

THE PENDULUM

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Neutrality is negativity: LGBTQ community says Elon student body is apathetic to cause



Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

Among Elon University's many commitments to greater success and diversity as an institution, efforts to expand and improve the experiences of LGBTQ students are a priority for many students, faculty and staff. But despite continued work to increase awareness of LGBTQ issues on campus, many say the Elon community as a whole remains apathetic to the cause.

"It's neutral but that neutrality is perceived as negative by the LGBTQ community," said junior Jess McDonald, president of SPECTRUM and a Lumen Scholar researching the history of LGBTQ student organizations on college campuses. "The university isn't supporting that kind of diversity."

Richard Baker, assistant director for Residence Life, minored in LGBT studies as an undergraduate and said he has seen much more open support for LGBTQ students on other college campuses.

"At every campus I've been a part of, I've seen more obvious symbols of LGBTQ pride and support," he said. "It's different being on a campus that is so obviously heterosexual and I think that can wear on you after a while."

Oppressive language

There are few overt signs of homophobia on Elon's campus, Baker said, but more people should step up to interrupt more subtle messages of hate, such as language used in jest that has the potential to be offensive.

Sophomore Ben Poole said his friends were extremely supportive of him when he came out to them during Winter Term of his freshmen year, but the casual use of "gay" as a synonym for "stupid" is one that significantly impacts his perception of people.

"When you're in a situation where there's mostly men, you know there's going to be jokes like 'that's so gay,'" he said. "It makes me feel a little uncomfortable. It makes me not want to tell them as much, or get as close to them."

Simply promoting tolerance of the LGBTQ community is a step, said Ann Cahill, chair of the philosophy department, but should not be the ultimate goal. Society should work toward recognition and appreciation of gender identity and sexual orientation diversity, she said.

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TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
Drag Queen Shirli Stevez was the emcee for the drag show hosted by Spectrum. The event was the culminating point for Pride Week festivities.

Elon to test emergency response system this fall

Iva Hill
Copy Chief

Elon University administrators are planning routine emergency notification tests once a semester during College Coffee starting next fall. The planned tests stemmed from technological problems with the university's text messaging system during the tornado warning April 5, according to Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president for technology.

"We had a delay in the text messaging we sent out," Fulkerson said. "If we test the system on a regular basis, we would catch these problems. We agreed to test once a semester during College Coffee, so we can publicize that this is just a test and everyone will know about it."

Sirens, television and computer screens, and phone systems are among the forms of communication that will be tested during the drills, according to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

"We can find kinks in the system, and we found that some of the cell phone companies had to make correction in their systems because the messages were delayed so it has to integrate back into our system," he said. "So we need to do this every semester to make sure."

There are two sirens, one on Alumni Gym and one on East Gym, and they are used to notify students in the event of an emergency. The sirens were installed about three years ago and have been used and tested, Jackson said.

He said the university also uses E-Alert, a notification system powered by Omnilert, to send urgent news to cell phones. Omnilert recently had to make corrections to its system because the messages were delayed, according to Fulkerson.

Some SMS messages destined for major carriers experienced a delay of 10 minutes or longer after the tornado warning April 5, and a significant portion was delivered late, according to Scott Howard, Omnilert, LLC.

"The gateway engineers at Air2Web are taking steps to regularly optimize the routing database and reviewing the practices on how often this must be performed," Howard said. "Omnilert has been informed that this issue will not recur as measures are now in place to detect database issues

like this before they cause delays in the SMS delivery chain."

Jackson said the administration's next step is to hardwire E-Alert and the siren system so the two notification processes will be initiated and emitted simultaneously.

"We have 3,216 people who use E-Alert, and that's a pretty good number," Jackson said. "But if you're not on it, you won't get it."

Fulkerson said the text messages sent out during the tornado warning April 16 went through much faster, and most people received the message in less than one minute. The sirens were also set off, and an "all clear"

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Company Shops Market, local and organic food co-op, to open June 11 in Burlington

Bonnie Efir
Features Editor

A new breed of grocery store will sprout up this summer in Burlington. Among the many strip malls and fast-food chains, The Company Shops Market, a local and organic food co-op, aims to bring a new and healthy food alternative to Alamance County.

"We're going to have a type of product and quality of product that isn't widely available in the Burlington area," said Leila Nesson Wolfrum, operations manager of The Company Shops co-op.

The co-op will be both a market and a café. Shelves will sell organic, local and sustainably-produced products, according to Wolfrum. There will be free Wi-Fi, with indoor and outdoor seating in the café area to provide an area for the community to come together.

"It's not merely a grocery store, but it will be a great place to sit and hang out," Wolfrum said. "It will be a nice place to sit in the community and participate in what's going on."

Wolfrum emphasized that the mission of The Company Shops Market is to support and serve the community of Burlington, Elon and surrounding areas.

"Company Shops is a community market in every sense of the word," she said. "It's community owned, we've been hiring from the community, buying local product and supporting local farmers and local businesses and we will be serving the community beginning this summer."

Carl Niedziela, assistant professor of biology and environmental studies, teaches a class at Elon called community

agriculture that focuses on locally-grown food and farming techniques. Niedziela's class has also discussed the function of co-ops.

Co-ops allow for the community to have a personal connection with where and from whom they are buying their food, she said.

But will the Burlington community be able to transition from fast food chains to supporting a local and organic co-op?

"If this was Burlington 20 years ago, I would say no," he said. "Burlington is changing now. Elon is growing. I'm optimistic."

Wolfrum said she has been surprised at the enthusiasm of the Burlington community about the Company Shops. The market already has more than 2,000 members.

"I think people are really excited to see a different kind of food in Burlington," she said. "People talk about driving to Chapel Hill, Greensboro and Raleigh to get this kind of food — local, organic, sustainable and fresh."

Physics professor Tony Crider, is one of the many owners in the co-op. Crider said he is enthusiastic about the "food revolution" The Company Shops could help bring to Burlington and the surrounding areas.

Crider said he decided to buy into the co-op because he is passionate about fresh, organic and sustainable food that supports local farmers and fuels the local economy while sparing the environment from more harm than necessary. He also likes to know exactly where his food comes from.

While Crider is a major proponent for



GRAPHIC SUBMITTED

Company Shops Market will offer organic and locally grown food and is scheduled to open in Burlington this June.

the co-op, he realizes not everyone has the same feelings. But to Crider, it's worth it.

"You're paying a little bit extra to not exploit the people or the planet involved in making the product when you buy local goods," he said.

When money is tight, shopping at a co-op can tank a bank account. But shopping for the lowest prices is often detrimental for the environment. Wal-Mart, for example, ships in goods from all across the country, which creates more pollution and fewer fresh products.

But with the price of gas on the rise, Crider said he thinks the tables may soon turn.

"Eventually it will be cheaper to buy local foods because the price of gas keeps increasing," he said.

It's not only the Company Shops' products that are sustainably grown,

according to Crider.

"The co-op itself was constructed with the environment in mind," Crider said.

The shelves will be stocked with seasonal produce, unlike most grocery stores. For some, this may mean less choices in produce than you may find at Walmart or other large supermarkets, but for Crider, this means having the freshest produce that is in season.

Wolfrum said she hopes Elon students will take advantage of The Company Shops Market. The market will be located in downtown Burlington and is on the downtown Biobus route. Wolfrum said they plan to accept Phoenix Cash. There will be live music and other events on a regular basis after opening.

The co-op will have its grand opening June 11, with a soft-opening in late May, date to be announced.

Hike a Trail-Save a Forest lets students raise money

Kyra Gemberling
Design Intern

Deforestation, the act of physically removing trees so land can be converted for non-forest use, has resulted in the destruction of 80 percent of the world's forests.

Elon University students are attempting to change this statistic by getting involved with Hike a Trail-Save a Forest, a new event that raises money for global conservation and reforestation efforts.

Keegan Johnson, a sophomore environmental studies major, coordinated the program at Elon, but she is not the only school to participate. The inaugural event took place at various high schools and colleges across the United States as student leaders organized and lead local hiking trips on April 17.

Participating hikers and supporters made donations to the Nature Conservancy's Plant a Billion Trees Program, which aims to restore 1 million acres of land in Brazil's Atlantic Forest.

Johnson's friend Olivia French, a first-year student at Middlebury College in Vermont, and her brother Wyatt founded the organization by joining forces with the Nature Conservancy in hopes of raising at least \$6,000 in donations.

"I love the fact that she created this whole idea and it's reaching out to so many and getting people aware of what's going on with deforestation," Johnson said.

Johnson got people involved by talking to friends, Campus Rec and Elon Outdoors participants. He is also an Eco-Rep, so he promoted the hike to his peers through sustainable living lessons.

Participants each donated \$10 and hiked in Hanging Rock State Park, located north of Winston-Salem.

"Being outside is always a pleasure to me," Johnson said. "I also love to get other students to admire and enjoy what my passions of nature are, and I feel like hiking is the root of all the initial pleasures in the environment."

Sophomore Meri McGloin participated in the hike and said she was surprised that Elon hasn't had more events like

Fast Facts about Brazil's Atlantic Forest

- The Atlantic Forest is the most endangered tropical forest in the world.
- More than 85 percent of the forest has been cleared for plantations, logging or urban development, and only 7 percent of the original area remains.
- The Atlantic Forest hosts 20,000 plant species (8 percent of the Earth's total plants), 485 tree species and 200 bird species found nowhere else on Earth.

From hikeatrailsaveaforest.com

this in the past.

"It's a good cause and it gets people more acclimated with North Carolina as a state since people tend to get sucked into the Elon bubble," McGloin said.

Sophomore Michelle Pebole, another hike participant, said students should be more aware of efforts they can make to help the globe, such as going on the hike.

"Saving trees and being environmentally sound is very up-and-coming and people need to be more conscious of it," Pebole said.

Students also benefit from the event because it brings environmental concepts out of the classroom and allows participants to engage in learning based on experience, McGloin said.

"We're learning all these scientific terms in the classroom, but sometimes all you need is an event to get a wide range of people together and actually do something and make a difference," she said.

Both Pebole and McGloin said they hope to spread the word about Hike a Trail-Save a Forest in the future by extending an invitation out to the local community, including children and older adults.

Although the hike was meant for fun and relaxation, its main purpose was to raise awareness and make a significant impact on the environment, Johnson said.

"It's very empowering," Pebole said. "Even if you think you don't have a huge voice, you really do and you don't realize how much of an impact you can make."

Despite 'sold out' status, convocation reveals hundreds of empty seats

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

The box office sign read, "Sold out," and event directors were prepared for 2,400 bodies. Yet, as Brian Williams began his introduction at convocation Thursday, April 7, approximately 300 seats in Alumni Gym remained empty.

The problem? A large number of unexpected no-shows led to the contradicting sold-out status with the event's actual attendance, according to Jeff Clark, executive director of cultural and special programs.

"Convocation was sold out, technically, because all the tickets were sold," Clark said. "But we had over 200 students who had tickets who did not show up to the event, and then we had 80 people from the general public who also did not show up."

Clark said about two-thirds of the students who did not attend the event were either seniors, dean's list recipients or president's list honorees.

In order to try to fill the empty seats, Clark said 40 tickets were made available to those on a waiting list, comprised of both students and the general public, minutes before convocation began.

"Students were held in the hallway until like three or four minutes before the event started," Clark said. "And we sold a few general public seats that we had allocated. It's just we don't want somebody coming through the traffic on campus, parking and then walking from the parking to the event only to find out that they can't get a ticket, so we did provide for that."

Sophomore Joshua McGee said he was frustrated by the amount of time he and other students were required to wait because there was such a large number of empty seats.

"I was a bit frustrated that I had to wait for so long, let alone that I had to wait at all," McGee said. "There were so many seats open, I'm just wondering logistically how that happened. It was confusing."

Sophomore Alexis Deprey said she did not try to get a ticket before convocation

Attendance statistics

Full capacity = 2,400
Expected attendance = 2,400
Actual attendance = ~2,100
Seniors, dean's list, president's list no-shows = ~133
General student body no-shows = ~66
General public no-shows = ~80

because it had been a last-minute decision to go, so she was not surprised she was placed on the waiting list. Deprey said she was surprised that she and other students were not allowed into the gym until the event had already started.

"It was about 15 minutes before convocation began and the last few people were trickling in," Deprey said. "So, I thought we could have just gone in because obviously the gym had available seating, but it was right as convocation was starting that we were seated. The honors students had already come in and Brian Williams started talking as soon as we walked in."

Freshman Diane Bui said she was shocked to see the amount of empty seats when she entered the gym, after standing in the waiting list line for more than an hour.

"A security guard came and told us the gym had room for about 30 to 40 of us, and I was shocked by the number," Bui said. "To me, sold-out means not a single seat is empty. While talking about it beforehand, my friends and I actually realized we probably got better seats than most people that went to get tickets a month in advance."

Clark said the cultural and special programs department has had discussions since convocation concerning possible solutions of how to prevent similar instances from reoccurring.

"In going forward, what we're going to start doing is to just keep handing out tickets to a point where history tells us we're going to have this many people not show up for the event," Clark said. "And, if we run out of seats, we'll just have to sit people in an overflow room."

Bye, bye Blackboard?

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Students and faculty members at Elon University may have to learn how to use a learning management system other than Blackboard Learn beginning next summer. Elon's license with Blackboard expires October 2012 and the Teaching and Learning Technologies department is evaluating other options.

Although the license expires in October, according to Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president of technology, the university would switch over to another program during the summer of 2012 in order to cause less stress and confusion during the following semester.

The university is interested in Moodle, he said. Moodle is a learning management system similar to Blackboard, but it does have some differences.

Moodle is a free, open-source Web application, while Blackboard is a proprietary form of software partially owned by Microsoft.

"Unlike Blackboard, Moodle would not require us to pay for the software," Fulkerson

said. "Moodle would cost the university \$4 a student, while Blackboard is costing us \$22 a student. These costs cover computers, networks and personnel to install and maintain the software and hardware and the training of teachers."

Elon currently has two full-time employees to maintain Blackboard.

"The support from Blackboard has been poor, and it's a very expensive system," Fulkerson said.

Various community colleges in North Carolina performed research and looked at the functionality of both Blackboard and Moodle and found no significant differences between them, Fulkerson said.

"Their research showed that faculty and students like both systems equally, provided the faculty members were trained effectively in the usage of the system," Fulkerson said. "If the faculty members were not trained in the usage of either program, the student did not like either."

Kathy Munoz and Joan Van Duzer, professors at Humboldt State University in Arcata,



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Elon may switch to Moodle when its license with Blackboard Learn ends in summer 2012. Moodle costs \$4 a student, and Blackboard is \$22.

Calif., also performed research comparing Blackboard and Moodle.

They found that while Blackboard has a more polished user interface, a better grade book, easier access to threaded discussions and a more prominent space for announcements on the opening Web page, feedback for students' assignments is better provided through Moodle. They also found that through Moodle it is easier to track a student's activity in class.

Three faculty members at Elon are currently testing Moodle in their classrooms in order to gain student feedback and better understand the program. Lauren Kier, associate

director of tutorial services and professor of sociology, one of the professors currently testing the program, said she likes the services the program provides.

"My students tend to like it," she said. "There are less clicks to get to where you want to go, and I have not compromised my teaching by switching from Blackboard to Moodle."

Kerry Oursler, a freshman in Kier's introduction to sociology class, said she believes Moodle has great potential.

"Moodle is easier to navigate than Blackboard," Oursler said. "All of the course information is organized on the same page unlike Blackboard, which can be confusing because you have

to navigate through different pages."

According to Fulkerson, most independent schools around the country have switched from Blackboard to Moodle. Many of the North Carolina state schools have begun using Moodle because of the price, he said.

Kier said she does not believe the university needs to be spending money that does not need to be spent.

"I'm always open to trying things," said Randy Piland, faculty fellow for technology. "If it saves the university money, then I'm all for it."

The decision to make the switch will be made within the next few months.

New trustee aims to remain involved with Elon students

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

David Porter, father of senior Tim Porter, is an involved Elon parent. He makes phone calls to incoming freshmen and has hosted summer parties for them as a member of the Parents Council. As a businessman, Porter has been a guest lecturer and offered real-world advice to students in the Love School of Business.



PORTER

Porter is a member of the Elon Society's Founder's Circle, and he is the newest addition to the Elon University Board of Trustees.

Porter, who lives in Boston with his family, is one of 44 trustees who make up the Board, along with

President Leo Lambert. The Board of Trustees is comprised of men and women, both alumni and those who have other affiliations with the university. A 60-year generational gap separates 1949 graduate Wallace Chandler from 2010 alumnus Randy Gyllenhaal, both members of the Board

that meets twice annually.

The process of becoming a trustee, Porter said, began when Lambert reached out to him while on a trip to Boston several months ago. Already acquainted with Porter from his involvement with Elon's Founder's Circle, Lambert asked Porter if he had any interest in the Board of Trustees.

Porter was elected to the Board not long after, and said he now plans to increase his level of involvement with the university.

"I want to continue to work within the confines of trustees to make Elon that much of a better school," Porter said.

Porter, who has also served the university in capacities other than taking council membership, has lectured Elon business students and will be making another trip to speak in the fall. He said he has made a commitment to help the business school in any way he can. As the owner of Baystate Financial Services, Porter said he grew his company from 40 employees to 520.

Beyond his interest in the School of Business, Porter said he is thrilled about seeing the future development of the university as a whole.

"As a trustee, I'll give direction concerning the physical growth of the university, as well as academics," Porter said. "I think they have big plans, and I think Lambert is the perfect leader for

where this university is going."

Being a parent, Porter said he sees the fruit of Elon's commitment to engaged learning in his own son's personal development and is taken by the genuine desire of students to grow themselves

into well-rounded individuals, beyond academics.

"The direction the school is moving in is so great," Porter said. "I can't go anywhere without hearing about Elon, and everything I hear is positive."

Delayed E-Alert prompts Elon to test system

EMERGENCY from PAGE 1

message sounded when it was safe for students to leave their shelters.

"The siren and text messaging seemed to work well," he said.

The university is part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and uses federal guidelines that tie in to the state and county regulations, according to Jackson.

"It's a fixed format and I have a book that's about 3.5 inches thick that's filled with emergency response plans," he said. "We have protocols of emergencies."



KASSONDRA CLOOS | News Editor
There was flooding across campus following the severe weather Saturday, April 16.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

An Ecumenical Protestant Service

ELON UNIVERSITY

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 24 at 11:00am

Holt Chapel on South Campus

Coffee/Donuts at 10:30am



TRUITT CENTER
for Religious & Spiritual Life
ELON UNIVERSITY

Elon works to improve LGBTQ community

LGBTQ from PAGE 1

Visibility

But there are many barriers on Elon's campus that prevent full-fledged appreciation of this diversity, and the challenge most voiced by members of the Elon population is the LGBTQ community's lack of visibility.

Though there are many students at Elon who identify as gay, lesbian or queer, the visible presence of this type of diversity is limited, which is part of a cycle that can be broken by more students coming out, Cahill said.

Research has shown that greater visibility of LGBTQ students leads to increased tolerance and appreciation from the straight community through personal interaction, McDonald said, which then leads to an atmosphere that is more conducive to closeted students coming out, and so on.

Junior Maggie Castor, who identifies as queer, said she has always been surprised at how comfortable she feels at Elon but she thinks the school could be better at supporting queer students. One way to do so would be to create an LGBTQ social space that doubles as a resource center, much like the Multicultural Center, she said.

"I definitely wish there was a queer space on campus," she said. "It's important just to have open space to serve a variety of queer purposes."

Poole, who has been heavily involved with McDonald's ongoing discussion group about LGBTQ issues, "Bursting the Heteronormative Bubble," agreed and said that many other campuses have much more present administrative support.

"UNC Chapel Hill has a whole website for the LGBTQ community, and Elon has two buildings with a unisex bathroom and that's about as far as we get," Poole said. "I see that as one of the problems."

Defining spaces for specific groups needs to be done carefully, said Leigh-Anne Royster, coordinator for personal health programs and community well-being. There are certain issues where people need access to trained specialists, she said.

"By a 'space,' I don't mean that's a place where LGBT students should go and stay," Royster said. "I'm not for segregation."

Assumptions

Baker's office is stocked with

books about LGBTQ issues and covered nearly floor to ceiling with signs of pride and support, which causes people to make assumptions about his sexuality. But, the joke is not on him. Baker said he purposely confuses people about his orientation in order to make a statement about society.

"I'm intentionally very unclear about my sexual orientation because I don't think it's important for people to know," he said. "And I like messing with the system. I think that it's important for people to see people for who they are and how they choose to identify and it's not our place to make judgment or force them to identify a certain way."

There's nothing wrong with being proud of one's identity, regardless of what it is, Baker said, but it's important for both allies and members of the LGBTQ community to challenge society to break the stereotype that there are two types of people, male and female, and that everyone is assumed to be straight. People

"By a 'space,' I don't mean that's a place where LGBT students should go and stay. I'm not for segregation."

-LEIGH-ANNE ROYSTER,
COORDINATOR FOR PERSONAL
HEALTH PROGRAMS AND
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

could take simple measures to be more inclusive with their use of language, he suggested, referring to husbands and wives as "partners" and referencing previous relationships without using gender of affection and said the apparent discomfort, or at least unfamiliarity, makes maintaining identification such as "boyfriend" or "girlfriend."

"When people assume the majority, it just perpetuates the marginalization of that minority," Royster said. "When people talk to my daughter and ask, 'do you have a boyfriend?' if my daughter's gay, they oppress her."

Poole questioned how comfortable straight students are around same-sex public displays of affection.

"On this campus, if there was any PDA, there would be looks and whispers," he said. "I kind of want to do a same-sex PDA day. I don't know how many of the students here have been exposed to stuff like that, but I think it would be really interesting to see how the campus would react. I

feel like a lot of people would act like it was something different. I think it should get to the point where it's just like seeing a guy and a girl walking and holding hands."

Alumni interests

J. Lowry Sinclair, Class of 1965, recently donated \$25,000 to Elon to establish the J. Lowry Sinclair III Endowment to support undergraduate research about LGBTQ issues. This donation, the first of its kind, will support undergraduate students exploring research topics of interest to the LGBTQ community.

"I think Elon was pleased but a little stunned," Sinclair said. "But they were glad to get the money and I hope it's going to be well-received."

Jamie Killorin, director of gift planning, worked with Sinclair directly to establish the endowment and said Elon is very excited to receive the gift. Funds will be distributed through Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, and through undergraduate research programs such as SURF.

"It's a great gift," she said. "It's going to be a permanent legacy of Lowry on campus."

Sinclair, who was president of his senior class, said he was in the closet during his time at Elon, and from his discussions with students in Spectrum during his visit to Elon this past week to attend Pride Week festivities, he got the impression that there's no real leadership at Elon to help students get the support they needed for the gay community, which was "not existent" during his years as an undergraduate.

"It was never discussed, never spoken about, anything," he said. "I don't remember any classes that ever came up or textbooks or anything else. It was just never mentioned. Well, I knew there was something missing in my life, I was in the closet and I didn't come out until I was 28."

University efforts

Many colleges across the country have begun to implement gender-neutral housing options in an effort to make LGBTQ students more comfortable. Cahill said she thinks there could be enormous benefits to gender-neutral and gender-diverse housing options.

"One question people ask is, 'what if boyfriends and girlfriends want to live together?'" she said.



This past week marked Pride Week at Elon University, hosted by Spectrum. FILE PHOTO

"Well, gay people have already done that. College students are adults, I'm not sure I need to be in the way of their cohabitation. But most universities that have gender neutral housing find that romantic partners don't live together. I don't see any reason for keeping mixed housing off the table as a non-option."

Although Elon has not yet made plans to include such options in its own residential system, Brian Collins, associate director of residence life for community building and residential education, said he does not think it is far away. But, he said a large reason it has not yet been discussed in-depth is because students have not taken the initiative to ask for it.

This year, the Board of Trustees approved plans to allow students to live in single-sex rooms within coed suites in Danieleley flats, in order to have small, student-led learning communities. The communities would have included a small budget for group activities, but Collins said there will be no such groups during the 2011-2012 academic year because not a single student proposed a community. Nevertheless, he said he thinks the approval of

such an idea is a step in the right direction.

"I think what this says is Elon is open to thinking about housing in different ways," he said. "But students must take the initiative. It's not been something students have asked for, and if they have, they're not talking to Residence Life."

All new buildings will include gender-neutral bathrooms labeled as "family" bathrooms, according to Brooke Barnett, assistant to the president. Though this has not been widely publicized, Barnett said the university is constantly making these kinds of decisions.

"Our goal is for all students, faculty and staff to find a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere at Elon," she said.

The key initiative on behalf of the university is the establishment of Safe Zone next year, she said, a program designed to foster educated discussion about LGBTQ issues. Barnett said the time it took to establish the program was not a sign of reluctance. Rather, years of discussion served to ensure a thoughtful and effective program would be established.

"We want to do this the right way," she said.

Earth Week brings awareness about environment, sustainability

Ashley Fahey
Copy Editor

In celebration of Earth Day, several student departments and campus organizations at Elon University will host environment-related events through April 22. These events are meant to raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainability.

"Earth Day is a time to celebrate and appreciate the Earth's natural environment," said Elaine Durr, Elon's sustainability coordinator. "It is important for our community to understand the environment and sustainability issues that exist today and how each of us can contribute to solutions."

All of the events will focus on various issues, such as the local food movement, recycling and sustainability. Some of the events include Elon community garden work days, screenings of environment-related documentaries and the Giving Tree, in which students can bring unwanted, gently-used clothes and small household

items to trade with other participants.

One of the biggest events of the week will feature Anne Lappé, a national bestselling author and founder of the Small Planet Institute and the Small Planet Fund, research initiatives to spread global awareness about environmental issues. Lappé will share her thoughts on food production use and sustainability April 20 and 21. Lappé authored a book called "Diet for a Hot Planet: The Climate Crisis at the End of Your Fork and What You Can Do About It."

"In her latest book, she outlines seven principles for a climate-friendly diet and chronicles success stories from sustainable food advocates around the globe," Durr said.

Many student organizations will be hosting and participating in the events throughout the week. Some of the organizations include the Sierra Club, Students for Peace and Justice, the Sustainability Living Learning Community and the Eco-Reps. The importance of raising awareness so

the community can take action to do something about environmental issues is more prevalent than ever before, according to Durr.

"Every single person has a stake in the environment," said Molly Schriber, a senior who has helped coordinate and organize many of the week's events. "The environment is more than an abstract theme or place we worry about. It's our home, our only home."

Elon has been recognized nationally for environmental awareness and strives to sustainability, but there is always more that can be done, according to Schriber.

"As educated people, we have a moral responsibility to take care of our home and to educate others to do the same," said Schriber. "We know we can do better than we do now and Earth Week is here to remind us of that."

Schriber said she plans to continue Elon's efforts to raise community awareness by participating in a fair in Greensboro April 29 at Greene Elementary School. She said university

students especially need to be aware of environmental issues because these are the problems that previous generations are leaving behind for them.

According to Schriber, the most pressing environmental issue at Elon is to reduce waste.

"As a university campus, the Elon community produces a lot of waste," she said. "We are college students and consume a lot of packaged foods because we're always on the run. The university is making efforts to reduce waste but students also have a personal choice to be concerned about how much waste they create."

But no matter what issue is being addressed, it is crucial that the Elon community become aware and pro-active in fixing these problems for the planet, said Schriber.

"Earth Week is a symbol of hope and unity," she said. "We are not going to quit talking about these issues because they are not going to disappear until we face them."

Information sciences major available in effort to better prepare students for careers

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

A major in information science will replace the current computer information systems major in a shift meant to reflect changing practices in the profession, according to Lynn Heinrichs, associate professor of computing sciences and business administration.

"Historically, people in information science learn to help organizations build programs or systems to meet business requirements," said Heinrichs, who was instrumental in creating the curriculum. "The problems are changing and you can now get applications from multiple sources."

The question has become how to handle large volumes of data since it has become easier and cheaper to study, coupled with increased access to the Internet, she said.

"Organizations want people who can work with data and make sense of it," she said. "It's a different skill set."

The transition in majors puts students in position for where the faculty thinks the profession is heading.

Though there will be some overlap between the two majors, Heinrichs said the reworked curriculum will focus

more on working with data and programming computers. Students majoring in computer information systems will have the choice to either continue with their current major or switch to the new one.

Sophomore Weston Sankey is majoring in CIS and said he does not plan to switch to the new major.

"Although I am not switching, the new ISC major is pretty beneficial for me because I will be taking some of the classes that 'take over' some old CIS classes," he said. "I feel that they better suit my interests and will put me on the right path for a potential career in health informatics."

Sankey said the former major offered two tracks for students - enterprise and web development.

"The ISC major will broaden the field of possible career tracks for students wishing to pursue a career in information systems or any field requiring computer knowledge," he said. "The new major focuses on more programming knowledge so that students will be better prepared for the ever-changing technological landscape."

Heinrichs said the department first started working on the design of the new major at the start of the academic year in August, along with



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
The information science majors will be available for all students in the fall. Students currently majoring in computer information systems will have the choice between the two.

Duke Hutchings, assistant professor of computing sciences, Michele Kleckner, senior lecturer in computing sciences, and Megan Squire, associate professor of computing sciences.

"We knew we wanted a change and felt we wanted to move in a new direction," Heinrichs said. "We looked at institutions with comparable programs, considered strengths and looked at where things are moving."

The input of alumni, who come back at times to hire students, was also considered, Heinrichs

said. The curriculum was officially approved at a meeting in March. A minor in information science will also be available.

"We're always doing new stuff; it's the nature of what we do," Heinrichs said.

A student working toward a Bachelor of Science in information science will now have eight fewer hours to complete.

"Everyone we talk to says it will partner well with other majors," she said. "We're encouraging students to think about a double major. People see benefit from the program."

Other new majors to be offered in Fall 2011

- Early Childhood Education - Graduates of the program will receive birth-through-kindergarten licensure from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.
- Public Health Studies - Students in this major will look at health-related issues from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Arts Administration - This will combine business and arts classes to prepare students for careers in management and marketing of the arts through museum, theater and gallery settings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
The Lowe's in Sanford was destroyed as a result of the tornadoes.

Tornadoes sweep through NC, barely miss Elon University

Caitlin O'Donnell and Kassondra Cloos
Executive editors

Severe weather affected much of central North Carolina April 16, leading to flooding, tornadoes and fatalities in some counties. In response to the weather, which included more than 70 tornado sightings in the state, Gov. Bev Perdue declared North Carolina a state of disaster.

At least one student on Elon University's campus was affected by the severe weather. According to an email from junior Samantha King, president of Kappa Delta sorority, a fundraiser will be held for junior Gayla Carr whose entire street is gone.

While Carr's home in Sampson County had minimal damage and no one in her county died as a result of the tornado, she said both of her neighbors' homes were destroyed.

"When I found out the damage that was done to the community, my sisters in KD wanted to help me out as much as they could," she said.

Kappa Delta will be collecting non-perishable food items, coloring books and crayons and jugged water throughout the week. Following the long weekend, the sorority will also host a profit share with local restaurants and possibly plan a

fundraising event.

Kappa Delta is working directly with a church in Carr's county, Clinton Pentecostal Holiness Church, which is currently serving as a shelter, to distribute the canned goods, Carr said.

Discussing the destruction has been difficult, Carr said.

"I guess you don't know what it's like until it's personally affected you," she said.

Damage on Elon's campus was minimal. Small leaks were discovered in some areas on campus, including Belk Library and Moseley Center, because of drainage issues on the roof. Flooding was also reported in the Alpha Omicron Pi on-campus house.

Belk Library was placed under lockdown until 2:45 p.m. Students were asked to go to room 102 in the library and remain there until further notice was given. Tour groups around campus took shelter in Moseley Center.

Following a tornado watch in the area, for much of the afternoon, the storm system moved toward Raleigh.

At least 22 people were killed in central North Carolina, contributing to the at least 43 deaths believed to have been caused by the storm, which originated in Oklahoma before moving East.



Congratulations to Elon University's Phi Beta Kappa 2011 Inductees

Matthew Walter Baker
Andrew Taylor Black
Peter James Bock
Micah Peter Boomer
Meghan Elizabeth Braun
Amanda Leigh Clark
Gabrielle Louise Dean
Elizabeth June-Helene Dobbins
Hannah Mariel Dowling
Alexandra Marie Dunn
Amy Ruth Eubanks
Virginia Ann Fischer
Taylor Noel Foshee
Michael Christopher Giroux
Courtney Ann Graham
Victoria Elizabeth Hill
Anna Lunsford Hulett
Christopher Carleton Jarrett
Zachary Lewis Jordan
Megan Nicole Justice

Sara Alexandra Kaplan
Amanda Lee Ketner
Adley May Kloth
Katherine Elizabeth Lampe
Alexandra Pierce Lawrence
Elizabeth Ann Lemman
Gregory Charles Mader
Stacey Allison Markham
Craig Elton Massey
Amanda Annette McBride
Marissa Anne Messiano
Kelly Rebecca Molin
Jana Elaine Murdock
Kiva Shiri Nice-Webb
Amanda Rae Olmstead
Maggie Elizabeth Pahos
Allison Renee Parker
Rachel Marie Perron
Elise Margaret Post
Annebelle Joy Preske

Joanna Natalia Rabiej
Anthony Melchior Rizzuto
Renee Dorothy Robinson
Danielle Hunter Schenk
Jaclyn Ann Seisman
Kaylyn Elizabeth Swankoski
Melissa Ruth Turowski
Arwen Clo Bellamy Varner
Melanie Veronica Woodward
Megan Elizabeth Wynn
Renee Katherine Zale

Q&A with 2011-2012 N.C. Teacher of the Year

Tyronna Hooker

Tyronna Hooker, who graduated from Elon University's Master of Education program in 2009, has been named the 2011-12 North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Hooker teaches grades 6-8 at Graham Middle School where she has taught for nine years. She is the mother of two boys and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice in 1993. She completed the North Carolina Teacher Certificate program in December 2005 through an online learning program offered by Elon. She earned her master's degree with a specialization in Special Education.

Hooker will spend next school year traveling the state of North Carolina as an ambassador for the teaching profession. She will receive a one-time cash reward of \$7,500, a trip to the National Teacher of the Year conference, an opportunity to travel abroad through an endowment at the North Carolina Center for International Understanding, a technology package valued at more than \$17,000 from SMART Technologies, an engraved vase and an automobile to use during the year she serves as Teacher of the Year.

Q: How did you decide on education as a major and a career path?

A: When I was a corrections officer, I did Child Protective Services. It seemed, oftentimes, when I would interview different clients, the missing piece was education. I also was a foster parent, and I had the occasion to have a young man in my home who had been incarcerated for a period of time due to some poor choices. And when it came time to enroll him in school, he expressed to me that the only place worse than being

incarcerated was a public classroom. And at that time I decided to make a difference. So I entered the field of education as a result of the people that crossed my path. And I wanted to make a difference.

Q: Did you have a mentor or an adviser at Elon who was particularly helpful or inspirational to you?

A: Dr. Judith Howard was an amazing help. She was there every step of the way. When I was overwhelmed, when I was discouraged, she was right there to help me. Dr. Bird Stasz is who I did most of my work with because I was focusing on special education. The staff was wonderful and provided great support. I've never met a staff or faculty like the ones at Elon. They are truly concerned with students being successful.

Q: In what specific ways did Elon's master program prepare you for being a teacher in the public school system?

A: It made me a master teacher. Before Elon, I had been an effective teacher, but I didn't have a grasp on how students learn. Also, they gave me the tools that I needed to be informed. I gained a lot of things that I missed because I wasn't an education major from the beginning. So I went back to school in power. I was able to make data-driven decisions and I could back those decisions. They kept us up on all the latest topics. A lot of the things that were coming into my school, I came back from Elon already aware of them. They put us in the forefront. They create master teachers at Elon.

Q: What are some changes you think need to be made to the public school system in North Carolina?

A: I think that accountability is very important. I just wish that there was something other than a standardized test that could be used. In certain cases, I do think that creativity is lost in the classroom. I think that there are still amazing public education teachers and public education is still an opportunity for a wonderful encounter with education. But there are some restraints. And I think a lot of that deals with the fact that teachers are measured by test proficiency.

Q: Does your background in criminal justice affect your teaching style?

A: It does. The big picture that I look at when I step into my classroom is I see the potential. And the potential I look at can be good or bad. I often try to address each one of my students personally. We have a model at our school that is called "Capturing Kids' Hearts," because relationship is everything. Our principal requests that we greet each student at the door, that we shake their hand and oftentimes you can figure out where a student is coming from upon their arrival. I teach for survival. Because I know that the dividing factor is education. Education provides choices. I can invest in my students now, or I can be a part of paying for them later.

-Compiled by Gabriela Szewcow, Design Chief

Proposed bill isolates voters without photo IDs

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

North Carolina House Republicans have proposed a bill to require voters to present photo identification in order to vote in person.

The bill, proposed by Reps. Ric Killian, David Lewis and Tim Moore, indicates that only certain types of photo identification would be accepted, including drivers' licenses and passports, but not including private university-issued student IDs.

For students and other residents without drivers' licenses, free voter identification cards will be available through the state government. But this may limit access to the polls for those who are unable to get to their county board of elections to acquire a card.

Killian, of Mecklenburg County, said the bill is intended to force people to prove who they are in order to prevent voter fraud.

"It requires formal identification so voters can

prove they are who they say they are," Killian said. "It shows that people aren't defying the system."

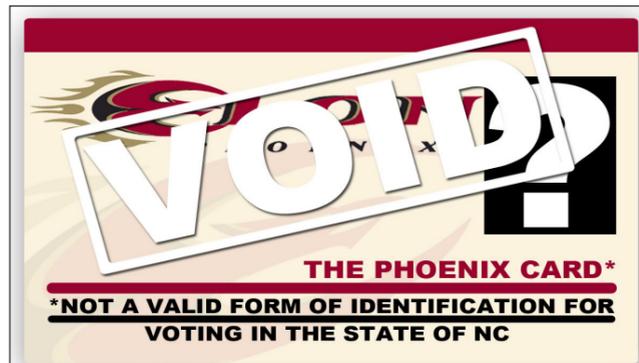
But George Taylor, professor of political science at Elon University, said the history of voter fraud in North Carolina is relatively clean, rendering such a bill unnecessary.

As the demographic currently without photo identification tends to be lower-income and college students who are more likely to vote Democratic, many, including Taylor, have accused supporters of the bill of attempting to prevent as many Democrats as possible from voting.

"It's just another barrier to keep people from voting," Taylor said, adding that higher voter participation generally translates to a better chance of success for Democrats.

"We very rarely have voter fraud," he said.

Both Killian and Lewis, of Harnett County, insisted that voter fraud is a significant problem in North Carolina and they want to ensure their constituents can be



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

confident in that no one else is impersonating them at the polls. There were 261 cases of voter fraud during the 2008 elections, which "came at a significant cost to tax payers," Killian said.

When asked how those without a method of transportation could get to the county board of elections in order to get an ID to be able to vote, Lewis asked how such people got to work every day and said he did not think it would be challenging for people

to find ways to get there.

"How do they get to the polls?" he said. "Our intent is to make IDs as available as they possibly can be."

But given the availability of poll locations during elections, as they are often stationed extensively throughout communities, residents who do not need to rely on public transportation or carpooling and who are unable to gain access to IDs would be required to vote with absentee ballots rather than in person.

NEWS BRIEFS

School of Health Sciences joins Elon

A new School of Health Sciences will officially be the sixth academic school added to Elon University. The decision was approved by the Board of Trustees April 15 and will serve the doctorate of physical therapy program and the new physician assistant studies master's program. The first class will enroll in January 2013 and the school will be housed in the Gerald L. Francis Center on Haggard Avenue. The founding dean will be Elizabeth Rogers, the associate dean of physical therapy.

Elon Academy students present at Seattle Conference

Five Elon Academy students traveled and presented a research poster in Seattle for the Society for Applied Anthropology conference. Their presentation, called "Engaging High School Students in Research: A Participatory Research Project on College Access," were a collection of a year of research. The high school students were mentored by Elon sophomore Molly O'Brien. The group also presented a documentary called "Alpha Class: Promises and Pitfalls on Path to College."

Farmer's Market returns to ECC

The Elon Community Church's Farmer's Market will return Thursday, April 21 as part of a Earth Day celebration. The market will be open each Thursday from 3 - 6:30 p.m. throughout the summer.

Award-winning authors scheduled to speak at next year's convocation

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Dave Barry and Nobel Peace Prize-winning author Muhammad Yunus are scheduled to speak at Elon University during the 2011-2012 academic year. Barry will give the Baird Pulitzer Prize Lecture at convocation in fall 2011. Yunus will speak at the convocation for honors the following spring.

Freshman recovering after fall at Greek Week Dance

Freshman J.P. Saidnaway, who was thrown and dropped during Lambda Chi Alpha's performance at the April 13 Greek Week Dance, has been released from the hospital and is OK, according to junior Kevin Woolley, president of Lambda Chi Alpha. Saidnaway's final diagnosis was a fractured wrist and a minor concussion, Woolley said.

A no-throwing rule was in place for the competition and both Woolley and Shana Plasters, director of Greek Life, said the throw was not practiced during rehearsals.

"The throw was in no way planned or intentional," Woolley said. "The students were simply supposed to put J.P. down in front of them, not launch him. From what I've concluded, the reasoning behind this was that the students holding J.P. simply got a little over zealous under the spotlight in trying to impress the judges."

Before the competition, it was established that breaking the no-throwing rule would result in disqualification. Even if the students had been successful in their toss, avoiding injury, Plasters said they would have been disqualified.

Calendar: April 20-26

April 20

- Celebrate Earth Week, 4-6 p.m., Community Garden
- Take Back the Night, 7 p.m.
- Anna Lappe, "Diet for a Hot Planet," 7:30 p.m., McKinnon Hall
- RSA's Wannabe lip sync and dance competition, 10-11 p.m., McKinnon Hall

April 21

- Farmer's Market returns at 3-6:30 p.m. outside the Elon Community Church
- Interactive Media Panel Reception and Networking event at 4:15-5:15 p.m. in McKinnon Hall

April 22

- Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, noon-1 p.m. at Fonville Fountain (Rain location: McKinnon Hall)

April 23

- MBA Golf Tournament at 10 a.m. at Mill Creek Golf Club in Mebane

April 24

- Easter Sunday Mass, noon, McKinnon
- Sunday Worship: An Ecumenical Protestant Service, 11 a.m., Holt Chapel

April 25

- Easter Holiday - no classes

April 26

- Tech Talks at 2-2:20 p.m. online via Adobe connect
- Presentation of T.E.A.M. Hero fundraiser at College Coffee at 9:40-10:20 a.m. at Phi Beta Kappa Commons

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

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2011

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Editorial

'Youth vote' isn't a pawn up for political play

When this paper hits Elon University newsstands, the 2012 presidential election will be 565 days away. But it might as well be next week with all the media fervor surrounding it.

Just last week, President Barack Obama announced he will officially run for a second term. Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney threw his hat in the ring, launching an "exploratory committee," joining former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Texas Rep. Ron Paul in the unofficial race for the GOP nomination. Celebrity businessman extraordinaire Donald Trump has continued to threaten joining the race himself because, according to him, Obama needs to hear the words, "You're fired."

OK, that's stretching the truth just a little bit.

But what isn't a stretch is that it's a circus out there already, and the country seems powerless to stop it. At this point, it's hop on board or get crushed under the swelling tide of political fervor, no matter which party you align yourself with.

One topic that's come up frequently is the concept of the "youth vote," a term generally applied to members of the millennial generation between the ages of 18 and 29.

In the 2008 election, nearly 70 percent of voters under the age of 29 voted for Obama. In March, a Harvard Institute of Politics poll showed that 60 percent of college students have a favorable view of

the job the president is currently doing.

FOX News commentator Billy Hallowell recently wrote that the key to the GOP winning back the White House was harnessing the power of this "youth vote," and that the key to America's future was educating the millennial generation about the wonders of conservatism.

While you might not agree with Hallowell's statement, it cannot be argued that both parties consider this block of young voters of vital importance to their future, as well they should.

But is it as powerful a block as it should be?

A 2007 Census population estimate put the number of 18-29 year-olds at about 48 million. If every one of those people turned out for the 2008 election, they would have accounted for 36 percent of the vote. But since only 56.8 percent of Americans voted nationally, this seems unlikely, especially considering the number of young voters who are away at college and face barriers voting in many states where they are not full-time residents.

A November 2010 Pew Research poll showed that members of the millennial generation were only able to answer two out of 13 questions correctly more often than their peers in older age groups. Young adults were able to identify that Android is the operating system for Google's cell phones, and more than half also knew the United States spent more

on defense spending than three other programs listed, compared to only one-third of older adults.

The point, you ask? The point is that the "youth vote" is huge. It's big in numbers and it's also big in smarts.

Take a look around Elon or any other college campus. It is stocked with a generation of people who may not be the most politically aware, but are definitely the most technologically savvy, and probably the most skeptical.

This is a generation and a voting block that doesn't take anything at its face value and questions what is being said and what is actually being done. It is the responsibility of the members of this group to carry those qualities as badges of honor and to respect its implications.

As vital parts of this society, it is the duty of young adults to recognize the enormous sway they hold in political games in the upcoming election and to take full advantage of it. If potential leaders recognize that their constituents, especially the young ones, hold them to a higher and tougher standard than anyone has been held before, they will rise to that occasion, or at least they should.

The "youth vote" isn't a pawn for candidates to juggle around and then ditch as soon as the campaign banners come down. It is a crucial piece of the societal puzzle and needs to be treated with respect, provided its members respect themselves.

College is as much about consequences as independence

It's been said to students around the country, probably multiple times: "Enjoy college. It's the best four years of your life."

While quite possibly one of the most overstated and overplayed adages about college life, there is a kernel of truth in this statement. And it could even be taken one step further — college should also be the most defining time of a young person's life.

Beyond the knowledge gained in the classroom and experience from internships and jobs, college brings a new level of independence that should be embraced and taken advantage of to the fullest extent.

It's during these four years students learn to wisely manage their money, write a letter of resignation following that first bad job experience and, essentially, handle whatever problems come their way with maturity and courtesy.

In some cases, students demand the independence offered by college without completely loosening the hold they have on the former lifestyle they enjoyed before arriving at school. They want all the benefits of acting like an adult without having to deal with the consequences.

Something's broken in the apartment? "I shouldn't have to pay for that."

Classes didn't work out as planned? "I'll have my mother call the academic advising office and demand it be fixed."

Caught in an academic violation? "It will work itself out. It doesn't matter, anyway."

This is the mindset that many have witnessed on Elon's campus.

But obviously, not all students work the system this way. They come to



RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | Opinions Editor

college craving independence and the responsibility that comes with it.

But for those who enjoy the freedom without thought of the potential costs that come as a result of certain actions, life after college will be much more challenging.

The great thing about college is that it represents a transitioning period — students aren't thrown entirely into the "real world," but instead learn to live independently and conscientiously in a controlled environment.

The decisions made now not only affect life outside of college, but also prepare students for what they will face once they

graduate. Whether it is paying bills or finding a job, students alone determine their success and won't have anyone else to rely on if trouble does come.

That being said, take advantage of the self-reliance offered by college. Manage money on your own and don't rely on parents to pay all the bills and keep track of balances. Work with the administration at Elon or management at a job to correct issues or problems you may have.

Perhaps most importantly of all, when consequences do arise for actions, step up, take responsibility, correct it and learn from the experience.

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

Caitlin O'Donnell narrates her experience working at a food bank as part of her 2011 resolution. Read her story and the stories of four other Pendulum staff members

www.pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

There's always something going on at Elon and always more to read about at:

www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

Columnist Rebecca Cummings reflects on her experience working for the Elon Poll and encourages involvement at:

www.elon.edu/pendulum

TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be emailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244. Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and emailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by email at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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Opinions

Church's anti-gay message only leads to distrust and fear



Gabriela Szewcow
Columnist

God created man. God created woman. He intended the two to be joined in marriage in order to procreate. This all makes sense when you

think about it in simple terms. But oftentimes, the things we create end up changing and evolving over time. Institutions and laws have to change with them.

Catholic Campus Ministries hosted a debate about gay marriage at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14 in Holt Chapel. During this debate, I was introduced to aspects of Catholicism that I'd never been introduced to before.

The Bible says same-sex marriage is immoral because it is not fruitful. If a marriage is not fruitful, it is not recognized as marriage by the Catholic Church. This is a commonly cited reason as to why the Catholic Church does

not allow gay marriage.

But this reason sheds light on inconsistency, and there should not be inconsistencies in religious doctrines. Clearly, a gay couple is not able to procreate naturally, but there are other methods of creating families. There are many heterosexual Catholic couples who are infertile and unable to do what God originally intended them to do. Should these marriages be unrecognized? No, they shouldn't.

The Catholic Church opposes gay marriage and the social acceptance of same-sex relationships, but it teaches that homosexual persons deserve respect, justice and pastoral care. The Catholic Church says it does not forbid homosexual individuals from the church, but it doesn't allow them to be members while living their lives the way they want to.

The Catholic Church's stance on gay marriage isn't helping anyone. Instead, it is fostering a society of distrust and promoting homophobia. Participants in the gay marriage debate hosted by CCM said the Catholic Church has more of an obligation to promote love and acceptance, and I completely agree.

As the current law stands, religious institutions are not allowed to register gay marriages. Currently, six states allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses. Four states allow same-sex couples to be engaged in "civil unions," which give each partner the same legal rights as a spouse without actually calling it a marriage.

Most people who oppose same-sex marriage do so on religious and moral grounds. But neither of these can be legislated. The issue of gay marriage is a personal one. The government cannot ban something simply because it doesn't match up with certain moral or religious beliefs.

Banning same-sex marriage blatantly violates the happiness of certain individuals. There is nothing wrong with allowing people to seek their own happiness in the privacy of their homes.

The reasons for which humans were created look good on paper. Man was created. Woman was created. And they were meant to create more. But our world has changed immensely since the beginning of time, and these outdated laws, beliefs and practices need to change with it.

States that allow same-sex marriages:

Massachusetts	Vermont
Connecticut	New Hampshire
Iowa	District of Columbia

States that allow civil unions:

New Jersey	Illinois
Hawaii	Delaware



information courtesy of:
National Conference of State Legislatures
LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

Time for less deficit talk and more action



Ryan Maass
Columnist

American voters have been screaming about it. The government hasn't been listening — until now.

House Republicans in Washington voted 235 to 193, with four party members joining Democrats in opposition, to approve a budget that claims to cut \$5.8 trillion from federal spending over the next decade.

There's no question about it — comparatively, the sheer size and scope of these cuts are nothing less than historic in their amount. Then again, the same can be said about the national debt.

Our government is on a deadline, and it doesn't look like they're going to make it. Our fiscal discipline and stability are at stake. The Treasury Department recently predicted the United States will hit the debt ceiling, which amounts to more than \$14 trillion, as early as May 16.

To avoid a default, Democrats in Congress want to take the easy way out, that is, to continue raising the debt ceiling, spending cuts aside.

Speaker of the House John Boehner and a few others have said they will vote against such a measure without significant spending cuts.

It's a sad realization when our elected officials, even those who like to bark about cutting the budget, fall short on their promises. President Barack Obama has said he would be on board with spending cuts, albeit with a "scalpel instead of a machete."

At this point, I would prefer a chainsaw.

Conservatives in the House, who are led by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., are responsible for outlining the plan passed by Republicans last week. Aside from bringing the numbers back into the country's favor, the budget resolution also aims to reform Medicare and Medicaid. In the highly unlikely event the legislation

is approved by Senate Democrats, \$771 billion from Medicaid and \$30 billion from Medicare would be cut over the next 10 years. In addition, the legislation would remove the benefit guarantee and allow seniors to choose from government-subsidized private plans.

A step in the right direction? Absolutely. But is such a measure sufficient for getting our nation's financial meltdown under control? Not a chance.

Thus far, conservatives in the House have done a decent job in holding the White House and Senate and House Democrats down in a debate over the deficit, and the entitlement state is a great place to start. This is set to be the definitive and divisive issue going into the 2012 election season. But they still have much work to do.

The biggest mistake conservatives have been making thus far is their unwillingness to touch funding for defense. As a conservative, I understand the caution of trimming down the dollars going to the armed forces that have proven exceptional in their hunt for terrorism around the world, keeping our borders and lives safe. Given even the slightest chance, there is no doubt that our enemies would inflict as much harm as they can muster.

But with the financial structure of our government at stake, we are not left with a lot of options. Conservatives have to swallow their pride and recognize that paying for the marble floors of the Capitol building trumps the need for having the biggest guns in the world.

Failing to address a significant spending cut not only further drives up the already daunting deficit, but also risks alienating investor confidence, hindering economic recovery from the last recession, harming government services and other effects not worth the risk.

This is not to say Republicans should surrender their ambitious cuts to Democratic interests to keep entitlements as intrusive as they already are. Rather, they should broaden their vision of what's out there to be cut. Believe me, there's a lot of it.

Cote d'Ivoire's pleas for help go unheard by the international community



Edith Veremu
Columnist

With all the coverage of Egypt, Libya, the Middle East and Japan, Cote d'Ivoire (C.I.), commonly known as the Ivory Coast in the United States, has been left out. It was never in the news until last week when incumbent

President Laurent Gbagbo was arrested.

It isn't fair to compare the atrocities in Libya or Syria with those in Cote d'Ivoire but the media coverage these countries are receiving isn't fair either. Why is Libya, whose conflict began in February 2011, receiving humanitarian aid from Western countries and its neighbors while Cote d'Ivoire's pleas remain unheard since December 2010? Is there an underlying reason for intervention in Libya? Cote d'Ivoire is on the brink of its second civil war and no one seems to care.

The C.I. political stalemate began Nov. 28 after the election results from the electoral commission proclaimed opposition leader Alassane Ouattara winner of the second round. But the Constitutional Council declared those results invalid and proclaimed Gbagbo president. Both Ouattara and Gbagbo took the presidential oath of office, leading the country into a stalemate.

The international community, including the U.N., the African and European Unions, the U.S. and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), supported Ouattara as president and demanded Gbagbo step down, and in response, he ordered the U.N. peacekeeping troops to leave the country immediately. The U.N. has had a presence in the country since 2003 and its mandate expires June 30, 2011, according to the BBC.

Since the elections, more than

one million Ivoirians have left Abidjan, the economic capital city, and foreigners have been evacuated by their embassies and authorities. The state-run television station was brought down. At least 1,500 people have died in clashes on the streets of Abidjan, according to BBC.

While the peacekeepers have a strong presence in C.I., little has been done by the media to inform the United States about the situation. Many of us have to turn to French or British news organizations for updates on C.I., but with the recent Libyan crisis, there's an information overload. There seems to be a double standard that the international community advocates a no-fly zone over Libya but keeps quiet about C.I.

"I believe we can pass a resolution to request the United Nations to take a little more serious steps in the Cote d'Ivoire situation," said Goodluck Jonathan, Nigerian president, at an ECOWAS meeting. "We must not make the mistake of underestimating the threat it poses to the peace and security of the entire sub-region."

The commodities produced in Libya and C.I. show that these nations are not just ordinary countries and, therefore, will be handled differently by the international community. Libya has oil, the world's most sought-after product, while C.I. produces cocoa. But it's simple: oil is more important than chocolate and it must be heavily protected.

It's no question that Gaddafi and Gbagbo both have to leave office for killing their own people and be punished accordingly. But the responses to the situations are different.

If Western intervention in Libya was simply for "humanitarian" reasons, then why haven't other governments responded the same way in C.I.? Gaddafi and Gbagbo both refused to acknowledge their misconduct, yet Libya is receiving help. More people need to educate themselves about the causalities in C.I., and about the thousands left homeless and without food and water.

They, too, deserve our attention.

Gibsonville native opens Pure Pilates NC in downtown Elon

Bonnie Efrid
Features Editor

When Kathryn O'Bryant first began Pilates, she used a Pilates DVD at home. Back then, she never knew she would end up owning her own Pilates studio and company, Pure Pilates NC, LLC, located in the heart of Elon.

A Gibsonville native, O'Bryant grew up in the Alamance school system and then headed off to college at Appalachian State University to pursue a B.S. in psychology.

After using the DVD for awhile, O'Bryant decided to take Pilates as a Physical Education course at ASU.

"Every semester in college, I tried to take some kind of physical education course," she said. "It helped me stay focused in school."

After becoming an enthusiast, she discovered a Pilates teacher-training program after taking Pilates as a physical education course, through Appalachian State and fell in love.

To many people, Pilates is just a word, like it used to be to her, O'Bryant said. Most people know it's a type of exercise that focuses on developing core strength, she said, but it's also about cultivating flexibility and balance in the body, as well as physical strength and mental and emotional well-being.

Contrary to the general misconception, prior flexibility and a background in exercise is not necessary when beginning a Pilates practice.

"Pilates can be refined according to each person's level of fitness," O'Bryant said. "Pilates is not only for the physically fit, but is accommodating, with modifications for a variety of physical disabilities or injuries."

O'Bryant got into Pilates to see what all of the fuss was about, and she knew that many people were attracted to Pilates. Even celebrities claimed it had transformed their bodies.

Once O'Bryant started practicing Pilates, her body was transformed, and she began to rely on her regular practices.

Before starting the Pilates teacher-training program, O'Bryant fell out of practice after completing Pilates as her Physical Education course, and began to experience major back pain.

"My body let me know that I needed to keep practicing Pilates," O'Bryant said.

Once she completed the intensive training program and after completing her degree, O'Bryant began to assist other Pilates instructors at ASU in order to gain some hands-on experience. That's when fate stepped in, O'Bryant said.

Carol McGee, another ASU graduate, came to ASU from Chapel Hill to get her Pilates certification. O'Bryant was one of the teachers who assisted during the certification program and McGee told O'Bryant to contact Emily Ford, the owner of Carolina Core, a Pilates studio in Chapel Hill, because they were looking to hire instructors. She got the job, and had been teaching there for almost two years.

It wasn't until a couple of months ago that O'Bryant considered opening her own studio.

"I was in the car with my mom driving through Elon and I looked at this house and said, 'If I were to teach in this area, that is where I would want to be,'" she said. "I walked in one day to ask if they had any space for rent and they did. I was extremely excited. It all just kind of fell into place."

The old, white house, located on East Trollinger Avenue has high ceilings, original wood floors and all the charm of an old-school Southern mansion, according to O'Bryant.

The studio opened in early March and has been attracting new clients almost every week, according to O'Bryant.



O'Bryant offers private, semi-private and group training using apparatus and mats.

Because private lessons cost about \$65 per hour session, O'Bryant also offers group mat classes at a rate of \$15 per session. She also offers special packaged deals as well to keep taking her classes relatively affordable.

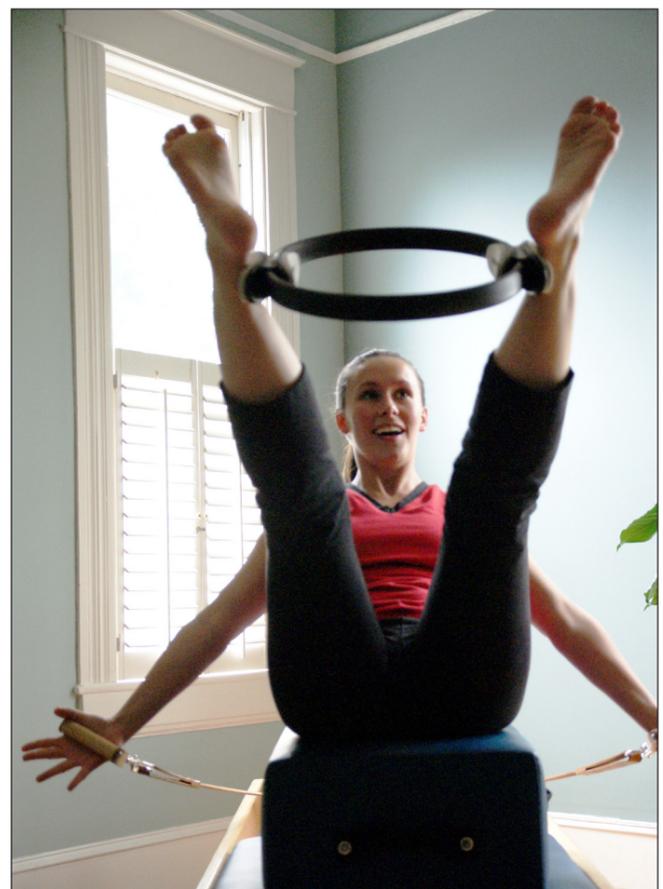
One of O'Bryant's clients, Lisa Epner, enjoys the personal attention that O'Bryant's small class sizes allow for.

"What I like best about her is how she closely watches every move I make so that I get the maximum workout at each session," Epner said.

As for her newfound independence and entrepreneurship, O'Bryant is ecstatic.

"When you own your own business, it becomes your baby," she said. "I want to make sure everything is top-notch."

She hopes to expand the studio as her clientele grows, and also said she hopes the Elon community and students will find an interest in Pilates.



PHOTOS BY HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor
Top: Kathryn O'Bryant, owner and instructor of Pure Pilates NC demonstrates a short spine massage on the reformer. This move cultivates the deep abdominal muscles of the core. Above: O'Bryant demonstrates a teaser with a magic circle on the reformer.

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO:
Meet Kathryn O'Bryant and see her studio in this online video from The Pendulum.



<http://bit.ly/TPOpilate>

LAURA VAN DRIE | Multimedia Intern

Ancient play reimaged: Sophocles' 'Ajax' comes alive

Stephanie Butzer
Reviewer

The stage in McCrary Theatre was dimly lit. A warm orange glow emitted from the back of the stage, causing the props to turn into eerie-looking silhouettes. Tribal-like music bounced around the room as the crowd filled the theater. When the lights dimmed, an announcer welcomed the audience and "Ajax" began.

Sophocles wrote the play "Ajax" around 5 B.C. This Greek tragedy was a well-known story, but the Elon cast and crew found ways to modernize it.

Kirby Wahl, the director, put a helpful page of background information in the program.

"Traditionally it's set in Greece," said Will Pommerening, a senior and stage manager for the show. "We've decided, based on the context of the play, it's set in the Trojan War, which was a long, long war. What we've done is we have tried to set it in kind of a modern day because the war in Iraq has been going on for a while. There are a few parallels."

The play centers around a soldier named Ajax, played by senior Corey Warren, who is trying to get revenge on the Greeks who gave Achilles' armor to Odysseus, played by senior Sarah Glover, instead of him. His rage turns

lethal as he craves to kill those who didn't want him to receive the honor.

As he attempts to put his murderous plan into action, Athena, played by senior Bayli Ryan, tricks him into thinking the local sheep and cows are the people he intended to murder.

The rest of the play mainly centers around him attempting to cope with his actions and being tricked by Athena.

Pommerening played a major role in this production.

"The stage manager, during the rehearsal process, is in charge of taking notes and making sure the rehearsal runs on time," he said.

Although this is his first time as a stage manager on the main stage, he had been assistant stage manager for "Nine," "Love's Labours Lost" and "The Laramie Project."

The play was deep, pensive and complicated, perhaps a bit too complicated for the average theatregoer.

But, it was obvious the cast and crew put many hours into the production. The costumes were very appropriate and modernized. The chorus was dressed in military uniforms, much like the ones we see soldiers wearing in Iraq.

The costumes of Ajax and Tecmessa were especially insightful. Ajax's torn



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
Senior Corey Warren played Ajax, a mentally tortured Greek war hero, who descends into madness.

and bloody clothing reflected his inner tortures and disgruntled mind. Tecmessa, his war bride and wife, had come from a rich family and was dressed in elegant glittering black cloth.

The acting was phenomenal despite the ancient lines and tricky subject matter. The actors spoke with flawless accents. Ajax, who appeared insane

for most of the play, revealed his character's madness with powerful rants and rages.

The play was well-executed and powerful, with intense acting and commitment apparent. Though "Ajax" may be a centuries-old tale, it remained modern through the updated costumes and ambience.



PHOTOS BY STUART JONES | Photographer
 "Many Sparrows," written and starring senior Lisa Carter, lying on couch, examines depression as part of Carter's senior thesis.

'Many Sparrows' soars in the Black Box Theatre

Kit Arbuckle
 Reporter

The scene is set in a post-collegiate living room. Jeremy, played by sophomore John Langley, is working at the coffee table. Enter Lisa Carter as his girlfriend Sarah, disheveled and disoriented from the Xanax-and-alcohol cocktail she ingested at the party the night before. Sophomore Guy Mannick plays Black, filing his nails at the kitchen table, unacknowledged by the couple.

Jeremy asks Sarah if she remembers trying to cut herself with a metal nail file, the latest in a series of events that reveal her emotional unraveling.

Sarah doesn't answer.

This is one chilling moment in "Many Sparrows," the culmination of Carter's honors thesis.

"I began working on this project a year and a half ago, so fortunately I was able to

structure my schedule so that I fulfilled most of my academic requirements early and had time to create my senior year," Carter said.

Writing, producing and performing was a huge time commitment, and her social life suffered accordingly, but it was worth it in the end, she said.

"Performing is what I want to do for a living," Carter said. "I knew I needed and wanted to do something in the performing arts. I wanted to do an acting-centered piece that raised awareness about an important issue."

She said she decided to write an original play about something important to her: depression.

"The vision of the show was to create a piece that tells the story of someone going through depression, and the effect it has on those around them, in a relatable and true manner," Carter said. "Since the main

character is an artist, the show was written in such a way that various components of artistic expression are utilized to tell the story."

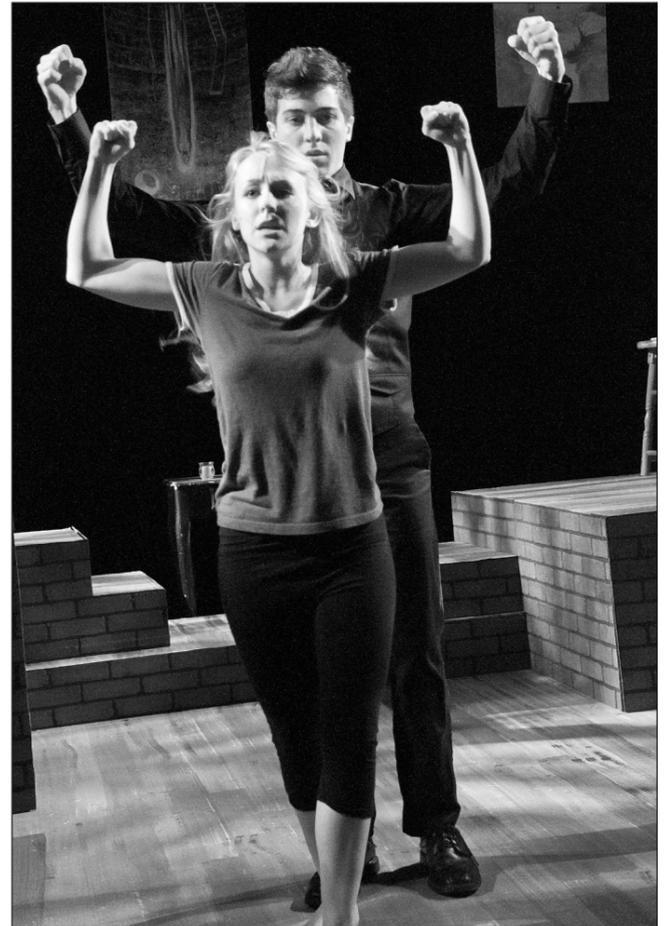
The show features visual art, dancing, quotes from literature and a complete soundtrack.

The director of "Many Sparrows," senior Vincenzo Meduri, led a design team comprised completely of students. For most on the team, it was the first time they had taken on such large roles in a production.

"It's a completely fresh thing for all of us," Meduri said. He credited the performing arts faculty for giving them all the training they needed to take on those responsibilities, he said.

"Many Sparrows" was Meduri's directing debut, though the professional quality of the show didn't betray as much.

"I've never been more nervous for any show," he said. "I just realized it was



something I needed to bring to life."

He said it was exciting for him to introduce the creative team to the Elon community.

One member of that creative team was freshman Sara Spadacene, who played Carter's best friend in the play. The role was her first on the Elon stage.

She said she appreciated the serious, professional mindset and the commitment to doing Carter's script justice.

Mannick and Spadacene, the entire creative team, worked together to bring "Many Sparrows" to life, according to Meduri.

"We've all had to do a lot of different work," Mannick said.

He said he appreciated working on a one-on-one level and getting lots of feedback from Carter and Meduri. He said the creative team was a very tight-knit group, and the great chemistry among them influenced him to join the

production. He said he felt he had a duty to start a dialogue about such a loaded subject.

"We are the generation that has to bring up these issues," he said. "This show has given a voice to a disease that is basically a silent killer."

Depression is not the defining characteristic of Sarah's character.

"This is not a show about being depressed," Mannick said. "It's about a girl who is loved and is struggling."

The realistic message seemed to hit home with not only the audience, but the performers and crew as well.

"This is reality," Spadacene said. "All you can do is love the person who's going through it."

Based on the applause at the beginning of the play, the standing ovation during the curtain call and all the laughs and tears in between, it's likely the audience felt the same.

Top 6: warm weather foods and drinks

David Turkel
 Reporter

1. Watermelon: It's hard to go wrong with watermelon. They're in peak season May through August. They're delicious, cold enough to cool you down and based on the relatively high number of contests in this "sport" across the country, some people even like spitting the seeds out.

Watermelon is also extremely good for you. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, watermelon is high in lycopene, consumption of which has been linked to a lower risk of heart disease and cancer.

2. Hot Dogs: Hot dogs area a warm-weather staple often linked with customary summer activities such as cookouts and baseball games. There are plenty of reasons to bite into a bun, outside of its rich tradition.

According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council,

Americans will eat 150 million hot dogs on the Fourth of July alone. If you get tired of dogs with just ketchup and mustard, there are a number of variations available that are more bizarre than one might think.

Among these variations is the Hawaiian, which has banana, mango and papaya enclosed in the bun.

3. Smoothies: Smoothies combine some of the best attributes of watermelon and hot dogs. They're healthy and, according to livestrong.com, smoothies are rich in vitamins and nutrients, and also keep you well-hydrated. There are a huge number of flavors, stretching from the well-known fruit-based smoothies to far-out varieties like pumpkin and peppermint. And while smoothies may seem difficult to make from home, anyone with fruit, a blender and instructions from a website like perfectsmoothie.com can be sipping a homemade

concoction within minutes.

4. Gazpacho: While this may not be a common warm-weather food in the United States, there are still reasons to try it.

Gazpacho is a cold soup often packed with fruits or vegetables that originated and remains very popular in Spain and parts of Latin America. It's good for you too; according to TLC Cooking's website, it contains little fat or sodium. Besides that, it's meant to be eaten right out of the refrigerator, so it will keep you cool. You can even make watermelon gazpacho, combining two great warm-weather foods into one meal.

5. Ice cream: As the name implies, it's certainly perfect for keeping cold during the warm spring and summer months. It's seems like it's universally regarded as delicious. According to the International Dairy Foods Association, more than 90 percent of American



JULIA SAYERS, MOLLY CAREY, TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographers

households consume ice cream. Between the cold temperature and great taste, ice cream is a good choice in warm weather. But even if you don't like ice cream, you may consider eating some in July, which has been National Ice Cream month since 1984, when former President Ronald Reagan designated it as such.

6. Cobbler: Cobbler, which is fruit filling covered with a pastry topping, is a great dessert for both summer and spring. The fruit filling adds a healthy component to a dessert. While it's not served cold, it can be served with ice cream, which means that cobbler can conceivably cool you down, be good for you and be delicious, all at the same time.

Thesis exhibition shows best of student art

Natalie Dupuis
Reporter

At the end of their time at Elon, senior art majors put their collection of work, and themselves, on display for the public to view. In the Arts West Gallery, students held a public reception for the public on April 17 and briefly explained their works that were hanging on the walls.

Some students focused their work on autobiographical depictions of special moments in their lives while others creatively portrayed a recent passion, but all the work was a blend of a personal interest and social commentary.

The show is another step in the process for the seniors to finish their final project as Elon students. It is the culmination of years of work and development for some students, and all of them had to successfully defend their thesis to a board of mentors and professors. Following individual final defenses, students also give brief presentations at the exhibition, as well as formal, more-lengthy presentations later in the semester.

Art professor Michael Sanford explained that each student is assigned a faculty mentor who helps guide the student's work so it is cohesive and complete. But each student comes up with his or her own concept.

After time for the audience to take in the artwork, the student artists discussed the exhibits, explaining their inspiration behind the process of the work and what the desired impact of the art might be.

The display "Perceptions of Beauty" by artist Lauren Warr, was an interactive project that involved the photographs of more than 50 women. The artist deconstructed those pictures by facial feature and then allowed the public to create its version of a beautiful face selecting from the features from all fifty girls. The final product was a wall filled with portraits of what the public chose as beautiful.

"Advertising produces



Sophomores Rosie Towchik and Evan Glass view art at the Senior B.A. Arts Exhibit in Arts West. The exhibition showcases the senior theses of art majors.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

notions of beauty that have changed through the years that show beauty to be very trendy, while other studies have been done that show there are specific things, like symmetrical features, that everybody is attracted to," Warr said. "This work is dealing with how much of what we think is attractive comes from what we naturally find attractive and how much of it comes from what advertising and the media tells us is attractive."

Another artist, Andy Hassan, said he was trying to "blur the lines between realism and the virtual gaming world" through his work "Collateral Damage" that showed where weapons are produced, and satirized the glorified notions of using them.

"I hope to raise questions about the issues of violence and how they are perceived in our society," Hassan said.

Other work by students Chase Brannock, Diana Ciompi, Kyle Eaton, Sean Jeffcoat, Natalie Saragusa, Meghan Stevens, Summer Thaxton and Kyle Waggoner included displays of many different mediums. There was



Lauren Warr presents her senior thesis art project "Perceptions of Beauty." Each image is made of a user-generated mash-up of facial features from more than 50 women. Warr said her project was meant to question what we think beauty is, and why.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

photography that lampooned social and racial stereotypes, painted and prepared

equestrian boots, interactive displays with decaying flowers and landscapes of Elon, videos

of high-adrenaline activities, and edited photographs of "threshold consciousness."

Student comedian combines humor with over-the-top stories

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Delightfully, innocently obscene.

That's how junior Jay Light describes himself and his stand-up comedy routine. As one of Elon University's few student comedians, Light said what he thinks aims to catch people off guard.

"It's all about surprising people," he said. "If there's no surprise, there's no joke."

Light opened for comedian Jim Tavaré April 14 in Whitley Auditorium to an audience of dozens of students, one of the best shows he said he has ever done. His content, which was often raunchy, ranged from personal sexual experiences to the card game Magic: The Gathering.

While many of Light's jokes toed the line between funny and going too far, he said people liked his show for the most part and are often surprised at how different he acts in real life.

"My mom thinks I'm too dirty," he said. "People are surprised. I'm not that dirty in everyday life, usually."

In his "regular life," he keeps to himself and is pretty quiet, he said.

"I like having that contrast," he said. "I like to be relaxed, to not be 'on' all the time. I don't need to be."

But even when he's writing jokes, Light said he is cautious and stays away from topics he knows he could

not pull off.

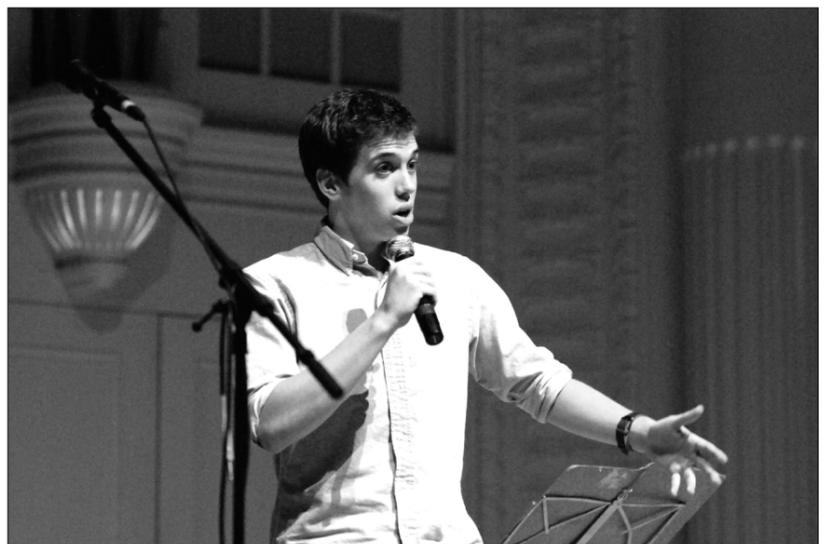
"It's not necessarily a line, it's more common sense," he said. "I'm not the kind of person who could pull off a rape joke. There are some comedians who could pull it off, but not me. I'm suited for more personal stuff, like sex and drinking."

All of the personal experiences Light references in his routine have actually happened, he said, including the sexual endeavors that make up a large portion of his show. He said he tells people ahead of time when he writes jokes about them and, to his knowledge, no one has ever been angered by them.

"There's a fine line I've got to walk," he said. "There's humor in things and I want to bring that out."

While the comedy community at Elon may be small compared to those at other schools, Light said he can't be the only person interested in comedy and wants to get more students involved. Recently, he has been looking into starting a club that would serve as a support group for aspiring comedians to practice improvisation, joke writing and stand-up technique on one another before going on stage.

Light tries to do at least one show a week, he said, since the only way to get experience is through performing. His target audience is young adults — and the bigger the audience, the better



Junior Jay Light had the opportunity to open for comedian Jim Tavaré. Light is more risqué in his show than in life.

TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Once, he said, he performed at an open mic night in his hometown in Texas for a crowd of six people.

"It was pretty bad," he said. "Everyone was afraid to be the only one to laugh."

With a larger audience, Light said it's easier to gauge the perception of his jokes, which lets him know which

With two and a half years of experience down, Light is about a quarter done with the 10 years it takes most comedians to find their voices. He hopes to end up in Los Angeles one day, he said.

As for what type of comedian he'd like to be?

"I just want to be a good one," he

Secret identities revealed: Drag show celebrates LGBTQ

Cat Valero
Reporter

Mountains of makeup, piles of hair spray, spandex and glitter; these are just some of the most visible aspects of Pride Week at the annual drag show.

Spectrum hosted numerous events in celebration of gay pride the week of April 12-16, one of which was the drag show.

Spectrum's third annual drag show has become very popular among students, faculty and others in the Elon community, who have continuously supported the group and anticipated a night out to have a fun time.

Many of the audience members who attended the drag show April 16 were allies of the LGBTQ community, as well as other Elon students coming for the first time to see what it means to "be drag." The drag show consisted of "Queens," men who dress as women and "Kings," women who dress as men. During the show they often lip-synced and performed karaoke numbers that required an exceptional amount of creativity in dancing, personality and, of course, dress.

This year's show incorporated both Queens and Kings, including the night's host Shirli Stevenz, and others such as Ms. Jessica O'Brian, Cassias Vain, Tricksy Fountain, Arabia Nights Adams, Triad Felicity and Monica.

Most of the performers came from Spectrum's partner organization, Guilford Green Foundation, which hosts a monthly themed bingo event

in downtown Greensboro.

"Drag is not a common culture seen by society and brings a large part of queer culture to campus," said Raafe-Ahmad Purnsley, Spectrum's Vice President.

Purnsley, who made his drag debut at last year's show, was among the Queens and Kings who performed in this year's show. He performed as the famous alternate personality 'Stormie Daie.'

Purnsley said one of the major reasons Spectrum organizes the show is because it is a "prolific event to end Pride Week and bring attention to Spectrum as an organization, as well to just have fun," he said. "People need to know we are here and not crazy, but fun. Elon needs to get up and see something new."

TalFish, a 2009 Elon alum and current Colonnades housing operations manager and residence director, has been an integral part of Spectrum since he signed on as the group's adviser. He said he respects the students in Spectrum and their abilities to reach out to the Elon community to inform, educate and celebrate differences both in sexual preference of any kind that can be subjected to ridicule.

For someone who has dressed in drag before in Elon's production of Cabaret in 2007, Fish defines drag as a "means to wear clothing more conventionally associated with a gender other than you're own and taking on certain corresponding mannerisms. Most people who do drag do not identify as transgender."



Queen Big Shirli Stevenz performs her number in the third annual Spectrum drag show. TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

He reflected on his personal experience in Cabaret, and found dancing on tables in heels and women's underwear to be "incredibly liberating."

First time audience member and Elon sophomore Dionne Richardson said she was interested in what the show had to offer. She mentioned how socially unacceptable it was back in her high school for her friend Jeremy to dress in feminine clothes on Halloween when the majority of the teenage

girl population could dress in socially accepted yet revealing clothes.

"It was Halloween and it wasn't hurting anyone," she said. "Girls wear skanky outfits, why can't he wear that?"

Similar to Richardson's early experience with drag, Michiya English, a rising senior, remembers her friend, a gay student now at UNC Greensboro, who was repetitiously removed from school because of the

administration ruled that he was "causing a disturbance to students' learning."

The theme of the event was "Secret Identity," complete with Ms. Arabia Nights Adams' number as Wonder Woman kicking, running and making acrobatic stunts to "Kabow" sounds in the background.

Many of the performers incorporated intricate stunt work and displayed their flexibility while wearing very form-fitting outfits, four-five inch heels and big, big and bigger hair.

Throughout the show, the Queens and Kings interacted with the audience members and occasionally got some of them to dance along with the catchy tunes from familiar artists such as Ke\$ha, Mariah Carey, Rihanna and Adam Lambert.

"The first time I preformed as a drag queen was at Elon's drag show last year," Purnsley said. "I performed a lip-sync number to Lady GaGa's 'Teeth.' I remember at one point in the song I do a bend and snap move and a friend of mine slapped my butt because I was in front of his chair."

Every year, the biggest challenges in organizing the drag show include budget, space, promotion and technology. Another challenge is Spectrum's ability to get enough support from the Elon community.

"Drag is a major part of the gay community and has been influential in movements," Purnsley said. "It allows those within the LGBT community to express themselves as any other artist in Elon's performing arts programs."

Media coverage of the royal wedding fuels America's fairytale fascination

Julia Sayers
Staff Photographer

Who is designing Kate Middleton's wedding dress? How will William's family accept Kate as the next queen? Who will be in attendance at the wedding? Ever since the engagement of Prince William to Kat Middleton, the media have been plagued with these types of questions.

The royal wedding has gotten almost as much coverage in America as it has in England.

But why are Americans obsessed with royalty?

"The American public has a taste for the sensational, for the event, the spectacular and so on," said Michael Frontani, professor of cinema at Elon University. "Americans can enjoy the royal event at that level."

But why do the American news outlets feel the need to focus so heavily on a British event when there is plenty of news going on in America? This might be due to the fact that we have a historical tie to England.

"The interest derives in part from our shared histories," Frontani said. "Undoubtedly, over the years, many Americans have demonstrated a largely fond fascination with royalty, and with British royalty in particular."

Hayley Moll, an Elon senior currently studying abroad in London, had a similar opinion.

"I think America is obsessed with the wedding because we're obsessed with the Royal Family," Moll said. "We don't have one of our own, so we're excited to follow the triumphs and failures of our parent country's royals."

Americans also love the idea of a fairy tale, and the classic tale of a prince falling in love with a simple girl makes for a fascinating story.

"One could also note the fairy tale aspect to it all," Frontani said. "American mass media and its public

consistently demonstrate a preference for the mass spectacle such a fairy tale would require."

But, the coverage of the wedding has different implications for Britain than it does for the U.S.

"British people have to contend with an aspect that Americans don't. How does one feel about this relic of the past, tainted as it is with notions of divine right?" Frontani said. "For Americans, who cares? It's not our government and it makes for a good show and run of newspapers, magazines, 24-hour news, and so forth. For Brits, it is much more a political and ideological question."

This is not to say the British media aren't covering the lighter trends of the wedding.

"There's not an overly crazy amount of coverage, but I'd say it's pretty similar to the type of coverage Americans give to actors' weddings," Moll said. "There's something in the paper every day about it. Nothing big, but little fun facts like what her dress is, who's going, etc."

With the wedding less than two weeks away, preparations in London have been in full swing. Moll said a stage viewing has been built near Buckingham Palace, parts of the palace have been roped off and Westminster Abbey and the area around it has been cleaned up.

"It seems that they're generally doing a lot of stuff to make everything look good for the press and the public who won't actually be able to make it the wedding," Moll said.

So are Elon students studying in London going to the wedding?

"My flatmates have all been following the wedding pretty closely and are super excited," said Moll. "We're all planning on going to the wedding, maybe even camping out so that we can get a good spot to see the procession. If anything, I'd say we're probably more excited than the Brits."

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Men's tennis wins regular season championship, eyes on tournament title

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

For the last three years, the men's tennis team reached the finals of the Southern Conference tournament, only to falter each year.

This year's team is halfway to reversing that trend as it clinched the regular season SoCon title as it defeated the Appalachian State University Mountaineers 6-1 Thursday, April 14.

"This makes the ring seem even more special than if we had just gotten it freshman year, since now we value the hard work," senior Alberto Rojas said.

C o a c h Michael Leonard said that the hard work over the last four years is the real reason the team has been able to succeed so far this year.

Looking ahead:

Thursday 1 p.m.
vs. No. 8 Georgia
Southern
University or No.
9 Chattanooga

*denotes first-round match of SoCon tournament

"It feels great to see how hard the team has worked to get to this point, especially after coming so close the last three years," Leonard said. "It started with our four senior leaders, and worked its way through the team."

The Phoenix got off to a fast start in its championship-clinching match by winning its 11th straight doubles point. Top doubles partners, seniors Chase Helpingstine and Philip Nemec earned their 17th straight victory, and finished their league slate with a perfect 10-0 mark.

In all, Elon won seven of nine matches against the Mountaineers, as the Phoenix handed Appalachian State their first home loss of the



Senior Chase Helpingstine is one of four seniors who have led the Phoenix to a regular season SoCon title. He has won 17 straight doubles matches. FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

season. All four Elon seniors — Helpingstine, Nemec, Alberto Rojas and Cody Stauffer-MacDowell — won their matches en route to the Phoenix victory.

"Having shared so many experiences with our other three seniors coming so close in three titles makes it all the more fulfilling," Rojas said. "Since we have been through so much together and have become so close, so it is nice to see them succeed as well."

Through the culmination of the past four years, Leonard has been able to see the improvement of the seniors to reach their ultimate goal, winning

a SoCon title.

"When these seniors came in to the program, they started low, mostly as the sixth and seventh man," Leonard said. "To see how much they've grown in four years, and to come so close the past few years really makes this year's championship fun to see."

The Phoenix travels to Chattanooga to compete in the SoCon tournament, with its first matches scheduled for Thursday, April 21. As the No. 1 seed, the Phoenix will play the winner of the No. 8 and No. 9 matchup.

"We know that we have enough talent in this team to take on the

championship," Rojas said. "We are just getting ready to go out there, have fun and play with no fear."

Last year in the SoCon tournament, the Phoenix had the No. 4 seed. After winning its first round matchup, Elon lost to UNC Greensboro 4-3 in the SoCon championship. To overcome a fourth second-place finish in the tournament, Leonard plans to mentally prepare the tennis team this week.

"It's all about them getting their mind right," Leonard said. "Getting the No. 1 seed was a good start, we just have to keep playing aggressively and get to a quick start."



Adam Lawson and Christian Binder
Sports Commentators

Adam Lawson

Red Sox fans should be worried, period. The Sox stand at 4-10, six games under .500 and leaving the entire Red Sox Nation in much called for disappointment and worrying. John Lackey, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Clay Buchholz all sport ERAs of more than 6.50, and the first two have ERAs above 12. What evidence is there to say Matsuzaka, Lackey, or even Buchholz is going to regain the ability to pitch? Listen, I know they'll hit. That's obvious. Carl Crawford's on-base percentage isn't going to stay under .200 all season. Simply put, the AL East is not a division where you can rest comfortably wasting away the first 10th of the season and just think your team will find its gear. It could be a long year for Red Sox Nation.

Christian Binder

Absolutely the Sox should be worried. Since 1995, the beginning of the Wild Card era, 72 teams have opened the season with a record of 3-7 or worse. Only five, have been among the 128 teams to advance to the postseason. Well, the Red Sox fall under that category. One of the team's prized offseason acquisitions, Carl Crawford, is batting a paltry .137 compared to his career line of .295. But I think you're exactly right, Adam. The AL East is too competitive to bury yourself early. Every team in the division is tough, but each has its respective weakness. If the Sox don't turn it around and fast, they could very well find themselves on the outside looking in come October.

Adam

Think about it like this. The pressure in Boston to succeed is enormous. We've seen players absolutely implode there under the pressure (Edgar Renteria) and then leave and play well. The fans do not forgive. While I do not think that happens to Red Sox farm-grown talent, I do think that could happen to someone like Carl Crawford, who isn't performing at all. Plus, he's got a seven-year deal and as a speed-driven player at 29 years old he's got about four years of his prime left. He can't be wasting it being awful. Matsuzaka and Lackey are already seeing how much being in Boston can change your performance. This isn't Tampa (for Crawford), where fans don't even show up. This isn't Los Angeles (for Lackey), where everybody is relaxed and they just don't care about how you're doing. This is Boston. As somebody who lives in Red Sox Nation, I can tell you that while they are the most knowledgeable fans in sports, they are also the second least forgiving (next to Philly). So, with all that being said, they have to shape up fast.

Christian

I don't think it's the pressure that's getting to them, I just think that these guys, particularly Crawford, are off to slow starts. You're right about his value being in his speed, but think about it this way: the guy just got a monster seven-year deal. He's set. There's absolutely no pressure for him to perform. Lackey has never been good in Boston while Daisuke only had one good year. Their biggest problem is pitching and it does not look like it can be immediately resolved. Their bullpen, which was supposed to be a strength, has not been good. They've got all the talent in the world around the diamond, but unless they get the pitching straight, they're doomed to a year without October baseball.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball drops two of three against Samford

After winning four of five games, the Phoenix has dropped four of its last five after losing two of three games against Samford University Bulldogs April 15-17. The series dropped the Phoenix to 20-19 overall, with a 7-9 record in the Southern Conference.

The Phoenix completes its six-game road trip April 20, as Elon travels to face the University of North Carolina Tar Heels.

Phoenix track and field earns two titles at UNC

Junior Amy Salek won the 200-meter dash and freshman Veronica Ludeke took first place in the 400-meter hurdles, to lead the Phoenix at the Kent Taylor-Joe Hilton Invitational held at the University of North Carolina campus.

Sophomore Brittany Wilkins set a new school record in the long jump, while earning fourth place overall.

Elon will compete next in the SoCon Outdoor Track and Field Championships, taking place in Birmingham, Ala. April 22-23.

Women's tennis finishes strong, participates in SoCon tournament

The Phoenix defeated Savannah College of Art and Design 6-1 on April 15, to end its regular season with a winning record, at 11-10.

Elon earned the sixth seed in the SoCon Women's Tennis Tournament and plays in a 10 a.m. match on April 20 from Chattanooga, Tenn.

Elon dedicates Alumni Field House

Elon's athletic department dedicated the newly-built, 30,000-square foot field house on Saturday, April 16. Located in the north end zone of Rhodes Stadium, the field house will house six athletic programs and Elon's athletic administration.

The facility includes an athletic training room, a large strength and conditioning room, meeting rooms and many spaces for students to study.

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Baseball aims to remain on top of SoCon after series victory

Conor O'Neill
Senior Reporter

The road to a Southern Conference regular season championship does not get any easier for the Elon University baseball team this weekend.

After taking two of three games from the College of Charleston Cougars April 15-17, the Phoenix has a 1.5 game lead in the SoCon standings.

But the Phoenix will travel to Statesboro, Ga. for a three-game series against the Georgia Southern University Eagles who hold the second spot in the standings. Elon, having played three more conference games at this point, has a 14-4 record compared to the Eagles' 11-4 mark.

"It's bigger (than other series), because you think Elon and Georgia Southern chasing each other, no doubt about that," said head coach Mike Kennedy. "It will be a headline going into it just because we're one and two going in to it, but we have to treat them all the same way."

Elon gained a 5-1 victory in the first game behind the pitching efforts of senior Ken Ferrer and junior John Brebbia, while seven of nine starters recorded hits.

The Saturday night game provided the most excitement for Elon, although the fireworks did not begin until late in the game.

Entering the bottom frame of the eighth inning facing a 4-0 hole, the Phoenix rallied to tie the score on run scoring hits from senior shortstop Neal Pritchard, sophomore catcher Alex Swim and freshman second baseman Sebastian Gomez.

After senior pitcher Jared Kernodle worked a scoreless ninth for Elon, freshman outfielder Eric Serra led off the bottom of the inning with a single. Advancing to second on a wild pitch and stealing third base, Serra scored

the winning run on senior outfielder Harry Austin's single for the series clinching victory.

In the series finale, senior pitcher Thomas Girdwood's four shutout innings of relief set the school record for career appearances at 96, although the Phoenix dropped the final game by a 4-1 score.

"We would have liked to finish with a sweep, but two out of three is not bad," Swim said. "We definitely put some distance between us and everyone else, we just need to keep going out there and battling."

Girdwood's work out of the bullpen mirrored what the pitchers accomplished throughout the weekend. In 13 innings worked for Phoenix relievers, the staff allowed just six hits and did not allow a run.

"We pitched like we expected to out of the bullpen all year," Girdwood said. "There have been some games where we haven't done that, but we put it together for the whole weekend."

The team will continue to rely on the bullpen against the Eagles, as the Phoenix has become strapped for pitching lately.

Sophomore pitcher Kyle Webb, normally the team's Friday night starter, had his start pushed back to Sunday because of back spasms he suffered the previous week. He pitched four innings Sunday, allowing seven hits and three earned runs.

"It's going to be a tough stretch for us," Kennedy said. "(Webb) is banged up a little bit, we had to throw (sophomore) Dylan Clark this weekend, Girdwood went (Sunday). After Tuesday, we'll have to piece it together."

Tonight, the Phoenix faces another team it has played once this season in the Old Dominion University Monarchs. Elon gained a 9-4 victory April 5, when the Monarchs visited Latham Park.

Looking ahead:

Wednesday
6 p.m. vs. Old Dominion University

Friday 7 p.m. at Georgia Southern University

Saturday 2:30 p.m. at Georgia Southern

Sunday 1:30 p.m. at Georgia Southern



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Sports



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

The members of the women's rugby team had to play against themselves in their Prom Dress game Saturday April 16. The other team didn't show because of the potential inclement weather.

look pretty

play dirty

Elon women's rugby plays annual Prom Dress game

Madelyn Smith
Copy Editor

Cleats skidded in the mud, rain poured sideways at rapid speed, the pre-tornado wind whipped around the field and prom dresses flailed.

Saturday, April 16, the Elon University women's rugby team held its annual Prom Dress game. The team was originally scheduled to play UNC-Wilmington, but because of Saturday's inclement weather, the team members played among themselves instead.

The annual event usually raises money for causes such as Crossroads: Sexual Assault Response and Resource Center in Burlington.

The team, which has been around for more than 10 years, has 25 members representing all four classes. Only a handful of girls on the current team played rugby before coming to Elon.

"A lot of people on the team did some kind of sport in high school but wanted to do something different," said junior Brittany Moore, one of the team captains.

With three practices per week, including a two-hour Friday practice, the girls are truly committed to the team's success and the drive to maintain a tight-knit community.

"It's unique to see a club team that's as intense and dedicated as we are," said senior Brittany Siciliano, a team captain. "But we also make a point to have fun."

The team plays several games in the fall, but its series of Saturday spring games, or their "Matrix season," is the indicator of any tournament opportunities. This spring, the team

went 4-0 against UNC Greensboro, Guilford College, Wake Forest University and Duke University.

As a result, the team got the opportunity to travel to Alabama for the 2011 USA Rugby South Collegiate Championships.

"We did not fare too well there," freshman Lauren Sheridan said. "But we witnessed other teams getting really frustrated and yelling at each other, while we were dancing in the tri-zone having a ball because we were determined to have fun. It was a successful weekend all in all, even though we didn't win."

Sheridan added that she is thankful to have found a tight group of friends and teammates in her first year at college.

"When I first got to Elon, I didn't know what to do with myself," she said. "I'd played soccer for most of my life. My RA recommended rugby, and I've loved it ever since."

Moore said the team has also given her "surface level" benefits like leadership experience.

"It's also kind of empowering as women to play a sport that we don't normally play," she said. "People are surprised when you tell them you play rugby."

Siciliano credits the team's "Matrix season" success to the sense of community they create on and off the field.

"The nicest thing I got out of this team - we say it all the time, but we're a family," she said. "You have friends that you'll have throughout college and beyond. I think with these girls, we'll be in each other's lives for a long time."



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Members of the women's rugby team fight for the ball during the beginning of their annual Prom Dress game April 16. The girls were able to get some playing in before tornadoes swept through.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

The members of the women's rugby team practice throughout the year and play games in the fall and the spring. Often the highlight of the year, the Prom Dress game culminates their season.