

# THE PENDULUM

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Above: Michelle Pflieger, a freshman who died Sept. 24, poses in New York City. Top right: Pflieger stands in a field. This photo is being used for her prayer card, sent out by family and friends from her home in Great Meadows, N.J. Bottom right: Pflieger and friends from an Elon Adventures in Leadership trip this summer pose with the letters "All" written on their hands. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

## Pflieger leaves behind legacy of friendship, strength

Jack Dodson  
News Editor

Michelle Pflieger's room at home in small-town Great Meadows, N.J., is filled with equestrian award ribbons, and her mom says she intends to keep it that way, even though Pflieger won't be coming home.

Pflieger died Sept. 24 after she collapsed while walking to class at Elon University, three days short of being on campus a full month as a freshman.

"Her room (at home) is filled with hundreds of ribbons," her mother, Joan Cummins says. "It was her ribbon wall. Just before she left, she won probably about another 20 ribbons at the county fair. She said, 'You're not going to take them down, are you?' And I said, 'Why would I take them down? They're going to be up here forever.' And they will be."

Pflieger, the youngest of three in her family and

the only girl, started riding horses when she was 8 years old, Cummins says. She continued through her days at Elon, bringing her horse Velvet down with her to school, which is a horse for which friends are now raising money to send home.

When she started riding, she joined the 4-H Club many of her friends were involved with — the one Cummins was the leader of. Throughout her life, she rode in 25-mile competitive trail rides, took her horses to the county fair, competed in horse shows and rode many different styles of horseback riding.

And though friends at Elon say she was intending to major in history and anthropology, perhaps one day pursuing a career in archaeology, her friends and family in New Jersey say Pflieger had a different plan. She wanted to move back home so she could take care of the farm, a 3-and-a-half-acre horse farm her family started more than 250 years ago, where she had three horses.

"She wanted to keep the farm in our family, maybe live in the farmhouse her grandmother lives in now," Cummins says. "So that was a very big part of her. She loved her home."

The town, originally called Vienna, was founded by Pflieger's family. It's just outside Hackettstown, the nearby city where she went to high school. But Great Meadows is smaller and mostly farmland, and Cummins says Pflieger loved that about her home.

"She's a farm girl," Cummins says.

In high school, she focused mostly on being a varsity cheerleader and riding, but she also ran track for a couple of years. Cummins says it was this athleticism from a life on a farm that led her to go on the Adventures in Leadership program Elon offers for incoming freshmen, which takes students

See PFLEGER | PAGE 2

## Elon poll finds low approval ratings for Congress

Liv Dubendorf  
Senior Reporter

A recent Elon poll found that 47 percent of those polled approve of the job President Barack Obama is doing for the nation, while 23 percent approve of the job Congress is doing.

Hunter Bacot, the director of the poll, said the one trend he saw in the findings from the poll was people remaining disenchanted with politics and their political leaders.

The low approval rating can be accounted for because of recent trends in the economy.

"Of those polled, 60 percent said the economy is the main issue facing

the nation," he said. "They're holding political offices accountable."

Forty-four percent of respondents approved of Obama's handling of the economy and 27 percent said his policies have made economic conditions better. The poll also found that 43 percent of North Carolinians favor ending tax cuts for those households making more than \$250,000 a year.

Using the most recent technological developments, the Elon Poll strives to make results more accurate than ever before, according to Bacot.

Organizers of the poll have had to adapt to various changes in people's lives. "One of the big challenges that we've overcome is the issue of cell

phones," Bacot said.

The Elon Poll has operated within the university for the last 10 years, beginning in 2000. Bacot explained that it surveys citizens across the state of North Carolina, delving into specifics about hot-button issues of the present and attempting to decipher the opinion of the masses.

Bacot explained that the Elon Poll is an integral part of the university.

"Dr. Lambert had the vision to see (the Elon Poll) as a compliment to Elon's mission, where we create engaged citizens," he said.

He explained that polling can demonstrate the high levels of student engagement, attesting to the quality

of students and the university.

According to Bacot, the Elon Poll "is the only poll in the state that interviews all adults," as opposed to just interviewing voters. "Everyone deserved a voice," said Bacot.

Because of the nature of the poll, Bacot said, "We are capable of asking several questions about a policy and share that information with the public."

Mainly concentrating on policy issues, the poll delves into each topic, asking multiple questions to truly

See ELON POLL | PAGE 4

# Pfleger's impact measured in stories from students, professors

PFLEGER from PAGE 1

on hiking and camping trips the summer before they enter college.

Early on, Cummins says Pfleger was nervous about the trip, but that changed as soon as she was in West Virginia with her new friends who were going to Elon in the fall, called the Dyno group.

And for the students with her, Pfleger was a large part of why they enjoyed their trip.

"Right away you could tell she was just an awesome person," says freshman Jennifer Mammel, who went on the AIL trip with Pfleger. "She was talking up a storm."

On the trip, the group called her the mother because she always had her act together.

"She was fearless — she took everything head on," Mammel says. "She wasn't even supposed to be in our group, yet we were so privileged to have her and to get that time to get to know her. We were so blessed to have that time with her. We were meant to be in her life, and she was meant to be in ours."

By the time she arrived on campus, she already had a group of friends from her trip, but Pfleger also started to make friends in different organizations. As an Odyssey Scholar, coordinator Lauren Flinn says Pfleger had a large impact even within one month of being in the program.

"Michelle (Pfleger) was an extremely resilient individual and grateful for the opportunity to attend Elon," Flinn says. "When we made group expectations, I clearly remember her saying, 'Let's not take this opportunity for granted. We have been given a gift, so let's use it.'"

In the week leading up to her death, Pfleger had torn her ACL, so she missed her last two Global Experience classes because the classroom was on the second floor of Long psychology building, where there's no elevator.

She had been e-mailing back and forth

with her professor, Tom Arcaro, talking about missing class and possibly holding class somewhere else until she was off crutches.

Because she had missed the last two classes, she had only come to six. But in that time, Arcaro says, she made it clear she really thought deeply about the course material.

"I went back through the Blackboard posts," Arcaro says. "She was one of the more thoughtful students. She was really taking to heart what we learned in class."

Now, on the Blackboard website when students in Arcaro's Global Experience course log on, an "In memory" banner is displayed on the front page. The quote below it is Pfleger's first Blackboard post from the class, talking about the definition of culture.

"She was very mature and sensitive and was truly embracing the questions that I was throwing at them," Arcaro says of her posts.

But one of the biggest factors that impacts him, he says, is that in more than three decades of teaching higher education, he's never had a student die.

"(There's) almost the literal kind of parental role where you feel a connection to and almost a responsibility for the student," Arcaro says. "So in that sense, it's been more difficult than I would have anticipated."

And though Pfleger was on Elon University's campus for less than a month, more than 100 students, faculty and staff gathered to share stories about her life at a ceremony two days after she died.

The room in Moseley filled with her roommates and professors, as well as people who had only briefly met Pfleger. President Leo Lambert sat on the floor in a corner of the room, dressed down from his typical jacket-and-tie attire. Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, addressed the group, saying the gathering was informal and people



PHOTO SUBMITTED

During the summer before her freshmen year, Pfleger participated in Adventures in Leadership.

would be able to share feelings and stories about Pfleger.

Her suitemates stood in a line holding on to one another at the gathering of friends service, reading from sheets of paper, laughing and crying through the stories.

When they finished, there were periods of silence until other students stood up to share. Some talked about brief interactions they'd had with Pfleger; others talked about whole trips they'd been on or classes they'd had with her.

"It was very moving," says Arcaro, who spoke at the service. "I guess I was mildly surprised how many people were there — how somebody down from New Jersey, here for one month, touched that many lives."

In her hometown, there was a

candlelight vigil to remember Pfleger. One of her best friends from home, Colleen Healy, says the service brought out about 500 people in Great Meadows, which is a lot for the small town.

Healy says Pfleger's legacy is being a natural leader who always kept her cool.

"She was the leader. She always has been," Healy says. "She was just a really good friend."

And for Cummins, she says one of the most surreal parts of Pfleger's death is that she won't be coming to Elon this weekend. She hadn't originally planned on coming for parents weekend, which starts one week from Pfleger's death, but had changed her mind at the last minute.

"My plans changed, and I thought I'd go down and surprise her," Cummins says. "But that's not going to happen."



LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, addresses students gathered at a memorial service dedicated to Michelle Pfleger, a freshman who died Sept. 24.

## Blood clots in lungs lead to student's death

Anna Johnson  
Managing Editor

An Elon University freshman died Sept. 24 from natural causes after collapsing in front of McMichael science Building, according to the North Carolina Medical Examiner Office.

Pulmonary thromboemboli, meaning blood clots in the lungs, were the cause of death for Michelle A. Pfleger, said Bill Fish, an investigator with the medical examiner's office.

Pfleger collapsed while walking to her 9:25 a.m. class, according to an e-mail sent out to the student body on behalf of President Leo Lambert.

She was taken to Alamance Regional Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead.

Pfleger was from Great Meadows, N.J., outside Hackettstown, and lived in Daniele Center G. She was the daughter of Joan Cummins and Jack Rudewick of Hackettstown. She was also an Odyssey Scholar and recipient of the Mac Mahon Family Scholarship.

Associate Chaplain Phil Smith and Leon Williams, director of the Multicultural Center, are scheduled to work with Pfleger's Elon 101 class, suitemates and her fellow Odyssey Scholars.

A gathering of friends was held at 8

p.m. Sept. 26 in Moseley Center 215.

"The loss of a classmate, friend and student is disconcerting," said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life in an e-mail. "It reminds us how precious is the life of each person in our community. Those who knew Michelle may benefit from speaking with a staff member or counselor."

Pfleger's mother welcomes cards, Jackson's e-mail said, and students can send them to her at 30-A Barkers Mill Road, Hackettstown, N.J., 07840. Students were also able to bring them to the gathering Sunday.

- The funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 at the Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown, N.J., with the burial to follow at the Pequest Union Cemetery in Great Meadows, N.J., according to a second e-mail sent out by Jackson.
- The family will receive friends for visitation 4-8 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Cochran Funeral Home.
- Transportation will be provided for students who wish to attend the visitation. A bus or van will leave Moseley Center parking lot 7 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29 and will return late the following evening.

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# University expansion affects paperless campaign

Melissa Kansky  
Multimedia Editor

As Elon University continues to implement a paperless campaign in an effort to reduce paper usage and increase efficiency within the administration, the expansion of educational facilities is causing a rise in paper usage.

"The objective is a reduction in paper usage for this year or at least no increase in paper usage," said Elaine Durr, sustainability coordinator at Elon.

In the Feb. 25, 2009 issue of The Pendulum, an article stated the university had decreased paper usage from 10 million sheets of paper to 2.8 million sheets since the beginning of the paperless campaign in 2006. Since 2009, it has risen to 3 million sheets, which is about a 7 percent increase.

Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president for technology, attributes the increase to the addition of computer labs.

"We don't want to negatively affect instruction," Fulkerson said. "But we also don't want to waste paper. It's a balancing act."

Elon encourages the use of technologies that serve as alternatives to printing. Fulkerson suggests using network storage, the digital drop box on Blackboard and a flash drive to reduce the amount of paper usage.

"Now students can share documents through Google apps," he said. "Google docs are the newest technology that would further the campaign."

Older tactics are still in place, such as the print management system, are still in use and aim to reduce paper usage.

The print management system,

installed at the beginning of the campaign in 2006, limits the number of pages an individual can print free of charge. For any document that is more than three pages long, students must use printing dollars or Phoenix Cash.

In 2006, 10 to 12 bags of paper left the library per day, but the number of bags has decreased by 20 to 25 percent. The library now sees an average of two to three bags of paper usage per day.

Fulkerson describes the system as self-check and said he believes students are now hesitant to print an article that is 300 pages.

"What it's saying is 'are you sure you want to print this?'" Fulkerson said. "Before implementing it, students would see an article and print it and then see a better article and print that, leaving the first article to be thrown away."

The campaign aims to raise student awareness about the impact printing has on the environment.

"We want to promote a continual increase in awareness of paper usage, which prompts people to think before they print," Durr said.

An electronic application process has also furthered the university's sustainability initiatives. The provost's office, the human resource office and the registrar office have adopted a paperless system.

"If you think of all the paper we handle on campus and make all those key offices paperless, we can reduce our paper consumption by quite a bit," he said.

An electronic database also expedites data processing.

"There isn't as much data entry because we are taking an online application and just having the data

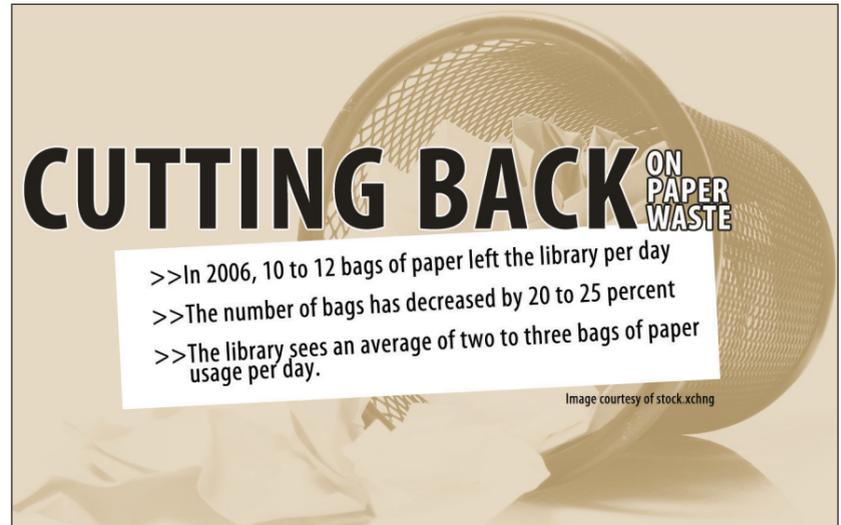


Image courtesy of stock.xchng

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

flow into the system instead of printing out data and typing into the datatel system," Fulkerson said.

Mail sent to Elon still produces paper waste, he said.

Although scanning and shredding material does not reduce the amount of paper usage, the electronic conversion of correspondence and transcripts reduces storage space needed.

Similarly, the admissions office converts tangible documents into electronic form. Prospective students can still apply to Elon using paper, but the application is scanned and becomes a paperless document.

"Mail in the admissions office gets scanned daily and then routed electronically to the right places," Fulkerson said.

The education department implemented a similar conversion process to reduce the amount of storage space needed. Prior to the paperless campaign, a classroom served as a file room for teacher certifications and records concerning alumni. Those records now exist electronically.

"We converted all paper to electronic documents and converted the space back into a classroom," Fulkerson said.

Although recycling is important, Durr said she does not believe it is the optimal solution.

"Recycling paper that is used is certainly important," Durr said, "but not using it in the first place is the better option. One should think — reduce, reuse and then recycle — in that order."

## Elon attempts to balance academics, sustainability

Melissa Kansky  
Multimedia Editor

Students and faculty gathered to discuss sustainability initiatives and organize the Student Sustainability Council in Lindner Hall Thursday night.

Members from Green Team Environmental Service Learning organization, Elon's Sierra Club chapter and Sustainable Living Learning Community were in attendance. A representative from each organization described potential projects for this academic year. These included contributing to Timber Lake Farms, creating a compost system and tending to the community garden outside of the Truitt Center. Students not associated with these organizations voiced concerns as well.

The Sustainable Living Learning Community aims to increase awareness of sustainable practices, plan environmental events and create a liaison committee to work with Elaine Durr, Elon's sustainability coordinator.

"The purpose of the Sustainable Living Learning Community is to discuss and implement sustainable practices in our own lives and their community," said freshman Alex Papp,

co-president of the learning community. "We should model how to protect and preserve the environment."

Eliza Gibson, president of the Sierra Club, said the organization strives to promote environmentally - friendly practices through the creation of a green fund. The fund would sponsor activities or structures that would benefit the environment.

Students discussed implementing a compost system outside each dining hall and establishing a solar panel work station. Application of the funds or methods to raise funds has not been determined.

"We the people, whoever organizes the fund, can decide what to do with it," Gibson said. "The decisions are up to anyone interested in getting involved."

Papp suggested adding additional fees for practices that deter sustainability, such as bringing a car on campus.

A committee is also looking into bike lanes to encourage people who live off-campus to walk or bike to class, Durr said.

"There was a plan done for sidewalks and bike lanes and lighting," she said. "Now it's in the process of getting pieces of the project funded. It's a step in the right direction, but it's a long way to go to get full access to sidewalks."



Elon's Sierra Club president Eliza Gibson offers her ideas about a possible Green Fund to help support Elon's Sustainability initiatives.

JULIA MURPHY | Staff Photographer

Even if financial support is available, Gibson expects cooperation from the student body to influence these programs success.

"Education and awareness (are large components)," Gibson said. "We don't want a bin of compost and someone throwing trash in it. We need to test that people respect the process."

While student support moves programs toward success, faculty assistance is needed as well.

Those present at the meeting requested an organic food option in the dining halls. Ryan Moore, assistant food service director of ARAMARK, had made strides to appease the request for organic food on campus, but they proved unsuccessful.

"We had tried to do organic fruit and vegetables," he said. "We had to throw a lot of it away. Organic is really good, but the demand is not really there."

If the costs drop and demand is there, ARAMARK can work toward organic products, Moore said.

The Student Sustainability Council aims to continue these discussions.

"Frequency of meeting times is up to the students," Durr said. "My job is to give them a space and to let them have a voice."

Although the council is already in effect, it will undergo new developments to increase its influence.

According to Gibson's plan, the council will be comprised of representatives from already existing student organizations dedicated to

environmental preservation. Anyone interested is also able to join.

"In Student Sustainability Council last year there were so many good ideas," Gibson said. "But we need the people to come together. I found that once you start meeting every other week or every few weeks it stopped being productive."

They will meet Thursdays at 4:15 p.m. Location has not yet been determined.

**"The purpose of the sustainable living learning community is to discuss and implement sustainable practices in our own lives and community."**

-ALEX PAPP  
ELON UNIVERSITY  
FRESHMAN



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# Plans for new campus fraternity finalized, decision on new sorority expected soon

Gabriela Szewcow  
Design Chief

Resulting from Pan-Hellenic Council's conversation in Spring 2009 concerning the increasing number of Greek students at Elon University, the school will add two Greek organizations to campus this year.

The first organization is Delta Upsilon International fraternity. The second is a sorority, which has yet to be determined. The chosen sorority is expected to be announced at the end of October, according to Shana Plasters, director of Greek Life at Elon.

"The goal is to add more diversity, more options and to expand and improve the overall health of our Pan-Hellenic programs at Elon," Plasters said.

In order to achieve these improvements, Elon's Greek community decided collectively to make additions to the system.

The process involves an open invitation to all national Greek organizations to come to Elon and formally present their organization.

Students and faculty members then review the respective organizations' applications, and three fraternities and three sororities are invited back to give more in-depth presentations of their organizations. Elon then chooses the organization they think is the best fit.

This is how the newest fraternity, Delta Upsilon International, was chosen. The new sorority will be chosen in the same way.

The average size of most sororities' pledge classes is 30 to 40 people, with 140 in an entire organization. The addition of a new sorority will spread out those numbers, allowing

for personal relationships to develop among new and existing members, according to Rex Waters, associate dean of students.

"We're hoping that more Greek organizations will make way for more intimate classes and reduce the overall size of each group to ensure manageable numbers," Waters said.

With the increasing number of women involved in Greek Life, the addition of a new sorority will create better group dynamics as well as a healthier atmosphere, he said.

The average fraternity pledge class size is significantly smaller than that of sororities. The Greek community wished to welcome a new fraternity to campus in order to provide more choices for prospective male students.

"We're increasing the number of organizations to provide more options for students and to diversify philanthropy opportunities at Elon," Waters said.

Because each Greek organization has a different focus, the addition of two organizations at Elon will increase diversity in philanthropy projects.

"We want the new chapters to be successful," Waters said. "And we want them to have strong national support."

He also said the number of chapters and alumni in the area play a role in choosing organizations that best fit with Elon.

"The organizations chosen will fit with Elon's mission," Plasters said. "They will have programs that support academic rigor and other integral parts of Elon's mission as a university."

The two new organizations will have different recruitment processes than the already established organizations at Elon. Unlike the other fraternities at

**DELTA Upsilon**  
international fraternity

**Founded:**  
Nov. 4, 1834 at Williams College  
in Williamstown, Mass.

**Mission:**  
Building better men

**Motto:**  
Dikaia Upotheke  
Justice, Our Foundation

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

Elon, Delta Upsilon's ritual of joining is not kept secret.

"The initiation ceremony is public and the programs are shared," Plasters explained.

The national organization will be present on campus following fall break. At this time, they will begin selecting upperclassmen for leadership positions.

"The national organization will be here to select a 'colony class,'" Plasters said. "These students will act as the founding brothers of the fraternity."

Once the new sorority is selected, it will be incorporated into the formal recruitment process with the other established sororities at Elon.

"The new sorority will be included in the first round of recruitment, but then will be removed from the process afterward," Plasters said.

If girls are interested in joining the new sorority, they can drop out of the recruitment process and become affiliated with the new sorority after the recruitment process is over. Girls also have the option of going through the recruitment process and then becoming involved with the new sorority if they do not commit to another Greek organization.

"The new organizations will represent the scope and scale of students on campus," Waters said. "And the newly selected leaders will have the opportunity to shape and form the culture of the organizations."

Plasters said new organizations have generally been added to Elon's campus every few years. The most recent additions to Greek Life at Elon were the sororities Alpha Chi Omega in 2000 and Delta Delta Delta in 2005.

## Search continues for new university chaplain

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life will restart the search for a new university chaplain in October, to replace the position vacated by Richard McBride in 2009.

A search committee of students, faculty and staff, chaired by Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, originally narrowed the applicant pool of more than 100 candidates down to three finalists, who were interviewed on campus last year.

After this initial process, the committee decided it would serve well to take time off from the search and develop a common mission statement for the direction of religious life on campus, said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

"It was a time of discernment," Jackson said. "When you have a chaplain for so long, you don't always quickly replace them."

A committee was subsequently appointed by President Leo Lambert to develop a vision statement for a further search for the chaplaincy.

"The idea was to evaluate what the needs of our community are and predict what they will be, including demographic data and shifts in population," said Phil Smith, associate chaplain and director of Religious Life.

Jackson said the developed plan aimed to consider the needs of not only individual students, but also their needs within their particular community of faith and how that played out in a larger context.

"In the statement, the movement begins with self and ends with the world, to make a conscience effort to look inward, around and then further outward," he said.

According to Jackson, a committee is currently being formed to restart the search. He said it should conclude next spring and the new chaplain will begin his or her work that summer.

"We want someone who is experienced working with different faith values, who will honor and support each tradition and religion and also create programs among different traditions," he said.

Jackson said the overarching responsibility of the chaplain is to oversee, provide for and facilitate the overall spiritual well-being of the campus.

"It's a person who's called on sometimes when there are difficult issues, to speak a word of comfort and deal with crisis," he said.

One part is attending to large ceremonies and services on campus, Smith said, and making sure students have access to resources needed for spiritual growth.

"It's about pastoral care, being involved with and engaged in lives of the university community and walking with people through difficult circumstances and helping them celebrate times of joy in their lives," he said. "There's this interconnectedness with student life."

Because of Elon's history and heritage, Jackson said the position of Chaplain on campus is a significant one.

"Not just because we're founded by the church, but there's been this idea, this approach to education that it's about the total student, including the mind, body and spirit," he said. "There needs to be some level where that's somebody's job and not left to chance."

At such a critical time of life, Jackson said students are often working to create their own, individual faith, away from the communities that helped them form it.

"You're solidifying your own beliefs and

philosophies, not abandoning what's been given to you but determining what's yours and what you will own," he said.

As a part of this goal, Jackson said the committee is considering an interfaith learning community as well as religious life houses, such as the Newman House, designated for Catholic students.

After a survey of students, Jackson said people responded well to the proposal, particularly to a house for Jewish students on campus.

"For people a part of religious communities, the value is being with people who share similar views," he said. "It's a resource and a place to belong."

Jackson said he considers religious communities a benefit for those who reside in them and educational for those who are part of other communities.

"It's an identified place to learn," he said. "The more we understand, the less we misunderstand each other."

With the addition of a multi-faith center to campus, Jackson said the center and communities will complement, rather than compete, with one another.

"The community houses would be more for development and growth of those (communities), but there would still be programming available at the center," Jackson said. "It's a place that is specific and dedicated with the idea that events are also in the multi-faith center."

To Jackson, an important aspect of all of these plans is the inclusion of all traditions, including nonbelievers.

"Part of the office's role is to do our best to help all of our students wherever they are and whatever they're seeking," Jackson said. "We're going to make sure students have resources to the extent we can provide them or point them toward those resources."

## Poll uses updated techniques to gauge public opinion

ELON POLL from PAGE 1

understand each person's outlook.

"Few policies are black and white," Bacot said. "You can't just ask one question and figure out what people think."

Operating through the department of political science, the Elon Poll depends on students to operate.

"Elon students, being who they are,

are very engaged and very motivated, high achievers," Bacot said.

The poll depends on students to volunteer and work their chosen hours, but they are paid for their work.

Using a stratified sample of households across the state, the 584 interviewees were selected

considering their location including state, county and zip code. Doing so allows the poll to effectively sample a large population, resulting in accurate poll findings, Bacot said.

Students complete the interviewing associated with the poll. To Henry Young, a junior political science major, students get a unique

understanding from working the poll.

"I think it's good for us to see how this side of politics works," Young said. "You get something from interviewing that you don't see in the data, a better understanding about how people feel than by just coding the numbers."

# Elon Hillel borrows military Torah for Jewish celebration of Simchat Torah

Camille DeMere  
Reporter

Flexibility was a necessary virtue when Nancy Luberoff and the Elon University Hillel started planning for Simchat Torah, the Jewish celebration that marks the ending of the public reading of the Torah and the beginning of a new cycle. The holiday, which means "Joy of the Torah," is observed this week.

Elon doesn't have its own Torah scroll, which is a necessary part of the celebration. Kosher scrolls are handwritten by a special scribe on parchment in traditional Hebrew, a task which usually takes about a year to complete and makes the scrolls worth about \$45,000.

Instead, Hillel has borrowed two facsimile Torahs from Judea Reform in Durham.

"I could borrow a kosher Torah, perhaps from a synagogue, but that's like asking someone to lend you their Mercedes," said Nancy Luberoff, Hillel campus director. "It's a huge, huge responsibility to borrow, and it's not common for synagogues to lend them out. It's not out of greed but just out of respect."

At least one of the scrolls was produced and used in World War II, when

the United States government made non-kosher Torahs printed on paper with copied writing for Jewish chaplains to carry into war.

"If a kosher Torah is destroyed it's a tragedy of unbelievable proportions," Luberoff said. "When one of these would be destroyed, it was not as significant an event."

Sophomore Millie Rosen is a member of Hillel and said the idea of a facsimile Torah was a new one to her, but she could see the benefits.

"I had no idea that they made non-kosher Torahs," Rosen said. "It's special to have a smaller version of what you would actually have in the synagogue. I could see how it would be good for morale."

The facsimiles were donated to Judea Reform by families who wanted to see them used by a congregation, and the synagogue often lends them out to those in need.

Rabbi Friedman has served Judea Reform for more than 30 years and said he has lent the Torah scrolls to smaller congregations, like one based in Myrtle Beach, S.C., that only meet on high holidays.

"It isn't like using a regular Torah," Friedman said. "But in certain situations, it is an acceptable compromise."

Friedman said he hopes Elon will one

day be able to justify the expense of purchasing its own kosher Torah, but in the meantime, he's happy to let Elon use the military Torah.

The Reform tradition of Judaism in the United States celebrates Simchat Torah from sundown Wednesday to sundown Thursday. The Conservative tradition celebrates the holiday from sundown Thursday night to sundown Friday night.

Luberoff said that the majority of the university's Jewish students subscribe to the Reform tradition, but that there are a good number of Conservative Jews. The Elon Spring 2010 Registrar's Report said there are 170 Jewish students enrolled at Elon.

"We as a Hillel decided that we would celebrate Simchat Torah at the end of the holiday, as a part of our Shabbat celebration on family weekend," she said. "This is not typical or traditional, but it is not wrong."

The celebration, which Luberoff estimates will attract about 100 students and parents will take place at 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1 in McKinnon Hall.

"The spirit of Judaism is taking these ancient words and keeping them alive," Luberoff said. "We're always finding meaning in them and that's what we're doing."



STEPHANIE ALVAREZ | Staff Photographer  
Associate chaplain Phil Smith holds the borrowed Torah to be used for an upcoming Jewish holiday.

## Family weekend reconnects students with home

Sam Parker  
Senior Reporter

Elon University will host Family weekend on the weekend of Oct. 1, continuing the tradition for students to extend an invitation to their families and friends to visit the campus and community.

"Family weekend is an opportunity for family and friends to visit their students and join the Elon family in a number of events," said Jodean Schmiederer, assistant dean of students. "This is a tight community, and we enjoy the opportunity to get to know those close to our students and for families to get to know each other."

A weekend agenda full of seminars, a golf tournament, meet and greets, picnics and Phoenix football, Schmiederer said this weekend serves as an invitation for families to return to campus in order to better get to know the Elon community.

According to Maggie Byerly, director of annual giving and parent programs, seminars are offered for parents and grandparents, covering topics such as academics and Elon's history. Parents have the opportunity to meet their students' professors, as well as to talk with staff about current happenings on campus.

Schmiederer said special activities hosted by the university include a student and faculty performance at "Collage,"

a traditional North Carolina barbecue picnic precedes the Elon Phoenix taking on the Samford University Bulldogs, and President Leo Lambert invites families to join him for coffee at the Maynard House on Sunday.

Serving as a primary contributor in the effectiveness of family weekend, Byerly said Parents Council is the main facilitator in communication between families and the university. According to the Elon website, Parents Council is represented by parents from each class of current students as well as those of recent graduates.

"They are active volunteers staffing registration tables and information centers," Byerly said. "Council members are there to answer questions, give directions, welcome parents, grandparents and other family members to campus."

Aside from assumed parent and sibling attendees, Byerly said Elon also typically hosts 150 to 200 grandparents throughout the weekend and provides them with alternative options to the principal agenda. On the morning of Oct. 2, the university is hosting Charles

Collier, philanthropic adviser for Harvard University, and Earl Danielely will continue his tradition of leading a seminar on Elon's history.

Later in the afternoon, a campus bus tour will be offered for those who are not interested in attending the football game, Byerly said.

"It departs from the Moseley Center at 1:30 p.m.," she said.

**"This is a tight community, and we enjoy the opportunity to get to know those close to our students and for families to get to know each other."**

-JODEAN SCHMIEDERER  
ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

"Family members can pick their grandparents back up in Hearth Lounge in the Moseley Center anytime after 3:00 p.m."

As the weekend approaches, students are preparing to see their families after a month of classes.

Freshman student Nicole Chadwick said her family will be attending family weekend, although they have no specific plans for what they will be doing. She said her main priority is to just catch up.

"My dad specifically said 'hang out with your mother because she misses you,' so I am doing that," Chadwick said. "My sister is also staying in my room, so we are just going to have fun."

Upperclassmen, such as junior

Hayley Moll, continue to participate in the tradition as well by spending the weekend on campus with family. Moll spends weekends with her parents here at Elon more often than other students.

She enjoys paid dinners and shopping excursions for five days each fall semester because her parents are season ticket holders of Elon football. Moll said family weekend still serves as a unique experience because it allows her to spend more quality time with her family than a typical game day does.

"It's a little bit more special than other home game weekends because my parents come up for more than just game day," Moll said.

Although many parents are able to attend family weekend, others are not because of traveling or scheduling conflicts.

First-year student Tracy Raetz, a Texas native, said her family will not be coming to family weekend because of financial complications with plane tickets. Because of this, she said she will just stick with her normal weekend routine.

"Because my family will not be here, I will be walking around wishing I had my family here," Raetz said. "I will just hang out with my friends because a few of them won't have their families here either, and one of my high school friends is here, so they're going to adopt me as their child."

## Elon infuses new flavor into school's dining system

Rebecca Iannucci  
Reporter

Elon University has begun catering to students in a new way this year, as several adjustments were made to the dining system on campus.

According to Laura Thompson, food service director at Elon, a variety of alterations were brought to on-campus restaurants and dining halls after students spoke up about changes they would like to see.

"All of these changes are the direct result of listening to multiple forms of feedback from the student body, including surveys, focus groups and general communication with various student groups and leaders," Thompson said.

The changes, which have appeared in most eateries on campus, involve both service and safety.

Thompson said a large number of students suffer from Celiac disease, a medical condition in which the small intestine is damaged after eating items containing gluten. In response, McEwen Dining Hall has added gluten-free foods to the menu. Additionally, those on a vegan diet can now satisfy their needs at Harden Dining Hall, where a vegan station is now open to students and faculty.

According to Thompson, student satisfaction is of utmost importance. Last week, waffle fries at

Chick-Fil-A were momentarily taken off the menu as a meal plan item, and Thompson said the uproar from students brought the fries back permanently.

"We did have many students contact us about the change," she said. "We listened to their feedback and immediately added them back to the menu."

Among other modifications is a new take-out option at Varsity Sports Grille, the addition of yogurt to meal plan options, and renovations at Topio's in Moseley, previously known as Bene Pizza.

Thompson said the changes may not end there. The dining services team at Elon has been working in tandem with ARAMARK, the school's food service provider, to improve food options as often as possible.

"Our team set a goal last year to further elevate our dining program to be known as a best-in-class provider," Thompson said. "We are always open to trying new things on short notice when they are feasible."

Despite the number of students who can now fulfill their specific dietary needs, not everyone has been affected by the changes. Sophomore Michael Soucy said that though he has noticed the adjustments, they have affected his dining habits little.

Freshman Addie Haney agrees that not many of the changes have altered her daily habits, but she

appreciates the attention being brought to students' needs, both dietary and otherwise.

"I haven't actually noticed any changes in the meal plans, but I have to say that I'm very happy they offer these choices," Haney said. "As a college student, you don't have a very big budget for food. To be able to go to a dining hall that has those options is really helpful."

Changes to the dining system have extended beyond the borders of campus as well. This year, Elon has introduced Taste of the Town, a program that will periodically bring off-campus eateries to an Elon dining hall. Local pizza chain Mellow Mushroom was the first restaurant to serve on campus at Colonnades Dining Hall, and according to Thompson, the program will continue to bring in off-campus food in the future.

In addition, Elon has recently begun to promote a different part of the dining program each week, as part of a new feature, What's On the Menu? Dining halls will also be introducing more theme meals this year, and students will have a chance to get involved, with many opportunities to win prizes.

Ultimately, Thompson says, the goal is satisfaction.

"We are always planning for the future," she said. "We continue to strive to provide services and options that meet the standards of the students, faculty and staff of Elon."

# Professor uses grant to encourage reading

Sam Calvert  
Sports Editor

An Elon University education professor's program to help children who have problems reading received an international grant to help fund the program and work with other institutions in the process.

The program is a component of the class EDU 324, Teaching Struggling Readers, and its goal is to help potential educators learn how to teach students who struggle in the area of reading.

"I was very dissatisfied with the course in its original format as theory-based and saw the need to work at making it more meaningful for everyone," said Jean Rattigan-Rohr, the director of the program.

The Oak Foundation, an international philanthropy, approached Rohr about her project and funding it with a grant.

"It is both rewarding and somewhat humbling when something about which you passionately give your time, effort and attention is noticed by others who see it as worthwhile or worth of attention," Rohr said.

The granting agency came to a tutoring site and spoke to teachers, students, parents, Elon alumni volunteering time to supervise sessions, David Cooper, dean of the School of Education and Rohr.

"Once it was determined that the foundation was interested in the work we were doing to help children, then the process of writing concept papers and grant proposals began," she said.

The program works in the class in two phases. Phase I covers reading theory in the classroom, while Phase II addresses practice.

"In Phase II, students draw upon their knowledge of teaching reading to tutor, one-on-one, a struggling reader and provide instructional information for the reader's parent," Rohr said.

There are four objectives to the program:



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

encouraging reading, emphasizing the function of Schools of Education in shaping the way potential teachers view struggling readers and their parents, highlighting the importance of the relationship between community entities, such as local libraries, and institutions of higher learning and involving public school teachers as "vital stakeholders" in the learning process.

"The 'It takes a village' project is an intentional and collaborative relationship among several stakeholders: parents, struggling readers, teacher candidates and professionals, and in-service teachers," Rohr said.

Bonnie Bruno, director of sponsored programs, works with Elon faculty who are trying to secure

grant funding.

"My goal is to help the project director navigate through the internal and external process," Bruno said.

This includes both agency and institutional guidelines. In this case, it included several universities because the program is multi-institutional, working with Elon, UNC Greensboro and Concordia University in Portland, Ore.

"My ultimate goal is to make sure the project director can focus on the narrative section of the grant, and I work around the other parameters and navigate the process," Bruno said. "I help with whatever their needs are."

Part of the parameters is the budget, which Bruno and Rohr worked together to establish.

The grant money will go to purchasing books, conducting research, feeding the students during tutoring and paying for interpreters, reading supervisors and transportation, Rohr said.

This is all for three universities during two years, impacting 140 students and families, she said.

Bruno also helped to secure institutional approvals, such as using the BioBus after hours to provide transportation back from tutoring.

Working to write the grant helped Rohr gather her thoughts about the program, she said.

"It forced me to carefully examine in minute detail everything I do in this course and why I do what I do for students who struggle and for teachers who will encounter these children in classrooms," Rohr said.

And part of the reason she does all that she does is because of her love for the children that Bruno said is evident in all of Rohr's work.

"She's such a positive woman with a positive outlook," Bruno said. "She has a gleam in her eye that shows how much she loves what she's doing. She's making a difference."

# Alumni relations introduces plan for Black alumni, current students

Ashley Jobe  
Opinions Editor

Elon University Alumni Relations is formulating a proactive five-year plan to facilitate connections between Black alumni and current Black students.

According to Lisa Roper, assistant director of Alumni Relations, the Elon Black Alumni Network is an official branch of the Elon Alumni Association. This group strives to unite and represent the interests of Elon University's black alumni and students, and to promote active participation of its members in the affairs of the Elon Alumni Association.

Many members of the Black Alumni were affiliates of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, a group of traditionally black sororities and

fraternities, the Black Cultural Society or gospel choir. This group said it hopes to relate to undergraduate members and prepare them for when they become alumni. The intent is to inform undergraduates of what their future may hold through fellowship and student interaction.

According to Sallie Hutton, director of Alumni Relations, this plan is specifically tailored to this minority group because black alumni are the largest, most active group on campus.

"(Alumni Relations) wanted to be intentional with their activity in helping to identify the goal they can work on to align with the university's goals, so there is synergy and momentum moving forward," she said. "We have found that people connect more to affinity group as an undergrad than as a class year."

Specific goals of the alumni group are to create a website for the African-American Alumni Group and a black male mentoring program involving alumni, faculty, staff and students.

Hutton said after a successful summit in April, the alumni looked at recruitment and retention. The group is in the beginning stages and is in the process of developing a plan through modes of discussion.

"There are a variety of volunteers from that weekend who have started to have conversations," she said. "We want to have a group of leaders that are responsible for various areas of programming."

Their next step this year is making a strong showing at homecoming weekend by providing a tailgating experience modeled after the Chapel Hill Black Alumni Reunion.

But one of the most significant gains made in this endeavor is the Black Alumni Scholarship.

"They had the scholarship endowed within three years," Hutton said.

It will be endowed by May 2011, and the scholarship will be awarded to a current student during the 2011-2012 academic year.

The scholarship is awarded to a black student with academic merit and financial need. A student may receive it for one academic year, but no student would receive it for more than that year.

Hutton said the group is currently focused on the present.

"We want to harness the energy that is there and developing a strategic approach to the involvement," Hutton said. "We think it's important to have a leadership bench."

# Internships at Elon: Differences within the schools

Alex Moss  
Reporter

Though all internships for credit are academically tied to Elon University, each school accomplishes this differently, according to Pam Brumbaugh, director of experiential education.

Elon consists of four undergraduate schools of study: Elon College or the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and the School of Communications.

While each school offers internships for course credit, only the majors within Elon College leave internships as an option. According to their respective websites, the School of Education requires at least a 14-week internship, and both the Business School and the School of Communications require at least one credit hour. For the Business School, this equates to 40 hours of on-site service. For the School of Communications, 80 hours are necessary.

While the College of Arts and Sciences as a whole does not require students to complete an internship, there are exceptions within majors. Anthropology and human services require internships, and exercise science requires a practicum. As for the other 18 majors within the Art and Sciences, students may voluntarily complete an internship as an elective credit.

These students are paired with faculty members for off-campus internships, though the course requirements vary among the professors. For example, Chalmers Brumbaugh, professor of political science, requires an involved portfolio that includes work/employer evaluation, a reflective journal and a weekly interactive Blackboard

discussion with other interns. Interns also keep in constant communication with the faculty sponsor.

Pam Brumbaugh said she stands by the internship program within Elon College.

"When faculty members within a department take on their own kids and do internships with them, it's more manageable," she said. "This collaboration is great for students."

The School of Education takes a similar approach. Education internships fall into three departments. Elementary education requires a 14-week internship at a public school, special education requires a 14-18 week internship and middle grade education requires a 14-week internship.

While education majors may pay certain expenses, such as gas, there is no additional cost because the internships are during the academic school year. Like Elon College internships, a professor supervises the academic work of a group of students.

"Some of the faculty observe the students," said Carolyn Stuart, chair of the education department. "This can provide valuable feedback for better teaching styles."

In addition, education majors complete academic projects, including one where students interview families of kids with whom they have worked.

In 2006, the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business began requiring undergraduate internships.

"I think our program works because we always have someone here for students looking for and completing internships," said Kehaya Westcoot, internship coordinator for the School of Business.

She said she does not disagree with the Arts and Sciences' "professor-student" approach to internships.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ELON INTERNSHIPS

- College of Arts and Sciences – required for certain majors, including anthropology and human services
- School of Communications – 80 hours of on-site service
- School of Business – 40 hours of on-site service
- School of Education – 14-week internship



"I'm always open to new ideas," she said.

The School of Communications hired its first internship coordinator in 2001 and made internships a requirement by 2002. Like the Business School, students are graded based on their on-site supervisor evaluation, as well as other assignments: case study, professional portfolio or reel, two reflections and exit presentation. The internship coordinator helps monitor the interns. More than 200 students interned this past summer.

"I think students like getting help finding and applying for internships," said Nagatha Tonkins, internship coordinator for the school of communications. "I hear high school parents on tours who are really impressed we have our own internship director and career counselor."

Internships differ among the academic Schools at Elon, but each accomplishes a valuable aspect of Elon's mission.

"Hopefully, all our internships provide a life experience for how to behave in the professional setting," Pam Brumbaugh said. "You have more in your reservoir now that you know your academic knowledge has been impacted."

# Chemistry professor serves as president of national organization

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

Eugene Grimley, professor of chemistry at Elon University, was recently selected as president of Phi Lambda Upsilon, a national chemistry honor society.

"The purpose of the organization is to promote scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in chemistry or the chemical sciences," Grimley said.

The organization is comprised of 73 chapters with student and faculty members at major universities across the nation.

When a chapter is formed at an individual university, it must create a constitution and bylaws in line with those of the national organization.

"This is their operating procedure, how they conduct elections and make decisions," Grimley said. "It must be consistent with the overall organization."

Elon's chapter was formed last spring with a charter class of 21 members, 16 of which were students and five faculty, including Grimley and Joel Karty, associate professor of chemistry and faculty adviser for the chapter.

With 11 current members, the group is in the process of planning its first meeting of the year.

"On campus, the (chapter) can help with admissions and tours of the science building for people who are interested in science," he said. "Communications is a whole lot better peer-to-peer than faculty-to-peer."

As president of the national organization, Grimley said he has input as an overseer, but can't vote in elections, which are reserved for student members.



TRACY RAETZ | Photographer  
Eugene Grimley, professor of chemistry, began a four-year term as president of Phi Lambda Upsilon July 1.

"Each of the 73 chapters can send one delegate to the national congress held in conjunction with the national American Chemical Society meetings," he said. "At the congress, most people haven't participated in the political process. We deal with real issues, such as the allocation of the budget, and it's all student-voted."

Grimley, who as president will lead the Congress, said it's a great opportunity for people interested in similar fields of study to meet, encourage one another and see what their peers are doing.

"You learn how the organization works, and it gives you a professional feeling," he said. "It's super great for Elon students or any student."

The organization also gives an annual Fresenius award of \$5,000 to a professor to put toward his or her research.

The winner is also recognized at national meetings of the American Chemical Society.

"As president, I'm now charged with making sure the committee meets and selects an outstanding young scientist for the award," Grimley said.

During the four-year term that Grimley will serve as president, he said he hopes to encourage groups of members around the country to become formally recognized chapters and for current chapters to become more active participants in the organization.

"The objective is to hook up the less than active chapters, make sure they're active and website is up to date," he said. "It advertises for them across their campus what their organization is about. Visibility is important, you don't want to disappear."

Grimley also recently completed a new website for the organization and said he hopes the websites of all chapters will eventually become connected, so students interested in chemistry and Phi Lambda Upsilon can find information.

Grimley also said he plans to institute a scholarship worth about \$2,000 for student members to use toward tuition.

"It would be a fairly significant scholarship for a person who's already a member, a junior or senior doing outstanding research or discovery work in addition to their GPA," he said.

Founded in 1889, more than 70,000 members have been inducted into Phi Lambda Upsilon, Grimley said. Currently, there are around 35,000 active members.

Student members are required to have a 3.25 GPA both overall and in chemistry, and have at least 20 hours in chemistry at an organization approved by the American Chemical Society.

## Elon professor witnesses overthrow of Kyrgyzstan government, brings valuable experience back to States

Anna Johnson  
Managing Editor

The remnants of bullet holes that nicked and dinged the inch-thick metal fence surrounding the Kyrgyzstan capital palace were still clearly visible after the political riots. One Elon University professor witnessed the government overthrow that ripped through the country in mid-spring last year.

Jeff Carpenter, assistant professor of education, spent two weeks in Kyrgyzstan through a program with the state department called Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program. His visit coincided with the overthrow of the unpopular president and massive riots resulting in the death of dozens.

Before joining Elon's staff this year, he taught at Carrboro High School in Carrboro, N.C., as an English teacher. It was Carrboro's high percentage of refugees from Burma that led him to look for paid trips abroad.

"I wanted to learn about the refugees," he said. "But given the economy, I couldn't find anyone to fund that brilliant idea. But I did find this program and I decided to throw my hat in."

He was allowed to choose three countries and his choices were all in central Asia. His wife, Shabnam Victoria Muradi, is from Afghanistan and he said he chose central Asia "because of the eternal quest to better understand his wife."

During his two weeks abroad, Carpenter lived with a host teacher, co-taught in Kyrgyzstan high schools, with education NGOs and meet with political leaders. Because of the civil unrest, the political meetings were halted.

Midway through his trip, protestors gathered at the Kyrgyzstan capital, Bishkek, to protest and demand the resignation of the current president. Carpenter was staying in Karakol, five hours away from the capital, but his city was not entirely free of protestors.

"One to 2,000 people went to protest to show solidarity with the protestors in the capital," he said.

The governor in that region, he said, resigned quickly and there was never any violence. The protests took place less than two blocks from where he was staying.

"I felt fortunate in that I had a local looking after me," he said. "She said, stay in your hotel, and the state department said to stay in my hotel. So I did for 24 hours and just watched Al Jazeera."

It was difficult watching people die on television and watching the day's events unfold in his hotel room, he said.

While there was little danger in Karakol, in order for Carpenter to leave the country, he had to fly out of the capital. When he returned to Bishkek, men and women were gathered placing flowers on the ground and near the palace where massive shootings took place.

"I didn't miss it by much," he said. "It was sobering to see the flower memorials and the piles of flowers knowing each

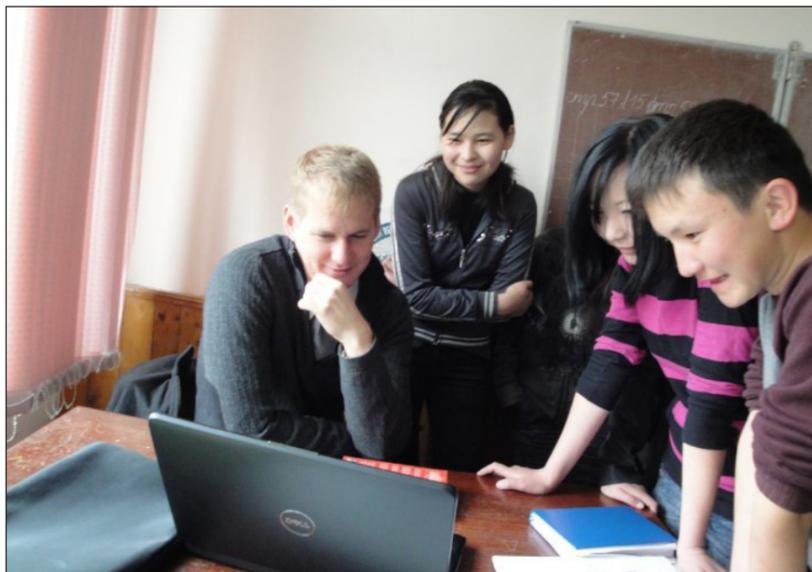


PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Jeff Carpenter, assistant professor of education, works with ninth grade students in Kyrgyzstan through the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program.

flower was where someone died."

Carpenter has traveled his entire life, and the danger was nothing new. When his wife found out about the protests, she called his parents.

"My wife was freaking out," he said. "You can't just pick up a phone; there is no Internet. And I think it was my mom who said, 'he is probably enjoying the adventure.'"

Despite the danger, Carpenter was able to put the experience into context with the Kyrgyzstan education system and the United States system.

"(Trips abroad) help prepare future teachers about the importance of being a global citizen and increasingly, the student body in the United States is becoming more globally diverse," he said.

## Elon admissions increase in both number and merit

Rachel Southmayd  
Senior Reporter

The number and caliber of high school students applying to Elon University has been on the rise in the past 10 years, according to the Office of Admissions.

From the 2000-2001 school year to 2009-2010, the number of applicants increased by 4,082 students. Each year during the last decade, enrollment either increased or stayed the same. This year's freshmen class is the largest in Elon's history.

According to Melinda Wood, the

assistant dean of admissions and director of applicants, it is not a result of something Elon is doing.

"It isn't something we're creating," she said. "We are really just responding to the quality of the students that are identifying Elon as a choice of theirs."

Since 2000, the average SAT score for an incoming Elon student has increased by about 100 points, and the average GPA has changed from 3.4 in 2000-2001 to 3.94 in 2010-2011.

According to the office of admissions, when a student applies to Elon, their GPA is recalculated to a 4.0 scale, core academic courses

are considered and advanced level courses like AP and IB classes are given additional weight.

A student's academic record and standardized test scores are then evaluated along with other pieces of the application such as a counselor recommendation and a personal essay. Numbers are not the only things that matter to admissions representatives, Wood said.

She said Elon admits students from all academic ranges to increase diversity, and doesn't focus solely on grades and test scores because today's Elon applicants usually have a lot to

offer outside of the classroom.

"We have seen a more well-rounded student," she said. "They're much more committed to organizations, to leadership, to service projects."

She said students seem to be drawn to Elon's academic offerings, the Elon Experience opportunities and extra-curricular activities.

Wood also noted that the growth in applicant numbers and scores has begun to level off in recent years, and that each year is different from the year before.

"It's hard to predict," she said. "We wait and see what's coming to us."

# iMedia program delivers for grads



COREY GROOM | Staff Photographer  
The Interactive Media program is housed on the second floor of the Powell Building. Last May, 34 students graduated from the program.

Becca Tynes  
Senior Reporter

Thirty-four students graduated from Elon University's 10-month Interactive Media program last May. Students learned how to plan and create interactive media content and help chart the future of media communication. Most graduates agree that completing the iMedia program enhanced their skills and has given them an edge in today's highly

competitive job market.

"Interactive projects permitted me to gain valuable experience through practice and allowed me to expand my designing skills," said Conor Britain, Elon and iMedia graduate.

According to Britain, the program was well-worth completing.

"Everything I learned in school is being directly applied to what I do now," Britain said. "Even if I didn't have a job right now, I'm not sure I'd say it wasn't

worth it. I was able to learn new skills and meet new people."

Britain currently works as an Interactive Designer at RED Interactive Agency. He said that because he knew exactly where he wanted to go with his degree, he was able to tailor his experience.

"I focus on interactive design using flash," Britain said. "Anytime I had a project to do, I tried to make sure it was flash-based."

Britain said that he is positive that the skills he learned in the program will only continue to help him in the future.

According to David Copeland, professor of communications and director of the iMedia program, the tools and skills used in interactive media can even transfer across discipline lines.

"The whole purpose of the program is to understand the use of interactive media, and how it is used to achieve certain goals in any area of work," Copeland said. "Our students who graduated last year were pretty successful in finding jobs."

Although many students in the program received their undergraduate degrees in journalism and communications, students of all majors and backgrounds participate in the program.

"It is a program that is open to students of all disciplines," Copeland said. "For Elon students, it's an excellent chance

to remain at Elon for another year. The program is pretty intensive. Students tend to spend almost all of their time here in the lab working."

Britain agrees with Copeland. Students take 11 courses, or 36 semester hours, beginning with Elon's Summer II session and concluding at the end of the spring semester.

"You have to be able to tell yourself what you want to get out of it," Britain said.

The program consists of four stages. The first stage occurs during the summer session and is a non-graded course that focuses on media tools. It ensures that students are skilled in working with various devices, including audio recorders, still cameras and video cameras.

The second stage occurs during the fall and focuses on classroom interaction. Students learn to use higher-level software packages in order to create and enhance interactive media.

During Winter Term, students travel in teams to an international site for a week in order to complete the third stage. There, they gather content and return to campus to complete an interactive project.

Students complete the final stage with an individual capstone project during the spring semester.

## Added fee to tuition payments by credit card contributes \$1 million to The Elon Commitment

Eva Hill  
Copy Editor

Elon University has saved about \$1 million in money previously directed to credit card companies as fees, a year after university officials instated a policy that added a 2.75 percent fee to tuition payments made with credit cards.

Ken Mullen, assistant vice president for business and finance, said the money saved from the credit card transactions is going toward the Elon Commitment as well as other initiatives and institutional priorities.

According to Jay Harper, the university's bursar, the total dollar amount paid with credit cards went from 42 percent before the fee to 3 percent after the fee was established. Last year, during the fall 2009 payment cycle, there were 2,850 individual credit card transactions for tuition

payments. This year, during the Fall 2010 pay cycle, only 250 people paid for tuition with a credit card, according to Harper.

Although it's important to take into account an increase in the student body and tuition charges, Harper said some of the 39 percent decrease in dollar volume can be attributed to the addition of the convenience fee.

"I don't think the decrease will go further, but this was a good indicator for the year and this set of options versus another set of options," Harper said. "There were still three percent of people who paid with a credit card, because the convenience does not make a difference to some families."

There were virtually no complaints from families, Harper said, and the university ended up saving a substantial amount of money.

Sophomore Emily Dietrich supports the university's decision to add a fee to

credit card payments for tuition.

"I think that if it is saving the university money, then it is beneficial and it is the university's way of ensuring that they get the money," she said. "I think that it was a good decision, looking at it from a year later."

Sophomore Blair Stout said her dad paid for her tuition with a check, but not because of the added fee.

"I don't believe he chose that method of payment because of the fee," Stout said. "I think that method of payment was easier and just as convenient."

Mullen said university officials were nervous because of the convenience that comes with paying with a credit card, but many parents and students were willing to sacrifice convenience to better the university through using another method of payment.

## Elon student back in action after automobile accident last spring

Melissa Lockley  
Reporter

Elon University junior Laura Levitt returned to classes and campus this fall after a high-speed chase and car accident last spring sent her home because of severe injuries.

Levitt was returning to campus after spending a weekend in Maryland last April, when a man involved in a police chase struck her vehicle at more than 100 miles per hour on Interstate-85.

According to Levitt, the transition back to Elon has been interesting.

After spending nearly four months at home, Levitt is working hard to juggle classes, meetings, therapy and makeup work. Levitt's professors worked closely with Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life, to create a reasonable extension for Levitt's makeup work.

"I'm pretty close to being done," Levitt said.

She is still attending

physical therapy for her left shoulder and left knee. She has been attending therapy for her shoulder since she arrived home after the accident.

"I'm making progress but it's slow," Levitt said. "I left the hospital in a wheelchair and had to relearn how to walk."

She said the doctors and physical therapists are optimistic about the healing process. They expect both her shoulder and knee to be completely healed by the end of her therapy.

The recent hit-and-run bike accident involving Elon freshman Toorialey Fazly has stirred up some memories Levitt said she has tried to keep at bay since last April.

"I knew how serious my situation was, and I hate the thought of someone else going through that," Levitt said. "I was worried."

But when it comes to thinking back on her own scary situation, Levitt has nothing but positive things



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Elon junior Laura Levitt returned to campus this fall.

to say.

Elon's faculty and students showered Levitt with support throughout her recovery, she said, reinforcing Elon as her home away from home.

"I was never one to take life for granted, so I didn't ever have a moment where I thought that I needed to start living life to the fullest," she said. "I guess it showed me that something like this can happen to anyone."

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# Meacham: Jackson's presidency successful, lasting for his eccentricities as character

Natalie Butler  
Reporter

If you ask Jon Meacham, previous editor of Newsweek magazine, former President Andrew Jackson would have loved YouTube. In Elon University's 10th annual Baird Pulitzer Prize Lecture, Sept. 27 in McCrary Theatre, Meacham said Jackson sought to rouse Americans politically by creating an engaging, true-to-life character, focusing on those living on the frontier and more disconnected parts of the country.

"(Jackson) understood that in a mass democracy, people needed a president that was a real live character in the drama of their daily lives," Meacham said.

Meacham in 2009 received a Pulitzer Prize for his book "American Lion: Andrew Jackson and the White House." He justified Jackson's notoriously crazy character and support of two of America's "great original sins," slavery and hostility toward Native Americans, as being vital to his roles as a father figure and character of drama to the American people.

"Jackson was a critical figure," Meacham said. "I think he really did invent the modern presidency as we recognize it."

Though he appeared crazy, there was method behind his madness, Meacham said. Jackson worked behind the scenes to find peaceful solutions, deliberating while his tirades allowed for more time.

Meacham said he finds a similar quality in politicians throughout history and present day.

"They are as flawed and occasionally short-sighted as all of us," Meacham said. "They make compromises in the worst sense to get what they get, and yet for five minutes along the way, they manage to transcend those human limitations and do something for the long-term good of the country."

Jackson's presidential successors saw him as inspiring because he was a dynamic figure. Meacham said he believes the best way to judge a president's impact is by looking at the judgments of those who immediately followed him.

Though Jackson fought on the side of slavery and the removal of Native Americans, Meacham said the president's "sinful" values were just a part of his influence in America that reverberates throughout history.

"You learn more from presidents who have great failings and great successes," Meacham said. "History is a complicated tale in which good and bad are all tangled up together."

Meacham said Jackson took on a cantankerous personality during times of conflict. He often intimidated those in opposition to his beliefs, including the state of South Carolina during its attempt to secede from the union.

"This is a man who had killed a man in cold blood while



TRACY RAETZ | Photographer  
Jon Meacham, former editor of Newsweek magazine, talks about his new book on Andrew Jackson, called, "American Lion: Andrew Jackson and the White House."

his own boot was filling with blood because the other man had shot him first," Meacham said. "This was not someone you picked a fight with."

He said Jackson's dynamic character, though, was what made him a successful president.

"To make all of that worthwhile, to make it matter to people as more than entertainment, you have to be able to wield executive power and bend legislature to your will," Meacham said.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Entrepreneurship students network in Raleigh

Students from business professor Gary Palin's Entrepreneurship Skills course attended an event in Raleigh geared at networking for entrepreneurs in North Carolina.

The event, held at Brier Creek Country Club, allowed students to network with 80 high growth and technology entrepreneurs and held a panel. The event was put on by The Indus Entrepreneurs of Carolina.

### Professor elected as program chair for APSA section

Laura Roselle, professor of political science, was elected to serve as the program chair for the American Political Science Association's Information Technology and Policy section.

The APSA is an organization focused on the development of political science as a discipline, working to improve research and communication, expand teaching and learning and diversify the field, among other objectives. Roselle will serve as program chair from 2012 to 2013.

### Communications advisory board members talk on panel

The School of Communication's advisory board visited Elon University's campus Sept. 24 to Sept. 26, and two of the members participated in a panel discussion about journalism.

The talk was called "The News We Watch: Is It Getting More Opinionated and, If So, Is That a Bad Thing?" Panelists included senior producer of "60 Minutes," Michael Radutzky, and Nina Easton, the Washington, D.C. editor of Fortune Magazine and a Fox News contributor.

### Professors develop undergraduate research on health sciences

Paul Miller, a professor of exercise sport science, and Eric Hall, an associate professor of exercise sport science, worked to develop a nationally-recognized division of undergraduate research devoted to health sciences.

Miller will serve as the first division chair for the newly approved Health Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research. The division will focus on nutrition, exercise science, nursing, pre-medicine and occupational health and safety.

### Library celebrates banned book week

Belk Library is currently displaying books banned around the country to celebrate Banned Book Week, Sept. 27 - Oct. 1.

Banned Book Week is an event that celebrates the significance for the First Amendment by highlighting the freedom to read books that have been banned across the United States.

### Hillel donates food to North Carolina food bank

Hillel, Elon University's Jewish organization, sponsored a food drive on campus during the 10-day period between the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Students, faculty and staff donated 137 pounds of food, which was then donated to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.

### Jersey of Hudgins to be retired at family weekend game

The No. 19 jersey of Elon University football player Terrell Hudgins will be retired prior to the Oct. 2 game against the Samford University Bulldogs.

The ceremony will take place on the field before the scheduled game at 1:30 p.m.

## Calendar: Sept. 29 to Oct. 5

### Sept. 29

- \* Catholic Mass on Wednesday nights 7:30 p.m., Holt Chapel
- \* Meet Elon Graduate Admissions at the University of Virginia Graduate Fair
- \* D.C. Chapter Welcome to the City
- \* Michael Steele, 'The 2010 Elections - A Republican Party Perspective,' 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium
- \* Support South Africa service-learning projects with Phoenix Cash, Moseley, all day
- \* EV! tutoring interest meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. Harden Dining Hall

### Sept. 30

- \* Philadelphia Chapter Welcome to the City
- \* Chicago IGNITE Nite at Redmond's
- \* Midnight Meals with Twisted Measure, 11 p.m.
- \* EV! tutoring interest meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. Harden Dining Hall
- \* Interest meeting for advertising club 7 p.m., McEwen 210
- \* Support South Africa Service-Learning Projects with Phoenix Cash swipes in Moseley
- \* Careers in Business Law panel
- \* Mosques, Muslims and the Media: A forum on Park 51, the 'Ground Zero Mosque'

### Oct. 1

- \* Family Weekend 2010 events, Oct. 1-3
- \* Collage - 7 and 8:15 p.m. Yeager Recital Hall
- \* Department of Music Faculty Gala
- \* Support South Africa Service-Learning Projects with Phoenix Cash swipes in Moseley

### Oct. 2

- \* Chicago Chapter AIDS Run/Walk at Grant Park
- \* Family and Friends Day at Elon Law
- \* DC Chapter Apple/Pumpkin Picking Family Day at Cox Farm
- \* Collage - 6 and 7:15 p.m. Yeager Recital Hall
- \* 5th Annual MBA Tailgate Party

### Oct. 3

- \* LEAF Weekly Worship and Fellowship - Sunday evenings

### Oct. 4

- \* Christian Karkow, opening reception 12:15 p.m. Arts West Gallery
- \* Bike and hike trip interest meetings, 6 p.m. Koury Commons
- \* Methodist Fellowship Meeting, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. McCoy Commons

### Oct. 5

- \* Van training dates - contact Michael Williams or Drema Holder for more information
- \* Bike and hike trip interest meetings, Koury Commons, 6 p.m.
- \* Fairytales and Prostitutes: 20 Years after "Pretty Woman" 6:30 p.m. Yeager Recital Hall
- \* Student Global AIDS Campaign interest meeting, Moseley 216, 8 to 9 p.m.

For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.

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The Pendulum's live coverage of everything Elon athletics, including the live coverage of football games, and news and scores from all of the university's varsity sports.

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#### OPINIONS

Victims of childhood abuse: The silence that remains unbroken and what it means for those who continue to hurt others.

[pendulumopinions.wordpress.com](http://pendulumopinions.wordpress.com)

## THIS WEEK IN MULTIMEDIA

#### Celebrating the Plaid

<http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Story.aspx?id=4228>

#### Piedmont Fish and Reptile: An exotic pet store

<http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Story.aspx?id=4229>

#### Internships at Elon

<http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Story.aspx?id=4230>

#### Local farm carries family tradition

<http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Story.aspx?id=4231>

#### Elon students rediscover childhood hobby

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# Editorial

## Paradox, thy name is college athletics

### College athletes endure pressure, succumb to team expectations

Student athletes at Elon wear multiple hats — you could say they live double lives. The most prominent of those roles is stated right in their titles: student-athletes. They compete with vigor on their respective fields, then compete for grades in the classroom. But does the term adequately represent a multi-talented person equally focused on both his or her academics and respective sport?

Not many athletic departments want to address this issue. These individuals, for the most part, are in college for one reason: to play sports, and play them well.

Sure, they go to class. And there are a select few who are able to excel both on the field and in the classroom. Both activities require intense time commitments.

But the problem is that the number of athletes who are able to do so is greatly exaggerated by athletic departments and the NCAA. The demands placed on these men and women greatly outweigh those without the worries of weights, runs and weekends spent traveling with the team.

In the past month, it has been difficult to watch "SportsCenter" without hearing about the latest news on the numerous football players who are ineligible to compete this season for

academic reasons.

But universities insist on putting emphasis on the student part of the phrase, claiming that these individuals are students first, but also play sports.

In the opinion of one Elon University athlete, the individual said he feels that he or she would not be a part of a collegiate team without actively participating in the sport they play.

"I figure I wouldn't be at a four-year university if it wasn't for this game anyway, so I'm taking advantage of getting the education and having the opportunity and privilege to get that education," the player said.

"But I would also say I put a lot more effort into (the sport than academics)." The player continued to talk about the paradox that athletes encounter. They were given scholarships to perform on the field for the Phoenix, but are told they must maintain pace with their grades in order to stay eligible to compete.

"As much time as we spend on the field preparing for what got us to Elon, we have to spend just that much time in the classroom and studying so that we can make sure we can stay here and

keep doing what we were brought here to do," the player said. "I think a lot of people underestimate what we actually have to do. It's very time consuming."

Perhaps the NCAA should stop trying to force the term upon the American sports fan. Most collegiate athletes are just that — athletes who are focused more on not letting teammates down than having their grades slip.

One Elon athlete asserted that, if given a choice between doing a paper or studying game plans, his

mind would be set on the latter.

"I'm trying to do right by my team," the player said. "I would probably

-ANONYMOUS

focus more on the film than the paper."

And the problem is that these athletes are expected to put as much time into their studies as other students. In addition to the expectations for academics, the athletes are supposed to be able to perform in each game.

The anonymous player defines a student athlete as "a student who has a job."

"You have to do one to keep another. If it wasn't for my job, I wouldn't even be the student part of this," the

athlete said.

The athlete mentality requires a shift in which activities take precedence — and sometimes, sports come first.

These are athletes from Elon, which is smaller than most other institutions it competes against. Imagine the viewpoint of an athlete from an ACC university. Would a Clemson University football player be more concerned with a Leisure/Sport Management paper or with a game plan for the Miami University Hurricanes? Chances are, the mind of that person would be more interested in performing well in a game, which could translate to making millions of dollars in the future.

The point is, collegiate athletes are groomed to perform on the field from the first day they set foot on a college campus. Their priorities are torn — they have responsibilities to fulfill in the classroom in order to be eligible on the field. Thus, their work in class promotes their work on the field — the sense of accomplishment and self-satisfaction may not come as readily as one not expecting playing time.

"For the most part, I'm not trying to be on any honor society or graduate with straight A's. I just want to graduate and be eligible," an athlete said.

**"I think a lot of people underestimate what we actually have to do. It's very time consuming."**

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

To the Editor:

I believe in donating blood. As an undergrad at Elon, I gave blood each and every semester. To me it is one of the easiest opportunities we are given to save a life. Though I am certainly not an expert, I know that each day across the world thousands of pints of blood are used for procedures as broad as the incidents that cause them. Blood cannot be produced in a lab and does not last forever. The only way to ensure a supply is always ready is constant donations.

I want to give blood. But when I entered into my first long-term relationship about six years ago, I effectively gave up my opportunity to ever give blood again. In 1985, in response to the growing AIDS

crisis, the United States Food and Drug Administration banned any man who has had sex with another man since 1977 from giving blood. To this day, any man who has "sexual contact" with another man, even once, may not donate blood, no matter how long ago.

We all know by now that heterosexuals are just as vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS as homosexuals. We also know that HIV/AIDS is an issue of protection and education and not simply an issue exclusive to the gay community. I could lie to the blood technician and still give blood, but this is only accepting discrimination and in fact, being dishonest, too. We must stand up and fight for what we believe in, but also recognize that blood donation is still required to

help save the millions of people each year who so desperately need it.

For those who have never given before, it's not something to be scared of. For those who have given, keep giving and help others to make the commitment to donate. The Fall Blood Drive is coming to our campus Oct. 6 - 7. Elon has a rich tradition of providing the Red Cross with hundreds of pints of blood each semester. I urge you to make one of the easiest donations possible, give blood and save lives. Contact the Kernodle Center for more information at 336-278-7250.

Sincerely,  
Brian O'Shea  
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

### TO COMMENT ...

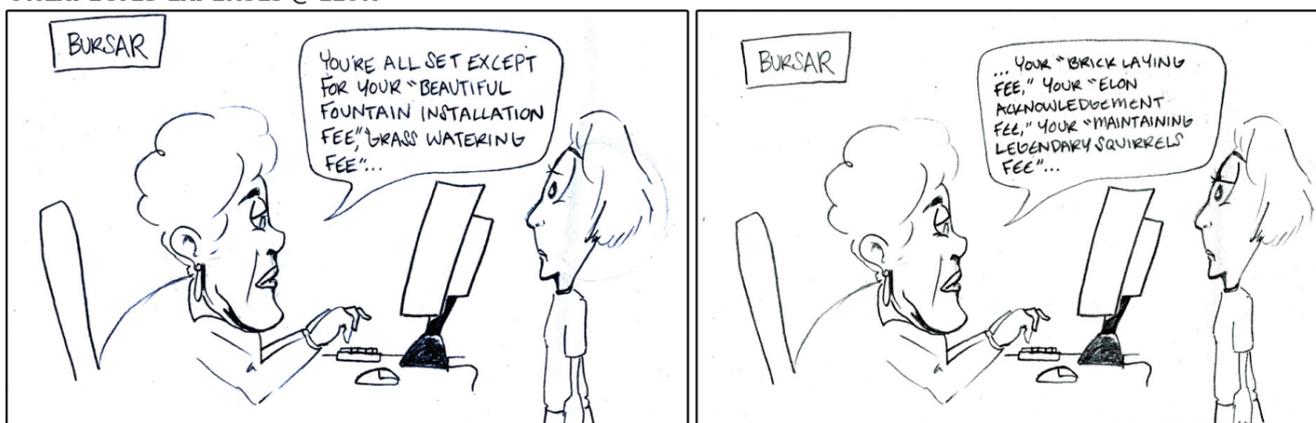
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Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

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# Opinions

## Devaluing gender, treasuring culture

In efforts to understand Afghan gender norms, ethnocentrism prevails, hinders progress



**Rachel Southmayd**  
Columnist

On Sept. 20, The New York Times published an article about families in Afghanistan who disguise their daughters as boys because it is shameful to not have a son in their culture.

In Afghanistan, a family without a son is considered a family without respect. This is because very few women are able to work outside of the home — they are unable to earn money

and provide for their families, unlike men. Female children cannot wander the streets, or sometimes even leave the house alone, but little boys can go outside, play in the street and help their fathers at

work.

Here in the U.S., I like to think that men and women are given equal amounts of respect, but I know that this idea has not been truly fulfilled. If women and men were regarded completely equally, the number of stay-at-home dads would equal the number of stay-at-home moms, among other things.

The massive advantages a woman has here starkly contrasts with the one she would have if she were a woman in Afghanistan, or a multitude of other countries where extreme discrimination exists based solely on gender or anything else that makes a person "different." This desperation for equality forces some to hide who they are, like gender in Afghanistan, or sexual orientation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

I am one of three girls. When I was growing up, my father was up to his eyeballs in Barbies and will write three hefty checks when we each walk down

the aisle. This is the expectation when you have daughters in the U.S., one that is as foreign to Afghan families as their obvious bias toward sons is to our own. But if you ask my father if he was ever ashamed that he had three princesses instead of even one spitball throwing son, I'm sure he would say a firm "No."

The fact is, people should be proud to be who they are. No one should ever be made to feel guilty simply for being born a certain way. I am a firm believer that when a group, family, government or even an entire culture devalue a person, that person begins to feel devalued. And the last thing the female citizens of Afghanistan need is to feel belittled or insulted in any way.

The people of this war-torn country would be far better served by letting go of age-old prejudices and superstitions, and embracing the unique qualities that each person possesses, without paying gender any mind.

## Yom Kippur: Holiday or sacred Jewish holy day?

Yom Kippur time to reflect and improve on aspects of people's daily lives



**Garret Mann**  
Guest Columnist

What is Yom Kippur? Let's strategically break this down. We can affirm that it isn't Hanukkah; there are no lavish presents, and since the entirety of Yom Kippur is spent fasting, there isn't a glorious feast and nothing symbolic such as a Menorah. So what is a holiday with no feast, presents or even a simple image that pops into your head when someone utters its name? The debate is over the definition: should Yom Kippur be considered a holiday or a holy day?

I will tell you this much — it is not fun. It takes place 10 days after the Jewish new year (Rosh Hashanah), simply because the number 10 is a significant number in the Bible, for example, the 10 Commandments. On this day, one is to judge him or herself as if he or she were being judged by

the almighty God.

"One must make themselves as uncomfortable as possible in order to focus on their actions of the previous year," Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel in Charlotte said.

You may be thinking, 'Good grief, not eating or drinking for 24-hours, not sitting in appropriate sized seats, no leather shoes, no showers, perfumes or any form of comfort, just to look back on the bad things I've done and make the equivalent of a New Year's resolution?'

But that is exactly how I think of it. Everyone wants to change or improve something, and what better situation could you subject yourself to than to starve yourself to a point of realizing you must change?

So you begin fasting at sundown the night before, go to the nighttime services for Yom Kippur to keep food off of your mind and then go to bed immediately afterwards, just to be woken up at 9 a.m. to your stomach growling. Upon visiting the fridge, you realize, "No, I can't do this." You go and get fancied up, but not too fancy, to go to Synagogue. Once you walk in the door you feel the aura — the feeling that everybody is starving just as much as you are. The place is packed, more so than any other occasion.

People actually have ticket stubs. The service lasts all day, and you get tired from the constant standing and sitting for prayers and the reading of the various laws to remind you what specific laws you have broken. Once you get home you nap to keep food off your mind, and by the time you wake up, it's time to go to an extravagant break-fast with all of your family and friends, to mingle, when all you want to do is eat.

At that point, the point of consumption, you realize what an essence this day has to it. This day is different than all other throughout the year, but each year, you don't realize that until the food enters your mouth. Everything you desire to change in the next year is recognized, and you understand what a holy day this is and should be.

## Unforeseen college expenses place strain on student budgets

Many costs for college students go unrealized including leisure, recreation fees



**Kristen Case**  
Guest Columnist

When you get accepted to college, especially a private one like Elon University, you expect to spend a decent amount of money. During the first year, when you don't know what you need in your dorm, you go to the local Target

or Walmart, and buy everything you might need — and even some stuff you won't need at all.

So when you've finally moved everything in and realized that you don't have room for everything you bought, you think you're done spending money, aside from the occasional night out. You've heard all the rumors about how penniless college students are and their survival purely on Ramen Noodles and Easy Mac, but most people are still convinced that fate will never befall them. The thought process is that everything you need is right here on campus, and Phoenix Cash is a better spending option than actual money.

But that's not the truth at all. There are many things that Elon students spend money on that they don't factor in to their budget at first. For instance, your car, groceries, textbooks and club sports dues.

Many Elon students have their cars on campus, which is an added cost that is incredibly unnecessary. The parking permit fee is \$160 in some areas on campus, not including the price students pay for their own gas money, or car insurance, which can be more than \$100 per month. Essentially, having a car on campus

can set students back about \$150 a month.

Shopping is not inexpensive, either. Supplying oneself with the college staple foods, like Easy Mac, Ramen and Pop-Tarts, even for cheaper than they are on campus, can add up. Buying these staple foods, has cost freshman Addie Haney about \$30 a month.

"It's sort of necessary to go grocery shopping sometimes, just to change it up," Haney said. "Sometimes the meals at the dining halls aren't what you want to eat, so it's nice to have a can of soup or something in your room."

Another trap that students get sucked into is buying new books from the campus shop — it seems to be the most convenient way to buy them. New books seem like a good thing. But that is the most expensive decision students can make. If students insist on purchasing books from the campus shop, the smarter choice is to buy them used, or to even rent them. But the real way to save money on books is to buy them from a completely different vendor, such as Amazon.com.

One Global Experience class requires the book "The River Between," which, when bought used, costs about \$14 from the campus shop. On Amazon.com, the same book is only about \$3, around one-fifth of the cost of the campus shop.

Another unforeseen college cost is sports dues. In order to participate in intramural sports, such as tennis, and flag football, students must pay a fee of \$20, no matter what sport, or how often they attend. Some club sports on campus require steeper fees.

In addition to paying for unexpected on-campus necessities, most students will go out much more often than they originally believe. Whether it is to the movies, or just out to eat, this is probably the number one hidden expense.

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# Style



## PLAID FESTIVAL

held in the Village of Alamance

MORE ONLINE

Melissa Kansky  
Multimedia Editor

Village of Alamance residents gathered at Lutheran Church Ball Fields for the fifth annual Plaid Day Festival on Sept. 25. Festivities included face painting, hay rides, horse rides, inflatables, food vendors and live musical entertainment.

"It celebrates our heritage," said Cathera Bundren, the village of Alamance mayor.

Although modern society would not consider the village of Alamance a fashion capital, 150 years ago the town was a leader in the textile industry. Plaid Day celebrates the E.M. Holt Mill, the first manufacturer of the plaid south of the Potomac River. The mill, located along Alamance Creek, produced the plaid pattern, once called "Alamance Plaid."

"As my understanding, a Frenchman came through and was broke," Bundren said.

And he sold the method for the pattern to Mr. Holt for a nominal fee. From there on, all the mills in Alamance County began making colored fabric.

Planning for the festival began in February, Bundren said.

"We started contacting vendors to see if they could come out and sell their wares," she said. "Then we had to get the venue, and the third thing was to make sure we had food vendors as well as selling vendors."

In addition to commercial organization, Kopper Top participated in the town festival and organized activities for younger attendees. Kopper Top Learning Center non-profit organization that provides non-clinical therapy through therapeutic horseback riding, recreational therapy, animal-assisted therapy, and horticulture therapy to individuals with or without disabilities.

"Each year the organizers of the fair ask us to bring the animals out here to interact with the people and give the children and the community an activity," said Deborah Meredith, the executive director of Kopper Top. "So we bring the horses out here and they do pony rides."

Bundren described the atmosphere as festive and said Plaid Day attracted a mixture of both young and old residents.

"The day is significant to me as a 'village-tonian,'" she said. "And it's a chance to meet your neighbors. That's for sure."



ALL PHOTOS BY ALEX TRICE | Photographer  
The Plaid Festival is held annually in the Village of Alamance, N.C. Top photo: Musicians perform live bluegrass music. Middle: A young boy plays ball with his friend at the festival. Third from top: A tiger shaped bounce house offers a place for children to play. Fourth from top: Adults help a young girl to finger paint. Bottom left: A young boy rides a Pinto horse from Koppertop.



HEATHER CASSANO | Staff Photographer

Eleonore Dunn has owned Eleonore's Hair Design since 1980. She has seen the town of Elon change from coffee shops and Winn Dixies to Elon University's student center and dorms.

# Campus ✂️ Cuttery

## Eleonore's Hair Design in business since 1980

Marlena Chertock  
Design Editor

Since 1975, the shop between Live Oak Communications and Harold Acting Studio has been a barbershop and in 1980, it became Eleonore's Hair Design.

The shop is adorned with old-style barbershop chairs and wooden dressers that give customers a nostalgic feeling.

In 1965, owner Eleonore Dunn, at age 19, immigrated from Germany to the United States with her husband, a serviceman for the U.S.

"I always say you have to be young, dumb and stupid to leave your country," Dunn said. "But I don't regret it."

Dunn became a hair dresser in 1976. She went to a Burlington cosmetology school that no longer exists, she said.

"Maybe it's because I was the oldest one, and I had three small sisters, and I would do their hair all the time," she said. "I reckon that's why I wanted to do it. Early on, I always messed with hair."

Before Dunn, the barbershop was owned by Sally Bear, Dunn said. In Aug. 1980, he had a heart attack while cutting hair and passed away, according to Dunn.

But the history of the building goes back even further than that. The building was built in 1891 as a post office, the first one in Elon, she said.

She's seen the town change from coffee shops, laundromats and Winn Dixies to the gym, the student center and dorms, she said.

Employee Shannon Carver has worked at Eleonore's Hair Design since July. Before coming to the Elon hair salon, she worked at Sure Style in Burlington.

"I just didn't have that many walk-ins," she said. "The place was in downtown Burlington, and it was dead."

Carver said she was always interested in cutting hair.

"I can remember sitting in a chair as a little girl, putting Meemaw's hair up in pigtails," she said. "I can remember putting her hair in perms when I was a little older, nine or 10 years old. I would just sit there and read the directions and do it like they said."

She pursued cosmetology after high school but got married and had a full time job, she said.

"Something had to go," she said. "And it was school."

Carver went back to get her degree and had to start her hours over because she had waited 11 years, rather than

the allotted 10. She went to Leon's Beauty School in Greensboro, because it was a fast, no-nonsense program, she said. She graduated in 2008.

At Eleonore's, Carver said between she and Dunn they see about 20 customers a day. Customers often drive long commutes from Greensboro, Roxboro, Henderson, Cary and Chapel Hill, Carver said.

Parking can be an issue, according to Carver.

"It brinks on ridiculous," she said. "I can't get someone in and out of here in under an hour. (Dunn) once had a customer, and we had to move her car three times to keep her from getting a parking ticket."

Carver said so far it looks like Tuesdays and Thursdays are off-days, but there's no way to tell.

"I was in here one day, alone, bored and dyed my hair 'Rockstar Red,'" Carver said. "It's faded to orange-brown. I'm 43- years-old, but I'm young when it comes to hair."

Carver said as the year goes on and when new students get settled in, they'll get busier. She said she's not discouraged.

Carver mostly cuts college students' hair and Dunn cuts the professors' and locals' hair, according to Carver. Dunn has some clients who are in high school, college and senior citizens, Carver said.

"She does a good job because she's got a magic brush," Burlington resident Ruth Proctor said of Dunn.

"Don't forget the magic scissors," Burlington resident Francis Vanderford added.

Dunn said her customers panic when she tells them she's taking a vacation to Germany. She said they think she will stay there.

"I miss my siblings, I miss Germany," she said. "But I don't want to (go back to live there). I would be OK if there were two changes here, a good bakery and good butcher shop."

Carver said she has cut Executive Vice President Gerry Francis' and student athletes' hair.

"They're local celebrities in their own right," she said. "Everybody who walks through that door is a customer, and everybody's special in their own right. I wouldn't do any more for Ashton Kutcher than I would for you. Though I might drool a little and be more nervous if it was (Ashton) Kutcher."

Eleonore's stays open until the last customer is served, Carver said. Usually, one of them will stay until 4 or 5 p.m.

The shop is located at 102 N. Williamson Ave. and can be reached at 336-584-4211.



MARLENA CHERTOCK | Photographer

Owner of Eleonore's Hair Design, Eleonore Dunn, prepares one of her clients' hair to be cut.

# ΣΧ

SIGMA CHI

Sigma Chi welcomes all  
Sophomores for Fall Rush 2010.

# Top-6 quick and healthy breakfasts

Alexa Johnson  
Senior Reporter

## 1. Fruit salad

Fruit salad is easy and quick to make. First choose your favorite kind of fruit — grapes, apples, strawberries and cantaloupe work best because the juices won't drain. Cut them, or keep them whole, depending on preference, and put each kind of fruit in a different Ziploc bag so the flavors don't mix too soon. Store the bags in your refrigerator overnight, and in the morning, mix them together.

Fruit salad is great for people who are in a rush in the morning, those who don't like heavy breakfasts and when you are in classes where professors don't want food distractions.

## 2. Pancakes

Pancakes are a delicious and homey way to start the morning. Try Aunt Jemima's Complete Pancake and Waffle Mix — the only other ingredient needed is water, which means you don't need to worry about finding other ingredients. You might be thinking, "there is no way I have time to make pancakes," but that is not so. All you need is 10 minutes to make a few pancakes and scarf them down. If you want to eat them in class, invest in a plastic container that has a separate compartment for syrup.

Have a little more time on your hands or feeling adventurous? Try banana, strawberry or even apple pancakes. Another thing to keep in mind is that if you make a ton of pancakes the night before, you can freeze them — put wax paper between each layer, wrap the stack with tin foil and put in a freezer bag.

## 3. Granola fruit kabobs

You will need 2 cups of granola (the cheapest you can find), 2 medium apples chunked, 2 medium bananas chunked, 1 cup pineapple chunks and 1 cup yogurt (plain or whatever flavor you want). Put all the fruit in a bowl (squirt in lemon juice if you are worried about browning), pour in the yogurt and make sure the fruit is coated. Pour in the granola.

You can eat it as a parfait or put a wooden skewer through the fruit for cool points.

## 4. Breakfast smoothie

A smoothie is a great option for people who don't want to rush breakfast or don't want anything too heavy to start of the day. They are also pretty easy to make, depending on the recipe or your creative abilities.

For a "Lemonade Wake-up Call" (recipe from Mr. Breakfast.com, serving size for two) you will need 1 cup lemonade, 1/2 cup plain or lemon yogurt, 3/4 cup pineapple chunks and 1/2 cup pineapple sherbet, and 3 or 4 large ice cubes. Blend well and pour into a portable device.

## 5. Breakfast burritos

For people who don't find it strange to have a burrito for breakfast, they are easy to make, portable and are a good way to get protein into your first meal of the day. A good option for people who have mastered cooking eggs, but not so much for those of us who struggle with the art form.

Here is a recipe for two from MyCookingQuest.Wordpress.com. You will need 6 eggs, 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, 3 teaspoons of milk, 3 pinches on salt, 3 tablespoons of parsley, 1 tablespoon of butter, 2 tortillas and 4 slices of bacon. All you have to do is make scrambled eggs in a pan with the ingredients, then wrap it all up in a warm tortilla.

## 6. Parfaits

It's like cereal, but better.

You will need 1 cup yogurt (plain or whatever flavor you want), 1 cup granola or cereal (Kashi or another hearty brand, like Post Selects), half of a cup preferred fruit (grapes, bananas or blueberries work well). Layer the yogurt, granola and fruit however you want in a bowl if you are eating at home or in a plastic container for on the go.

It's best to make these in the morning and not at night to prevent the fruit juice from mingling with the yogurt, so the granola doesn't get soggy.

# Gibsonville to host 23rd annual Fall Festival

David Turkel  
Reporter

The town of Gibsonville is set to host its annual Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 9.

This will be the 23rd Gibsonville Fall Festival sponsored by the Gibsonville Merchant's Association, and the 10th year the event will be held in downtown Gibsonville. Some of the highlights include:

Performances by the Mason Lovette Band. Formed at Appalachian State University in 1999. The Mason Lovette Band is a six-member band famous for touring around Tennessee and North Carolina, playing their trademark mix of high-energy country, rock and blues.

Performances by Hearts on Fire and Crossover Drive Band. Hearts on Fire is a Christian rock band residing in Southern California. Crossover Drive Band is a cover band that features, according to The After Hours Review, "two smokin' lead guitar players, delta-blues harp, several vocalists, and a slammin' rhythm section." Crossover Drive has a diverse song list, covering artists from Joss Stone to ZZ Top.

More performers, including the KARIZMA Dancers of the Burlington Academy of Dance and Arts, the Carolina Cheer Company, Centre Stage on Main of Gibsonville, the Town & Country Cloggers and a DJ.

A number of local businesses will also have booths at the festival, selling their goods including baked foods, pottery and jewelry. There will also be a 50-50 raffle, in which the winner receives half of the raffle proceeds, with the other half going to the Gibsonville Merchants Association.

## Events to expect at the festival

- musical performances from the Mason Lovette Band, Hearts on Fire, Crossover Drive Band and a DJ
- dance performances by KARIZMA, Carolina Cheer Compan, Center Stage, Town & Country Cloggers
- local business with booths of baked goods, pottery and jewelry
- a raffle

## The weekly Web roundup: Videos and links going viral



Alexa Johnson  
Columnist

### Rejected ads for the Utah State Fair

The director of the weird cult classic film 'Napoleon Dynamite' was commissioned to create ads for the Utah State Fair. Unsurprisingly, they are brilliant, but were pulled from TV for being "too sexual." Look out, Isaiah Mustafa — you've got some competition. To see the ads, visit <http://www.buzzfeed.com/ashleybaccam/rejected-ads-for-the-utah-state-fair-luwr>.



PHOTO FROM BUZZFEED.COM

### Various hair O'lanterns

Who would think hair on a head could look so wrong? Hair O'Lanterns do not use a pumpkin as a canvas, but mostly bald human heads. Heads are styled so that a human face with facial hair appears.



PHOTO FROM BUZZFEED.COM

Included in this collection is "The Uncle Who Has A Pixies Cover Band" and "The Dapper Gentleman." It is indescribably creepy. To see the wacky hair pranks, visit <http://www.buzzfeed.com/zombieianbrooks/various-hair-olanterns-1ldk>.

### Katy Perry's breasts are a no-go for 'Sesame Street'



PHOTO FROM NEWSFEED.TIME.COM

The cheeky songstress recently filmed a segment with Elmo for 'Sesame Street,' a kid friendly version of her hit "Hot 'N Cold." Now Sesame Street has decided not to air the video because her outfit shows too much cleavage. Obviously, they were worried enough about the breast exposure to ask her to wear a nude mesh panel to keep the girls, but didn't ask her to put a different outfit on. You can still watch the video online at <http://newsfeed.time.com/2010/09/23/katy-perry-too-revealing-for-sesame-street/>.

### Lady Halloween costumes want to kill your childhood

OK, not only are these costumes pretty promiscuous, but they look nothing like the characters we remember from childhood. With the exception of the Mrs. Potato Head costume and Big Bird (very weird characters to dress up as), these outfits are ridiculous, but the Ninja Turtles one, however, is full of win. To see the costumes, visit <http://www.buzzfeed.com/catsparella/inappropriately-sexy-halloween-costumes-Iruv>.

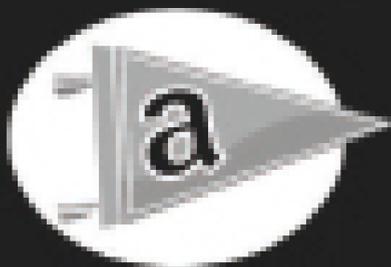


PHOTO FROM NEWSFEED.TIME.COM

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## Bo Burnham

## burns 'em up



Comedian Bo Burnham entertained in Alumni Gym for several hours Sept. 20. Burnham faced technical difficulties, but continued on with the show.

LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor

Kit Arbuckle  
Reporter

A lot of things were working against Bo Burnham and his show Tuesday, Sept. 21. There were conflicting messages sent out regarding the time of the event, causing some students to arrive more than an hour early. Audience members were let in late, causing the show itself to start behind schedule. Finally, even though the show took place in the newly renovated Alumni Gym, technical problems plagued the show at every turn.

Burnham rose above it all, though, and gave Elon University students a night of intellectual and profane comedy they'll not soon forget.

Burnham's brand of comedy is witty and pubescent, honest and outrageous, and above all, snarky. He addressed race, sex, Catholic school and a myriad of other controversial topics with a straight face as his audience roared with laughter.

And, while he matched many older comedians in political incorrectness, the truly unique aspect of his show was the music. Burnham sang frankly and unabashedly at his electric keyboard and with his guitar, performing both new and previously well-received material. The nature of Burnham's show is to shock his audience into laughter by way of tactlessness and sincerity. Offensive it may be, but the up-and-coming artist said that his stage personality is different from his normal behavior.

Burnham attempted a particular skit involving several pre-recorded voices slowly being cut together to form a song, but a technical goof ended it short just as things were escalating toward a finale. He claimed the night of the show

was the first time he attempted the skit, so there is hope that the bugs will be fixed in the future.

At one point, Burnham even went so far as to recite Hamlet's famous "to be or not to be" soliloquy and then stepped back to ask, "What does that (even) mean?"

Burnham is a native of Hamilton, Mass., where he was born in 1990. His age makes him both appealing and relatable for college-age people — if he were still in school, he would be a junior in college. His songs tend to focus on such serious topics as real-world angst, relationships and self-doubt, but all, of course, with a humorous twist.

He began posting videos of his songs on YouTube in 2006, while still in high school.

In the fall of 2007, talent agent Douglas Edley of The Gersh Agency contacted him — the same agent who represents Drew Carey and Dave Chappelle.

Burnham performed on Comedy Central shortly after he turned 18. Since then, Comedy Central Records has released his six-song EP, "Bo Fo Sho," in 2008 and his self-titled full album in 2009. He's been on two tours, won awards at the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and reportedly has been contacted about several movie and television opportunities.

The turnout was better than anyone had expected, said SUB Stage Executive Meaghan Britain. According to Britain, the final attendance count exceeded 700 students.

Twenty-year-old Burnham has managed to capture the persona of a post-millennia adolescence. One certainly has to admire a performer who can sing so quickly, while still retaining excellent articulation and clever lyrics.

## K.O. Kid knocks out the competition

Ashley Watkins  
Reporter

It's about 1 a.m. and The Fat Frog bar in Elon is jumping with music and dancing. Inside, a 20-year-old stands on the stage trying to freestyle a rap based off the word supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. He succeeds — the crowd screams and people wave their hands in the air. This is a typical performance night for up-and-coming area rapper K.O. Kid.

"A lot of people think my name stands for knockout, but my real name is Kobla. Full name Kobla Hargett," said K.O. Kid before the sound check of his Thursday night performance at The Fat Frog.

Kid's nickname was given to him the way all good nicknames are: by just hanging out with friends.

"We had already been calling him K.O. for a long time, so it just kind of stuck," said Paul Barker, Kid's producer, better known in the music business as Ladro.

Kid is a senior biology pre-med major at East Carolina University. "My schedule is pretty hectic," he said, "It's pretty much a continuous grind."

He began rapping a little more than a year ago.

"I used to freestyle with my friends all the time at parties, just kicking it and having fun with people," he said.

He travels around the North Carolina area, particularly around Chapel Hill where he is from, trying to create a buzz. Though he has only been doing shows for one year, Kid writes all of his own music along with his producer, Ladro.

"He (Ladro) makes the beats, I



Rapper K.O. Kid performs at Fat Frog on Thursday, Sept. 23rd. K.O. is a pre-med and biology student at East Carolina University, but performs around the state.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

write the music," Kid said.

Kid and Ladro live in different towns, so they use video chat, e-mails and text messages to get the music and the beats combined to create a final product.

Kid takes influences from a lot

of the new rappers in the industry, especially those who have fresh ideas to influence music that is already out there.

"I'm influenced by the guys who are really almost not what hip hop has always been." Kid said. "A lot of

people would consider hip-hop to be the gangster area, that kind of thing. And right now, it's just a whole slew of these guys who are just coming out, cross genre rappers."

Kid said he draws a lot of inspiration from his family.

"The (new album) is called 'Doctor's Orders' and my dad is actually an ER physician," he said. "In high school and college he played in a band, so my father has a huge influence on everything I do, as does the rest of my family."

Though it has not always been his goal to become a rapper, rapping is something K.O. Kid would like to pursue in the future.

After working this past summer on HIV research in New York, the doctor he worked for has been trying to secure Kid a job. He said he hopes to continue to do music on the side of his professional job after college.

"I won't stop making music till I have to," he said of his future plans.

Along with being more seasoned in the industry, K.O. has found that music is more fun for him now. He said he loves the adrenaline that comes with rapping.

"The split second when you drop a word when you're freestyling. Everything can go wrong or you make it all go right. It's my favorite feeling. I live for it."

K.O.'s said his ultimate goal is to be at the top of whatever he's doing and to make music that people enjoy.

"I hope to share a whole bunch of perspective and just good times," she said. "I want to make music that people love and as far as what I look to gain for myself, whatever I can get. Wherever it goes, that's where I'm going."

# Get lost in Elon's Labyrinth

Cat Valero  
Reporter

Elon University has a diverse assortment of religious life on campus. One option is located on South Campus near Holt Chapel: the Elon Labyrinth. Labyrinths, far from holding scary minotaurs, are winding paths laid out in a quiet spot to encourage meditation and relaxation.

The labyrinth is used in a variety of ways. For example, last spring semester students in the Health and the Human Spirit class were asked to participate in various projects that investigated spirituality. One activity included visiting the labyrinth on campus and later discussing their personal experiences.

Kiva Nice-Webb, a senior and active member at the Truitt Center, has walked the Elon Labyrinth a few times along with others off campus.

"Usually I come out and walk it when I have too many things on my mind at once," she said.

Almost finished with her undergraduate studies at Elon, Nice-Webb is not a stranger to the natural stressors of college life. "I used to have a really hard time not feeling like I was wasting time doing nothing," she said. "The labyrinth was one of the ways I have gradually become more comfortable with that space in my life."

The labyrinth at Elon is a unique part of campus. The labyrinth was initially the idea of Chaplain Emeritus Richard McBride. The tree in the middle is dedicated "Richard's Tree" in honor of the retired Chaplain.

Since its construction, many students have yet to walk on the labyrinth or know where it is on campus.

"I'd love for the labyrinth to be



Elon University's Labyrinth is a spiritual path located near Holt Chapel on South Campus close to the practice fields. Visitors are encouraged to walk around the tree shape and contemplate, meditate and simply take a break from collegiate stressors.

MOLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

utilized to its fullest but I like how it's a fairly well-kept secret," said senior Josh Changani.

The labyrinth is rather small, even without the lack of publicity. Its capacity is around 10 to 15 people.

"It might be helpful to establish a certain capacity for the amount of

people that can comfortably walk it at once," Nice-Webb said.

The labyrinth is open to all students. Even though the Truitt Center and some religious studies professor promote using the labyrinth, it is not required for students to be religious or have an interest in religion in

order to experience the labyrinth. Its primary purpose is to provide a place for reflection and tranquility to anyone who chooses to participate.

The labyrinth looks best during a sunset or early in the morning, which is also a good time to experience silence and solitude.

## Piedmont Fish and Reptile an exotic sight



Exotic lizards bask under the glow of heat lamps in Piedmont Fish and Reptile, a pet store in Gibsonville. The store specializes in saltwater fish and other unique scaly creatures.

Stephanie Butzer  
Reporter

Piedmont Fish and Reptile is a haven for people who want beautiful and exotic pets and a treasure trove of information on the subject. Located on Haggard Avenue next to Anna Maria's Pizzeria, the store is a hidden gem of local business that is just a stone throw away from Elon University.

The first attraction to catch the eye when walking into Gibsonville's Piedmont Fish and Reptile store

is a large dazzling fish tank with waving plants, pastel-colored coral, and salt-water fish of many colors gliding through the water on nearly translucent fins.

Equally impressive across the room and across the habitat spectrum is a tank decorated in desert decor, with a pair of mountain horned dragons, a species of lizard eyeing the outside.

Around the store are other exotic animals: a youthful, but dangerous python rests within a log under a heat

lamp. A lone lionfish, a venomous predator, lurks in a tank adjacent to a tank of clownfish.

On the counter and away from curious hands is the store pet, not for sale under any circumstances — a bush viper, a venomous snake native to Africa.

In the back of the store a juvenile shark swims lazily around its large aquarium. It's for sale.

According to Ben Merritt, an employee for about a year, the store owns many different species of reptiles, freshwater and saltwater fish.

His job at the store includes working the register and taking care of the animals. He describes his job as "a hobby, so it feels more like play than work." It's dangerous work though, because he comes in contact with animals that can be aggressive.

With a shrug of his shoulders he admits he has been "bitten, attacked (and) hurt here and there."

Store owner and Appalachian State graduate Geoff Bengel, can get about any animal, legally, of course, that a customer requests, ranging from tarantulas to pythons. He opened the shop two years ago, creating the only store of its kind in the area.

The store has no problem holding up on their own, despite being a super-specialty pet store.

"For good stuff, for saltwater, for knowledge about it, people will drive from miles away," Merritt said. "We get people recommended to us from all over."

He says that a nearby PetCo employee recently told a customer to visit Piedmont Fish and Reptile instead of his store for a desired purchase.

Merritt said the most popular purchases include the salt-water fish, which is "the (main) reason for the business being here." In comparison to fresh-water aquariums, salt-water tanks are harder to maintain but much more rewarding in the variety of fish and coral a person can buy.

Because Elon students cannot have more than a small fish bowl in their dorms, the only students who go to the store to buy salt-water fish (which need a larger tank) or other animals live off-campus.

Groups of curious people visit the store often, though not



always to buy an exotic animal.

Next door to the store is a pizza restaurant and, consequently, the store gets wandering people with their food coming in and observe the fish and reptiles.

The attention is spreading awareness about the animals and is certainly boosting the small store's business and popularity in the neighboring town of Gibsonville.

# Acting up: Technical Difficulties looking to become official campus organization

Eden Etzel  
Reporter

Creativity, expression, public speaking and problem solving: all are elements of a successful career, and all are elements one can learn at Elon University's own improvisational acting club.

Improvisational acting, or improv, focuses on making scenes in the moment without rehearsal. Often, improv sketches can be humorous, similar to the TV show "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

Technical Difficulties, Elon's improv acting group, has existed for about three or four years on campus, but has not received organization status by the university.

"Technical Difficulties" is headed by theatre professor Richard Gang

and junior Ben Morris, an acting major. This year they are pushing for recognition as a university club.

"It would be great if Technical Difficulties became an actual organization," Morris said. "We would be so excited to have a table at the organization fair in the future and get as many people involved as possible."

The group has performed at Midnight Meals in fall 2008, and has worked with the communications department and recorded some performances.

Technical Difficulties members said they want to perform even more this year and not be limited to only a few performances, as has been the case in years past. The members want to be given the chance to portray to any audience all that a person can learn about him or herself, life skills

and how it can all be turned into pure entertainment in the heat of the moment. Technical Difficulties would also like to collaborate with other schools in the area in order to improve the organization and make it as successful as can be.

"As a group, we would really like to push our limits, get ourselves out there, and let everyone know about the entertainment we can provide them, if it's via a live show or a possible competition or collaboration with another school" Morris said.

Anyone can join "Technical Difficulties," regardless of if he or she is involved in the theatre department. Morris said he just walked into a meeting to get involved.

"I came to a meeting my freshman year and I had an absolute blast," he said. "After that I returned every week,

and the rest is history," he said.

A typical meeting involves warm-up games along with group improv sketches.

Those scared of speaking in front of groups can take heart. Gang said students should view improv as a fun outlet.

"Don't get up there (on stage) and try to be perfect or do the right thing because the whole purpose of improv is to act on your feet and not plan ahead," Gang said.

Students wishing to attend a meeting to see what "Technical Difficulties" is all about should go to Williamson Road Acting Studio, with the blue awning between All That Jas and Eleonore's Hair Salon, on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Fridays at 3:30 p.m. Members do not have to attend both meetings.

## Senior seminar acting class to perform double repertoire for the first time

Eva Hill  
Copy Editor

This year, senior seminar students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting program will be trying something completely different for senior performances. This fall, the seniors will be performing two shows, "Ravenscroft" and "Shakespeare's R & J," in one semester, instead of performing one play in the spring and one in the fall.

Typically, the senior students perform one show per semester.

Ross Denyer, an Elon senior involved in the productions, said this year's performances will bring exciting challenges, great potential and good shows.

"It's very hard to choose shows to do in rep, and there's a lot of collaboration with the different departments," Denyer said. "We have 10 acting seniors, and both of these shows complement each other."

Denyer said the students decided to double up on performances in the fall to leave more time to work on their careers. The senior seminar students also plan to bring casting directors and agents in the spring, and doubling up on performances in the fall will provide more time for focused work.

Fred Rubeck, chair of the department of performing arts, said the students have total control of these projects. He said it will be a challenge, which will provide good preparation for the life of a professional performer

after Elon.

"It was the seniors' decision to change it, and the students take care of everything," Rubeck said.

Rubeck also said the senior seminar class will perform three or four times a day when the performances begin in November, again similar to professional theatre.

The girls in the program are doing a play called "Ravenscroft," which is a murder mystery with the seduction of the sole male character, a detective.

"Shakespeare's R & J" involves the original text of Shakespeare being used in a performance put on by Catholic school boys who decide to perform "Romeo and Juliet."

"This will be a challenging experience, having two shows in the same space and alternating after each performance," Rubeck said.

Senior performing arts student Sarah Glover said faculty will serve as advisers to the students if they need help, but this is a learning and professional experience for the class.

"These performances are meant to show that the performers are ready to go out into the world," Glover said.

According to Glover, the performances will be Nov. 18-21 and the department is still working on specific times. Performances will likely be in the Black Box Theatre in McCrary.



ALEXA JOHNSON | Photographer

Junior Cody Greene picks apples at Millstone Creek Orchards, just one hour from Elon.

## A local alternative: Try 'pick your own' outings

Alexa Johnson  
Senior Reporter

those out first.

At Elon University, it's easy to forget that the countryside just a short car ride from our nice brick buildings.

For students suffering from boredom or those simply looking to put off work for as long as possible, the nearby fields and small towns offer a great alternative to lounging around watching movies in bed.

Interested in an activity that is fun and helps the local economy? Try picking your own fruit and vegetables.

Skeptics, listen up. Picking your own food can be a lot of fun with a group of friends. It's also fairly inexpensive.

Visit [PickYourOwn.org](http://PickYourOwn.org) and search North Carolina to see all the different options for "pick your own" outings. You can also specify which part of the state you would like to visit, depending on how much time you have to spend.

Right now is a great time to pick apples and pumpkins. Visit [AllAboutApple.com](http://AllAboutApple.com) to find local orchards and their contact information.

When picking apples, remember these tips:

1. Don't expect grand apple trees. Most apple orchards have dwarf trees, which are closer to the ground and easy for anyone to pick.

2. Color is important. Along with size and firmness, color will tell you if an apple is ready to be picked. Because color varies with the type of apple, some people research ahead of time.

3. Apples ripen faster on the branches farthest from the trunk, so scope

4. Inspect all sides of the apple before picking it. You don't want to grab a juicy looking apple only to feel your fingers slide into brown mush. When you do find a good one, gently twist the apple off instead of giving a hard tug or shaking the tree.

5. Don't dismiss the apples on the ground. Many farmers ask you to look at the apples on the ground because they are often ripe and have just fallen (or someone shook the tree)—they are still edible, although admittedly less fun.

6. Always call ahead. A lot of orchards don't have websites, so call to find out about cost and what kind of apples are ready to be picked.

North Carolina produce is prolific with long growing seasons and temperate weather. A few items of produce available for harvest:

- Apples (August to November)
- Figs (August to October)
- Beets (October to December)
- Broccoli (October to December)
- Carrots (October to December)
- Eggplant (June to October)
- Kale (October to December)
- Lettuce (September to December)
- Spinach (October to December)
- Winter Squash (September to December)
- Zucchini (October to December)
- Turnips (October to December)
- Pumpkins (September to October)

Ripening dates may vary by two weeks. Information from [pickyourown.org](http://pickyourown.org).



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## ONE ON ONE

Do the NFL overtime rules make the league look like amateurs?



Billy O'Riordan  
Sports Commentator

What was the last decision that you made by a coin flip? It might be hard to remember, since you are most likely a college student and therefore have not left a decision to random chance in some time.

My last coin toss decision, however, was fairly recent. (I barely count as a college student. My relationship to college is similar to Shaq's relationship to being a professional basketball

player: it is a lot of fun until I am reminded I have to work.)

I had to decide whether to have lunch at Taco Bell or Subway.

Did this decision affect my day? Yes. Did this decision affect anyone else's? No. Did it affect anyone who gets millions of dollars to go to lunch? No. See where I am going here, kind of?

Professional sports have been forced into evolution lately, with the creation of the challenge rule in the NFL, replay in MLB, the hand check rule in the NBA, new boundaries for goalies in the NHL, etc. So why is it that the NFL refuses to change the Neanderthal practice of flipping a coin to more or less decide an entire game?

Sure, it is just a game of football, and games rarely go to overtime. This thought process worked in the NFL for decades because of a few important points: (1) The rule was first used in 1955 when televisions were still black and white and the creators of ESPN were still in elementary school, (2) the NFL is a notoriously stubborn fraternity and rule changes would mean admitting that their rule is irrational, and (3) it is easy and no thought into a legitimate rule is necessary.

Sounds like some good reasons to me.

Fortunately for all of us sports fans out there in the world, ESPN came along and changed the way that sports are judged.

Now that every snap, every down, every player is meticulously and painstakingly evaluated by the great analysts of the all-day sports programming network (is there more than one? Does anybody still watch the local news or something?), the NFL is no longer able to get away with these outdated and illogical rules.

About time, right? I will, though, agree with one or two points the stubborn pundits who disagree with me bring up.

Yes, the college system isn't perfect. Believe it or not, the professional overtime system should probably be a little more comprehensive than the college version.

Giving an NFL team a 25-yard field in overtime is ridiculous. If the NFL ever switched to college overtime rules, I am pretty sure Peyton Manning would simply die of laughter (do I have to say Drew Brees now? Has SportsCenter decided who the best quarterback is yet?).

Another reason the naysayers like the current NFL system is a simple numbers game: it is quick. As many of you sports fans out there know, the college overtime can drag on for quite some time.

This is fine for Saturdays at 3:30 or whenever the serfs play their games, but Sunday at prime time? CBS and Fox don't have that kind of programming ability.

I'm not saying there is a perfect overtime system. But I am saying that the current NFL system (the part where you decide anything at a professional level with a coin toss) is downright stupid.

Oh, and I was going to throw in here something about how since 2000 the team that has won the coin toss has won 60 percent of the games, or how 37 times since 2000 the losing team hasn't even touched the ball in overtime, but I figured my audience to be smart enough to know that.

I have my own thoughts on how the rules should look, so I'll write exactly how it should look next week. If you think you know better than I do, e-mail me at woriordan@elon.edu so I can tailor my correct answer in the right format for all of you to understand.

If you aren't sure whether to e-mail me, flip a coin. It doesn't bother me.

# Men's golf beats out Samford for first title in nearly two years

Pam Richter  
Editor-in-Chief

It has been more than a year and a half since the Elon men's golf team won a tournament, but this past weekend at the Sea Trail Men's Intercollegiate tournament, the Phoenix found itself on the podium once again.

Junior Tanner Norton led the team with a three-day score of 210 and earned the second-overall spot in the tournament. As a team, the Phoenix won by six strokes with a score of 850. Southern Conference rival Samford University finished second overall.

"We like to win a few tournaments every year, and it's been a few years since we've won one," head coach Bill Morningstar said. "It's pretty good for us this early on (in the season). We (still) hope to get a whole lot better."

Senior Stephen Dressel finished tied for sixth, freshman Leif Neijstrom finished tied for 28th and redshirt freshman John Somers finished 33rd for the Phoenix.

"Everybody tried to go out there and beat the golf course," Dressel said. "That's the one thing that our coaches stress to us. Just beat the course."

On Sunday, Samford shot a low round score of 280, while Elon shot a 291 in the final day. The team needs to work on finishing the last day stronger, Dressel said.

"We need to keep our foot on the gas pedal," he said.

Dressel is one of the seniors who look to fill the void left by last year's key seniors Jayson Judy and Phil Bartholomew. When players graduate, there is someone always looking to take their spot, Morningstar said.

"There's always someone else there moving up the ladder," Morningstar said. "There's always people that seem to grow up from year-to-year. This year Dressel is a senior, and he has come a long way to leadership from a year or two years ago."

On the other side of the spectrum, there are a few freshmen that both Dressel and Morningstar said have performed well early on this year.

"We got four or five of them (freshmen) playing well this early," Morningstar said. "If they can play this well this early, they will get better as the year goes on."

The golf season is split into two seasons — the fall and the spring. But Morningstar said the team still treats the fall as the regular season, and the spring is often referred to as the "championship season," with the SoCon tournament taking place during the spring.

"You know that the Southern Conference tournament is the most important because if you win that, you automatically move on to the regional playoffs," Morningstar said.

As the upcoming weeks unfold, Morningstar said the team is currently playing qualifying rounds as he is looking for the top-8 to fill out the roster. He said he picks two other players as coach's picks to round out the roster to 10 spots.

## Women's golf captures Sea Trail Intercollegiate

Led by senior Tara McFadden, the Phoenix women's golf team took the top honors in Sunset Beach, N.C. at the Sea Trail Women's Intercollegiate tournament.

McFadden posted a one-under-par 215 after three rounds (73-69-73) to capture an eight-stroke individual medalist victory.

The team championship was won by more strokes, as junior Virginia Mayer and sophomores Diana Davis, Martyna Mierzwa and Shannon Prunty compiled a score of 894 for the three day event. Jacksonville University was the second place finisher, with a team score of 911.

Finishing in third place was Southern Conference rival Appalachian State University, with a team score of 918.

Davis finished fourth as an individual with a score of 225 (73-78-74), and Mayer finished in a tie for seventh with a score of 227 (76-75-76).

Mierzwa ended up tied for 14th with scores of 77-73-80 (230), and Prunty finished in 25th place with scores of 80-79-77 (236).

Playing apart from the team as individuals, juniors Meghan Green and Lauren Lebak also competed. Green finished tied for 18th with a score of 233 (81-77-75) and Lebak finished tied for 39th with a 246 (84-86-76).

The team's victory was the first tournament victory since April, when the team gained a victory in the Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate tournament.

Next up for the Phoenix is the Lady Pirate Intercollegiate, which will take place Oct. 10-11 in Greenville, N.C.

The Phoenix has started its season on a strong note, as the team finished tied for third place in a 24 team tournament in its first action of the year at the Great Smokies Intercollegiate.

### ELON ATHLETICS THIS WEEK

**Wednesday 9/29**  
Volleyball vs. North Carolina A&T — 7 p.m.

**Friday 10/1**  
Women's soccer vs. Davidson — 7 p.m.

**Saturday 10/2**  
Cross country (Louisville Classic) — All Day  
Cross country (Hagan Stone Classic) — All Day  
Football vs. Samford — 1:30 p.m.  
Volleyball at Appalachian State — 4 p.m.  
Men's soccer at UNCG — 7 p.m.

**Sunday 10/3**  
Women's soccer vs. Georgia Southern — 2 p.m.  
Volleyball at Western Carolina — 3 p.m.

### ATHLETIC RESULTS

SEPT. 24 — SEPT. 27

**Football**  
Sep. 25  
Elon 21  
Georgia Southern 38

**Men's Soccer**  
Sep. 28  
Elon 4  
Davidson 1

**Women's Soccer**  
Sep. 24  
Elon 1  
Samford 0

Sep. 26  
Elon 2  
Chattanooga 3

**Volleyball**  
Sep. 25  
Samford 1  
Elon 3

Sep. 26  
Chattanooga 0  
Elon 3

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# Flag football offers change of pace, competition for students

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

For some, sitting on the sidelines is not an option. While not everyone will have the chance to experience a game on the football field of Elon University, the intramural flag football teams allow students to come pretty close.

From sororities to Leadership Fellows to grad school programs, flag football is an opportunity that all types of students can take an advantage of.

In the fall, Campus Recreation provides various groups the chance to participate in a seven-versus-seven football league, with girls, boys and coed leagues, said Amanda O'Dell, a junior and captain of the Tri Delta team.

"Women in my sorority that were interested in playing got together to form a team," she said. "We are in a bracket with two other teams - we play each team twice and have two byes during the season."

Having grown up with football, O'Dell said when she arrived on campus, she was excited to hear about the opportunity to play the game with other women.

For Allison Dixon, a freshman and captain of the Leadership Fellows team, playing flag football was a tradition for freshman Leadership Fellows that she chose to take part in.

"I got involved as captain because I wanted to take the leadership role for this activity," she said. "This experience also helps us as Leadership Fellows to learn how to work as a team in a different setting."

Nicki Grates, a graduate student, also serves as a captain for the team The Pelvic Floor, comprised of the Physical Therapy Grad School Program.

"I know for a lot of us it is a fun way to get some exercise because going to

the gym can get kind of old sometimes, and it is always really crowded in there, so it's nice to get outside and run around," she said.

Many members of her team played sports in high school or as undergraduate students.

Brett Annese, a senior and captain of the Simple Jack team, also has experience with playing sports in the past. A football player in high school and current member of the club baseball team, he said he has played on a flag football team since his freshman year at Elon.

"My team is mostly club baseball players, so we already have a good concept of teamwork, which is very helpful," he said. "Basically, I just try to stay in shape so all these young freshman don't run circles around me towards the end of the game."

Though Annese said he doesn't commit much of his time off the field to flag football, he does schedule a few practices to go over plays for the games.

"I admit there are some teams that take it a little more seriously than we do, but we do like to win, and we definitely have the talent to do so," he said. "If we are confident on this point, we can usually be successful."

For O'Dell, the chance to play without being tackled or having a tooth knocked out is ideal.

"I love playing just because it's a fun change-of-pace from my hectic college life of classes and work," she said. "It's a great way to get some exercise and put to use my competitive spirit."

Dixon said she recommends that other students take advantage of the flag football teams.

"Whether they are good at football or not," she said, "it gives you the chance for new great experiences with new and different people."



PAM RICHTER | Photographer  
The Kappa Sigma and Sigma Chi fraternities go head-to-head in an intramural flag football game. The two teams are in one of 13 brackets in intramural flag football competition, which are classified as men's, women's, coed and Greek and are made up of between three and five teams.

## Women's soccer begins SoCon play, splits road matches against Samford, UT Chattanooga



FILE PHOTO  
Senior midfielder Alanna Winsper scored two goals on five shots in Elon's games Sept. 24 and Sept. 26. The Phoenix secured a 1-0 victory against Samford University before falling to the University of Tennessee Chattanooga 2-3, respectively, in its weekend stretch on the road.

Lindsay Trigoboff  
Reporter

Attempting to keep up its momentum from the Sept. 24 win against Samford University, the Elon University women's soccer team's efforts came up short with a 3-2 loss to the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Sept. 26 at Finley Stadium. As Elon begins to dig deeper into the Southern Conference play, it plans to improve its 1-1 conference record and 6-3-1 record overall.

"We played well at times, but the other team played a little better," head coach Chris Neal said. "We gave up a goal right before the half on a counter attack. We were exposed in the back."

Samford junior Donna Kay-Henry scored two counter-attack goals in the second half on the Elon defense.

"Chattanooga played really well," senior midfielder Alanna Winsper said. "They had a really quick girl up top, too."

The Phoenix scored both its goals from set pieces, including the first goal of the night with a corner kick from freshman midfielder Olivia Mackey, which Winsper headed past Chattanooga's keeper and found the net. This was Winsper's second goal of the season.

"The ball was played down the

outside left of the field and (freshman forward Jennifer McGorty) won us a corner," Winsper said. "Olivia played a perfect ball, and I just jumped up and headed it in. Lindsay (Nusdeo, Sophomore Midfielder) did a good job in winning the ball all night."

The team will need to work on descending the counter attack, Neal said. Three of the last four games, he said the team has been exposed on counter attacks.

Elon has just under a week to prepare for Davidson College, the 2009 SoCon tournament champion. Davidson recently tied its SoCon opener against

Furman in double-overtime Sept. 24 and played another draw against Wofford Sept. 26.

After the matchup against the Wildcats at 7 p.m. Friday at home, it takes on Georgia Southern University at 2 p.m. Sunday on the same turf.

Last season, Elon defeated Georgia Southern 1-0 but fell to Davidson 2-0 later on in the season.

"We have two home games next weekend, and we really want to get results, especially since we're at home," said Winsper. "We play to win and go off of what we know about them, and we always figure it out according to that."

Elon's next four matches are at home, starting with Friday's match against Davidson. The Wildcats are currently 4-4-1 overall and 0-0-2 in the SoCon.

**"We played well at times, but the other team played a little better."**

-CHRIS NEAL  
WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH



# Phoenix looks to sharpen defense against Samford

Jack Rodenfels  
Senior Reporter

The key to winning on Saturdays, Elon head football coach Pete Lembo said, isn't simply dictated by how the team performs each weekend. Rather, it is a collection of a week's efforts to be displayed each Saturday afternoon in the fall.

"It's about having a great week of practice first and foremost," Lembo said. "When we have great weeks of practice, Saturdays have a way of taking care of themselves."

Having an intentional and effective full week of practice is just what the Phoenix needs after a 38-21 defeat to the Georgia Southern Eagles last weekend.

With a 1-3 start, the Phoenix hasn't exactly gotten off to the hot start it had hoped for. With two nonconference losses — to Duke University and the University of Richmond, and its Southern Conference blemish against Georgia Southern, Lembo has stressed to his team the importance of what a week of practice can do to prepare a team.

"We have to continue to be intentional about drills and coverages in practice in order for us to have success in games," Lembo said.

While the Phoenix offense has scored an average of 31 points per game through its first four contests, the defense has been the team's Achilles' heel, giving up 33 points and nearly 450 yards of total offense per game.

A veteran offensive unit has carried the Phoenix through the first stretch of the season, while the defense has been developing and maturing over time. For example, against Georgia Southern last weekend, Lembo started three freshmen and a sophomore against a veteran unit of wide receivers for the Eagles. Noting 11 new starters to the

team, with a majority of the starters being on the defensive side of the ball, Lembo said it is has taken some time to work players into the fold and sustain playing at a high level for the length of the game.

The Phoenix has started fast in its first four games, outscoring its opponent 83-68 in the first half. Where Elon has struggled this season is after halftime, where opponents have outscored the Phoenix 64-41.

Saturday's game was a perfect example. At the half, the Phoenix was tied with the Eagles at 14. In the second half, Georgia Southern outscored Elon 24-7 on its way to a decisive victory.

"When you see glimpses of good execution, you know what your team is capable of," Lembo said. "What we've talked a lot about is doing it consistently for 60 minutes...it starts on the practice field."

While emphasizing working together as a unit, senior linebacker Travis Greene said the individual focus of each teammate on the unit will help the Phoenix defense progress and grow as a collective group.

"You really have to be prepared for every snap," Greene said. "Guys have to maintain that focus, and I think sometimes we get caught not being focused on every play and that can hurt us."

Facing Samford University at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Rhodes Stadium, Lembo said his team's defense will have plenty of opportunity this week to prepare for Samford's offense, as it is similar to what the Phoenix offense runs throughout the season.

"Samford is very similar to ourselves offensively," Lembo said. "(This week) we are going to throw at us because our defense will be going against similar coverages all week."



FILE PHOTO  
Above: In the 38-21 loss against Georgia Southern University, the Phoenix defense surrendered 30 first downs for 508 total yards of offense and five touchdowns while recording only one sack and tackle for a loss.  
Below: The Elon defense has allowed just over 444 yards per game this year.

## 5 things to look for against Samford

- 1. Can the Phoenix defense improve?** The story of the season thus far has been the inability of the Phoenix to stop opposing offenses from moving the ball. The unit has given up an average of 444.5 yards per game, including 508 yards against Georgia Southern.
- 2. Will the team establish a rushing attack?** After gaining a combined 324 rushing yards in its first two games, the Phoenix has rushed for a meek 82 yards in the last 2 games. The team has struggled to establish a running game early in games, and has been forced to become a one-dimensional offense in the second half of games.
- 3. Can Scott Riddle continue to lead the Phoenix offense?** While the team's running game has struggled, senior quarterback Scott Riddle has piled up passing yards and touchdowns. He has thrown 10 touchdowns this season to go along with 1,166 yards, which is an average of 291.5 yards per game.
- 4. Can Lance Camp return to the lineup?** The senior wide receiver and kick returner sprained his ankle in the first play of the team's game against Richmond and missed Saturday's game. In the first two games of the season, Camp put together 318 all-purpose yards.
- 5. What will the defense do to slow down Chris Evans?** The Bulldogs' senior running back has rushed for 1,000 yards in every season for the Bulldogs, and entered the season as the school's all-time leading rusher. After the Phoenix defense surrendered 379 rushing yards against Georgia Southern, they face another tough task in shutting down Evans.

## BY THE NUMBERS

BREAKING DOWN THE GSU GAME

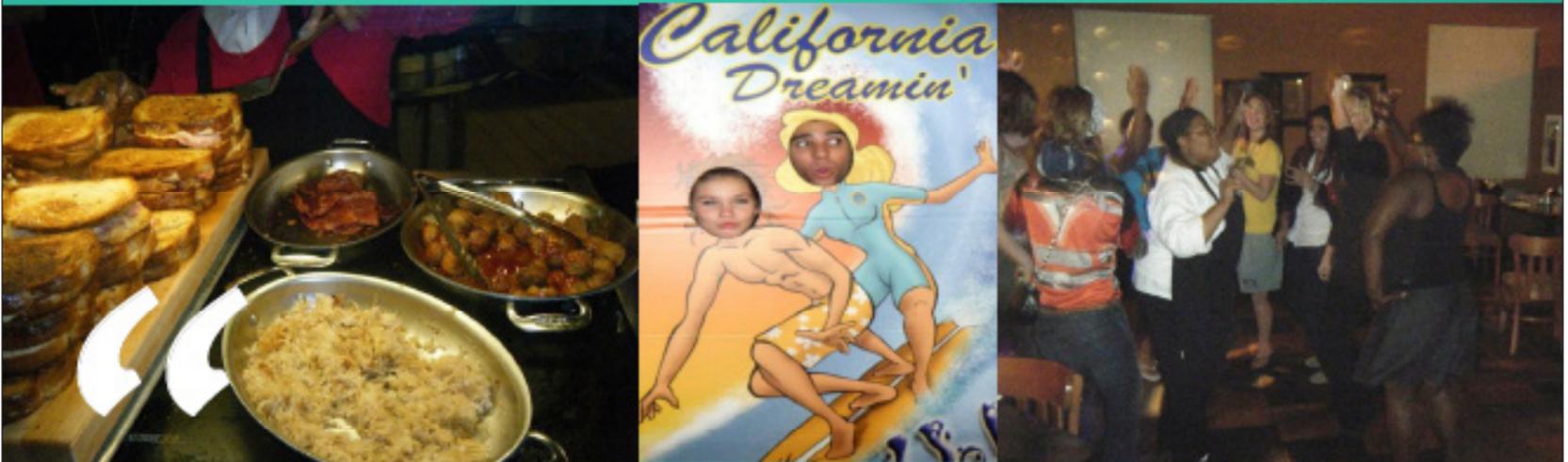
- 379** total rushing yards by the Georgia Southern offense
- 9** total rushing yards by the Elon offense
- 0** rushing first downs by the Phoenix
- 10 of 17** third downs converted by the Eagles
- 38:27** minutes of possession for Georgia Southern
- 3** sacks allowed by the Phoenix
- 121** yards receiving for sophomore Aaron Mellette on six catches
- 3 of 3** on fourth down conversions for Georgia Southern
- 17** plays of 10 yards or more surrendered by the Phoenix defense.

# {What's **NEW** on the *menu?*}

## *Dining Events 2010*

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I should have bought a meal plan!



{ Visit [www.elon.edu/dining](http://www.elon.edu/dining) for October's dining events! }

# Sports



The Elon University volleyball team recorded 38 kills and 49 digs against the University of Tennessee Chattanooga in its 3-0 win Sept. 26 — the second Southern Conference win in as many matches.

HEATHER CASSANO | Staff Photographer

## Volleyball starts SoCon schedule strong

Sam Calvert  
Sports Editor

The Elon University volleyball team snapped its five-match losing streak just in time — as Southern Conference play began.

With wins Sept. 25 and 26, the Phoenix began a different streak. Going into its Wednesday matchup against North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Elon will have a two-match winning streak and an overall record of 9-8.

"We were anxious to start off our conference schedule," head coach Mary Tendler said. "It's been a long month of nonconference matches. I knew they'd be ready."

The first SoCon game for the Phoenix came at home against Samford University Sept. 25. Senior middle blocker Sarah Schermerhorn and junior outside hitter Caroline Lemke led the team past the Bulldogs with 10 kills each to secure a 3-1 victory.

Last year, Samford won the North Division, the same half of the SoCon with the Phoenix, and continued to the tournament as the No. 1 seed from

the North.

This was a huge motivator for the players, Tendler said, and helped them stay focused on preparing for the match.

"I was more worried for our match today against Chattanooga," head coach Mary Tendler said. "They showed maturity out there."

This worry stemmed from both Elon wins against the Mocs last season and the knowledge that Chattanooga was second-to-last in the North Division in 2009 with a 4-12 SoCon record, Tendler said.

But the Phoenix didn't overlook that game and Sept. 26, it defeated Chattanooga 3-0 at home to bring its SoCon record to 2-0.

Schermerhorn recorded 13 kills and led all scorers with 16.5 points. She was followed by Lemke and senior Lauren Copenhagen with eight kills and junior right-side hitter Traci Stewart with seven. Stewart also had nine digs, second in digs only to sophomore defensive specialist Ali Deatsch, who had 11.

"We competed and executed," Tendler said. "Sometimes they compete

but don't execute, and sometimes they execute but don't compete. I think today they did both."

These two matches were coming off a nonconference schedule where the team went 7-8 in the four tournaments in which it played. In four of those losses, the Phoenix didn't win a game.

"We came off a couple of losses that made us stronger," Stewart said.

The rebounding matches against SoCon opponents Samford and Chattanooga showed the team's true character, Stewart said, and the team will try and carry that over into its next match.

Wednesday, the Phoenix will take on North Carolina A&T at 7 p.m. in Jordan Gym. The Aggies are 0-6 against SoCon teams so far this season.

"We'll try and keep our winning streak alive," Tendler said. "We'll also try and gain confidence before we have to go on a hard stretch on the road."

Last season, against North Carolina A&T, Elon won 3-1 toward the end of the year.

After the match at home against the Aggies, Elon has to travel to Appalachian State University Saturday

and Western Carolina University Sunday.

Both teams are in the North Division with the Phoenix and the Mountaineers came in second in the division.

"We have to take our confidence and our trust in each other into Wednesday and into our next two conference games," Stewart said.

Wednesday is the last nonconference match for Elon for a month, and in between, it will play eight SoCon matches.

Those conference matchups are extremely important, especially in volleyball, where not everyone goes to the season-ending SoCon tournament. In 2009, only the top-2 teams in each division got to continue to the postseason, but this year, the tournament has been expanded to eight teams.

But that still leaves four teams at home after the regular season ends, making each SoCon match count.

"Only the top-4 teams (in each division) get to go to the tournament," Tendler said. "You never know which match will be the deciding match."



(From left to right) Sophomore outside hitter Allison Johnson, senior middle blocker Sarah Schermerhorn and junior setter Megan McMahon helped the Phoenix to a 3-0 victory over the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Sept. 26. It was the second of two matches at home for the team that weekend. On Sept. 25, Elon defeated Samford University 3-1 in its first Southern Conference match.

ALL PHOTOS BY HEATHER CASSANO | Staff Photographer