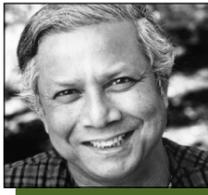




**MORE THAN JUST A PET STORE:**  
LEARN ABOUT A LOCAL SHOP IN BURLINGTON THAT ALSO SELLS GARDENING AND GIFT ITEMS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE OUTDOORS >> PAGE 10



**COMMON READING: CLASS OF 2015**  
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# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011 | VOLUME 37, EDITION 6

[www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum)

## BATEMAN TEAM PROMOTES FINANCIAL LITERACY



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Elon University seniors Molly Cox, Alex Harrington, Annie Hellweg and Liz Moy participated in this year's Bateman Case Study Competition, a nationwide contest sponsored by the Public Relations Student Society of America. The client for this year's competition was Ally Financial, an automotive financial services company, which challenged students to improve financial education in their local communities. The culminating event was the Financial Friday Festival, held March 4, featuring live music, free food and prizes. Contestants were tested on their financial knowledge and winners received prizes, from a meet and greet with President Leo Lambert to gift cards to YoZone. Other events sponsored by the Bateman Team included financial training sessions in the community and a financial trivia night at The Fat Frog. The competition ended March 8.

## Students living in coed Crest apartment forced to comply with single-sex housing policy

Natalie Allison  
Senior Reporter

Junior Sara Edwards met her future roommate at a transfer orientation in 2009. The two became best friends with one another, and soon after decided to move into an apartment with a few of Edward's former suitemates.

For three semesters, the roommates celebrated birthday dinners with one another. They've had movie nights and gone grocery shopping together. They've argued about loading the dishwasher and sympathized with one another about grades.

Edwards' best friend, someone with whom she currently shares an apartment, is Hollace Jeffords. The friends, who live at The Crest apartments along with one other roommate, are among the students at Elon University who currently reside in off-campus coed housing arrangements.

After this semester, however, The Crest apartments will be considered on-campus housing and university policy, which prohibits coed suites and apartments, will go into effect. The entire complex,

recently acquired by The Preiss Company, will be contracted to Elon as on-campus housing option, according to Brian Collins, associate director of Residence Life.

Jeffords and Edwards, both rising seniors, said they were never personally notified that The Crest was going to become on-campus housing. Though Jeffords' parents received a letter informing them of the contract change, Jeffords said he contacted Residence Life himself to ask how they were going to handle the particular situation.

"Since we've been living this way so long, I thought they'd make an exception — but they won't," said Jeffords, who has had to find another roommate in a different apartment complex. "I'd love not to have to move, but it's not possible to go back now."

Despite Elon's firm enforcement of its single-sex room policy, the university's administration recently initiated a student-directed housing program that would allow students to occupy eight-person Danieley Center flats, centered on a specific topic of interest. The university's senior staff approved that these flats could



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

A change in Elon policy, which does not allow for coed housing, will require students currently living in The Crest apartments to make other housing arrangements, despite a proposal for coed suites in Danieley Center.

be coed.

The focus of these flats is not coed housing, but rather grouping students together around a theme for which they are passionate, said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

"It may also be more feasible for students to form a living group around a specific topic if the flat is open to both males and females," he said.

Because the program is in its pilot stage,

Jackson said it is not out of the ordinary for the university to start a program or alter a policy on a narrow basis so it can first be evaluated.

"Often small pilots such as the student-directed theme flats in the Danieley Center allow for feedback from a small sample of students," he said. "These pilots help

See CREST | PAGE 2

# There's something in the water: Lake Mary Nell subject of class analysis

Libby Dean  
Reporter

When freshman Matt Dowdle retrieved one of the prize-winning boats from the Polar Bear Plunge this January, he had more than the taste of victory in his mouth.

During the scramble to grab one of the colorful boats tossed into the water to receive a prize, Dowdle got a mouthful of the lake water from Lake Mary Nell, as well as high ammonia and non-pathogenic E. coli, to be exact.

"It didn't taste like how normal water should," Dowdle said. "It was grimy. When I went home, I immediately took a shower and brushed my teeth for over a half hour."

The water conditions of Lake Mary Nell, along with the other lakes around campus, including Lake Verona and the "Elon Homes" lake, have been subjects of analysis for Professor Joshua Kapfer's introductory environmental studies lab.

Kapfer has been conducting lake water analysis for more than 10 years and said his students are most surprised by the presence of high ammonia

concentrations and of non-pathogenic E. coli in the water.

Tracy Schell, senior and co-organizer of the Polar Bear Plunge, said the cleanliness of Lake Mary Nell is taken into consideration during the planning process of the event. In Lake Mary Nell, a ledge drops off and people have gotten scraped in the past, so Schell and the Resident Student Association have taken precautions to ensure the people who get injured can receive care.

Participants signed waivers and were told that if they sustained any cuts or scrapes, they should go to the health center immediately to have them treated. Every participant was required to wear closed-toed shoes and a lifeguard was present. Because of the large number of participants, the jumps took place in several groups. No injuries or infections from the water were reported after the Jan. 20 event.

"At the Polar Bear Plunge this year, we had one of the biggest turnouts in the event's history," Schell said. "People realize that the lake is gross and it's cold outside. It's the things like how cold and dirty it is that make

the event more memorable, more of an adventure."

Freshman Tyler Oberle, governor of North Area Council, said the Polar Bear Plunge was a huge success.

More than 160 people took the plunge and even more attended the event. Oberle said the day of the event had sunny weather, and people could see the discolorations of the lake water.

"It was a sunny day out so you could see the brown, green-blue water," Oberle said. "Yes, it's disgusting, it's cold, it's dirty, but that all makes it a once-in-a-college experience."

The Polar Bear Plunge is in its eighth year and has won RSA's Event of the Year previously.

The event surpassed expectations and has become an annual tradition of student bonding, Oberle said. Since no infections or other complications have been reported from the event, the Polar Bear Plunge will continue to be an Elon tradition.

"We all knew what we were getting into," Dowdle said. "How memorable would it be if there was an event that had people instead jump into a nice, warm indoor pool?"



Brianna Bailey tests water in Lake Mary Nell for an environmental studies class. JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

# Elon's refusal to make exception may set housing precedent

CREST from PAGE 1

programs and options."

With regards to single-sex rooms and suites, Niki Turley, assistant dean of student, said the university has no official statement on why coed housing is prohibited on campus.

"I think that's just the way it has always been done," Turley said. "I don't know that we've really heard from students in a united voice about whether they want this or not."

Edwards said she has had a positive coed housing experience and thinks it should depend on the situation as to whether students take this route.

"We have a really unique situation," Edwards said. "We're very much just friends. It could become a fuzzy situation when it's romantic partners wanting to live together—students have to realize what they're getting into."

Brian O'Shea, assistant to the vice president of Student Life, said the coed housing movement is growing across the country and an increasing number of students seem to be getting on board.

Although Elon was unable to make an exception for Jeffords and adjust its coed housing policy in time for the 2011-2012 academic year, the administration said the university is

open to moving forward in examining this as an option for students in the future.

"We've come a long way and we'll continue to look at the future of housing, especially as we add different styles and different types," O'Shea said. "Elon wants to remain innovative and creative in housing, and I think the university is certainly responsive to students' requests."

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# Senior giving campaign reaches half its goal

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

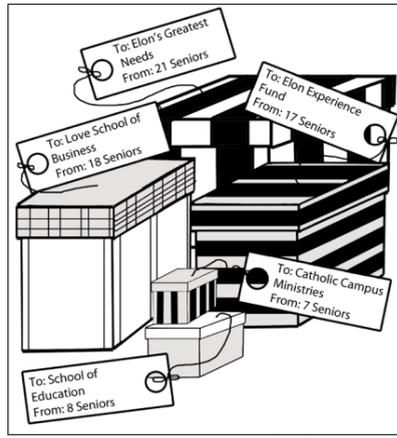
The Senior Class Giving Campaign, which is working to encourage the Class of 2011 to make monetary gifts to the university, has reached more than half of its goal of 20 percent participation after being announced at the Senior Class Celebration in September.

For the first time, the senior class can participate in the young alumni IGNITE challenge, which also took place last year. For every gift of \$20 or more during the month of March, Kerri Brown Anderson, class of 1979, will match the gift 5-to-1, according to Jozi Snowberger, assistant director of annual giving and parent programs.

In 2010, a total of 628 young alumni participated in the challenge, donating a total of \$205,028, including matching dollars from Anderson, Snowberger said.

Unlike previous years, seniors can now select which area of Elon University they would like to see their money benefit, rather than all of the money being applied to one place.

"What we thought about was what



MARK CAPOZZOLA | Graphics Editor

if you don't want to give to that one fund, what if that's nothing you connect with or are passionate about," said Alex Nickodem, coordinator of the campaign. "Everyone has a passion."

With a total of 137 senior gifts as of Thursday, March 3, the top designations include Elon's greatest needs, a general fund used for daily operations at the university, with a

total of 21 gifts and the Love School of Business with 18 gifts. Others include the Elon Experiences Fund and Catholic Campus Ministries for a total of 35 designations selected, so far.

"There was this shift because we're trying to model it after what you'll see when you become a young alum," Snowberger said. "There's no longer a disconnect between senior year giving and young alum giving."

Although seniors are encouraged to give at any point this semester, Nickodem said they have made a push for seniors to participate in the IGNITE challenge during the first week of March. The challenge will continue throughout this month.

So far, Anderson has matched more than \$4,500, he said, and if at least 1,200 young alumni and seniors make donations, Anderson will give an extra \$20,000.

Along with tables in Moseley Center and IGNITE NITES, gathering of alumni and seniors to discuss giving, Nickodem said students have been most successful when simply sharing about the campaign with friends.

"It's been a lot of individual outreach by committee members," he said. "They meet with student organizations and talk to friends about it. Peer-to-peer interaction has been best."

Although the campaign will continue to target senior giving through graduation, the third annual Elon...Pass It On! event seeks to raise all students' awareness about the limits of tuition and the importance of private donations.

The tuition a student pays each year covers only 81 percent of his or her yearly education, according to Nickodem.

March 25 represents the day that tuition stops paying for Elon and private donations kick in. Because students will be on spring break that day, Snowberger said the celebration will take place March 30 and final plans are still underway for the structure of the event.

"Imagine your school year stopping," Nickodem said. "People have made comments about giving (while still students), but if not for private donations, what you're looking at wouldn't be there."

## Breaking stereotypes: the story of one fifth-year student

Sam Parker  
Senior Reporter

It wasn't because he failed four classes, took light course loads or changed his major three times.

Fifth-year student Eddie O'Connell decided to stay at Elon an extra year simply to remain involved.

As a member of both Alpha Phi Omega, a coed community service fraternity, and Alpha Chi Rho, an unrecognized social fraternity, O'Connell said staying an extra year at Elon meant furthering his involvement in both organizations.

"I figured, you know, the job market's not that great, I haven't taken the LSAT yet and I'm in these two great organizations, one of which, Alpha Chi Rho, was having some trouble staying afloat," he said. "So, I figured if I stayed a fifth year, I could spend some time with these two organizations."

As a returning senior, O'Connell is a part of Elon's fifth-year student population, which averages 6 percent of the senior class, according to Rob Springer, director of institutional research.

Springer said fifth-year statistics are calculated based on freshman class cohorts, as Elon reviews the numbers of each freshman class after its expected graduation date and totals the number of fifth-years based on the percentage of those who did not graduate on time.

As a double major in history and media arts and entertainment with a concentration, O'Connell said he will graduate with 170 credit hours this spring, a fact he said always comes as a surprise to those who ask why he is staying an extra year.

"One problem I always have in saying I'm a fifth-year is that a lot of people ask me if it's for academic reasons," he said. "And

I always have to say, 'No, I just wanted to spend a fifth year here because I could afford to and the job market wasn't that great, especially for film majors.'"

Because of its endless academic opportunities, registrar Mark Albertson said he believes Elon is able to maintain a small number of fifth-year students because of the four credit hour system, Winter Term opportunities, online classes and summer sessions.

O'Connell said he pays for tuition on his own, and through his experiences in the stock market he was able to save enough money to return to Elon for another year.

"I've given myself a budget because the money in my account is supposed to go to education," he said. "For a little while, I did think about how much I could really afford to spend. I thought, 'Do I really want to be a part-time student and just take the three classes I need to finish my history major, or do I want to take a full course load?'"

In staying an extra year, O'Connell said he decided to change his history minor into a major. He took a full course load in the fall to secure his active brotherhood in both Alpha Phi Omega and Alpha Chi Rho, and this spring will be taking an EMT class and his history senior seminar.

Albertson said it is common for seniors to switch to part-time schedules for their last semesters at Elon.

"Our 132 credit hour graduation requirement with the four credit system lets most students enjoy an easy last semester of senior year, with few credit hours," he said.

O'Connell said after graduation he plans to take a break from school and look for jobs either in the film or civil service industry. He said he ultimately wants to attend law school and spend at least one



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Eddie O'Connell decided to remain at Elon for a fifth year in order to remain more involved in campus organizations.

year doing civil service work, particularly with juveniles, before pursuing his film career.

Since two of his best friends graduated last May, O'Connell said it has been difficult for him to go out and meet new people, but he said being active on campus has helped to ease the stress.

"I still have friends in Alpha Phi Omega and Alpha Chi Rho, but it's a little stressful because my little cohort went our separate ways last year," O'Connell said. "I still talk to them on AIM and Skype, and I saw some of them at our Founder's Day last weekend, but it's a little stressful because I'm not one to go out to bars. But I still

have a few friends that I socialize with."

Despite the successes he has achieved in staying for a fifth year, O'Connell said he sometimes has doubts if staying was the best decision.

"There have definitely been times during the past couple months that I've asked myself, 'What the hell am I still doing here? Why didn't I change my mind,'" he said. "But I've done a lot of good. I helped to resettle debts (Alpha Chi Rho) owed to headquarters, and I got 50-something service hours with APO last year, so it's not like I'm sitting around in my room slacking off or something — I'm here for legit reasons."

## Elon receives average grade in required core courses

Melissa Kansky  
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's liberal studies requirements indicate specific educational values, but a recent survey conducted by the John W. Pope Center for Higher Education Policy gave Elon a "C" for its liberal arts curriculum.

The Pope Center considers composition, literature, foreign language, U.S. history, science, mathematics and economics as the seven core courses necessary for a liberal arts education. The organization based its grading system on how many of these courses institutions required. Elon requires three of the seven designated core courses. The most core classes an North Carolina institution requires is six.

"I think there are certain things that need to be covered and we've

done that in the freshman core," said Mary Wise, associate vice president of Academic Affairs. "And we've done that in the freshman core."

The current general studies program requires students to exhibit proficiency in writing, mathematics and global affairs.

The four categories of distribution mandatory for graduation — society, science, civilization and expression — incorporate the skills associated with the core courses, but provide students with options and flexibility, according to Wise.

Elon adheres more to the principles outlined by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) which stresses that a course is subservient to the body of knowledge associated with the course, said Janet Warman, director of general studies.

According to the AACU, specific information is not as important as the

ability to form questions and develop skills to analyze data and make informed conclusions.

"There are principles that you can learn from this category of class, but there are other ways to get those (skills)," she said. "It may not be the same content, but you come away with the problem solving skills."

The Pope Center does not share the same philosophy. The range of options nullifies the purpose of required core courses, according to a Feb. 24 Pope Center press release.

"You can't allow complete wiggle room," Warman said. "But if you prescribe every single course, then you cut down on a student's ability to make connections."

Warman expressed a concern that a rigid liberal arts curriculum would hinder students' ability to draw parallels between knowledge and skills derived from all the core

### Distribution of core classes in North Carolina universities

- 45 require **composition**
- 43 require **science**
- 37 require **mathematics**
- 18 require foreign languages
- 15 require literature
- 2 require U.S. history
- 2 require economics

*Bold signifies Elon requires these courses, according to the Pope Center*

courses. Wise agreed.

"What we, as an educational system, may not be doing a good enough job with is finding connections between those subjects," Wise said.

The flexibility in Elon's liberal studies program enables a student to find similar themes and interests throughout the four categories, Warman said

# LinkedIn helps students network to make the post-graduation job search easier

Lindsay Kimble  
Copy Editor

LinkedIn is an effective way for students to market themselves and network with future employers, according to Elon alumni. The website, a social network for the corporate world, helps connect businesses with potential employees and vice-versa.

LinkedIn users create a profile and can then connect with other users. Connections are like friend requests on Facebook, and users are prompted to indicate how they know the person they wish to connect with. LinkedIn also offers the opportunity for users to sync their Twitter account to their profile. Users can also upload their resumes.

Many Elon students are unaware of the benefits LinkedIn offers.

"I was encouraged to make a profile by an organization I was in," said Jen Cox, an Elon junior majoring in psychology. "I realized that my parents had accounts and that they felt it was a great way to network with friends and other students."

Cox said her actual usage of LinkedIn is minimal.

"Once I get a job, I don't know if I'll need it," she said.

Crystal Grandison, Class of 2008, strongly suggests LinkedIn to students. She still maintains the LinkedIn profile she created while at Elon. Grandison said LinkedIn helped her get her current job as a community manager for Schoolology.com, a social networking website for teachers and students.

"While interning in NYC with

another education technology company, I did a search on LinkedIn for similar companies hiring in the New York City area, since LinkedIn also has job postings," Grandison said. "After applying to a few jobs via LinkedIn, I came across Schoolology."

Grandison said the networking site gave her background information about the company and linked her to the company website. She said there were no available positions at the time on LinkedIn, but she still sent in her resume and a month later was given a position.

"If it wasn't for LinkedIn, I may have never discovered this company," Grandison said. "Since Schoolology is a growing company, I have used LinkedIn to post our job openings."

Megan Schneider, Class of 2010, is a current graduate student at James Madison University serving as a graduate assistant in Judicial Affairs for Civic Learning Programs. Schneider first created a LinkedIn profile while at Elon and still maintains her page.

"I do not find myself actively searching, since I am in graduate school," Schneider said. "But I do keep my information up-to-date. Also, every few months I will add new trainings that I may have completed, or presentation information and conference attendance."

While Schneider did not use the website while applying for graduate school, she said she expects to utilize it more during her second year in order to look for a job.

Grandison said Elon should



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

LinkedIn is a social network for the business world. Elon alumni suggest the site for students looking to increase their marketability.

require students to create LinkedIn profiles with at least five teacher recommendations through senior seminar classes.

"When you are on the job hunt, you need to try every trick in the book," she said. "LinkedIn is great because first off, it's free for basic use and there are thousands of professionals already there at your fingertips. You have to start networking somehow and LinkedIn gets your feet wet."

Schneider, on the other hand, said she feels that only those that are going to actively use LinkedIn can benefit from its features.

"I am a strong believer in using social networks if you are going to take the time to stay current and watch your activity," she said. "Otherwise, I think I'd say deactivate your account. I've read many articles that say being present online just to be present can be more harmful

than not being present at all."

Nonetheless, Grandison said it is useful. In regard to Elon in particular, she said she does not remember any faculty or staff member ever suggesting using LinkedIn.

"I sure wish I had something like this during my initial job hunt," Grandison said. "It would have also been great to have all my professor recommendations right there on my LinkedIn profile for professionals to view."

## Old verbal agreement complicates towing from local church parking lot

Anna Johnson  
Editor-in-Chief

An outdated verbal agreement may have caused Elon University students to be illegally towed from the Elon Community Church parking lot in recent years.

Alamance Towing, the towing company contracted through ECC, has towed students from the church parking lot based off a verbal agreement between the former owner of Alamance Towing and the former pastor of ECC, said Mark Kapler, the current owner of Alamance Towing.

But, it wasn't until mid-January that the current church administration heard about the agreement said Monica Nicholson, an administrative assistant at ECC.

Elon senior Alex Moss complained to Nicholson after she was repeatedly hung up on and rudely spoken to on the phone by an Alamance Towing employee, Moss said.

"I called the church to let them know the towing company they are working with was disrespectful," Moss said. "(Nicholson) said they would never tow people and the minister wanted people to park (in the parking lot)."

When Nicholson contacted Kapler, Moss was refunded her \$80 for parking and Alamance Towing was asked not to tow in the church parking lot anymore.

Written documents regarding the agreement



STUART JONES | Photographer  
Cars parked in the Elon Community Church lot may have been wrongfully towed.

could not be produced by Kapler or Nicholson.

Kapler said he wasn't aware the pastor who made the agreement, David Kuhn, had retired. And he didn't have any information on the agreement other than what he was told by the former Alamance Towing owner, Keith Norris.

Multiple attempts to contact Norris and Kuhn to verify this agreement were unsuccessful.

Not many cars were towed from that lot, Kapler said. The cost to be towed from the lot is \$80.

When a vehicle was towed from the church lot, Nicholson said, she assumed Elon University Campus Safety and Police had made the call.

Chuck Gantos, director of Campus Safety and Police, said they never call for a vehicle to be towed from the church parking lot and Alamance Towing does tow vehicles for Elon University.

"We've got an exclusive contract with Alamance Towing," Gantos said. "They've been good for us and we've had no complaints."

## Smartpen blends old writing with new technology, skills

Jeff Stern  
Online Editor-in-Chief

While a lot of what students write nowadays is typed, a new pen has the potential to change the way students learn.

The Livescribe Smartpen, introduced in 2008, blends old-fashioned note taking with new technology. The pen can record audio and then be synced with notes and queued up just by tapping where the user wrote on the special Livescribe paper.

"I originally thought it was foolish to use a Livescribe pen instead of using a notebook, but then I realized you can never actually write everything that's being said and the pen will capture everything," said David Copeland, professor of communications. "I could theoretically see people using these instead of laptops."

Copeland said he views the pen as a great tool for students, as they would be able to capture an entire lecture and not have to worry about writing down every detail.

The Livescribe software allows the user to transfer the notes from the pen to a computer in a PDF format and then convert the handwritten notes into text, with the purchase of additional software. But Copeland said he believes a student would be more inclined to listen to the audio recording than read the notes.

As a former journalist, Copeland said he also sees

the pen's potential to allow journalists to focus more on the interviews and less on note-taking.

"Nobody could ever tell me that I misquoted them because I (would) have it all right there, right in the context of what it was," he said.

Academic researchers would also benefit from using the pen. Paula Patch, lecturer in English, frequently studies the way students write. Most of what interests her, she said, is not what students write but how they write it.

"The pen would be more of an extension of the student," Patch said.

Compared with using a video camera or audio recorder to capture students' writing methods, Patch says she sees the pen as a noninvasive tool.

"I think it would allow researchers to get closer to a more authentic writing experience," she said.

The Livescribe pen also offers the simple benefit of allowing the user to write by hand.

"There has been research that shows that some people literally think better and have

a more fluent thought process when they write by hand," Patch said.

Freshman Katherine Bain agrees. She said she finds that handwriting allows her to focus better and remember what she has written.

As a freshman Teaching Fellow, Bain said she sees how the Livescribe pen could benefit the classroom.

While Bain said she found the Livescribe to be a really interesting concept, she doesn't think it will ever be used among the majority of her peers.

"It is really expensive for a pen," Bain said. "I probably wouldn't invest the money, but I could theoretically see myself using it in a lecture class to help me remember all I heard."

While the Livescribe pen has not become mainstream, those who have written with the pen appreciate the luxury.

"It hasn't become a life or death property for me yet but I can see the ways it can enhance what I do," Copeland said. "It bridges the gap between old school and new school."

The least expensive Livescribe model costs \$99.95.

### MORE ONLINE: NEWS

David Copeland, professor of communications, shows the Livescribe pen in action.

<http://bit.ly/TPOlivescribe>



JEFF STERN | Online Editor in Chief

# Local grassroots organization teaches community about Haw River, wildlife

Eva Hill  
Copy Chief

A local environmental group is working with the Burlington community to do its part to protect Alamance County's largest river.

The Haw River Land Stewards is an organization that provides educational information to people who own homes or property along the Haw River.

Janet MacFall, director for the Center for Environmental Studies at Elon University, said the endeavor started five years ago as the Haw River Trail Project. She said she wanted to develop a program to communicate with people who own land along the river.

"Our mission is to provide partnership and outreach in the community to provide environmental protection," she said.

Recently, the organization received grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand the program. The organization is also funded by the North Carolina Clearwater

Management Trust Fund.

MacFall said the Stewards have held five workshops for landowners and have four more planned. She said the workshops help inform landowners about wildlife and plants and what they can do to protect the resources.

"We want to help land owners along the river and provide information about it," she said. "We want to provide opportunities for them to learn about the ecological history of the river."

Jamie Smedsmo, coordinator of the Haw River Land Stewards, said the goal of the program is to develop a loose coalition of landowners.

"We have quite a few spring programs," she said. "We've also had nature walks and presentations on wildlife habitats."

MacFall said Elon students have volunteered in the organization in the past.

"We've had students come and go," she said. "We've had students to help, but if students are interested, we welcome them."

The organization focuses

specifically on properties adjacent to the river in Alamance County, Smedsmo said. She also said MacFall played a vital role in the development of the river's assets.

"I don't know if there would be a trail next to the river about five years back if it wasn't for Janet," she said. "She does a great job dealing with landowners who are interested in property."

David Vandermast, assistant professor of biology at Elon, has worked along the Haw River conducting vegetation surveys to determine the composition and structure of the river forest since 2007. He also led a nature walk at the Shallow Ford natural area in Burlington.

"I think the walk was well-received and that most of them learned some information about plants that was new to them," he said. "Much of my vegetation work has been on private property and some of the folks at the nature walk were owners who had given me permission to sample their land."



Blake and Ashley Crabtree of Burlington walk their dog along the Haw River. A local organization is teaching community members about river resources.

Vandermast said he currently has two research students who are working on projects using Haw River data.

"One student is describing the structure and composition of the forests and will work this summer to determine the soil seed bank forest composition," he said. "The other student is looking at the relationship between the

numbers of native and non-native species at spatial scales. She is testing the hypothesis that the more native species occupy an area, the less easily invasive it is."

The 21st annual Haw River Cleanup Day will take place March 12, and all community members are welcome to attend and help clean up the river and surrounding areas.

## Various religious groups growing in number on campus

Nicholas Zanetti  
Reporter

Elon University may no longer be recognized as the Fighting Christians, but religion is still a key part of many students' lives.

With a wide range of religious affiliations and beliefs represented on campus, the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life seeks to allow students to not only grow in their own faith, but explore others as well.

The space and structure for organizations including Intervarsity, Hillel and Catholic Campus Ministry, among others, are created by the Truitt Center, according to Phil Smith, the Center's director. The Truitt Center also provides programming during the year specific to various religious traditions as well as spaces for groups

### Class of 2014 Religious Preferences:

Protestant: 43.4 percent  
Catholic: 27 percent  
None: 20.1 percent  
Jewish: 5.6 percent  
Other: 2.8 percent  
Muslim: .5 percent  
Buddhist: .4 percent  
Hindu: .2 percent

to have services.

"Elon is a place that offers a whole lot in terms of religious life and programs, but it's always at an arms length," Smith said. "Religion should never be enforced or coerced on students."

There is an active Jewish population on campus, according to Nancy Luberoff, director of Hillel.

"Hillel at Elon is extraordinarily

active given it is only made up of 100 students, currently," she said.

Despite the small size of Hillel, an increased number of Jewish students are enrolling at Elon.

"The Jewish demographic is one of the fastest growing on campus," Luberoff said. "The current freshman class is 8 percent Jewish."

Besides the most represented religions, such as Judaism and Christianity, Elon also has students from a variety of religions less widely practiced in the U.S.

Laura Addiss is one of the few Quaker students who attends Elon.

"Overall, I think that the Elon community is very receptive and accepting of less common religions like mine," she said. "Although people often confuse Quakers with Amish people, in reality we are very different."

Although Elon students are predominantly affiliated with Christian denominations, one of the fastest growing religious groups on campus is that of students who claim to have no religious preference, or consider themselves non-believers.

"I think the number of people who consider themselves agnostic or atheist is definitely increasing," Smith said. "Some people check the 'no preference' box in surveys because they are not sure or don't want to associate themselves with a specific denomination or faith, and they don't want to be put in a box."

Religious life at Elon will continue to be important in the future, as the university plans for the construction of a new multi-faith center in the Academic Village. A Muslim group will also be forming soon, according to Smith.

## Book by Grameen Bank creator selected for freshman common reading

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

"Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism," by Muhammad Yunus, has been selected as the 2011-2012 common reading book for the incoming freshman class. Yunus, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, created the Grameen Bank around the idea of microcredit that provides small loans to poor people without collateral.

Janet Warman, chair of the common reading committee, said some classes at Elon already do fundraising for Kiva, a micro-lending organization similar to Yunus' Grameen Bank.

"(The book) shows students they can make a difference with existing structures and take some action," she said. "I know the business school is very interested in the area of micro-finance and has included that in some of their students. The interest may move beyond first-year students."

Though Yunus was dismissed from his post as managing director of Grameen Bank this month after claims he was wrongly reappointed, Warman said the controversy

will only serve as a discussion point for faculty and students in the fall and will not influence the selection of the book. She said the committee is closely watching the issue.

The most controversial author of the 12 previous common reading books was Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "Nickel and Dimed," a journalist's account of living on minimum wage.

"Her ideas challenged a lot of people and some were offended by that," she said. "We always try to frame our discussion in terms of 'these are ideas to think about, not ideas you have to agree with.' They really are there to get you thinking."

Yunus represents an individual who has made a difference in the world, which is a trait encouraged as part of an Elon education, Warman said.

"He very clearly explains how he got to the idea of micro-lending and how it has helped individuals move out of poverty and how it could be generalized in more areas of the world to eliminate poverty," she said. "It's content that is significant for us."

Senior Amelie Busch was influential in the founding of the Elon Microfinance Initiative

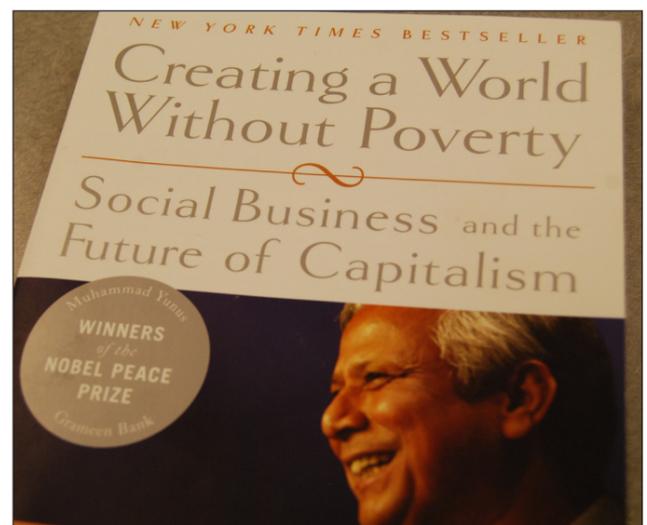
in 2010 after an increasing number of students and faculty members were interested in the subject.

"(Yunus') message is really important for the Elon community to hear, especially with the current international scrutiny of microfinance and the Grameen Bank," she said. "What (he) has created is a large network of microfinance institutions that work with the poorest of the poor and provide interest rates, savings programs and financial education."

The input of a committee of faculty, staff and students made the final selection after sending out a request for book suggestions to faculty in the fall.

"We have a form and ask them to nominate a book to be used in first-year core courses," Warman said. "We explain the criteria, including that it's better if the author is living and can come to campus. If it's paperback, it's also less expensive."

In the spring semester, the committee previews the nominated books, reading 50 to 100 pages to narrow down the selection. In late spring, the committee decides on a short list of three to four books that



A book by Muhammad Yunus has been chosen as 2011-2012 Common Reading, despite recent controversy over his leadership of Grameen Bank.

are then read in their entirety. In the early fall, they decide the final selection for the following fall.

In 1970s Bangladesh, Yunus worked as a professor of economics at Chittagong University when he began giving small loans to local villagers, Busch said. He realized that a loan as little as \$30 made a difference for villagers, mostly women, who almost always

repaid him on time.

"I think it gives us all a common text we can discuss," Warman said. "We've all had something of a common experience and have ideas we can discuss. It challenges first-year students to think about what they're reading at higher academic levels and it introduces students to a concept of the world that may be unfamiliar."

## SGA safety committee responds to recent pedestrian accidents

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

Freshman Greg Zitelli was on his way to S'mores with Outdoors when he received a phone call that would redirect the path of his first year at Elon University.

On the evening of Oct. 20, freshman Peter Kesaris was crossing Haggard Avenue when he was struck by a car and sustained a concussion.

"I got a call that a friend was going to the hospital to get him," Zitelli, said. "It was really terrifying. He's made a full recovery and is doing a lot better, but being in the hospital that night, he didn't remember anything. Me and a friend went into the room he was in and he kept asking the same questions every 10 seconds. It was a really shocking experience for me."

Kesaris is not the only Elon student to be involved in a pedestrian accident during the school year. On Sept. 15, Toorialey Fazly, a freshman international student, was hit from behind while riding his bike on West Lebanon Avenue and was airlifted to Duke Medical Center for treatment.

As a result of these and other incidents, SGA members have created an ad hoc committee with the purpose of increasing student awareness about pedestrian safety.

After the third accident involving a student, Zitelli, co-chair of the committee, said SGA decided safety was an issue that needed to be addressed. With a total of eight members spanning different years at Elon, the Phoenix Pheet committee was born.

At the heart of Phoenix Pheet, which is based off a similar program at the University of North Carolina, called Yield to Heels, is the goal of changing a campus-wide mentality regarding safety.

"The first month I was here, upperclassmen would say 'you know who the freshmen are because they look both ways before they cross the street,'" Zitelli said. "That mentality is embedded into the way we think we think and the way we act. They expect cars will stop for them on Haggard (Avenue)."

Kyrstin Wallach, a freshman and co-chair

of the committee, said beyond looking both ways before crossing the street, students should make eye contact with the driver and not be preoccupied with their phones.

The week before spring break, the committee will host a weeklong campaign to raise awareness. Along with tables in Moseley Center and digital advertisements, a quiz about safety will be sent to students through e-mail. Those who choose to complete it will have the chance to win prizes including Target gift cards and red reflectors for bikes.

Ad hocs, which are typically created based around a need or issue on campus, will only exist for one term after being appointed by the executive president at the time. They can be recreated the following year or become a standing committee if voted upon, Wallach said.

"Next year, if students do it again, there will be more events," she said. "Like a drunk driving simulation. There is also one for texting and driving. That's one of the plans we had that didn't get approved quickly enough so we want to try again next year."

After hearing about Phoenix Pheet, Wallach said she became involved because it was a great opportunity to directly affect student life on campus.

"Safety in general is very important on campus and I thought it was a great committee to get involved in," she said. "If they do (it) again, I hope it expands to safety all around campus, including safety at night and also making sure areas are well-lit."

#### Top 10 tips from Phoenix Pheet committee:

- avoid aggressive maneuvers on the road
- drive the speed limit
- obey traffic signals
- do not block or park in crosswalks
- yield to pedestrians at crossings
- pedestrians should be visible to drivers
- pedestrians should look before crossing streets
- watch for bicyclists at all times
- pass bicyclists with care
- bike ride on designated trails or sidewalk

## Unexpected turnover may hinder success of SGA

Melissa Kansky  
Assistant News Editor

Sam Warren learned the procedures necessary for an executive vice-president in one weekend. Warren, current executive president



Sam Warren

Warren said. "And then immediately had a retreat that Saturday with Joe to go over how to lead a meeting, how to get ready to prepare (the next vice president) and how to oversee committees and organizations."

Unexpected turnovers may hinder effectiveness and obstruct transparency, said Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life and SGA adviser.

Although Warren said he did not believe his replacing Slocum influenced the effectiveness of the organization, he said his familiarity with the constitutional procedures and amendments did not match Slocum's understanding.

Previous instances where an executive board member did not complete a term were in 1999 and 2002.

Although SGA history shows that failure to complete a full senate term on the executive board is rare, class representatives and other senate members vacate positions more frequently.

"With every seat that goes empty

for any period of time, that's one voice missing on SGA," said Brian O'Shea, assistant to vice president for Student Life and former Elon SGA executive treasurer.

O'Shea's own experience with the organization goes against the grain, as he served two terms as executive treasurer.

"Having consistency from year to year in a position is helpful in the sense that, especially with treasurer, there is a lot to do in the learning curve," Patterson said.

Nevertheless, Patterson still encourages new voices in SGA but said new representatives' hesitancy might affect the efficiency of the organization and influence the success of both SGA and the individual.

"They're learning their role as a senator, so it affects more about dialogue in the senate," Patterson said. "The more confident you are as a senator, the more willing you are to speak up."

Often, students are unaware of the turnover in the Senate, Patterson said.

"It's in the SGA minutes," she said, "but who reads them?"

Patterson said she has challenged SGA members to revise the process for replacing representatives.

Taylor Martin, executive president, has posted notices concerning vacancies on E-Net, Patterson said.

"It's not an issue of trying to be transparent," she said. "It's just an issue of using resources."

SGA representatives should also educate students about the responsibilities of each representative and his or her own personal contributions, O'Shea said.

While Patterson expressed concern regarding turnover rates, O'Shea found that turnovers can be beneficial in certain circumstances and increase board members' efficiency.

who's in your network? **april 4, 2011**

more info: <http://bit.ly/hPdguv>

# Editorial

## Take advantage of free events offered on campus

They say there are only a few days during each academic year at Elon University that nothing is on the calendar.

There is so much culture within just a few square blocks that one would think Elon students would be the most refined, educated, well-rounded group of young people ever to walk the Earth. This is, of course, a rather incorrect assumption.

Sometimes it feels as if there is too much going on at Elon. Is there a speaker coming who seems interesting, but you have a paper to write, a quiz to study for and a group meeting? Oh, just catch the next one. But then the next event rolls around, and the next, and the same workload issues arise again.

In fact, it is probably a good bet that a large number of students in attendance at most cultural events are there because it is a class requirement, like for a Global course or for a journalism reporting class. This is all well and good, because attendance is

attendance, and simply being at an event indicates some level of education will probably occur, even if it is reluctantly.

But we shouldn't settle for unenthusiased audiences. Groups of young people tolerating brilliant intellectuals or talented performers aren't enough. Elon students should embrace the opportunity to learn and grow, personally and professionally. They should have a thirst for knowledge and seek out these events that could enhance their lives or broaden their perspectives.

Jeff Clark, executive director of cultural and special programs, said the school is working to increase the number of performances students generally come to in crowds, like comedy. But Elon shouldn't compromise. We are in an academic setting, and if students don't take advantage of the one time in their lives when they'll have free access to an extremely large number of enriching free events, it is their own fault and loss.



EVA HILL | Cartoonist

## Court made the right call in funeral protest case

The message may be deplorable, offensive and appalling, but the Supreme Court's decision to protect the Westboro Baptist Church's right to speech and to assemble was the correct course of action.

The 8-1 decision, announced March 2, provides the hateful but peaceful protesters the right to picket service men and women's funerals and promote their anti-gay agenda.

This is not in any way an endorsement of WBC's ideology. The small Kansas-based congregation spews a message of hatred and its picket signs thanking God for dead soldiers turns the stomach of many Americans.

Yet the press must be thankful the Supreme Court has not interjected itself into this messy conflict and defined what speech is acceptable. There are other methods of combating these radical protests without limiting the speech the authors of the Constitution meant to protect.

Towns have the right to enact ordinances barring all protestors a predetermined number of feet away from funerals and cemeteries, and that's as far as the restriction should go.

But in the spirit of civil discourse, citizens angry and frustrated with WBC's message should engage in a counter-protest. The messages of hate can easily be overshadowed by a group of determined individuals bent on providing a message of love.

In January, when the church sent four members to "re-educate" American University students, they were met with hundreds of students counter-protesting and flaunting homemade signs of their own.

Last December, when 10 church members came to picket at the funeral of Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Sen. John Edwards, in Raleigh, a group of 200 counter-protesters formed a "Line of Love" to challenge WBC's message.

These counter-protests are the greatest example of American civil discourse and show how a nation's people will not allow this renegade group to run wild. WBC's voice should not be silenced. But it can be a minor note in the chorus of open debate and protest.

The First Amendment was never meant to protect the mainstream, common or established voice. The ugly, unpopular and, in this case, extremely hurtful voice is that which must be protected. For the sake of free speech and discourse, messages such as this must remain.

As Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the court's majority opinion: "Speech is powerful. It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and — as it did here — inflict great pain. On the facts before us, we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker. As a nation, we have chosen a different course — to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



JENNY SCHNAAK | Peloquin Petition Group on Facebook

### MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

The semester is nearly halfway done. How are you holding up to the commitments you made to yourself back in January? See how five Pendulum staffers are doing at:

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

Sometimes our thoughts just can't wait until Wednesday. There's always more to read on the Opinions blog. Check it out at:

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

On the website, read an editorial about next year's meal plan system and see what columnist Robert Wohner said about the suspending of BYU basketball player Brandon Davies and how its Honor Code gives it a clear identity.

### 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 e-mailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto: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](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) where commentary can be quickly posted.

### THE PENDULUM

Established 19

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

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# Opinions

## Opinion should be based on more than blind allegiance In the U.S. party system, true understanding of the health care bill gets lost



**Caitlin O'Donnell**  
Columnist

Obamacare. Death panels. Socialized health care.

No matter which side of the ideological aisle you align yourself with, these are just a few easily identifiable examples of the accusatory phrases that are freely tossed around and have come to define the health care debate in America.

Health care is an emotionally charged subject and both political parties have been quick to poke gaping holes in the arguments of the other. Add to that the power of the media in framing an argument, and the nation has witnessed one of the most controversial and vocal debates over policy issues in recent history.

With contradictory reports about the consequences of the bill and exaggerated allegations against those who support it, citizens are often left unaware of their benefits or completely misinformed.

As a result, the political line has been drawn. Whether they know anything about the bill at all is irrelevant - Republicans don't support it and Democrats do. It's as simple as that.

Long-standing political grudges have gotten in the way of good sense.

A few weeks ago, Betty Morgan, associate professor of political science, drew attention to the new benefits available to college students as a result of the bill, specifically the ability to stay on their parents' insurance until the age of 26, which she said allows students to make sound employment decisions. We, as college students, are the ones who stand to gain the most if this bill goes into effect.

If, as Morgan pointed out, the lives of young adults have been positively transformed, why are

more students not adamantly fighting for the health care bill's continuance?

In many cases, it is a matter of people failing to educate themselves and instead relying on politically-charged rhetoric that has twisted the truth into an almost unrecognizable state.

People are not going to argue for something they don't understand themselves.

Rather than naively picking a side in the argument and defining a personal stance based on biased political ideals, Americans should take the road less traveled and think beyond the influences of the media and talking heads.

Fight for the continuation of the bill or don't. But at the least develop a knowledgeable argument founded on personal research and independent thought. Choose to be a member of the Democrat, Republican, Independent, Libertarian or any other party for that matter. Just don't let the espoused beliefs of those political parties become the only way to define right and wrong.

## Varying sides to the story: Greek Life at Elon

### Greek Life offers so much more than just a group of similarly-pinned friends



**Lindsay Kimble**  
Columnist

"Why would you want to pay for friends?" Every Greek Life member has probably been asked this question numerous times.

And while it is awkward to answer, it just exemplifies the ignorance that fuels dislike for Greek Life.

While, obviously, Greek societies are not for everyone, those who criticize Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations should be educated about the countless benefits that come from membership before making a judgment, even if membership does come at a small cost.

It's easy to get lost at Elon. From that first organization fair in September to the countless e-mails from student groups and clubs, many new Elon students sign up for one too many things. I felt lost as a freshman, trying to navigate the tough academic rigor of college while simultaneously balancing my newfound friends and the 15 organizations that were e-mailing me. Many students find this transition easier upon joining a Greek program, as I did.

Greek organizations give students a new avenue to become involved in the university, offering a large support network and a family away from home. There are 25 Greek organizations on campus, two of which are new this academic year. Every student is given the opportunity to rush any of these organizations and hopefully find a home that fits their goals and personality.

Each organization operates differently, but students involved get to participate in activities such as individual philanthropy events

and Greek life-specific activities like Greek Week in April. Greek organizations often interact as a full community, dispelling rumors of competition and rivalry. In the fall, Greek Life operated a trick-or-treat event in the Greek courts for Elon faculty and staff's children. Each Greek organization had representatives working together to help kids decorate cookies and paint pumpkins.

According to the Elon Greek Life webpage, a study conducted by the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri found that Greek-affiliated alumni have higher incomes than non-Greek alumni. Students who join sororities and fraternities are also 28 percent more likely to return to school after joining a Greek organization.

At Elon alone, Greek organizations budget, collect and expend more than \$600,000 a year, operating as a self-governing organization.

Greek Life provides nearly 200 leadership positions for students, including president, chapter life director, Panhellenic delegate and more. In the past 10 years, Elon's Greek community has raised and donated nearly \$26,000 and 7,000 service hours to charitable organizations.

For many people, their only impression of Greek Life draws from popular college movies and television programs like ABC Family's "Greek." Greek organizations are portrayed as out-of-control groups who like to party and have little concern for academics. Yet the information given here should be a strong indicator that Greek Life is more than just petty social organizations.

It's an opportunity for students to find a home away from home, to network with their peers and alumni, to actively participate and contribute to a philanthropy, to operate as a leader on campus and to join a fully-functioning community.

### When everybody else is doing it, being Greek at Elon loses its distinction



**Robert Woehner**  
Columnist

If Elon failed the senior class in any aspect, it was this: a fraternity was never established for Coldplay fans. Its message would have been simple and

powerful: Viva la Vida. Instead of pink shorts, loose button-ups and Vineyard Vines, members would have donned 17th century French Revolutionary costumes. Perhaps if the band releases a few more Pitchfork approved albums, this dream will come true.

As far-fetched as this sounds, with new and alternative Greek organizations being introduced, recent trends at the university suggest that Greek Life will continue to expand. This spring, two new organizations were launched and last week, The Pendulum reported that two students are exploring the possibility of starting a Jewish fraternity on campus.

The students interviewed about the Jewish fraternity repeatedly stated the need for an increased Jewish presence and voice on campus. That is a worthy goal and one that should be supported. Why, though, would being Greek validate those values? I pose that same question to young Christians, band members and others who have started their own Greek organization. What some people call "brotherhood," the rest of society calls "friendship."

Greek Life is a meaningful opportunity that should be embraced by those who wish to be Greek. But everyone isn't meant to be Greek. Elon's response should not be to encourage Greek expansion until every possible student feels they have an organization they can fit in. That is not the answer.

Besides, the expansion of anything causes it to lose its

distinction. What it means to be Greek is lost when everyone is doing it.

When I was an employee at the Moseley Center, one of the hardest questions to answer from prospective students and parents was, "How prevalent is Greek Life here at Elon?" I haven't spent enough time on another school's campus to compare the influence it has on their student body. But when I asked this question of someone else, I got an unconventional, but interesting response: Look at the distance between the student center and the Greek Houses. The closer it is, the more influential it is.

Of course, the Moseley Center is just a corn-hole throw away from the Greek Houses of the Loy Center.

This should be no surprise. From an administrator's point of view, Greek Life is an essential component to the university. Elon, North Carolina does not have nearly the physical and logistical features to socially sustain 5,000 students. It's very simple: there isn't enough for everybody to do. With more than 40 percent of students worrying about formals, theme parties and volunteering, entertaining a restless student body is a lot easier.

But with Greek Life developing, any increased resentment that grows should be addressed. Just as no one should be questioned for deciding to be Greek, no one should be questioned for deciding not to be Greek. People shouldn't create ridiculous acronyms to compensate for being unaffiliated. Being Greek is a choice for a college student, as is joining an a cappella group or a rugby team. And just like it would be nonsense to hate five-part harmonizers, hating Greeks is not appropriate either.

Being exclusive is not a crime. It's the nature of the game. Resentment and jealousy of Greeks is out of line. But frustrations over the system are not unmerited. The university must stop prompting one narrative of a successful and satisfied college student. Equally alternative ones are also needed, with or without Coldplay's help.



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MEAL PLAN	BENEFITS	ANNUAL MEAL DOLLARS	ANNUAL PRICE
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Freshmen: Required to have at least the All Access Basic meal plan in all residence halls.

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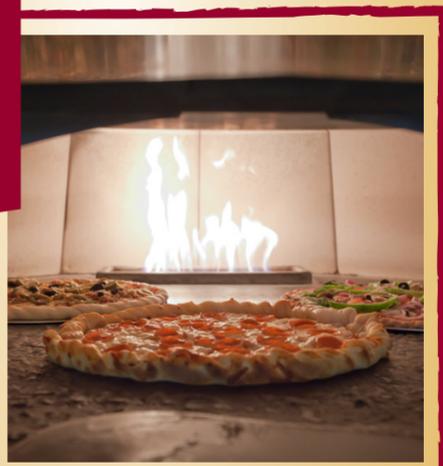
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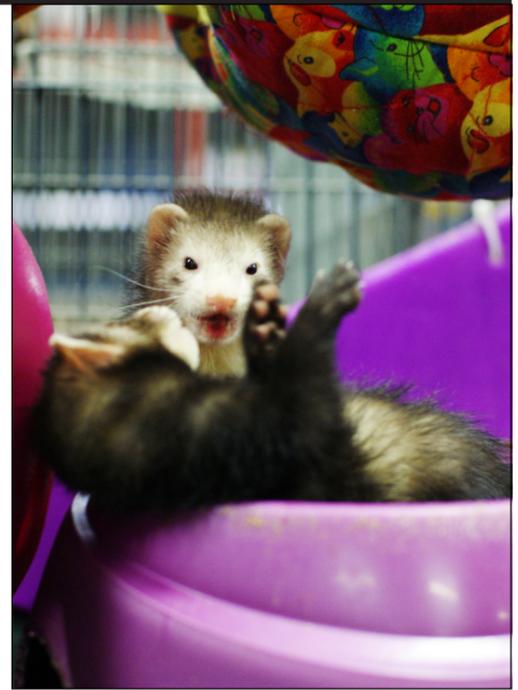
200 Block Meal Plan is only available to students living off campus and non-mandatory junior and senior university apartment residents.

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# Style



## Nature's Emporium provides pet supplies and oddities to the community for 40 years

**Sarah Carideo**  
Senior Reporter

Nature's Emporium, owned by Roger Oaks, is a hidden gem in the Elon community and has been locally owned for 40 years.

"Once you come in and see everything we have, you'll be a repeat customer," said Manager Kevin Brown. "One day is not enough to look around because there are so many unique things you won't be able to find anywhere else."

This 20,000 square foot space provides home and garden accents, unique gifts, pet supplies as well as other products and services. Nature's Emporium sells fish, reptiles, snakes, birds, rabbits, chinchillas, hamsters and guinea pigs.

"We have a little bit of everything so there's never a dull moment," Brown said. "There's always something new to see or learn about."

Customers are allowed to bring their pets into the store with them, but leashes are encouraged.

Customers and their pets are Brown's favorite part of the job, he said. One of the most unique aspects of the store is that there are topic specialists who have experience and are well versed and knowledgeable, according to Brown.

There are pet nutrition specialists, one of which has worked for eight years, according to Brown. These people are important because if a person brings in his or her dog with concerns

about its health and nutrition, the specialists can help identify any problems and how to solve them.

Junior Katie O'Brien experienced this firsthand when she went to Nature's Emporium to buy a fish. She spoke with a specialist and they encouraged her to "get a starter fish before getting a real one."

In addition to updating its logo, storefront and motto, the store is going to experience some larger changes soon as it expands to accommodate a larger garden section to house more varieties of plants.

The store recently launched its new greenhouse and garden shop area with Tammy Garland as its in-house container garden specialist. Garland has



ALL PHOTOS BY HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor  
Top Left: Nature's Emporium on South Church Street sells garden accents, unique gifts and pets.  
Top Right: Pets sold at the store include fish, guinea pigs, birds, ferrets, rabbits and hamsters.  
Bottom Right: Gina Tanner is the daughter of the owner of Nature's Emporium, Roger Oaks.

owned a client-based garden shop and worked with assorted clientele such as the Biltmore Estate. Her specialty is working with orchids.

"The great thing about us is that we're a local business, so we're supporting the local community," Brown said. She encourages everyone to come check out the store as they receive new supplies every day.

### MORE ONLINE: STYLE

**VIDEO:**  
Meet the owners and animals of Nature's Emporium.



KATHERINE WISE | Multimedia Contributor

<http://bit.ly/TPOnature>

## Top 6: deals at the outlet mall

**Lauren Ramsdell**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Last November, there was a mad rush to the new Tanger Outlet Mall to stock up on super-sales and the hype hasn't died down. It's still difficult to find parking and the breezeways between stores can get crowded, but the outlets are worth a second look. Here are the six best deals at Tanger Outlets and where to find them.

### 1. J.Crew's student discount

Many well-heeled Elon students already take advantage of J.Crew's collegiate love. At checkout, display your Phoenix Card for a 15 percent discount off of already low-

outlet prices. The fine print does say that the discount can't be combined with other offers, including clearance, so a sale piece will remain at 50 percent off, not 65 percent. But any little bit can help move those delectable chambray shorts from the rack into your wardrobe.

### 2. Rack Room Shoes: BOGO every day

Rack Room Shoes does a great job advertising its already low prices and combining them with buy-one-get-one 50 percent off deal every day of the year. This already incredible savings combined with outlet deals makes snagging some new boat shoes easier on the wallet.

### 3. HanesBrands factory store

A little piece of cloth like a sock or an undershirt shouldn't cost an arm and a leg. That's why the mammoth HanesBrands factory store is such a great resource. All of those little clothing items you need but don't want to spend a paycheck on are at rock-bottom prices, and the selection is enormous.

### 4. Oakley Vault starts at half off

Although it hasn't opened yet, the Oakley outlet promises savings on 50 to 70 percent on its signature sunglasses and even backpacks, shoes and luggage. When it does

open, expect to pay \$20-\$50 for a pair. Prices are still expensive, but much cheaper than full price.

### 5. Banana Republic is classier than Old Navy

Since Old Navy is located right down the street on Elon University Drive, here's a little secret: they're owned by the same company. That means any gift card you might get from well-meaning parents can also be applied to purchases at the higher-end Banana Republic. Discount prices and racks of clearance apparel make Banana Republic a good place to get nice clothes for cheap. Think \$15 skirts and pants at 60 percent off.

### 6. Burlington Brands closeout deals

In this unassuming glass-front store lies the best kept secret in the mall. The highest price you'll be expected to pay is \$13.99. Basic T-shirts start at \$3.99 and feature surplus from JC Penney and Target. The pants can be a little stuffy, but for shirts, Burlington Brands can't be beat.

*Next time you need some new clothes, undergarments, shoes or sunglasses, bypass full-price establishments like Southpoint Mall in Durham or even Target on University Drive. Nothing really beats a deal, and Tanger Outlets is full of them.*

# Giving music to the community: Limelight Records represents, brings 9 student musical acts to stage

Rebecca Smith  
Managing Editor

Limelight Records, a student-run record label, has combined forces with WSOE radio station to bring attention to local talent. The label has signed nine artists, and is now trying to make the dreams of these musical talents a reality around campus.

"Most of the school year is being dedicated to make Limelight Records something concrete," said Neima Abdulahi, Limelight Records manager. "We are looking at how to avoid future problems — there are a lot of speed bumps."

Some of these speed bumps include figuring out a way to sell albums that are recorded on the campus of a private school, determining who will be liable if equipment gets broken and creating a timeline for when products should be completed and promoted throughout the year.

The students involved with Limelight Records are trying to get the label running, and that means putting a 100 percent focus on a few goals.

"This year has been wild," said junior Mike Margiotta, head of promotions for Limelight Records. "A lot goes into starting up a record label and we have spent most of our time this year working out all the details so we can be fully functioning for next year. Next year we hope to release a Limelight Records EP."

One Limelight Record's main goals is focusing on a spring show that is being organized with the help of SUB on April 19.

The musical talent was selected after an audition in December. After the auditions,

the staff decided how many acts to take.

"I'd say we were too ambitious," Abdulahi said. "Other schools take a maximum of three artists, and they've been established for three or four years. The hardest part will be getting them all recorded. We definitely do not have resources to do all of that this year."

Another goal Limelight Records hopes to accomplish this year is to record three professional-sounding singles.

"We are going to test the waters with this round of singles," Abdulahi said. "We are going to offer free downloads to see the student interest."

Black and Blue just recorded its first single with Limelight Records.

"On Wednesday, we recorded 'Smoke in the McEwen recording studio with Bryan Baker," said Sam Gyllenhaal, a band member. "'Smoke' is a fan favorite and fun to play live. The song will grab you by the ears and take you to some grungy blues bar in Tennessee. At least that's what we're going for."

One of Abdulahi's personal goals is to see a rehearsal space be created in one of the buildings that will be constructed in the near future. She says student musicians will be able to perform better if they have a space they can reserve and play instruments as loud as they like.

Abdulahi said she created Limelight Records because she loved music and because she wants to give back.

"If it wasn't for people who gave everything to me, I might not be here," Abdulahi said.



JACK DODSON | Photographer

Freshman Tyler Johnson sings with Black and Blue band members, sophomore Aaron Summers and senior Sam Gyllenhaal at midnight meals.

## Acts signed by Limelight Records

- Black and Blue
- Phoenix Highway
- Gavin Billings
- Brian Glover
- Dan Montalvo
- Tyler Johnson
- Torrance Winder
- Josh Bonney
- True Foundation

"I might not have considered college. I feel it is important to give back to the community and to music, and to give music to the community. Limelight doesn't need to put the limelight on me."

## MORE ONLINE: STYLE



JACK DODSON | Multimedia Editor

See and hear more of Limelight Records online.

<http://bit.ly/TPOlimelight>

Local Yogurt, Elon's newest frozen yogurt shop, had its grand opening this weekend.



KATHERINE WISE | Multimedia Contributor

<http://bit.ly/TPOloyo>



MARISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Left: Sophomore Bert Brokaw sings "Hollywood Is Not America." Above: Throughout the CD release show, members of Rip\_Chord gave away free T-shirts and CDs. Sophomore Connor Stirland and senior Greg Flis asked a trivia question about the group and gave the shirt to the first person who could answer correctly.

# Rip\_Chord releases album 'Pitch, Please'

Gabriela Swecow  
Design Editor

Elon students filled Irazú coffee shop at 11 p.m. Thursday March 4 for Rip\_Chord's CD release party at Midnight Meals.

The men of Rip\_Chord made more than \$200 selling their new CD, "Pitch, Please," at the release party, according to

sophomore Chase Edward Pitman.

The members began recording the CD last spring. They took two weekends to record. Sophomore Aaron Summers said they recorded for 15 or 16 hours each weekend.

"The goal was to get it recorded, mixed and produced during the summer so the CD would be ready for the fall show," Summers said.

Just when the group members thought it was done, their producer from Liquid 5th called and said one of the tracks needed to be re-recorded. After calling back some former members that had graduated and teaching new members, "The Disney Medley," they were back in the studio recording.

All tracks were finished by January. In total, the project was a 35-40 hour

project, Summers said.

Summers is also the subject of the new album cover art.

"We wanted something that was fairly easy to do," Summers said. "We didn't want anything too complicated."

They decided on a shot of a butler holding a plate with a pitch pipe. Sophomore Chris Bosak took the photo for the album cover.

# Are you ready to bolero?

Club Dance competes, teaches students to move



Senior Laura Schutter and freshman Tooriley Fazy practice ballroom dancing in East Gym on Friday nights. The club competes in regional competitions.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Kit Arbuckle  
Reporter

Six years into its existence, Elon's ballroom dancing club is still going strong.

At Club Dance's recent lesson on March 4, juniors Patrick Ma and Jordan Smiley taught around 20 attendees the basic moves for bolero, a slow-tempo Latin dance. The women lined up behind Smiley and the men behind Ma.

Ma and Smiley demonstrated the steps, then led each side in individual instruction, before calling the gentlemen forward to ask a lady to practice in pairs. Once things really started going, one of the teachers would call "snowball" in the middle of a song, and everyone would switch partners.

"It's not as awkward as I'd think it

would be, dancing with people I don't know," said freshman Hannah Larson, attending a club meeting for the first time. "It's very casual fun."

The men were under pressure on that night, though, because there were only four men to lead the roomful of women. According to longtime members, this was an unusual occurrence.

Club president Meagan Chieppor said there has a great male-female ratio this year.

Usually Club Dance has 1.5 girls for every guy, a much more even statistic than in previous years, junior Mary Neese said.

Chieppor chalked up the conspicuous absence of men to academic commitments.

"It's just a really busy time of year for everyone," she said.

Overall, though, the veteran club members said they were enthusiastic about this year's crop of new members.

The future of the club is in good hands, Chieppor said. "They've all been very passionate."

Flight of the Phoenix, Club Dance's competitive team, recently danced at North Carolina State University's Triangle Open. New couples placed in salsa, hustle, West Coast swing and Argentine tango.

"All of our new couples did really well," Chieppor said.

Regular couples placed in the advanced-level rhythm category, which included cha-cha, rumba, swing and mambo.

"We usually do well, particularly in this competition," Chieppor said. "They fulfilled every expectation I had and went beyond."

## Club Dance events:

*Performance at Midnight Meals*

Thursday, March 10  
11 p.m.  
McKinnon Hall.

*Black & White Ball*  
Saturday, March 12  
7p.m to 10 p.m  
McKinnon Hall

• Cohosted with Elon Volunteers! Alternative Spring Break Trips. The theme of the black-tie event is "Around the World," with decorations honoring each destination on the spring break trips, including Jamaica, Costa Rica, Mexico and Morocco.

## Laissez les bon temps rouler

The French Club 'let the good times roll' by hosting first Elon Mardi Gras Party

Julia Sayers  
Staff Photographer

Most students couldn't make it to New Orleans for the annual Mardi Gras extravaganza. But the French Club brought some of the party to Elon.

Mardi Gras, which is French for "Fat Tuesday," is part of the Carnival celebration, a festive season that occurs before Lent. Traditionally, people would feast on Fat Tuesday because they were getting ready to fast until Easter. Today, Mardi Gras is associated with parties, beads, masks and celebrating.

"We celebrate Mardi Gras in America, especially New Orleans, but most people don't realize it's French," French professor Sarah Glasco said.

The idea for a Mardi Gras party was developed by three officers of the French Club, Kirsten Haugsted, Christie Goyette and Erica Edmondson.

"They've really

taken the reins and gone full speed ahead," Glasco said. "I help when they need advice but they've been planning it all."

Haugsted, president of the club, and Goyette, treasurer, are both freshmen. Edmondson, publicity chair, is a senior.

"It was a collaborative effort," Haugsted said. "It's so simple to do because it's about having fun and being alive and celebrating that."

Despite the strong association with French speakers and French culture, all communication was in English though, so students didn't have to speak French to be able to participate.

"We thought this party was an accessible way to expose the Elon community to Francophone culture," Glasco said. "We're just really trying to increase exposure of French and we're hoping that doing something like this will help."

Traditional Mardi Gras food includes a King Cake, a

traditional Mardi Gras pastry with a plastic figure hidden in it that one person will find. According to Cajun Mardi Gras tradition, whomever finds the trinket is obligated to host the next year's party or buy the next cake.

Next year, the club is hoping to make the Mardi Gras party a university-wide event.

"If we start planning early enough, we'd like to do something like a masquerade ball," Glasco said.

In addition to fun and games, the French Club participates in a variety of service projects. Members of the club and French House volunteer with the Avalon Center in Greensboro, N.C., a community of mostly African Francophone refugees.

"It's really great that we're able to help this local community that is specific to us because they speak French," Glasco said.

The club hopes to raise awareness and show the significance of thinking globally but acting locally.

## Mardi Gras fast facts

- The Mardi Gras season begins after Epiphany in the Christian calendar, and continues to the Tuesday before Lent

- The season of Lent is spent fasting or abstaining from a favorite activity. The day of Mardi Gras is spent in indulgence before the lean season.

- The oldest formally established Mardi Gras celebration in the United States is the annual parade in Mobile, Ala.

- Mardi Gras has been celebrated in New Orleans since 1699

- The New Orleans Mardi Gras brings hundreds of thousands of tourists to the city for Carnival.

- Mardi Gras has been a Louisiana state holiday since 1875.

## Wannabe gives lip-syncers their time to shine

Stephanie Butzer  
Reporter

Lip syncing. You do it in your car. In the shower. Maybe even on your way to class. Celebrity singers sometimes use it to appear that they're better singers than they actually are. But for the fifth year in a row, Elon University students have the chance to show off their skills.

Resident Student Association will host a lip-syncing and dance competition, tentatively in mid-April.

"Basically, there will be a group of people who coordinate a dance to a song or group of songs, and lip-sync it as well," said, sophomore Abigail Bradbury, an RSA programmer. "It's kind of like a live music video."

With about five to 10 teams contending, there will be some serious competition for first prize.

"The winner will receive \$300 as a grand prize to split amongst their group," Bradbury said.

The judges, who include faculty member Evan Heiser, staff member Angel Garcia and senior Joe Slocum, will critique

the contestants on several factors.

One factor is dance, or how well the choreography matches the song in the performance.

Second is lip syncing ability. It may seem easy when your headphones are plugged in, but rehearsing the words and being judged on how well you perform is not something most have to worry over when they're jamming in their own little world.

The third is costumes. If, for example, a group is performing a Lady Gaga song, odds are they wouldn't wear T-shirts and jeans, unless they were carried in on an egg with meat taped to their pants.

The fourth factor is crowd excitement. The team that receives the most cheers from the audience will win that portion of judgment.

Last year's winner, project Halcyon, lip synced to their own song "Requiem for a Booty" instead of a mainstream song.

To sign up for Wannabe, gather a group of talented dancers and mimers and contact Bradbury at [abradbury2@elon.edu](mailto:abradbury2@elon.edu).

# Award-winning journalist Elizabeth Kolbert brings message of urgency and firsthand accounts of climate change to Elon

Bonnie Efir  
Features Editor

Elizabeth Kolbert has stood on the two-mile-thick ice sheet that covers Greenland and witnessed the massive effects of climate change firsthand. To Kolbert, experiences like these only prove what she has been reading about and studying since 2000, when the debate about global warming began to heat up.

Kolbert, an award-winning investigative journalist for *The New Yorker* and author of "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change and The Prophet of Love and Other Tales of Power and Deceit," has traveled around the world, from Alaska to Greenland, meeting with scientists and studying how climate change is beginning to take hold of the earth, especially in the Arctic.

Kolbert will speak at Elon as a part of the Liberal Arts Forum at 7:30 p.m. March 10 in McCrary Theatre. Her talk, titled "Feast or Famine: Climate

Change and the Future of Food," will focus on the scientific predictions of how climate change and the future of agriculture will intersect.

"Anyone who likes to eat ought to be interested in these issues," Kolbert said. "It doesn't matter if you're a college student in North Carolina or a farmer in Bangladesh—you ought to be concerned."

She began studying climate change about 10 years ago when skepticism surrounded the issue of global warming. She set out to investigate and wanted to know why the issue of climate change was, and still may be for some, so hard to accept as the truth.

"I think the problem was this lack of immediacy," Kolbert said. "But my question as a journalist was: is this really a big story or not?"

The answer? Absolutely, Kolbert said.

She thought that because many people weren't experiencing the effects of climate change firsthand, they couldn't

wrap their heads around the idea—it was too off base and not relatable to those living in non-arctic environments.

In order to propel her studies and her writing about climate change, Kolbert said she knew she needed to venture out to the places that are already experiencing effects and devastation from climate change as proof.

Her trip to the small island of Sarichef, five miles off the Alaskan coast, opened her eyes to the immediacy and seriousness of the problem.

Sarichef was attacked by damaging ice storms that circled the island and caused destructive erosion. The erosion, as a result, led to detachment of big chunks of the island, according to Kolbert.

"People were having to move off of the island where they and their families, their ancestors, had lived for years and years," she said.

Some residents of Sarichef were waiting for federal money so



Elizabeth Kolbert is an award-winning investigative journalist for *The New Yorker*. She will speak at Elon March 10. PHOTO SUBMITTED

they could move off the island, but couldn't until they received financial support.

The biggest contributor to climate change, according to Kolbert, are the massive amounts of fossil fuels used for energy.

But is using less fossil fuels doable if it's the main source of energy on Earth?

Kolbert said it is, and although the solutions seem simple, implementing them is the hardest part.

"We need to use less energy and different sources of energy like renewable energy in order to use less fossil fuels," Kolbert said.

Because a lot of energy systems are interlinked, it's a problem that has to

be tackled on a national level, according to Kolbert.

But how does a national problem apply to college students in North Carolina?

"This is an issue their generation will be dealing with and it's inherited from my generation," she said. "I really urge people to be informed."

## Art student challenges ownership

Alexa Johnson  
Reporter

Senior Joanna Patterson has an eclectic collection of stuff and she wants the Elon population to borrow almost everything.

For her senior exhibition, Patterson, a BFA art senior, is exploring the conventional notions of property and ownership by allowing people to "shop" at a permanent location at 201 W. Trollinger, a gallery space and home to the Arts and Letters Learning Community, as well as pop-up displays all over campus and a catalogue.

But Patterson is doing more than supplying broke students hungry with clothing, art supplies, books, outdoor equipment and jewelry — she's trying to explore a different kind of economic platform, as well as the positives and negatives of capitalism.

"I'm trying to question the concept of ownership," Patterson said. "What equals ownership? Legal possession? Use? Sentimental attachment?"

In exchange for borrowing her goods, Patterson asks that people give her something in return that explains their relationship with the piece such as a poem, song, picture, e-mail or anything that will add to the history of the item. It will be featured at her installation.

While borrowers can keep the goods until the end of the semester, Patterson is willing to consider redistributing the goods after the project is over.

"If someone borrows something from me but they love it or use it more than I do, they might be able to keep it," Patterson said.

Since the unveiling at the Arts and Letters



Senior Joanna Patterson is letting students borrow her apparel as part of her senior art thesis. Patterson is exploring what consumerism means. MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

Community Learning March 3, responses have been positive, with several students picking up scarves, jackets, necklaces and more.

The exhibit is an example of social justice, a social practice that blurs the line between art and life, challenging the idea that does not exist in and of itself, said Patterson. She said she sees her project as an activist gesture that "refrains from pointing fingers to trying to establish a right or wrong." It is a gentle way of suggesting, not telling.

Even the artist is joining the borrowing. Because all the items are being held in a common space and shared in Trollinger, Patterson must visit the house to get her own things, altering her relationship with the objects.

"I really like this idea," junior Hunter Ertel said. "It would be really interesting if this concept grew to the point where people at Elon started to see their possessions as community possessions.

### Feeling inspired to create?

#### Craft ideas:

- fleece blanket
- tie-dye
- jewelry
- decorate wooden letters
- flower pressing
- scrapbooks
- crochet, knitting, sewing, cross-stitching
- friendship bracelets
- origami

#### Local stores to buy supplies:

- Hobby Lobby, Alamance Crossing
- Michael's, Alamance Crossing
- Jo-Ann Fabrics, Greensboro
- Home Depot, Burlington
- Marty's Art Supply, Burlington
- A.C. Moore, Greensboro

I'd also like to see what would happen if this extended outside of the Elon bubble."

## Students channel creativity through crafts



Edith Veremu  
Copy Editor

While some students find solace and relaxation through sports, in other people's company or simply by taking some time off, other students find the same peace through arts and crafts.

Several Elon students have gotten in touch with their creative personas and channel them through various crafts, ranging from knitting to sewing and card-making.

For Lucie Miller, a sophomore elementary and special education major, knitting is a favorite hobby. She has been knitting since the sixth grade after a family friend taught her the craft. Miller said she enjoys knitting because she feels accomplished upon completion of various projects.

"I love feeling productive and being creative," Miller said. "I love finishing things and giving them to people and feeling satisfied. I keep doing it because I just love making new things and new projects."

This love for arts and crafts can often begin at a young age.

Jennifer Proto, a sophomore anthropology major, took sewing classes in kindergarten and has continued sewing since then. She also developed an interest in scrapbooking at an early age, and has been doing it for several years.

Although she hasn't been able to develop projects on campus, Proto made the bedding in her room.

With a new set of skills in hand, Miller and Proto have also taught friends and family members some of their skills. Miller said she taught many of her friends to knit; her mother recently learned how to knit and Miller said she has been helping her with projects.

Proto taught one of her friends how to thread a needle and a variety of seams. The two made a pillow together,



There are many ways to get crafty on campus. Here, sophomore Jennifer Proto makes greeting cards to express her crafty side. MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

Proto said.

Another similarity Miller and Proto share is their passion for greeting card making. Both students enjoy making cards for their friends and family members' birthdays and special occasions.

Proto agreed that this art is fun and the results often make great presents for those she cares about.

"I just like to do it," she said. "(The art) was something other than playing sports."

Proto encourages other students to channel their creativity through arts and crafts. She said the skills aren't solely for artistic people.

"Don't be afraid to get started. There are always a lot of resources out there: books and magazines," Proto said. "You don't have to be good at art or drawing."

# Softball goes 3-2 over weekend, prepares for series against College of Charleston

Julia Miller  
Reporter

The Elon softball team headed down to Deland, Fla., for the Stetson Invitational from March 4-6, playing five games in three days and coming away with a 3-2 record.

The Phoenix started strong on Friday, coming away with two wins.

Senior Lauren Taylor (6-1) earned her fifth win of the season during the game against the Tennessee State Tigers.

The final inning brought the score to 7-4, with the Tigers scoring only one run off three hits.

Sophomore Kari Pervell started off pitching, but was replaced by Taylor after giving up 3 runs off 3 hits. Taylor faced 24 batters and gave up only five hits and one run, striking out seven. Senior outfielder Emerald Graham and junior pitcher Erin O'Shea each scored a home run, Graham's fifth of the season.

For the second game of the day, the Phoenix played against the Binghamton University Bearcats, and ended up with a 5-4 extra-innings victory, where sophomore outfielder Tomeka Watson reached a 12-game hitting streak, the highest on the team.

Taylor finished the game, facing four batters and striking

out three. O'Shea began the game, but was replaced by senior Pam DelPizzo in the sixth after she gave up four runs.

The Phoenix lost both games Saturday, the first time the team has lost back-to-back games this season.

Taylor pitched the entirety of the first game, resulting in her second loss of the year. She struck out six and gave up only one run in nine hits.

Although the Phoenix never struck out on Saturday, it lost to the Stetson University Hatters 2-0.

The loss was O'Shea's first loss of the season. She gave up two runs off three hits and struck out 9 of 22 batters.

The final game on Sunday found the Phoenix back in shape, defeating the Tigers 6-2.

O'Shea earned the win, bringing her record to 4-1. She struck out 4 of 14 batters and gave up two hits and no runs in four innings. DelPizzo earned her first save of the year with three innings of relief.

The team played five games in three days.

"We didn't hit our goal," said head coach Patti Raduenz. "We wanted to be in the championship game and come out on top, but they worked hard and I feel like they gave me everything they had."

## Looking ahead:

Saturday 1 p.m.  
at College of Charleston (DH)

Sunday 1 p.m.  
at College of Charleston



Junior Erin O'Shea has hit two home runs this season for the Phoenix and leads the team pitching with an opposing .208 batting average.

Raduenz is particularly proud of her pitchers, including Taylor and O'Shea, who have both been named Southern Conference Pitcher of the Week this year.

"We pitched tough this weekend," she said. "They all did phenomenal on the mound."

Despite its success, the team still has things to work on.

"We're in the process of

making small adjustments," Taylor said. "We're learning as time goes. We just need to continue putting the ball in play and try to learn from previous experiences and build from that."

This weekend marks the beginning of SoCon play as the Phoenix take on the College of Charleston Cougars. The team currently holds the SoCon title and was voted No. 1 in

preseason polls.

The teams start the SoCon season by facing off March 12-13 in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. They will begin play at 1 p.m. both days, with two games Saturday and one Sunday.

"I think it will go well," Taylor said. "We're ready to play and we're excited about it. We had a great season last year and we'll have an even better one this year."

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# Foundation set for the future of men's basketball

**Conor O'Neill**  
Assistant Sports Editor

From the beginning of the men's basketball season Nov. 12, Elon University head coach Matt Matheny said a focus of the team was to build on the solid foundation that had been established last year in his first season as head coach.

It was a mantra that held firm through the team's 4-1 start in the newly renovated Alumni Gym, as well as through the five-game losing streak from Jan. 27 to Feb. 9.

The Phoenix's season came to a close with a 78-60 loss to the College of Charleston March 5 in Chattanooga, Tenn. at the Southern Conference Tournament.

"This year was a very big step forward for our program, and it is more than just the number of wins," Matheny said. "We have a stronger foundation with the way our guys interact with each other, with the way our guys appreciate our program, with the way our guys like our coaches and interact with our coaches."

Finishing with a 14-17 overall record and 7-11 conference mark shows improvement from Matheny's first season, when the team was 9-23 and 5-13.

But Matheny made it clear throughout the

season that the team's improvement would be measured in more than just records.

"We want to continue to take steps forward, and I'm encouraged," Matheny said. "We took a good step last year, we laid a firm foundation and we have now solidified the base."

Elon's first conference game, an 85-74 win against The Citadel, could be a microcosm of the team's growth.

Elon had four players score in double figures, landed 11 of 22 3-point attempts and committed just seven turnovers. The Phoenix also hit more than half of its field goals, shooting at a 28 of 54 clip.

The story of the game was a feature that will be missed next year, as senior guard Chris Long led the team with 21 points and dished out 10 assists. Before the start of the tournament, Long was named to the All-SoCon second team by conference media members.

"Any time you lose an all-conference player, he will be missed," Matheny said.

As for Long, he had no regrets following his last game in an Elon uniform.

"I'm not disappointed in anything (about my career)," Long said. "It has been a good four years."

He closed the season on a roll, as he averaged more than 21 points per game

in the four games before the tournament started. The Phoenix won three of those four games.

But in the contest against the Cougars, the No. 1 seed from the South Division, senior guard Andrew Goudelock was too much for Elon, as he scored 25 points on 9-17 shooting. He stands as the fourth leading scorer in the country with 23.3 points per game.

"He is going to score," said junior guard Drew Spradlin. "The goal is to make it as difficult as possible. We executed to a certain extent, just not well enough in the first half."

Facing a halftime deficit of 43-22, the Phoenix won the second half battle with a 38-35 score.

"It got away from us a little bit in the first half, and I thought our kids really fought in the second half," Matheny said.

Whether winning or losing, fighting was a constant theme of the past season.

The team lost one game by more than 20 points, to then-No. 1 Duke University. Last year, the team lost six games by more than 20 points.

Elon finished the season with the second ranked scoring offense in the conference, with 74.2 points per game. The Phoenix also led the conference with 285



Junior guard Drew Spradlin scored 15 points against The Citadel while shooting 5 for 9 from the field. COREY GROOM | Photographer

3-point shots made, which stands for an average of more than nine made shots from behind the arc per game.

Matheny said after the loss to the Cougars, Long and fellow senior forwards

Scott Grable and David Meyer will be missed, but reiterated that the team has set a strong foundation for growth.

"This program will move forward, and we feel like we have a

strong enough base that somebody will step up in (Long's) role, other guys will step up in other roles and next year's team will be different, but the future is very bright for this program," Matheny said.

## Baseball goes 3-1 hosting Elon Invitational, faces Saint Joseph's

**Jack Rodenfels**  
Sports Editor

Pitching and hitting both came alive last weekend, March 4-6 as the Elon baseball team went 3-1 in the Elon Invitational.

The Phoenix lost its first game of the weekend March 4 9-4 to Wright State University but rebounded to outscore opponents 35-6 in the final three games of the Elon Invitational.

"Our starting pitching was consistent throughout the entire weekend," said head coach Mike Kennedy. "In all four games, the pitchers went six innings strong and gave the team a chance to

win."

One of the main differences between Elon's first game of the tournament and the following three was relief pitching.

On Friday, Elon's relief pitching combined to allow seven earned runs, with five of those surrendered by senior Thomas Girdwood, who was named to the 2011 Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List, honoring the top relief pitcher in Division I baseball.

In the two games for the Phoenix Sat. and Sun. the bullpen allowed only two runs.

"We certainly didn't have to panic over our pitching after (Friday)," Kennedy said. "We were able to get timely hitting

throughout the weekend, and it allowed us to win by large margins."

While the Phoenix plated 39 runs in four games, no player was more consistent throughout the past week than senior infielder Neal Pritchard.

Reaching base safely in each game, Pritchard batted .615 with two home runs and eight RBI. Additionally, Pritchard had four RBI in Saturday's game against the West Virginia University Mountaineers.

His play garnered Southern Conference Player of the Week honors for the first time in his Elon career.

"We've had a lot of confidence in our pitching staff this season, and it rubs off on the hitting," sophomore outfielder Niko Fraser said. "As a hitter, it's contagious and you are relaxed under pressure and can better perform."

The Phoenix hitting has been hot to begin the year, as four regular starters are averaging above a .300 batting average.

### Looking ahead:

Wednesday  
4 p.m. vs.  
St. Joseph's  
University

Friday 3 p.m.  
at Appalachian  
State University

Saturday 2 p.m.  
at App. State

Sunday 1 p.m. at  
App. State

Four players have more than 10 hits in the team's first 12 games, with sophomore catcher Alex Swim leading the Phoenix with 18 hits.

"We need to continue to be consistent while hitting," Kennedy said. "We've had highs and lows, it's all about having a consistent approach at the plate, and to get timely hits."

While the Phoenix is 8-4 on the season, the team needs to get better at situational hitting, Kennedy said.

"When we have runners on second and third with less than two outs, we have to get better at bringing the runs in" Kennedy said. "We have kids trying to do

too much with the bat, and they are coming off of the ball and not hitting it squarely."

The Phoenix hosts the Saint Joseph University Hawks 4 p.m. today, March 9 and travels to Boone for a three-game set against the Appalachian State University Mountaineers starting Friday, March 11.

### MORE ONLINE: SPORTS

#### VIDEO:

Professional agility trainer and coach, Eddie Shore, has been training local children on Elon's track for years.



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# Sports



## Women's basketball falls one win shy of 20

**Conor O'Neill**  
Assistant Sports Editor

For the first half of Sunday's March 6 game against Appalachian State University, the Elon University women's basketball team seemed to have solved its problems with the Mountaineers. The Phoenix trailed 29-27 after a hotly contested first half and looked to be in position to upset the No. 1 team in the Southern Conference Tournament.

"I thought in the first half we did a great job defensively; we rebounded the ball well and got some good looks," said head coach Karen Barefoot.

But it was a different story in the second half, with the Mountaineers jumping out to a 39-29 lead. Elon brought it back with a 6-0 run, prompting a Mountaineer timeout.

Appalachian State responded with a 15-0 run and cruised to a 72-48 victory, halting the Phoenix's trip to Chattanooga, Tenn., one game shy of the conference final.

"We came out in the second half kind of sluggish, they punched at us and it took us awhile to punch back," said sophomore forward Kelsey Evans. "We let them get some easy shots and our shots just weren't falling."

The Phoenix had trouble controlling Appalachian State's offense, as the Mountaineers recorded assists on 24 of its 31 field goals.

"In the second half, they were moving the ball quicker than we were moving our feet," Barefoot said. "That surprised my team to start the second half, and we weren't the aggressor in the second half that we were in the first half."

Evans led the Phoenix offensively with 13 points and 14 rebounds, recording her tenth double-double on the season. But leading scorer Ali Ford was limited to eight points, all in the first half, and was held scoreless after the 12:28 mark of the opening half.

"Our offense is set up for that and it is nothing I haven't seen before," Ford said. "I just think that in the second half they came

out pushing hard and got us back on our heels."

Regardless of the final result of the tournament, Barefoot said she is thrilled with the way the season has gone.

"I am extremely proud of this team and what they've accomplished all year long is truly amazing," Barefoot said.

It has been a journey for the team this year, coming off a 2009-2010 season that saw the team record a 12-19 overall record and 6-14 in the conference.

This season, the team holds a record of 19-12 with a 12-8 SoCon mark.

"Coming from having six conference wins to having 12 says a lot about our coaching staff," Evans said. "I have never known someone to have more passion for the game (than Barefoot)."

The Phoenix proved to be the second most potent offense in the conference, averaging 67.5 points per game. Only the Mountaineers' average of 73.7 points was higher.

Elon allowed 64.2 points per game, giving the team a scoring differential of 3.4, good enough for third in the conference.

"Just looking back to where I came into this program, it has been a complete jump and leap," Ford said. "We skipped so many steps this year. We went from not having a winning season to almost winning 20 games."

In Barefoot's first season, the 2008-2009 campaign, the team compiled a 5-26 record with a 2-18 SoCon mark.

The Phoenix could have a chance to extend its season with a postseason tournament, but Barefoot would not comment on that possibility after the loss.

"There is definitely a possibility, so we'll just wait and see," Barefoot said.

Whether the Phoenix has a chance to compete against another team this season, Ford said the team has already been through a year of growth.

"This team and this season were special because it was a confidence building year," she said. "I have faith in this team."



ALL PHOTOS BY COREY GROOM | Photographer  
Top right: Sophomore guard Ali Ford drives to the hoop against Furman University.  
Top left: Junior guard Aiesha Harper had 25 points in Elon's two contests.  
Above: Senior guard Julie Taylor looks for a teammate in the opening round.