Miller was one of the top suggestions by students who participated in the Spring Show's student survey.

For the first time, the reveal took place before halftime.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't take away from all of the activities that always take place during halftime," Long said. "We wanted to make sure that all of the people that came out to see it actually got to see it."

The Spring Show will take place at 7 p.m. March 30 in Alumni Gym.

ALL PHOTOS BY MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
ABOVE: Volunteers, including members of Alpha Phi Omega from High Point University, dressed up in the clothing that was donated and modeled during Rock the Runway 2012.
TOP RIGHT: All clothing items featured during Rock the Runway came from local Triad Goodwill stores. Proceeds raised from ticket sales will provide job training for Triad residents struggling to find employment.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Both men's and women's attire were included in the fashion show, held at The Empire Room in Greensboro. Employees at Goodwill Industries said they hope events like these continue, in order to disprove the notion that Goodwill merchandise is dirty or harmful.

Annual *H. Shelton Smith* Lecture on Religion & Society

Featuring **Dr. Tony Campolo**

author, pastor, professor, & social justice advocate

Wed., February 15th at 7:30 pm
McCrary Theater, Elon Center for the Arts

Evangelicalism EXPLOITED? Has Christianity become partisan in society?

TRUITT CENTER
for Religion & Spiritual Life
ELON UNIVERSITY



Student Union Board discusses strategy behind planning events

Organization aims for crowd-pleasers without breaking bank

Brittany Lloyd-Jones
Reporter

For the fourth year in a row, Elon's Student Union Board has brought traveling musician Jason LeVasseur to Midnight Meals, an event sponsored by the organization.

LeVasseur's music has brought him to several universities around the country. It isn't uncommon for LeVasseur to travel to Virginia, the Carolinas and New York in just one week.

"Anyone will come hear a comedian. People love to laugh. It's always a great turnout because that's what people want and that's what SUB's here for - to give students what they want."

- Joe Ziemba
DIRECTOR FOR MARKETING
AND PROMOTIONS,
STUDENT UNION BOARD

According to LeVasseur, who performed at the event Feb. 2, it is the connection with the audience that keeps him coming back to Elon.

"People clapping is one thing, but it's the back and forth, the shared experience, that counts," he said.

But for members of the Student Union Board, LeVasseur's frequent performances may be due to something else.

SUB organizes events for students every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, including Midnight Meals, SUB Live and the Spring Show to provide an alternative to drinking.

"It's been a long-lasting Elon tradition," said Joe Ziemba, the director for marketing and promotions for SUB. "We get a little bit of extra money from the Presidential Task Force Against Drinking and Alcohol to put on these events for the students' entertainment."

SUB's 12-member executive board attends the National Association for Campus Activities, or NACA, convention twice a year to listen to several performers from around the country and to seek out potential Elon entertainers.

"It's a lot of fun," Ziemba said. "We sit through many showcases and performances, where there's smaller performers that are trying to get booked by hundreds of schools."

SUB tries to pick performers that fit Irazu Coffee Shop, which generally lends itself to a solo act that has an independent style of music or comedy, according to Ziemba. They look for artists that are multitalented individuals, but aren't big



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer
Jason LeVasseur, who brings his music to numerous colleges and universities across the country, performed at Midnight Meals Feb. 2. LeVasseur is one of many performers scheduled through the Student Union Board, which carefully chooses the entertainment appearing at Elon throughout the year.

stars. Most performers are reasonably priced and are simply happy to have a show booked," Ziemba said.

Even though musicians are great for certain audiences, SUB is trying to pull in more comedians, after the success of having a comedian once every month last semester.

"Anyone will come hear a comedian. People love to laugh," Ziemba said. "It's always a great turnout because that's what people want and that's what SUB's here for - to give students

what they want."

Providing entertainment for students also gives student performers their chance to shine.

During Winter Term, student musicians Gavin Billings and Alicia Varcoe had individual Midnight Meals performances organized through the Student Union Board. Some students email the Student Union Board requesting a timeslot to perform after they've already been heard at open mic nights or simply by word of mouth.

"It's really easy for student performers to get involved," Ziemba said. "Students generally perform more than once because after their first time, they usually want to come back, and we try to keep a good relationship with them so that they do come back."

SUB tries to book and fill all events one semester ahead of schedule. Most performances are planned far in advance, especially the Spring Show, but slots that aren't filled are easily accessible for students who want to participate.

Production of French play brings engaged learning to Elon stage

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

After an in-depth analysis and reading of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme," students in the Winter Term course French Theatre in

Production performed the play Feb. 4.

The play, written in the late 17th century by French playwright Moliere, is a comedy that satirizes French social classes. It focuses on a bourgeois man and his attempts to rise above the middle class to become

an aristocrat.

His comical efforts to imitate the higher class lifestyle made for an ultimately crowd-pleasing play, despite the language difference.

A screen was positioned above the stage with modern English subtitles, so non-French speakers could understand the dialogue. The screen didn't distract audience members and was an essential tool for those who didn't speak the language.

For many students, this course provided the chance to revisit the stage.

"As a biology major, I haven't really had the chance to perform in any shows," said junior Sarah Hoopes. "It's been nice to have a break and do something that I miss."

Freshman Caleigh Erickson also did theatre in high school, but hadn't continued with it since graduating. She said she was thrilled to have found a course at Elon that was both new and exciting, but also academically challenging.

Olivia Choplin, assistant professor of French, proposed and designed the entire course. She received a teaching and learning grant to pay for the production.

Choplin said most of the 17 students in the course were freshmen.

"Madame Choplin had told one of my classes that she was interested in starting this class and asked for students who were interested a year or so ago," Hoopes said. "I was so excited when I heard it was happening."

During Winter Term, class differed every day. Some days were spent in the classroom, learning the history of the play, discussing French society and culture or learning more about each character. After the group had developed a strong grasp of the play, they moved to the stage.

"We all grew really close through this project and we worked really hard to put it all together, despite a few setbacks," Erickson said.

Choplin said she was impressed with how the performance went, as the students only had three and a half weeks to prepare an entire play in a foreign language.

The musicians', actors' and singers' hard work allowed for impeccable memorization and enthusiasm on stage.

"My in-laws, who are French, came to the play and were astonished at how well a group of American students could present a French play with less than a month of preparation," Choplin said.

Hoopes said she enjoyed the pace of the class and getting to know the cast members.

"I think it's a really fun way to learn a language," she said.

Choplin said she hopes to continue offering the course in future semesters. She plans to expand the international cultural climate on Elon's campus and eventually have every seat filled in the theater on opening night.



SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer
Freshmen Vaughn Vreeland (left) and Eugena Neumann perform a scene from Moliere's "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme." The play was performed entirely in French, with English subtitles projected on a screen above the stage.



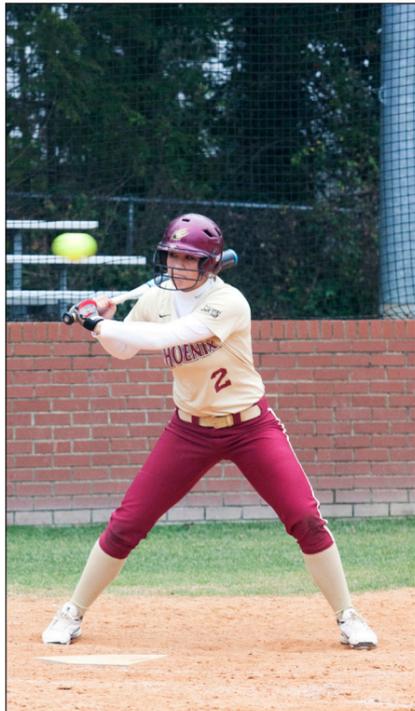
Softball Season Preview



Sophomore McKenzie Harrelson had four at-bats in her first season with the Phoenix. She played in 37 games a year ago, primarily serving as a pinch-runner.

SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

Phoenix looks to rebound from disappointing season



Freshman McKenzie Carter starts her Elon career after starring in high school in Valrico, Fl.

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

Eight new freshmen, an interim head coach and a disappointing conclusion to last season. Pick a storyline. There's plenty to talk about.

The Elon University softball team starts its season Feb. 10 in an attempt to improve upon a 2011 season that saw the Phoenix miss the NCAA Tournament.

"They want to be winners and that's what we want," said interim head coach Kathy Bocock.

Bocock took over the coaching duties after Patti Raduenz resigned in July to pursue other opportunities. In Bocock's first Division I head coaching job, she inherits a team that went 30-24 last year (12-12 in Southern Conference play) and missed the NCAA Tournament after making it for the first time in program history the season before.

In order to make a run to the tournament this year, the Phoenix must take people by surprise. Elon is picked to finish in sixth place in the nine-team SoCon. But in seniors Erin O'Shea and Kaitlyn Piazzolla, junior Tomeka Watson and sophomore Carleigh Nester, the Phoenix has four players on the First and Second All-Conference teams eager to help Elon earn respect.

"We have to have a driving passion to get better every day," O'Shea said.

The Phoenix features eight freshmen new to the program. The newcomers come from seven different states in three regions of the country.

Elon opens the season Feb. 10 at home against Liberty University in the first game of the Elon Invitational. The Phoenix plays its first nine games at home and, for the second season in a row, opens with two on-campus tournaments.

"Since our team is so young, playing at home to start the season will be a huge confidence builder," Bocock said.

Aside from the usual conference slate, the Phoenix must play a gauntlet of non-conference foes from bigger leagues. Elon has road trips to the University of South Carolina, Georgia Tech and North Carolina State University and hosts Georgetown University, the University of North Carolina and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

It's nothing that should stun the Phoenix. Elon played a fall schedule that featured games against No. 9 ranked Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia Tech.

For Elon softball, there's a new coach, new players and new captains. But perhaps most importantly, it's a new season.

PHOENIX SOFTBALL BY THE NUMBERS

- 8** Freshmen on this year's squad
- .377** Sophomore Carleigh Nester's batting average last season, third in the SoCon
- 12** Emerald Graham's, Class of 2011, home run total last year
- .216** Opponent batting average against senior Erin O'Shea last season, second best in SoCon
- 10** States represented on the Phoenix roster
- 0** Hits allowed in a doubleheader versus North Carolina Central last year

Raduenz resigns, Bocock set for first season as woman in charge

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a July afternoon when Carleigh Nester got the phone call.

The name on her caller ID was a typical one. It was her coach, Patti Raduenz. She had called Nester countless times before, so why worry? Then, a bombshell. Raduenz was leaving her post as Elon University softball coach to pursue other career opportunities.

"I didn't really see it coming," the sophomore pitcher said.

Raduenz left as the most successful coach in program

history, leading the Phoenix to its first NCAA Tournament and racking up 277 wins over an 11-year tenure. Raduenz was out, and somebody had to step in her place.

That person was Kathy Bocock. On Aug. 2, Bocock was promoted to interim head coach after serving as an assistant for the previous two seasons. It was a job she had long dreamed of.

"When she left, I put in for it because I love it here," Bocock said. "I was hoping for it."

Suddenly, eight incoming freshmen had to get used to the idea of playing for a coach they didn't sign up to play for.

"It was a little difficult,"

third baseman/outfielder Grace Eng said. "It was a different transition that I had to adjust to."

Bocock's move up left a void to fill — another assistant would need to be hired. She chose a familiar face, Jess Kohut, who served as assistant coach from 2009-2010. The hire provided the freshmen with some added comfort. Kohut recruited several of them during her previous tenure with the Phoenix.

All eight newcomers honored their commitment to Elon and arrived to campus on time.

Elon is a little different from Averett University, the

Division III school in Virginia where Bocock spent 15 years as the head coach of the softball and women's basketball teams.

"These guys are Division I players, so you're trying to get the best of the best and they're getting money and scholarships," Bocock said. "Division III kids, they're doing it because they still love the game. They really come out and get after it every time."

When athletic director Dave Blank promoted Bocock, he did so with an interim tag. It's a scary thought for any coach, knowing your performance is constantly under review and you could be replaced if someone more qualified

comes knocking on the door. But Bocock can't think about that now. Not with the season starting Feb. 10.

"I'm not going to put that pressure on myself, staff or the players, because when you have that extra pressure sometimes it creates havoc," Bocock said. "We're just going to take each day at a time and do the best job we can do every day."

And so, with the stress of an injured foot to worry about, Nester can rest easy knowing that another devastating phone call won't come, not for a while anyway. Kathy Bocock loves it here and wouldn't have it any other way.

Softball Season Preview

(Another) O'Shea to play for Elon

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

Somewhere on a Blacksburg, Va. field this past fall, Virginia Tech softball players were left seeing double - well, more like a mirror image.

Elon University interim softball coach Kathy Bocock walked to the mound to remove her pitcher, senior Erin O'Shea, from the game. In O'Shea's stead stepped a look-alike. But the body double threw left-handed.

"I don't know that when we switched the two pitchers that they realized that there was a different pitcher on the mound," Bocock said. "They didn't realize the ball was coming out of a different hand at that time."

It's a sister act for the Phoenix this year. Joining the program is freshman pitcher Caitlin O'Shea, Erin's sister. The siblings were born more than two years apart, but if they told you they were twins you wouldn't question it.

The O'Shea family has made it a tradition to play for the Phoenix. Corey O'Shea, Class of 2011, played football at Elon for four years. Erin

followed in his footsteps, and there may be another O'Shea to don the maroon and gold before all is said and done. Shannon O'Shea is a junior at Allatoona High School in Kennesaw, Ga., with a dream of going to Elon to play volleyball. When asked if she thought about going anywhere else, Caitlin didn't hold back.

"No," she said, before immediately turning around and laughing.

They're a competitive family rooted in sports. Yet when asked who was the better pitcher, Erin and Caitlin couldn't heap enough praise on to the other.



Freshman Caitlin O'Shea is the third O'Shea family member to play for Elon.

"Are you really asking me this question?" Caitlin said, laughing once again. "I'll just say we have different strengths and different weaknesses. So she may be better at one thing, and I may be different at another."

Erin agreed, with a caveat.

"Me and Caitlin are both different in many ways. We complement each other in how we pitch," Erin said, before admitting that her younger sister might provide a little more heat on the mound. "She's probably faster than me, which I can handle."

- Caitlin O'Shea
FRESHMAN PITCHER

The arrival of Caitlin to Elon transformed Erin, one of the team's three captains, into a more vocal athlete. The fall schedule and winter workouts gave the older sister the platform she needed to step into a leadership role.

"She's trying to set a great example for (Caitlin) and not let her see anything bad," Bocock said. "That's just being an older sister."

Caitlin will certainly have a lot to admire. Erin pitched a no-hitter last year to go along with 14 complete games and four shutouts.

Depending on Bocock's strategy, many of Elon's opponents could get stuck seeing double this season.



Senior Erin O'Shea came to Elon after her brother, Corey, signed to play football for the Phoenix.

Big freshman class set to make mark on the diamond

8 athletes begin college softball careers for Phoenix

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

As we grow older, certain events signal rites of passage that impact our lives. Things like a first crush, and the first time behind the wheel of a car are both signs that we're growing older - both symbols of taking life by the horns.

One Friday in January, eight Elon University freshman softball players stepped into a makeshift photo booth in the media relations office tucked away in Alumni Gym for their first headshots as college athletes. With makeup containers passing hands and hairstyles bearing resemblance to a New York fashion shoot, the athletes made their way, one by one, onto a stool, modeled for the camera and grinned an ear-to-ear smile - frozen in the moment of another rite of passage.

"I'm so pumped," Charyssa Parent, an outfielder from Mechanicsville, Va., said jokingly. "This is how we go to practice. We look like this every day."

The group comes from all over - from down the street in Siler City to across the country in Villa Park, Calif. with one goal in mind: to help the Phoenix get back to the level of the 2010 team that won the Southern Conference Tournament

and appeared in the NCAA Regionals for the first time in school history.

"They want to be winners and that's what we want," said interim coach Kathy Bocock.

If anybody needs a blueprint of how to succeed immediately, they need not look far for inspiration. Sophomore Carleigh Nester came into last season a raw freshman from Kernersville just trying to make whatever impact she could. She ended the year as the team's leader in slugging percentage (.585), batting average (.377), runs (36) and doubles (16).

"She's a very good role model for all of us to follow," said freshman Grace Eng, a third baseman and outfielder from Middletown, R.I. "She never gives up. She's always hustling. She works on her skills on and off the field. She's putting in the time and effort that a Division I player should put in."

The Phoenix began preparation for its season with a fall schedule against seven schools scattered throughout the Southeast. After

facing the likes of the University of North Carolina, Virginia Tech and the University of Tennessee, the first-year players have gotten their first little taste of college competition.

"(The freshmen) are doing a great job of filling their roles and what we're asking them to do right now,"

Bocock said. "It's a new place for all of them."

With such a large bunch of newcomers, the freshmen have had to find creative ways to bond together. But as they've learned, bonding doesn't have to just be with teammates of the same class.

"We're not treated as freshmen on this team," said Sarah Little, a first baseman from Villa Park, Calif. "We're treated as a family. We're all one group, one age. Especially since there's so many of us, you can't ostracize eight of us."

The regular season begins Feb. 10 against Liberty University. But for these eight women, it's just another rite of passage.

ELON SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

ELON INVITATIONAL

Feb. 10 Liberty
Feb. 11 North Carolina Central
Feb. 11 Georgetown
Feb. 12 North Carolina Central

PHOENIX SOFTBALL CLASH

Feb. 17 Presbyterian
Feb. 18 James Madison
Feb. 18 Bucknell
Feb. 19 Bucknell
Feb. 19 James Madison

2012 GAMECOCK CLASSIC

(COLUMBIA, S.C.)
Feb. 24 South Carolina
Feb. 25 George Washington
Feb. 25 Presbyterian
Feb. 26 Presbyterian

GEORGIA TECH BUZZ CLASSIC

(ATLANTA, G.A.)
March 2 Kennesaw State
March 3 Southeastern Louisiana
March 3 Georgia State
March 4 Rhode Island
March 4 Georgia Tech

NON-TOURNAMENT GAMES

March 10 Furman (DH)
March 11 Furman
March 14 North Carolina
March 17 at UNC-Greensboro (DH)
March 18 at UNC-Greensboro
March 24 Samford (DH)
March 25 Samford

2012 football slate promises tough matchups

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Head coach Jason Sweptson and the Elon football team will face an in-state opponent the first week of September, and will start the Southern Conference schedule facing the top three SoCon teams from 2011.

"I'm very excited, obviously," Sweptson said. "Opening up with (the University of) North Carolina, it's going to be something that is going to be fun for our kids and our fans and the program in general, then starting the conference with the three top dogs. It will give us an indication of where we're at."

In his second season at the helm of the Phoenix ship, the former North Carolina State University assistant coach leads Elon against his old team's rival Sept. 1 in Chapel Hill. North Carolina will be playing its first game with new head coach Larry Fedora.

Sweptson said that game will provide a huge opportunity for recruiting.

"That's probably the main reason, that in-state kids are going to see us playing Carolina," he said. "We're going to try to keep them on the schedule every four years so each class will play them at least once. That's going to be our goal, and we'll see if Carolina is up for that."

The following two games are at home, with the Phoenix taking on North Carolina Central University Sept. 8 in the Hall of Fame game, and West Virginia State University Sept. 15.

Then Elon will take on those "top three dogs," starting with 2011 SoCon champion Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. Sept. 22. The Phoenix returns home to face Wofford College Sept. 22 on Family Weekend at Elon, followed by a rematch of last year's Nov. 19 finale against Appalachian State University.

Sweptson said he is not particularly singling out the Oct. 6 matchup in

Boone, but it is hard to ignore how much this game brings with it. Since entering the Southern Conference in 2003, the Phoenix has never beaten the Mountaineers in football.

"I'm excited for every game," Sweptson said. "All those games that we lost in conference, obviously, we want to right the ship. And the ones that we beat, we want to keep it that way."

Following the ASU game, the Phoenix will enter their bye week. Last season, Sweptson and his team suffered a late bye week, which negatively affected helping players return from injury. This year, he is happy with the placement.

"We can plan accordingly," he said of the break that comes the week of Oct. 13. "With having a bye week in the middle of the season, we can have the option to pull a redshirt off a kid if we need to. I think the schedule is set up perfectly for us."

At home, the Phoenix will then take on two SoCon teams it defeated last season. First up is Western Carolina University on Oct. 20 in the Homecoming game. The Catamounts are in their first season under new head coach Mark Speir, a former Elon assistant coach. Furman University comes to town Oct. 27 to try to avenge the 41-34 loss the Paladins suffered last season when they were ranked No. 19 in the nation.

The season wraps up for the Phoenix away at The Citadel Nov. 3, at home against Samford University Nov. 10 and against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Nov. 17.

But the game on the docket right now is Sept. 1 against North Carolina, and Sweptson recognizes the potential benefits of a win.

"We like to stay with good academic schools," he said. "That kind of fits what we're all about. We're looking for a good fit and maybe a possible chance to win those games."

Date	Opponent	Home/Away
Sept. 1	 North Carolina	Away
Sept. 8	North Carolina Central 	Home
Sept. 15	 West Virginia State	Home
Sept. 22	Georgia Southern 	Away
Sept. 29	 Wofford	Home
Oct. 6	Appalachian State 	Away
Oct. 20	 Western Carolina	Home
Oct. 27	Furman 	Home
Nov. 3	 The Citadel	Away
Nov. 10	Samford 	Home
Nov. 17	 Chattanooga	Away

KRISTEN CASE | Design Chief

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Phoenix eyes revenge against top SoCon foes

Tough challenges ahead as Elon faces conference's best

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

With the season winding down, the Elon University women's basketball team will have to work to earn any high seed it envisions for itself in the Southern Conference Tournament.

The Phoenix plays Davidson College and Appalachian State University, two of the three best teams in the SoCon, on Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, respectively. Both teams beat Elon earlier in the season. But the Phoenix is a different squad now.

After winning two games last week, including a 76-58 victory over Furman University in the team's annual Play4Kay game benefitting the Kay Yow Cancer Foundation, the Phoenix has taken six of its eight games and is on a serious roll.

The win against Furman ended a brief two-game losing skid. After getting blown out on the road by Samford University and Chattanooga, first-year head coach Charlotte Smith noted a difference in intensity.

"On a scale of 1-10, I'd say on the road we were at maybe a six," Smith said. "Tonight I felt like we were at least nine and a half for most of the game (against Furman)."

Two nights later, the Phoenix was at it again, beating UNC-Greensboro 69-50.

Elon sits in fifth place in the conference. Wins this weekend can push them up, but losses can drop them down at a crucial time momentum-wise.

"We have to be intense," junior forward Kelsey Evans said. "We're right in the middle right now of the conference and we're either going to go up or down. We have to decide."

Davidson out-rebounded the Phoenix 44-35 in the Wildcats' 77-65 home win Jan. 4. The battle of the boards has been key all season. Elon is 10-0 when outrebounding opponents, but 2-9 when they are outworked on the glass. Smith has made that area one of focus for the Phoenix.

"We gotta continue to focus on rebounding," Smith said. "They talk about defense and rebounding. Those are the things that win championships."

A bad first half cost the Phoenix when it met the Mountaineers Jan. 7. Appalachian State took a 45-21 lead into the locker room, plenty of cushion in a 72-58 win. The Phoenix defense allowed Appalachian State to shoot 28-58 (48.3 percent) from the floor and will need to improve.

With just six games left in the regular season and the top five teams in the Southern



Elon has won all ten games this season and have managed to out-rebounded their opponent in each one.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Conference receiving byes through tournament, the Phoenix has the first round of the conference something to play for. It won't be easy.



Online Housing Selection 2012

Rising Juniors and Seniors

Residence Life has received questions about housing selection. We want to answer these and work with students to meet their housing preferences.

- All students may return to their current residence hall rooms if they wish.
- Juniors and Seniors can live in Residence Halls, The Oaks, The Crest, Loy Center, Danieley O&P, Learning Communities, and the Station at Mill Point.
- The Station at Mill Point is being built just for juniors and seniors - 320 beds. Over half the current junior and seniors on campus will be able to live there. This means not all juniors and seniors will be able to return to their apartments. Residence Life will accommodate as many requests as space allows.
- The Station at Mill Point will be of the highest quality. Each fully furnished apartment has 4 bedrooms/bathrooms, a full kitchen, and free washer/dryer. Rent covers all utilities, WiFi internet, cable, HBO, and use of the club room, fitness area, and pool. Apartments can be mixed gender so students can live with their friends. The rent will be the same as an Oaks 4-person apartment, but for only 9 months next year! The monthly rate is estimated at \$635 (4% increase from current Oaks rate) and will be announced by February 16.
- The Station at Mill Point will be completed and ready for students to move in by the end of August - before the school year begins.



<http://goo.gl/HSBsu>

For complete information go to:
www.elon.edu/residencelife



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Sports

Team chemistry paving successful road at home for men's basketball

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Home sweet home. Coming off a brutal 81-66 loss to Appalachian State University Jan. 28 in Boone, the Elon Phoenix men's basketball team took all three games in Alumni Gym this past week. It began with a marathon, 99-98 double-overtime win over the College of Charleston Feb. 2. Sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger then scored 34 points to lead Elon to a 71-66 victory over The Citadel Feb. 4. Two days later, Elon shook a monkey off its back when the Phoenix defeated Appalachian State 82-59, the first time an Elon men's basketball team has beaten the Mountaineers since Feb. 14, 2008.

The rout symbolized by the team play head coach Matt Matheny has been proud of.

"We as a team, we have team chemistry," said sophomore guard Sebastian Koch. "We are together all the time. If one player's down, like Austin (Hamilton), we stick together, play as a team, just help each other out."

Koch was referring to the freshman guard who missed all three games due to a bout with mononucleosis. Hamilton sits third on the team in points per game (10.8) and first in assists per game (3.2).

"I think that we have enough talent that you really never know who it's going to be (that plays well)," senior guard Drew Spradlin said. "It could be (Sebastian), it could be Jack, it could be me, (sophomore forward) Lucas (Troutman). I don't know how many guys have had 20-point games, but quite a few." Five Phoenix have had 20 point games this season.

Isenbarger has especially stood out. Since playing Samford University Jan. 19 in the place



Elon sophomore forward Ryley Beaumont and the Phoenix have won four of their last five and are in first place in the Southern Conference's North Division. AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

of a then-struggling Spradlin, Isenbarger has averaged 21.4 points per game in seven games. Since Hamilton went out, he is averaging 23.3 points per contest.

"I guess I'm just trying to improve on the 1 with Austin gone," he said. "He's been so big for us this year and I've just been working on taking advantage of the opportunities that you get when you play the point."

Isenbarger caught fire against The Citadel, hitting 11-of-16 from the field, 5-of-8 from three-point range, and adding four assists and four rebounds to his career-high in points.

"Jack's playing really well," Matheny added. "When anybody goes out of the lineup, particularly playing the amount of minutes that Austin has, people have to step up. Jack's put at a different position where he's got the ball in his hands a lot."

The wins have put Elon at 13-10 overall, 8-4 in the Southern Conference, back in first place in the North Division of the SoCon, one game ahead of UNC-Greensboro. The Phoenix will need that momentum going into a pair of games on the road, playing the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Feb. 9 and Samford University Feb. 11.

"We've got a big road stretch coming here," Spradlin said. "Samford's playing really well, Chattanooga's playing pretty well. (Chattanooga is) tough, they're one of the most talented teams in the league. We're going to have to go in playing really well to beat Chatt."

Despite the standings, Matheny and his players refuse to look at records and let their first-



Senior guard Drew Spradlin had 18 points Feb. 6 against Appalachian State. MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer



Sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger leads Elon in points per game (13.1). MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

place standing affect their play, even though they say a banner in Alumni Gym for a North Division title would be nice.

"At the end of the season (it's time to look at standings)," he said. "If you really think about it, it's better than not being in first place, but it means absolutely nothing. You don't get anything for it. Better win the next one. And if we were not in first place, better win the next one. So it really doesn't matter."

Disregarding the standings, the Phoenix continues to rely on their team toughness and chemistry to push them through the grueling schedule remaining.

"I think we're competing together," Matheny said. "I think we're beginning to understand that we need to be warrior-esque to beat anybody in the

conference. We're not there, but I think we're headed in the right direction, we're going. I'm really encouraged with the way our guys are sticking together and fighting together."

Isenbarger looked at the homestand as a way to prepare for the Southern Conference Tournament March 2-5 in Asheville. He also pointed to improved mental toughness as the key to Elon's recent success.

"We played on our heels a little bit against App State (Jan. 28)," he said. "The difference we've made these last few games is playing on our toes and being aggressive. We've certainly got areas to improve on, but being mentally tougher and finishing the game playing 40 minutes, not taking any plays off, is what we've worked on."