

THE PENDULUM



STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

Bryan Anderson
News Editor
@bryanranderson

As students and faculty walked past restrooms on Monday, they saw signs taped

on restroom doors throughout campus expressing backlash against House Bill 2 — a bill passed by the state legislature that, among many things, requires people to use restrooms of the sex on their birth certificate. “We’re hoping that the signs draw more

attention to the issues that are present in our community,” said Robbie Linklater, a senior at Elon University who identifies with the LGBTQIA community.

After the bill, viewed as discriminatory, was passed March 23, several members of

the Elon community along with people around the country immediately expressed

See **HB2**
pg. 4

MisterWives to perform at spring concert

Bryan Anderson
News Editor
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Elon University’s Student Union Board announced Wednesday that indie-pop band MisterWives will headline this year’s spring concert scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday, May 6 in the Colonnades Lot.

Some of the more well-known songs from MisterWives include “Our Own House” and “Reflections.”

“We try to bring people increasing in popularity,” said junior Taylor Obzud, SUB performance chair. “It’s not the same type of recognition as a Ludacris, but we’re very excited.”

Obzud said the performance committee tried to get Andy

Grammer to come to Elon for the spring concert after he canceled his appearance for last fall’s Homecoming concert, but the booking costs were much higher after his appearance on “Dancing with the Stars.”

“[Bringing back Grammer] was something that we looked into, but his cost increased significantly,” Obzud said.

Because of the production costs of putting on the Homecoming concert last fall and the tight budget for the upcoming spring concert, Obzud said it would have been difficult to recruit a group or an artist that is more premium. According to Obzud, the cost of bringing MisterWives to campus is approximately \$40,000, plus stage and production.

“They’re one of those bands



JANE SEIDEL | Online Editor

Mandy Lee, lead singer of MisterWives, sings at Terminal 5 in New York City.

that are upcoming and they’re mainstream now,” said freshman Jake Kiesler. “They’re probably really hard to book, so shout-out to Elon for booking them.”

All Elon students, faculty, staff and alumni are welcome to attend the concert for free with a valid university-issued ID. SGA is also sponsoring the event.

Kicking it in San Antonio

Powell brings 3 former players to Texas pro team

Jordan Spritzer
Assistant Sports Editor
@JSpritzer_Pro

There’s an Elon University men’s soccer reunion of sorts beginning in San Antonio.

Former Elon men’s soccer head coach Darren Powell was named the first head coach of the expansion franchise San Antonio FC in January, who’ll play in the United Soccer League (USL), the third tier of the United States’ soccer pyramid. Powell called on familiar faces — midfielder Miguel Salazar ’16 and defend-

ers Sam McBride ’16 and Austin Dunker ’15 — to round out the roster.

“It was a no-brainer to play here,” Dunker said. “It’s a dream come true to play for him again.”

Dunker and McBride have each known Powell for more than a decade. The two started playing for the Greensboro Soccer Club, which Powell helped run, from a young age.

“That’s the exciting thing for me — to see them develop, see them grow and sharing that journey with them,” Powell said.

Powell coached Dunker for his first three years and McBride and Salazar through their first

See **SOCCER**
pg. 17

NEWS



Burlington Animal Shelter receives renovation

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STYLE



SkyLife senior shares her health journey with web series

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SPORTS



Baseball’s pitching staff works to regain confidence

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THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. The Pendulum is located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center on Williamson Avenue.

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Editorial policy:
The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

Corrections policy:

The Pendulum is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online, corrections state the error and the change at the bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact pendulum@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

ONLINE

To read these stories, visit our website
www.elonpendulum.com

news

A Thousand Thanks campaign allows students to thank donors

style

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt puts twist on celebration

sports

Baseball squares off with nationally-ranked East Carolina

GAMES

CRIME REPORT

April 1
COLLINS DRIVE, BURLINGTON
VARIOUS DRUG CHARGES

The Burlington Times-News reported that two local women were arrested on drug charges Friday after the Alamance Narcotics Enforcement Team executed its search warrant for an apartment on Collins Drive.

One woman is facing charges of trafficking heroin, possession with the intent to sell or deliver heroin, maintaining a dwelling to keep/sell a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held on \$100,000 bond.

The other woman at the scene was arrested and charged with felony possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia. She is currently being held on \$10,000 bond.

Members of the team seized 7.6 grams of heroin and various pieces of drug paraphernalia used to make and sell heroin.

April 2
N MANNING AVENUE, ELON
SIMPLE PHYSICAL ASSAULT

According to a Town of Elon Police report, officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a N. Manning Avenue residence. Shane Raymond Short, 46, told officers he and girlfriend Michelle Lynn Symonds, 39, had been in a physical confrontation before she left in Short's car. Officers noted minor injuries to Short's chest and neck.

In addition to Short's bruises and scratches, inside the residence, a television had been knocked down, men's clothes had been thrown outside from the house and Short was wearing a broken watch.

Alcohol was involved according to a report. Symonds was later located by police. She admitted to police Short did not hit her, but grabbed her by the shoulders and push her during the confrontation. She denied assaulting Short, despite video evidence Short provided to police on his cell phone.

Symonds was arrested and has

been charged with driving while intoxicated and domestic assault. The case is closed.

April 2
E HAGGARD AVENUE, ELON
CALLS FOR SERVICE/DISTURBANCE

Police were called to an apartment complex on E. Haggard Avenue Saturday afternoon in reference to a disturbance. A Town of Elon Police report says that a female Elon University student (the resident of the apartment) had called because her boyfriend, also a student, refused to leave.

Police found damage to walls and doors of the residence where the young man had punched holes in them. There was no assault involved and the woman chose not to press charges. She requested the police escort her boyfriend off the property and tell him not to come back that day. The male subject left without further issues.

Alcohol was involved, but the case is now closed.

FOR RELEASE APRIL 6, 2016

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Fabric mimicked by jeggings
- Dallas NBA team
- Indian mausoleum city
- In the company of
- __ bargain
- Fountain contribution
- Midler's "Divine" nickname
- Bum unit procedure
- Allow to enter
- Big name in auto racing
- Kerfuffles
- Advanced degs.
- "Rogue Lawyer" novelist
- Whiskas eater
- Pulitzer winner Walker
- Actor McGregor
- Dance in a pit
- Hull fastener
- Group
- Mazda MX-5, familiarly
- Big nights
- How-to component
- Follow, as a hunch
- __ Plains
- Rockefeller Center centerpiece
- Farm enclosure
- Bit of naughtiness
- Doze
- Disney character with a white tail
- Quartet of Wagnerian operas, and a hint to the progression in this puzzle's circled letters
- Regal headpiece
- Bordeaux brainstorm
- Down-to-earth
- 2001 scandal subject
- Boilermaker component
- Prohibitionists
- City near Florence

DOWN

- Reservoir creator
- German actor Jannings
- Sommelier's asset
- Examples
- Classic British two-seater
- Base cops, briefly
- __-Seltzer
- Corpuscle conduit
- Dreamy guy?
- Lots of plots
- Butter in a farmyard?
- Africa's Great __ Valley
- Naysayer
- Light weight
- Hide-hair link
- Afternoon break
- Actor/singer Leto
- Green hue
- Homes with buzzers
- "Ni-i-ice!"
- Quaint headpiece accessory
- Raccoon kin
- __ Martin: 007's car
- Acknowledge in an Oscar speech. sav
- Bermuda shorts endpoint
- One with an untouchable service
- Word with fair or foul
- Unadorned
- Fairway choice
- PGA star from South Africa
- Santa __ Mountains

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ELONPENDULUM.COM

YOUR SOURCE FOR:

- NEWS
- OPINIONS
- STYLE
- SPORTS
- THE EDGE



UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL 6-12

12:30 P.M. |
Elon's spring
Red Cross blood
Drive
6

9:50 A.M. |
Numen Lumen:
A Thursday
Inspiration
7

4 P.M. |
Holi
Celebration
8

1 P.M. |
Knifty
Knitters —
Maker
Meetups
9

1 P.M. |
Softball vs.
Hofstra
10

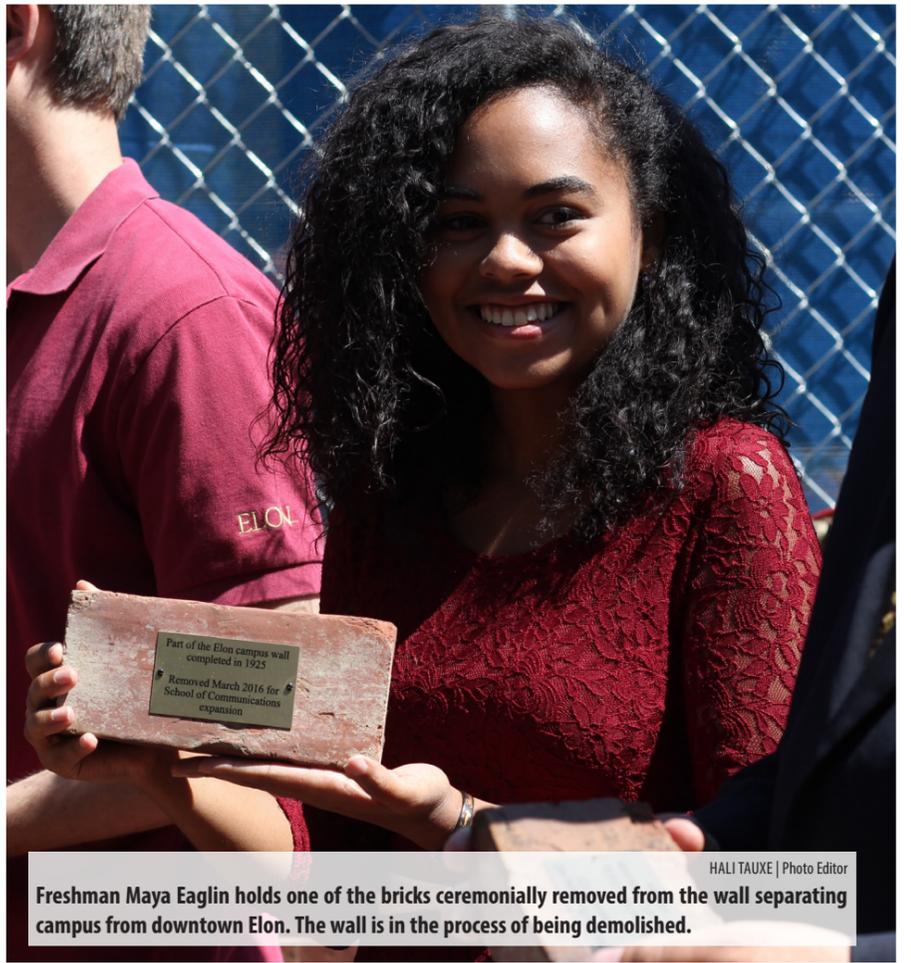
9 P.M. |
Maker-Gami
Mondays —
Maker
Meetups
11

10 A.M. |
SharePoint
Panel
Discussion
12

TOP PHOTOS



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Women's tennis sophomore Kamilla Beisenova focuses on the ball as she prepares a return volley March 18. Elon beat the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 5-2 to start its current five-match winning streak.



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor
Freshman Maya Eaglin holds one of the bricks ceremonially removed from the wall separating campus from downtown Elon. The wall is in the process of being demolished.



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor
Students covered the bathroom signs in several academic buildings with these flyers, which read: "Don't see yourself in this binary? This is exactly what HB2 is doing to transgender people in our community. And 90+ single-occupancy gender-neutral bathrooms is NOT enough. Visit www.facebook.com/ShittingOnHB2." House Bill 2, which was signed into law by North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory on March 23, specifies that individuals have to use the public bathrooms which correspond to the gender on their birth certificate, prompting outrage from the LGBTQIA community.

Want to see your photos in The Pendulum? Send your top photos to PENDULUM@ELON.EDU



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Senior infielder Kory Shumate places a tag on a College of Charleston runner April 2.

HB2
from cover

discontent on social media through the #WeAreNotThis hashtag, used state- and nationwide. But not all of the bill's opponents used the hashtag to voice their opposition — senior Claire Lockard, for instance, who sees it as a way to pass on the feeling of responsibility.

"I'm seeing a lot of reaction against the bill, but it's often with the #WeAreNotThis hashtag," said Claire Lockard. "This is really distancing the people of North Carolina from our lawmakers."

The North Carolina General Assembly's bill was passed with bipartisan support, with an 84-25 majority in the House and a 32-0 unanimous vote in the Senate.

Lockard said ordinary citizens should hold themselves more accountable since they voted for those who supported the bill.

"While it's true that most of us didn't actually vote to pass this bill, most of us are responsible for voting for those lawmakers," Lockard said.

Senior Olivia Guerrieri criticized a different aspect of the bill's passage.

"The bill was passed in a special session of the legislature and rushed through in just a day, ensuring that no one was able to speak out against it until it was already law," she said.

Though the final vote reflects strong support for HB2, Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, explained there was heated debate on the floors of the House and Senate. The House debated the bill for three hours, and several Democratic senators left the floor in protest.

University, students respond

In wake of the bill's passage, Vice President of University Communications Dan Anderson released a statement March 25 on behalf of the university.

"Elon remains committed to inclusion and equal protection for all people," the statement read. "Elon does not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity."

After the statement was released, members of the Elon community on both sides of the issue offered criticisms of the statement.

Lockard is heavily involved in Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, and has advocated for equality for those in the LGBTQIA community. According to Lockard, the university's statement did not go far enough in criticizing specific portions of the bill. She said the university removed itself from the issue by not addressing the impact on the LGBTQIA community.

"The Elon statement does a very similar distancing thing that the #WeAreNotThis hashtag does," Lockard said. "We're saying, 'Oh, it's OK because Elon's private. So the bill won't affect us because we're not really part of this North Carolina.' But Elon's in North Carolina."

Others have expressed similar criticism with regard to other aspects of Elon's response to HB2.

In an email exchange with Media Matters



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECTRUM

Elon University students attend a Greensboro rally on April 3 to express their opposition to House Bill 2, which passed March 23 in the state legislature.

for America — a politically progressive media watchdog that seeks to debunk conservative misinformation — Anderson said, "Elon University has received no reports of incidents of harassment or inappropriate behavior related to the use of restroom facilities by transgender students."

Media Matters LGBT Program Research Associate Rachel Percelay wrote the report, "Four North Carolina Universities Debunk Anti-LGBT 'Bathroom Predator' Myth," in hopes of educating the general public.

"This bathroom predator talking point is basically a big myth that anti-LGBT groups have created," Percelay said. "There's no evidence behind it."

Guerrieri said that by focusing on this bathroom "myth," the public is missing the greater point.

"HB2 is a truly awful piece of legislation," Guerrieri said. "It's biased in fear, hatred and discrimination, disguised as concern for our safety. It's been reduced to a law about keeping men out of women's bathrooms, when, in reality, it's a law about making it easier for discrimination to happen, in a number of different ways," she added.

As Linklater reflected on the bill and the university's statement, he grew emotional and said he wished Elon's statement had specified the impact HB2 would have on the LGBTQIA community.

"Instead of providing more support for trans people, we're making them the enemies while in all reality they are so much more likely to be harmed," Linklater said.

In spite of these concerns — that the university weakened its response by distancing itself — a large consensus at Elon argues HB2 is discriminatory and Elon did a good job articulating the need to promote inclusivity.

Elon President Leo Lambert went a step further than the university statement by writing a letter to the editor March 31 in the Burlington Times-News, emphasizing the impact it will have on LGBTQIA citizens.

"I want to add my voice to those decrying any attempt to legislate discrimination in

any form, and in the case of HB2 specifically, deny rights to LGBTQIA citizens of North Carolina," Lambert wrote. "I have been stunned by the lack of compassion and respect for transgender North Carolinians in this debate."

Students dig deeper

Elon held an event March 30 to inform the public about the bill immediately after Spring Break. Husser moderated the event alongside Gender & LGBTQIA Center director Matthew Antonio Bosch.

"Letting people know all the pieces of information and all the parts about the bill can help people make informed decisions," Husser said.

Bosch added that the discussion about HB2 has ignored some important topics. Bosch expressed concern with a minimum wage clause being buried in the bill to intrude on local government.

"No city can adjust their minimum wage," Bosch said. "Oh wait, wasn't this a bathroom bill?"

HB2 emerged after the city of Charlotte passed an ordinance to expand nondiscrimination protection to the LGBTQIA community. Though the ordinance previously failed by a 6-5 vote, it passed Feb. 22 with a 7-4 vote.

In essence, HB2 overturned a Charlotte ordinance that would have extended protections to those in the LGBTQIA community beginning in April.

"House Bill 2 increases the power of state government by saying local government can't take [this subject]," Husser said.

After attending the March 30 event, University Chaplain Jan Fuller said the bill created a dangerous precedent by allowing discrimination to be legislated.

"Even the language of the bill is discriminatory," Fuller said. "It certainly opens the door for [the belief that] it's okay to discriminate [as long as you] pay attention to your own conscience."

Several members of Spectrum who

attended the event walked away not only with a more complete understanding of the bill but also a plan to recruit Elon community members to express their opposition. The group organized a trip to an anti-HB2 rally in Greensboro April 3.

Vice President of Spectrum Bella Salmon explained in a statement on behalf of Spectrum how community members can become engaged their public opposition to HB2.

"We need Elon University to join us in making a statement," the statement read. "We need members of Elon to take action and raise their voices against this harmful bill. You can help by contacting your state representative and joining Spectrum in their efforts to bring attention to this discriminatory bill."

According to Lockard, HB2 sends a message to the LGBTQIA community that they are not worthy of fair treatment. She said she hopes more students will take the initiative to better educate themselves on the issue and form alliances.

"I would encourage students who are upset about the law to come to a Spectrum meeting, to see what's going on at the GLC, to talk to their queer friends and see what they could do to support them and to pay attention to things around campus that may be challenging this bill," she said.

There has been widespread discussion in the wake of HB2 that a court could strike it down and that parts of the bill are not enforceable. Though this is a possibility, members of the LGBTQIA community say the damage has already been done.

"I'm not sure how it's going to be enforced, but either way, imagine yourself as a trans person," Linklater said. "Every single time you choose to go to the bathroom, you're looking at these two different signs. There's the one that you feel safest using. But then there's the other one you are legally supposed to be using. It's a lose-lose situation."

MORE ONLINE

Read more on
HB2 by visiting
elonpendulum.com



HB2 TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL
APPROVES LGBTQIA
PROTECTIONS:

In a 7-4 vote, Charlotte's city council approved an expansion of the city's existing nondiscrimination ordinance. The new ordinance went into effect April 1. The vote took place after an ordinance public forum.

MARCH 22, 2016

HOUSE BILL 2 PASSES
THROUGH HOUSE AND
SENATE:

The bill proposed preventing local governments from opening bathrooms for people to use based on how they identify their gender.

MARCH 23, 2016

GOV. PAT MCCRORY
SIGNS BILL:

McCrary took to Twitter to speak out against Charlotte's ordinance and the need for him to sign House Bill 2.

MARCH 25, 2016

ELON UNIVERSITY ISSUES
STATEMENT ABOUT
IMPORTANCE OF
NONDISCRIMINATION:

"Individuals should use facilities in which they feel comfortable and align with their gender identity," read the statement.

Area addresses local homelessness, hunger

Alamance County offers various resources for those in need

Micah Spoerndle
Senior Reporter
@mfspoerndle

The ability to attend Elon University or any college in general is a privilege, but what truly highlights this privilege is the prevalence of homelessness and food insecurity surrounding campus.

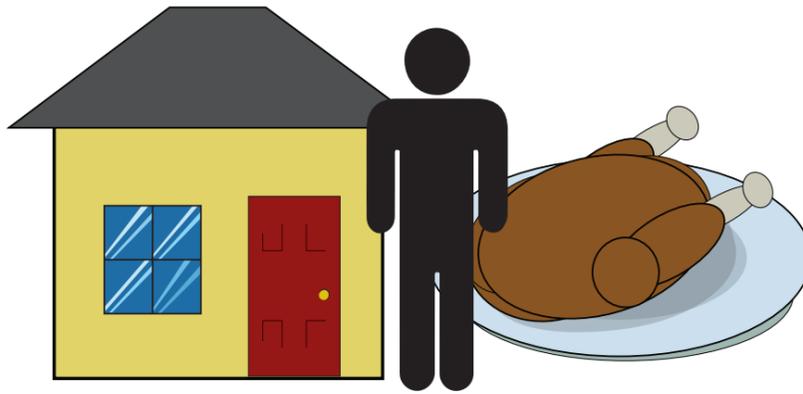
Feeding America's 2015 research showed that 16.7 percent of Alamance County's population is food-insecure. Elon has relayed these facts to the student population through its Stop Hunger Now campaign. This national initiative is focused on feeding the food-insecure through packed meals that offer nutritional sustenance to those in need around the world. This past year's event at Elon for Stop Hunger Now was held in McKinnon Hall and around 280 students packed more than 40,000 meals.

Elon also addresses the issue of local homelessness through Campus Kitchen. This weekly program on campus collects unused food from community partners like Elon Dining services and Loy Farm and sends the food to those in need in the Burlington community through the Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC).

ACAC provides an emergency shelter, a resource day center, a community kitchen and a food pantry for the homeless and needy in Alamance County. ACAC reported that 11 percent of the citizens in Alamance County were homeless in 2012. The Allied Churches shelter in Burlington provides enough beds for 96 individuals.

But hunger and homelessness aren't the only issues being addressed in Alamance County.

As of January 2015, ACAC partnered



Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC) reported in 2012 that 11 percent of the population of Alamance county was homeless.

In 2015, Feeding America found that about 17 percent of people living in Alamance County were food-insecure.



BJORN BATES | Design Editor

with United Way of Alamance County and DeBoer & Gabriel Builders, Inc. to address unaffordable housing in Alamance County. ACAC's Rapid Rehousing Program is aimed at housing individuals and families in safe and stable homes by providing rental assistance for the first four months.

Family Abuse Services (FAS) provides shelter and other forms of assistance to victims of domestic violence and child abuse. In 2014, the emergency housing facility took in 14 individuals — nine of the 14 individuals were children. This organization partnered up with the County Department of Social Services to help disburse Alamance County's share of Temporary Assistance for

Needy Families (TANF) funds as well.

Though assistance is offered, a tremendous need still exists.

One FAS staff member said thousands of homeless individuals each year aren't taken in by either shelter because both organizations don't have enough room and can't afford to expand their facilities.

"Allied Churches also has to turn so many homeless people away because they are very underfunded," the staff member said.

Nevertheless, there is still some progress in addressing serious issues like homelessness.

The Burlington Development Corporation, a nonprofit affiliate of Burlington Housing Authority, provides a rapid re-

housing program that offers private units for three homeless families.

The Alamance County Community Services Agency (ACCSA) placed 101 extremely low-income families or individuals living in substandard homes or threatened with homelessness into affordable and decent housing. ACCSA also supplies counseling and case management services, limited financial help for security deposits and rent and mortgage assistance for 425 households to obtain or uphold their housing.

City of Burlington Community Development Administrator, Shawna Tillery said there are government initiatives to address homelessness through federal grants. She is in charge of supervising the allocation of money to nonprofit organizations like ACAC, FAS, and Residential Treatment Services.

Tillery said Burlington is looking at improving its homeless shelters in quality rather than quantity because of the lack of funding.

"Fixing this requires money," Tillery said. "Our federal funding has been cut for the past 6 years."

In Tillery's opinion, transportation is at the forefront of getting homeless individuals jobs in order to afford housing. She said she hopes the new Route 4 busing system for Alamance County will provide more people the ability to get to work. But even with transportation, Tillery has her doubts that Alamance county citizens will be able to afford housing with minimum wage jobs.

"The National Low Income Housing Authority says the cost of renting a two-person apartment in Alamance County requires an hourly pay of \$13.37," Tillery said. "This isn't feasible for many citizens who can only get minimum wage jobs at \$7.25 an hour."

Despite numerous resources available in Alamance County to address issues of homelessness, hunger and housing, Feeding America's most recent data of food-insecure individuals is numbered at 25,450.

President Obama's legacy appears uncertain

Deep political division has become prominent

Michael Somerby
Senior Reporter
@m_w_somerby

In a period spanning nearly 220 years, the people of the United States elected 43

According to a Pew Research Center survey, 51 percent of people believe the Obama Administration's failures will outweigh its accomplishments.

white men to lead the country. Then, in January of 2009, President Barack Obama's election broke the mold.

With just a few months left in the first black president's second term, pundits, historians and citizens are — more than ever before — consider-

ing Obama's political legacy.

Some natural questions include, "Can we expect to see more elected candidates ruffling the traditional homogeneity?" and, "Did Obama achieve the 'change' that was the centerpiece of his campaign?" More subjectively, "Is the country in better or worse shape than before his inauguration?"

Though, coming to a reasonable conclusion for any of the above queries is no simple task, as political legacies are often realized decades after the close of a presidency.

Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, is not quick to attempt to predict the incumbent's legacy.

"Presidential legacies are very difficult to predict accurately," Husser said. "We don't often know how a president will be remembered until many years after that person has left office."

His opinion is consistent with those of professional historians, such as Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Gordon Wood.

In the New York Magazine article "53 Historians Weigh In on Barack Obama's Legacy," Wood was quoted saying, "We live in

the option of answering, "It's too early to tell," 26 percent of those surveyed chose that response.

Husser said it is difficult to determine if the country is "better or worse" than before Obama first took office.

"No unified, objective answer exists about whether the country is clearly better or worse off after Obama's term," Husser said. Whether the country is better or worse off after eight years is highly subjective and

THE ISSUES OVER HIS LEGITIMACY ARE UNPRECEDENTED. THE ONLY WAY I READ IT IS BECAUSE OF RACE, AND I THINK RACE PLAYS A TREMENDOUS ROLE IN HOW PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED [HIS PRESIDENCY].

REBECCA PETERS
PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

a fog, and historians decades from now will tell their society what was happening in 2014. But we don't know the future. No one in 1952, for example, could have predicted the reputation of Truman a half-century or so later."

The majority of Americans are not convinced his legacy will be positive in years to come.

According to a Pew Research Center survey released in mid-January, 51 percent of those surveyed believe the Obama Administration's failures will outweigh its accomplishments.

The same survey found that when given

dependent on one's set of value priorities. Supporters of the president will highlight many key accomplishments. Obama's detractors also have areas of criticism."

Dissection of the national racial climate was a natural byproduct of being the first African-American president, leading to efforts in bridging social and economic inequities between groups.

Yet, according to a Rasmussen Report's article titled "Has Obama Widened the Racial Divide?" only 20 percent of likely U.S. voters believe Obama has brought U.S. citizens of

different races closer together. Forty-seven percent think Obama has driven those of different races further apart.

Patheos.com, a nondenominational, non-partisan online media company purposed for religious perspective commentary, features the blog of Rebecca Peters, professor of religious studies.

In a recent post titled, "In My Words: The threat of Obama," Peters examined the historical context for animosity toward President Barack Obama. Race, as Peters noted, is a common point of attack.

"They [the attacks] have focused on his birthplace and citizenship. On his religion. On his race. Opposition to his policies in Congress have gone beyond political disagreements," Peters wrote.

When interviewed, Peters said she was deeply disturbed by the mistreatment and disrespect the incumbent has become accustomed to.

"The issues over his legitimacy are unprecedented," Peters said. "The only way I read it is because of race, and I think race plays a tremendous role in how people have received it [his presidency]."

Peters hopes for a day when race and gender are not considered the most perceivable characteristics of a presidential candidate.

But Peters also knows these are changes that come with time and familiarity.

"I hope that there will be a time when Obama isn't black first, or a Hillary isn't a woman first. I feel that through continued breaking of the status quo, there will be a day when people see them as they do other candidates — as politicians first."

Burlington animal shelter receives

Expansion aims to reduce intake, improve experience

Max Garland
Senior Reporter
@MaxGarlandTypes

When looking just at the statistics, the Burlington Pet Adoption Center is doing better than ever.

Animal intake was reduced by 14 percent from 2014 to 2015, and euthanasia was reduced by 48 percent, according to Burlington Animal Services reports. Intake and euthanasia overall have dropped sharply since 2009, and the number of yearly adoptions has nearly doubled.

But those involved with the Haw River-based animal shelter say major renovations are necessary to keep up with the amount of intakes, especially during the high-volume summer months. Renovations include new facilities, medical and grooming areas, an expanded intake area and improved infrastructure — all to the tune of an estimated \$5.25 million by the recently found Shelter Replacement Committee.

“The current adoption center is old, outdated and not up to the standards of today,” said Laura Michel, Burlington Animal Services’ program coordinator. “So we’ve started a big initiative that’s going to entirely renovate what we have here.”

Through discussions with Alamance County commissioners and city councils, Michel, the rest of the animal services department and multiple private animal welfare organizations in the area have made an agreement with the county to renovate the 55-year-old animal shelter in late 2017.

The expanded shelter is expected to sustain Alamance County and take care of the stray pet population for the next 20-plus years, according to Michel. Construction will target problem areas of the current shelter, such as the limited holding capacity, the layout of the shelter — which places cats and dogs in adjacent rooms — and the lack of ventilation where the cats are held.

“The truth of the matter is that there are more stray animals than



MAX GARLAND | Senior Reporter

A cat stands in its enclosure at the Burlington Animal Shelter. A state inspection report said the cat area of the shelter has ventilation and odor control issues.

there are people willing to adopt them,” said senior Clare Farrow, a member of Elon’s Animal Protection Alliance who has volunteered at the shelter since her freshman year. “The shelter is very often at capacity, and by expanding, they can take in more animals and avoid euthanizing them.”

During the winter months, the shelter is typically able to keep the number of animals near the state-required capacity. But once

But the Burlington Animal Shelter bears the brunt of the strays, and each municipality in Alamance County helps pay for the facility to be run.

Ron Klepcyk, a Town of Elon Board of Aldermen member, said something had to change to make the cost of sustaining the shelter — about \$1 million per year — worth it.

“It’s a substandard facility at this point,” Klepcyk said. “The value of



MAX GARLAND | Senior Reporter

The design of the dog enclosures at the Burlington Animal Shelter forces the animals to face each other, which increases the amount of stress they feel.

ed the number of enclosures every month in 2015, according to the Shelter Replacement Committee report released in January.

The Animal Welfare section of North Carolina’s department of agriculture and consumer services highlighted the overcrowding of the shelter in an inspection report released in December.

The report said the existing facility does not meet the minimum requirements for animal housing

University’s main campus, has been standing since at least 1970, according to Michel. During the shelter’s early years, the City of Burlington also ran another shelter in the nearby city of Graham, but ended its operations in 1991.

The Haw River shelter soon received its first major renovation and expansion to compensate, but it wasn’t enough — another expansion occurred in 2004, when the Pet Adoption Center was added onto the intake shelter to reduce the number of animals euthanized.

On May 11, 2015, Burlington Animal Shelter director Jessica Arias said it was time for the next expansion, this one to have a much more substantial long-term effect.

“It’s beyond time to start talking about replacement,” Arias said, according to Fox8’s Sarah Krueger.

The wheels began to turn for Burlington Animal Services when Sam Hunt of PAWS pitched to the Burlington City Council getting a committee together dedicated to replacing the current shelter.

“We would like to get the ball rolling on this, it’s not something that’s just going to happen,” Sam Hunt said at the July 21 council meeting. “The one thing I see that every city and this county can agree on is the welfare of animals,” he added.

Two shelter committee meetings were held a few months afterward, with notable community members such as County Commission Chairman Dan Ingle, County Manager Craig Honeycutt, former

THERE ARE MORE STRAY ANIMALS THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE WILLING TO ADOPT THEM. THE SHELTER IS VERY OFTEN AT CAPACITY, AND BY EXPANDING, THEY CAN TAKE IN MORE ANIMALS AND AVOID EUTHANIZING THEM.

CLARE FARROW
SENIOR AND SHELTER VOLUNTEER

the summer comes, strays begin to breed more frequently, and a battle for space in the shelter begins.

Wrestling capacity limits is not exclusive to Burlington Animal Services. Kelly Ronnow, director of the Humane Society of Alamance County, said more foster homes are needed for the stray animals the organization picks up, which totaled 255 in 2015.

Other organizations, like the Pet Adoption and Welfare Society (PAWS) and Friends of Mebane’s Animals, also have adoption services and a need for foster homes.

having a new animal shelter is that it’s a way to deal with the whole issue of cats and dogs that are running around neighborhoods. It’s just a part of being able to maintain things, and hopefully finding new owners for those pets that will be adopted.”

With pet overpopulation such an issue in the area, more animals have to be taken into the shelter than the facility is equipped to handle. In June 2015, the number of cats in the shelter more than doubled the number of cat enclosures — 80 to 35 — and the dogs housed exceed-

and disease control. The shelter was also not considered acceptable in the areas of ventilation and odor control, most notably in the cat quarantine, where the inspector noticed “stale, stuffy air and heavy odor.” Enclosures in sound repair and primary enclosures were also areas of concern, mostly because of structural damage over time.

Putting renovations in motion

The current animal intake shelter located in Haw River, about a 20-minute drive from Elon

<p>● 2004</p> <p>INTAKE CENTER RECEIVES ADD-ON: The current adoption center was constructed in Haw River to reduce euthanasia and house more adoptable animals.</p> <p>Current Animal Intake Shelter Constructed 1960s Current Pet Adoption Center Constructed 2004</p> <p>2004</p>	<p>● MAY 2015</p> <p>A CALL FOR REPAIR: Director Jessica Arias presented to Burlington City Council and Alamance County Commissioners to discuss shelter needs.</p> <p>MAY 11, 2015</p>	<p>● JUNE 2015</p> <p>SHELTER EXCEEDS CAPACITY: Despite a reduced number of take-ins, the shelter still had difficulty meeting minimum requirements during the summer months.</p> <p>SUMMER 2015</p>	<p>● JULY 2015</p> <p>CITY COUNCIL APPROVES COMMITTEE: The Pet Adoption and Welfare Society got approval from the Burlington City Council to create a study committee dedicated to replacing the shelter.</p> <p>JULY 21, 2015</p>
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TIMELINE OF THE BURLINGTON ANIMAL SHELTER UPGRADE

much-needed revamp, renovations

Burlington city manager Harold Owen and Mebane city manager David Cheek on board. The meetings were to determine the costs of renovations and where the money would come from, and a budget of \$5.25 million was estimated to be the needed amount for the revamp that is supposed to make the shelter last for more than 20 years.

In January at a meeting requested by the Shelter Replacement Committee, the Alamance County Board of Commissioners approved the construction of a new shelter, but did not commit any funds to the project, according to a Burlington Times-News report.

Fighting against overpopulation

Most of the money needed for the renovation will go toward additional space for the animals, but it wouldn't be as pressing of an issue if all companion animals in the county were spayed and neutered. But that's easier said than done, according to Vicky Hunt, a member of the Shelter Replacement Committee and wife of Sam Hunt.

"There are a lot of reasons for the amount of strays, but one of the biggest is cost," Hunt said. "Most places that offer these services can cost anywhere from \$175 to \$300."

Multiple organizations, including the Hunt's PAWS, offer lower cost spay-and-neuter services, typically under \$100, which Ronnow said gives her the impression that many of the pet owners in the county are looking for an excuse to not do it.

"There are some discounted services in Alamance County for spaying and neutering, but there's only so much they can do," Farrow said. "Its upsetting cost is an issue for people, because if you pay to get an animal you should be able to take care of it. That's just doing your job as a companion animal owner."

Costs aren't likely to come down either, according to Linda Harrell, an employee at the Elon Animal Hospital. She said the combined costs of equipment and medicine have increased over time, leading to pricier spay and neuter services.

Much of Alamance County may not know the benefits (and price) of spaying and neutering, if a county public opinion survey conducted by PAWS is any indication — the

organization found only 22 percent of respondents were aware of the low adoption/high destroy rate by animal shelters that are spurred by overpopulation.

"Some people don't have enlightened views on what can happen to these animals," Hunt said. "They start thinking with their heart, not their brain."

These animals may be abandoned once they get older, leading to strays that aren't spayed or neutered. Farrow said one stray cat can lead to hundreds of new cats running around a city because of its litter having litters of their own. It can add up quickly.

"The total number of homeless animals adds up to something like 3-5 million a year in America, and that's way too big a number," Farrow said.

Transforming the shelter

According to Michel, years of making temporary fixes to long-term issues has led to the Burlington Animal Shelter's current state of affairs.

"This facility serves the whole county, so we have to keep it up to code," she said. "Last year we had several areas that were simply not acceptable. From air flow to welfare of the animals, we weren't where we needed to be."

As it stands, the current shelter's main issue is with the areas the cats and dogs are held in, according to the most recent Shelter Replacement Committee report. Among the problem areas is the increased stress in shelter residents — each dog enclosure faces another, which leads to increased hostility among the animals. The cats in the room next door hear the barking and get more and more anxious, which can lead to health problems and behavioral issues.

Other aspects highlighted in the report included the lack of an isolation area for the dogs, the poorly ventilated cat rooms increasing disease occurrence and no space for grooming and bathing animals.

The anticipated \$5.25 million to be spent on the shelter would be used to fix these problem areas along with improving the experience of employees, volunteers and visitors by adding additional spaces for them. Klepcyk says the cost will

ultimately be worth it for taxpayers.

"One of the realities of a shelter is that parts of it are like a hospital because they do procedures there," he said. "Part of that requires a whole new level of equipment and checking on the quality of the air, so I think it's a reasonable amount of money considering what would need to be done to the building to make it compliant with regulations in the future."

The committee report says recommendations for cost allocation are \$4.5 million paid by governmental bodies on a per capita basis. This means Burlington, with a population of 51,510 as of 2013, would pay \$1.96 million for it, while Elon, with a population of 9,513 as of 2013, would pay \$378,978.91, according to a Times-News report. PAWS would raise the remaining \$750,000.

"The money won't be a problem for PAWS," Hunt said. "We already have a couple of commitments from businesses in the area and there are a lot of people looking to help donate individually."

An expanded importance

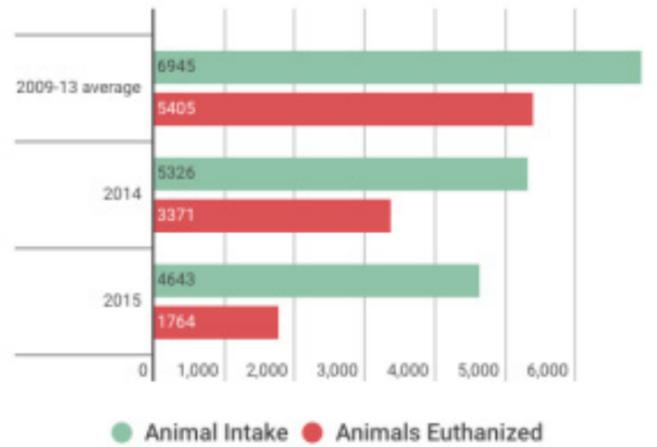
A renovation of the 50-year-old shelter will not only benefit the animals that are taken in and nearby citizens, according to junior and Animal Protection Alliance member Emily Morency. She said Elon students really benefit from the animal shelter because playing with the animals is a great way to relieve stress.

Pets have always been a popular stress-relief option for U.S. students. Kent State University has its Dogs On Campus therapy program, in which dogs visit campus residence halls and other areas during stressful situations and campus emergencies. Bucknell University has brought in therapy dogs for new students and exam periods.

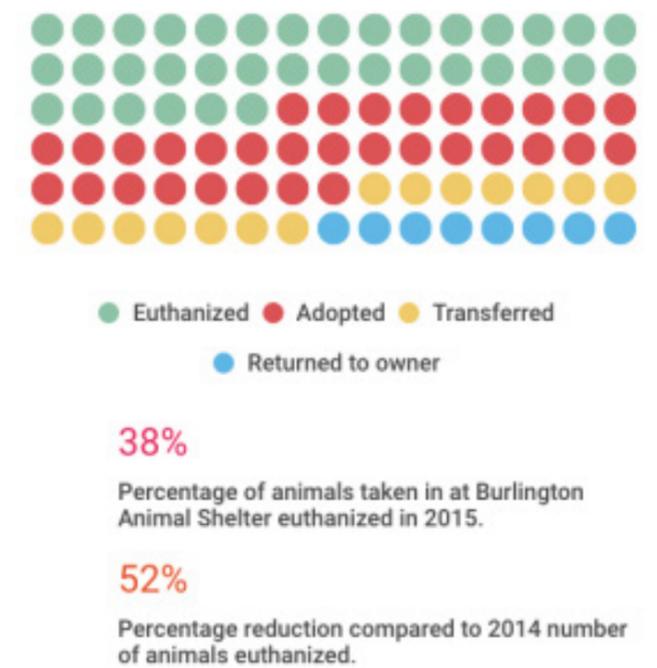
Elon students at Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA), a co-ed service sorority focused on philanthropy, have taken advantage of the popularity of pets through volunteering at the shelter. Junior Jennifer Kraus, a member of ESA, said the sorority occasionally has a shelter weekend to give the animals social interaction.

"There are times when [the ani-

Intake and Outcomes: Burlington Animal Services



Outcome of 4643 animals taken in, 2015:



Source: <http://www.ci.burlington.nc.us/1809/Reports>

mals] don't get to go out at all, so volunteering like this is important for them," Kraus said. "Everyone loves to play with the animals. ESA runs out of spots within 20 minutes."

Kraus said S.H.A.R.E., a program within Elon Volunteers, is another known group that volunteers at the shelter. S.H.A.R.E. members get the benefit of being trained in

shelter handling as well as gaining community service hours.

But Kraus says the shelter needs to be improved to make volunteer experiences more enjoyable.

"The dog area is too overwhelming sometimes," she said. "It echoes and causes a lot of anxiety for the cats. If they built more space, the whole area would be less of a hassle to deal with."

● SEPTEMBER 2015 ● OCTOBER 2015 ● NOVEMBER 2015 ● DECEMBER 2015 ● JANUARY 2016

FIRST SHELTER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD:

The Needs subcommittee estimates the shelter must meet the community's needs for the next 25 years.

SEPT. 30, 2015

SECOND SHELTER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD:

The committee recommended a budget of \$5.25 million to renovate the shelter, with \$4.5 million paid by the government and \$750,000 raised by the Pet Adoption and Welfare Society (PAWS).

OCT. 26, 2015

SHELTER INSPECTION REPORT POINTS OUT FLAWS:

The report by the Animal Welfare section of North Carolina's department of agriculture and consumer services said the ventilation, odor control, enclosures in sound repair and primary enclosures in the shelter were not acceptable.



DEC. 8, 2015

RENOVATION VIDEO RELEASED:

The comprehensive video by Burlington Animal Services detailed what needed to be fixed in the current adoption center.

DEC. 31, 2015

BOARD APPROVES SHELTER EXPANSION:

The Alamance County Board of Commissioners approved the expansion of the current shelter but commits no funds to it.



JAN. 19, 2016

Winter Term study abroad popularity increases

2017 shows record number of students away from campus

Mackenzie Dunn
Senior Reporter
@mackenziev_dunn

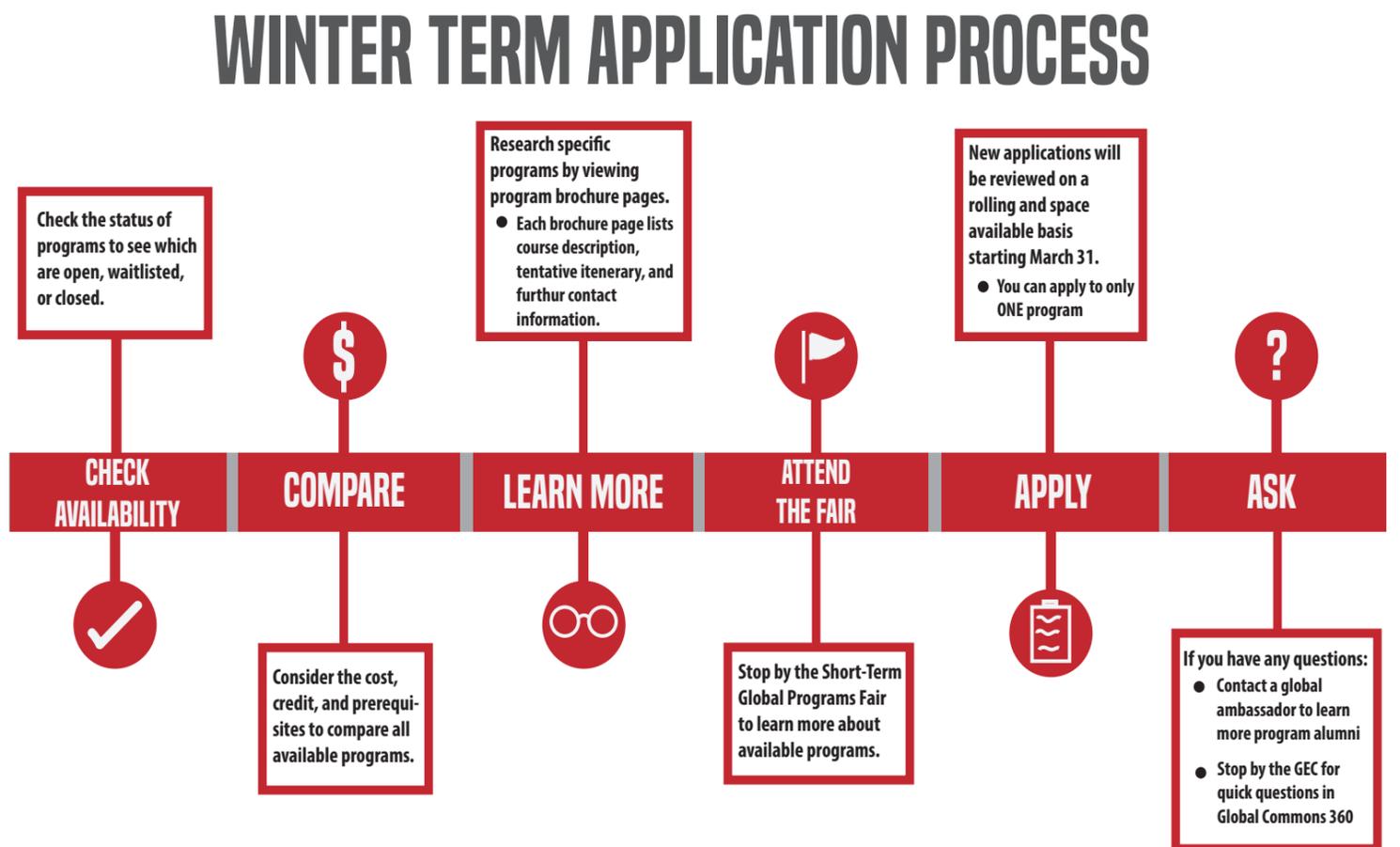
Six hundred students received notification of their abroad application status for global engagement during Winter Term this past week. Of those 600, only 100 were waitlisted for their program of choice. With Winter Term 2016 bringing in record numbers of enrollment for short-term Study Abroad and Study USA programs, students and staff consider varying factors in the admission process.

This past January, more than 1,100 students spent the month in different places around the world, due in largely because of an expansion in domestic and international programs. This year, the Global Education Center is offering 36 programs ranging in cost from \$1,600 to \$8,100.

Since these costs are an addition to the price of fall semester tuition and fees, Assistant Director of Study Abroad Shanna Van Beek said Winter Term is often not the most cost-effective way to participate in global engagement.

"I don't think cost is the most motivating factor," Van Beek said on students' process of choosing programs. "For some students it is, but many times they could spend the same amount for a full-semester program."

For those who do require aid, the Global Education Center offers access scholarships, which awards need-based aid. Van Beek says this is the best opportunity for students to receive funding, as there are less outside scholarships available to grant aid for short-term study programs.



SHELBY BAITSHOLTS | Design Editor

Aside from cost, students consider programs based on their interests and academic and career goals. Some programs have more involved applications, and Van Beek says this is intentional. For example, South Africa is a particularly well-liked program gaining popularity through what Van Beek called "word-of-mouth momentum," but its application requires an extra essay question.

Every program offers something different. South Africa's added service-learning component can be draining, which is why the program's faculty, along with the Global Education Center, decided the extra question was necessary. Van Beek says the staff wanted

to make sure students were considering the impact of the experience and wanted to determine their "readiness" for the service. Essentially, that's what all the applications are aimed at ascertaining.

Freshman Katie Wyatt will be participating in her first study abroad experience in Africa next Winter Term. Wyatt was accepted to the "Malawi: Warm Heart of Africa" program, which also has a hands-on community-based component specifically for education majors. She said while she considered the cultural differences and hands-on experience may be taxing, the program offered what was best for her specifically as an

education major.

For Wyatt, cost was also a factor.

"Cost definitely played a role for me. My parents want me to go abroad at some time and they were originally concerned with the cost of the program, but we also agreed the experience was definitely worth it."

Wyatt was also lucky enough to be placed in her top-choice program. With taking various factors into account, the majority of the students who applied during the priority deadline were placed in their program of choice.

Van Beek explains that the admission procedure comes from a mandate from the university to

"provide 100 percent access to global engagement."

In reviewing applicants, a main factor in the decision process is whether the student has already had global experience and studied abroad before, and if they will have the opportunity to do so before they graduate. After that, factors such as GPA and individual application answers are taken into account.

If a student is wait listed from their first program choice during the priority period, they are given the Opportunity to change to another program with openings as long as it is within a two-day period. Many programs still have openings and are now accepting applications on a rolling basis.

SIDE Swipes program instituted for rest of year

Students able to meet faculty over free meals

Emmanuel Morgan
Assistant News Editor
@EMorgan704

In an effort to entice students and faculty and staff to engage more in conversation, Elon University is piloting a new free lunch program in Lakeside, McEwen and Colonnades dining halls.

The SIDE Swipes program will run Monday, April 4 through the end of the year.

The test run of Student Initiated Dining Engagement (SIDE) program allows students to invite faculty or staff members to lunch twice between now and May 18, according to an email from Smith Jackson, vice president for Student Life..

It was requested by SGA and

the President's Student Leadership Advisory Council to expand the existing "Take a Student to Lunch" program.

With this new initiative in place, students now have the privilege to ask faculty and staff to lunch instead of only faculty and staff being able to invite students.

Students with or without meal plans are allowed to partake in the program. When at a dining hall, students should tell the cashier they are using a SIDE swipe and specify whether or not they have an All-Access meal plan. The cashier will then swipe the Phoenix Card of the student and faculty or staff member for tracking purposes only.

Neither the student nor the faculty member will be charged, and the meal will not count against the faculty member's "Take a Student to Lunch" swipes.

There is no guarantee this program will continue in the future. At the conclusion of this year, a survey will be sent out to those who participated in the pilot period.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING A SIDE SWIPE:

1. Invite a faculty or staff member to lunch at Lakeside, Colonnades, or McEwen Dining Halls.
2. Tell the cashier you are using a SIDE Swipe and if you do or do not have an All-Access Meal Plan.
3. Present your Phoenix Cards to be swiped.
4. Have the faculty/staff member present their Phoenix Card to be swiped.
5. Engage the faculty/staff member in conversation while eating.

SHELBY BAITSHOLTS | Design Editor

Convocation speaker urges innovators to strike a balance

Isaacson emphasized qualities necessary to achieve success

Bryan Anderson
News Editor
@bryanranderson

Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson consistently emphasized the importance of striking a balance during Spring Convocation March 31 in Alumni Gym.

With technological innovation at the center of his lecture, he explained how innovators must find a balance between

Isaacson explained how innovators must find a balance between bringing their ideas to life and understanding the realities of the issues they are facing.

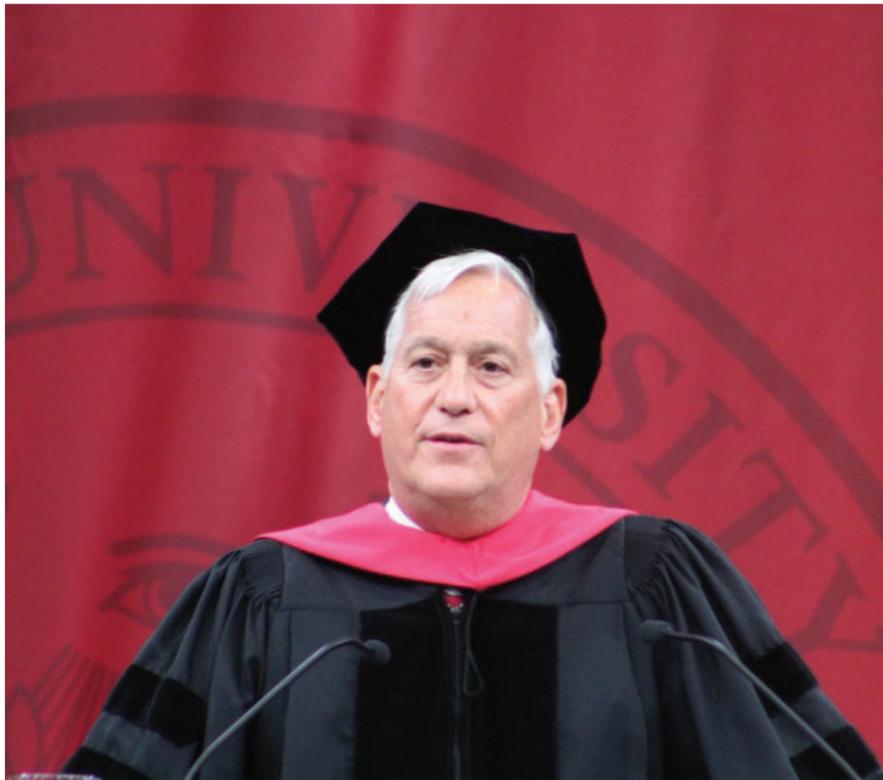
bringing their ideas to life and understanding the realities of the issues they are facing.

Isaacson told a story of being approached by someone claiming they were similar to Albert Einstein. In response, he told the person, "Einstein knew what was in the box before he got out of it."

"This life is not about easy rules," Isaacson said. "It's about figuring out the balance between difficult rules."

He explained how Apple co-founder Steve Jobs held off production for his product to make the circuit board more attractive. Though his colleagues argued there wasn't a need for change because users wouldn't see the ugly circuit board, Jobs said he would know the board was ugly. After about five weeks, the circuit board was visually appealing.

Similarly, Jobs challenged his employees to decrease the boot time by at least 10 seconds. Though many claimed this would be impossible, the goal was later achieved.



MEGAN KOTTKAMP | Staff Photographer

Journalist Walter Isaacson stresses the importance of innovation during Spring Convocation Thursday.

But according to Isaacson, while Jobs had a talent for pushing people beyond their expectations, he also had a habit of distorting reality. Isaacson said Jobs believed he would not suffer from cancer, and as a result, didn't seek medical help. The message, he said, is that one must strike a balance to become successful.

Isaacson claimed people have a lot to learn from innovators of the past. He added how the framers of the Constitution found balance and compromise and admitted when they felt there were mistakes with the original drafts of the document. Isaacson made his point by citing how the original draft said, "We hold these truths to be sacred," but was later replaced with "We hold these truths to be self-evident."

"I'm not sure the last time in this election we saw a candidate announce they

made a mistake," Isaacson said, contrasting the 2016 presidential candidates with previous government officials.

As a former political correspondent for TIME in 1978, Isaacson developed a love of telling stories. His passion for journalism propelled him to a chairman and CEO position at CNN in 2001. But since that time, he said he has seen a major shift in the media landscape from inclusive and tolerant to divisive and "poisoned."

He connected this sentiment to his overarching belief that balance is an important key to being successful.

At the end of Convocation, Isaacson offered a clear definition for innovation.

"[Innovation] is not about success," he said. "It's about making great things. It's about adding to this world. It's about being larger than yourself."

Pre-Convocation Q&A with Walter Isaacson

Shortly before Aspen Institute CEO and President Walter Isaacson delivered Spring Convocation at Elon University March 31, members of The Pendulum and Elon Local News conducted a brief interview.



Walter Isaacson

Q: Why did you come to Elon to deliver Convocation?

A: I was invited, and it's a beautiful place to come down, and many other speakers have been here.

It's always a pleasure to bounce ideas around students and faculty.

Q: Was there a defining moment in your youth that made you realize you wanted to go into journalism?

A: I have an uncle who was a great novelist, sort of a family distant uncle. Walker Percy wrote novels and he one point said to me, "There are two types of people who come out of Louisiana" — which is where I was born — "preachers and storytellers." He said, "For goodness sake, be a storyteller. The world has too many preachers." So I decided to be a journalist.

Q: In 1996, you were with Time. Then you transitioned that to a career with CNN, and now you're with the Aspen Institute. How difficult was that transition from a print format to a web?

A: The biggest transition that was very difficult for me was going from print to television when I went from Time to CNN. I didn't understand TV that much, and I was pretty good at a magazines. I knew what they should look like and feel like. But when I got to CNN, I realized I did not have a good grasp of how to make television.

Q: What advice would you give to a student who wants to pursue a career in journalism?

A: I think that journalism is really great these days, but the business model is broken. So I would say study business, study technology and study journalism, because somebody's going to have to figure out the intersection of business, technology and journalism so that we have a good revenue stream for good journalism in the future.

Q: What are your thoughts from your initial political reporting to this political reporting, and what do you see as the threats to the media industry with covering politics?

A: I think there are threats to the media industry to politics. I also think there's threats the media industry is causing. When I first started covering politics, the country wasn't as fragmented. Even though Ronald Reagan, who was quite conservative, was the first president I covered, he was a very inclusive, decent person who tried to make everybody around him feel valued whether or not you liked his political philosophy. Nowadays, everybody's become quite bitter and poisoned, and that's a really bad thing for the country and for the media.

SGA honors Heidi Frontani

Legislation supports local charity in recognition of late professor

Emmanuel Morgan
Assistant News Editor
@_EMorgan704

Elon University's SGA honored the life and legacy of Professor of Geography Heidi Frontani Thursday with a passing of legislation that granted two \$500 scholarships to a local charity. Frontani died of a heart attack Feb. 26.



Heidi Frontani

Senior class Vice President Robert Danis authored the bill and hopes it will grant the family and community

comfort in their time of sadness.

"This really affected us as a senate and we try to represent the student body as

well as we can," Danis said. "While we didn't all know Dr. Frontani, we wanted to represent the students that did know her and cared for her."

Frontani, whose husband Michael Frontani is an associate professor in the School of Communications, mentored Yasmine Arrington '15. Arrington started

WHILE WE DIDN'T ALL KNOW DR. FRONTANI, WE WANTED TO REPRESENT THE STUDENTS THAT DID KNOW HER AND CARED FOR HER.

ROBERT DANIS
SENIOR CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

and operates a nonprofit organization called ScholarCHIPS, which grants scholarships to children with parents in

prison. Danis believes that supporting this cause while making an impact throughout the community was the best way to honor Frontani.

"Here at Elon, we're big on engaged learning, which really means connecting with your professors," Danis said. "This really shows to the family, as well as those who were close to her, that we as Elon students don't just read about it in an email and forget about it — we really care about it and want to express that care to the family."

Danis hopes this bill will set a precedent for future SGAs to follow. Despite the unfortunate circumstances, the SGA's beneficial power has been displayed for all to see.

"SGA can have an impact once something like this happens in the community," Danis said. "Typically SGA just uses its funds for student organizations and student activities, so I think that seeing something like this lets senators know that if something, God forbid, like this happens again, we don't just kind of say, 'Sorry, it's a shame that this happened.' We can really do something and be a charitable foundation."

CHEAT SHEET

The rise of eSports programs



Want a complicated news story explained?
Email pendulum@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet

On Oct. 27, 2009, Riot Games, a Los Angeles-based video game publisher, released its latest version of League of Legends (commonly known as LoL in the gaming community).

Supported by micro-transactions, a business model where users can purchase virtual goods for small sums of real currency, League of Legends was inspired by popular precursors World of Warcraft and Defense of the Ancients. By 2012, League of Legends was the most-played PC game in the world, with a startling 1.3 billion hours of aggregate gameplay.

By 2014, more than 67 million people played League of Legends each month, 27 million of whom played every day. 7.5 million players played concurrently during peak hours.

Riot Games holds an annual Championship Series in Los Angeles and Berlin, where 10 teams from each continent compete for cash prizes as large as \$2.3 million, the largest prize pool in "eSport" history. Consolation prizes include real silver trophies forged by English luxury leather and silverware company Thomas Lyte.

Now, the University of California, Irvine is the first public university to launch a League of Legends eSport scholarship program beginning fall 2016. UCI follows six private schools that have developed scholarships for LoL players.

What are eSports?

Esports, an abbreviation of electronic sports, is a form of sport where a majority of the competition's aspects are facilitated by electronic systems with human-mediated events. eSporting events began to sprout in the late 1990s and early 2000s, primarily



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Students on the Robert Morris University Illinois eSports team play League of Legends during one of the program's practice sessions in its new \$100,000 computer lab.

between amateurs. Now, several leagues have formed, and new breeds of professional athletes are emerging in the sporting world. eSports have become so prominent that even sporting media outlets like ESPN, an industry leader in sporting news, have whole departments dedicated to eSports.

How does a video game qualify as a sport?

League of Legends is a game where two teams of five mythical characters fight through protec-

tive walls, towers and each other to destroy the opposing team's base. According to Forbes.com, eSports "requires incredible quick reflexes, teamwork and strategy to win, just like college sports — although, technically, UCI is giving out academic instead of athletic scholarships."

League of Legends is so popular on college campuses, mostly at the club level, that Riot Games holds its own collegiate Final Four. This April, Robert University, Georgia Tech, the University of British Columbia and the University of Maryland will compete in

Boston for a National Championship title.

Are the programs controversial?

Forbes.com reported a university survey found 72 percent of UCI students identified as gamers and 89 percent supported the formation of an eSports team.

"The UCI community is one of over 300 student-run gaming clubs we currently support," Ramon Hermann, head of the collegiate program at Riot Games, said. "We're honored to work with UCI to create

a permanent home for gamers on campus and hope this will inspire similar programs at colleges and universities across North America."

Do they have facilities?

UCI has constructed a 3,500-square-foot arena that houses 80 high-end PCs, giving it a potential advantage over other schools in future competitions. Players may even begin to see themselves on ESPN highlight reels, which is an extra incentive to train in the state-of-the-art facility.

NEWS BRIEFS

Greek Week events planned

Fraternity and Sorority Life is sponsoring its annual Greek Week this week, with a number of different events around campus.

Every day this week has a Greek Week event that specifically ties in service.

Tonight is Greek Week Dance, scheduled for 8 p.m. in Alumni Gym. Proceeds go toward Elonthon, which is Friday and Saturday.

"Our hope was to provide members in different chapters the opportunity to interact with each other while living out a value we all hold dear — giving back to the community," said Dan Fail, director of fraternity and sorority life, in a release.

There's also a BBQ planned for 5 p.m. Thursday in the Loy Center. They will also host a food drive.

"We wanted to make all the activities related to service, philanthropy or volunteerism because that's what we love to do"

said senior and Greek Week Committee Chair Dionna Stanton. "It's not just about us, it's about the Elon community and the Burlington Alamance community."

Two Elon trustees receive honorary degrees

Elon University President Leo Lambert presented Wesley R. Elingburg and Mark T. Mahaffey with honorary Doctor of Humane Letter degrees March 31 at the start of Spring Convocation.

Elingburg was elected to Elon's Board of Trustees in 2005 and served as its chair 2012-2014. He's the retired chief financial officer of LabCorp and managing partner of the Greensboro Grasshoppers, a minor league baseball team based in Greensboro.

Mahaffey is the chief executive officer of The Mahaffey Company, a developer of rental apartment communities in St. Pe-

tersburg, Florida. He was the first chair of the Ever Elon Campaign, which was the largest fundraising effort in Elon's history.

Holi Celebration planned for Friday

The annual Holi Celebration sponsored by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life is planned for 4 p.m. Friday on Young Commons. Holi, a Hindu holiday, is known as the festival of colors and the festival of love.

Elon Law draws praise from U.S. News

There will be a U.S. News and World Report featured the Elon University School of Law in its "Best Graduate Schools 2017" guidebook.

Elon Law was specifically mentioned for

its curriculum and was featured in an article about law schools that are reimagining their approaches to legal education with a focus on practical experience at lower overall costs to their students.

Renowned theologian to speak Thursday

Rabbi Cynthia Irving Greenberg will deliver a speech titled "Seeing Israel — A Real Life Nation Through a Theological Lens: A Reflection on Jewish and Christian Perspectives" at 7:30 p.m. April 7 in the McBride Gathering Space of the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

Greenberg will speak about tensions and risks in how Israel is imagined by contemporary Jews and Christians and the conflicts over Israel that have led to controversy and distrust in Jewish-Christian dialogue. She will also examine how that dialogue could be improved.

STAFF EDITORIAL

House Bill 2 shows fight for equality is not over

HOW WE SEE IT

House Bill 2 is detrimental to communities all across North Carolina and Elon is right in denouncing it.

On June 26, 2015, Americans witnessed one of the biggest victories for the LGBTQIA community when the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that states could no longer ban same-sex marriage. That day, the White House was illuminated in rainbow colors, social media feeds exploded in pride and media outlets across the nation declared this as an enormously positive step for the country.

Since this decision, it seems as though issues within the LGBTQIA community have been discussed less and less. To many people, the Supreme Court's decision was believed to signify the success of the movement and the end of a long fight for justice.

The Supreme Court's decision was, in fact, monumental, but it was by no means the end of the fight. Discrimination, hate and fear still exist widely throughout our country, and nothing makes this more obvi-

ous than the recent passage of House Bill 2 in North Carolina.

The bill Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law March 23 is perhaps one of the most discriminatory laws passed in recent years, showing us that the movement is still relevant and we have much further to go.

The bill is primarily a response to Charlotte's ordinance banning the discrimination of people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. This bill primarily affects transgender people's choice of restroom, making it illegal for individuals to use a restroom that does not align with their assigned biological sex. It also prevents children over the age of seven from entering the restroom with their parents if they are of the opposite sex.

But it doesn't stop there. The bill prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin and biological sex. By saying biolog-

ical sex and not gender, it excludes transgender people entirely from its anti-discrimination statement.

In addition, by not including sexual orientation, the bill excludes all members of the LGBTQIA community, thus making it legal to discriminate against them, overturning many local ordinances within the state. This means that a person can be fired from their job, denied housing or even turned away at a restaurant simply because of their sexual orientation.

Finally, the bill goes on to make it illegal to sue the state for instances of discrimination, causing victims to have to sue federally, which is more timely, tedious and costly. It also includes other random pieces of legislation in Part 2 of the bill, such as preventing local governments from establishing a minimum wage and regulating hours and benefits, neither of which have anything to do with the discrimination and women's privacy which is what the bill is supposed to be all about.

It is commendable that Elon reaffirmed its stance on anti-discrimination in a statement, and The Pendulum

fully supports the denouncement of the bill. To deny anyone their rights based solely on whom they love or the gender with which they identify goes against the standards of equality upon

WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS BILL AND TOWARD JUSTICE FOR THE LGBTQIA COMMUNITY.

which this country was founded.

While Elon is a private institution and the bill does not directly affect us, it is crucial that Elon students recognize the importance of the law and the potential harm it can cause for the greater community. No one should fall victim of discrimination in any sense, and we must continue to fight against this bill and toward justice for the LGBTQIA community.

There are plenty of ways students can give back

HOW WE SEE IT

Students can find many different ways to engage in service and philanthropy throughout campus.

As spring begins at Elon University, so does the unavoidable spirit — and pressure — of philanthropy and giving. The month of April alone holds two of the university's biggest philanthropy events: Elonthon and Relay for Life.

Hundreds of people from all across campus are involved in the planning of these events and participate in a number of ways. These two philanthropic opportunities, along with several other fundraisers and

events held by fraternities and sororities, serve primarily to raise money for various causes.

While raising awareness for charities and raising money is very beneficial, it is important to recognize the privileges associated with it. During this spirit of giving, we must also remember the multiple ways students can give back, such as donating to smaller charities or volunteering time instead of money, that may align better more closely to their abilities,

passions and resources.

Many students at Elon have the resources that make them able to raise the amount of money that they do for organizations like Duke Children's Hospital and the American Cancer Society, but not every student here has that ability. Being held to a monetary standard may be unrealistic for some students, but it shouldn't mean that they are unable to participate in service.

Too often at Elon, we praise students for the amount of effort they seem to be putting into their service. We applaud "24-hour dancer" buttons and the number of dollars raised. It is good to encourage these students and to continue donating

to these causes, but it can't distract from the other ways students can get involved. Some students may be more dedicated to lesser-known charities. Some may not have the ability to stand and dance for 24 hours. And there is no shame in that.

Participating in philanthropy and service is in an incredible opportunity for growth and insight, but the true potential of mutual benefit can only be reached when we are passionate about and dedicated to what we are doing.

There is no one way students are able to give back, and we must celebrate that and recognize it across campus.

Chatting with Walter Isaacson at The Pendulum

Walter Isaacson, CEO of the Aspen Institute and former CEO of CNN and managing editor of Time Magazine, was at Elon University on March 31 for Spring Convocation. Before his speech, he made time for a visit to The Pendulum's office.



Tommy Hamzik
Editor-in-Chief
@T_Hamzik

I can't recall a past Convocation speaker taking time to visit with student media, and there have been a number of journalists to speak at Elon in recent memory. Pulitzer

Prize winners Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn came for Fall Convocation in 2014, and nationally-syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. delivered the Baird Pulitzer Prize Lecture this past fall.

All that said, it's pretty neat that he took time to visit with us.

He shared advice for moving forward in the journalism industry, one he acknowledged is changing by the day and is much different from when he led Time in the late 1990s.

When asked about the future of newspapers, he said paper will always exist as a medium, but paper isn't necessarily the best medium for newspapers.

He was blunt, too, when asked about converged news organizations and his time at CNN. Isaacson was

pushed to take over as CNN's CEO in 2001, something he felt uncomfortable with since he didn't know the medium well, and acknowledged he didn't do a great job.

Next year, The Pendulum is merging with Elon Local News to create a converged news organization. Isaacson said not many of those have excelled in the past, noting that the New Orleans Times-Picayune — where he used to work — tried to converge with a local TV station, and it didn't quite work out. He also spoke about issues with producing more video at Time.

He advised us on what skills to hone in on as we prepare for real-world jobs, saying that knowing how to coherently write a story is still the most valuable.



TOMMY HAMZIK | Editor-in-Chief

Walter Isaacson sits down to speak with members of The Pendulum's staff.

Early in his Convocation speech, he mentioned the importance of being part of something bigger than yourself. I thought that was cool, because he talked about that with us at The Pendulum.

It was a fantastic experience to

chat with such an accomplished industry figure in a small setting. He helped reinforce that professionals are excited to see what's to come in journalism's future, and it's we, the people involved with student media, who are helping create that future.

Want to share your opinion? Let us know. Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing pendulum@elon.edu

THE PENDULUM

Letters must be 350 words or less and must be signed and submitted in a word document to pendulum@elon.edu. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.

CAMPUS VOICES

The Pendulum is renewing its efforts to serve as a voice of the Elon University community. Each week, this space will feature a column from a member of the community. Want to participate? Contact us at pendulum@elon.edu.

NC 'Ag-Gag' is a violation of free speech

For North Carolina lawmakers, the goal for this upcoming year is simple: Silence whistleblowers and stifle cries of injustice. The Property Protection Act, often referred to by critics as the "North Carolina Ag-Gag Bill," targets undercover workers who obtain audio or video evidence of illegal activity occurring in restricted access areas of a workplace.



Marissa Costner
Vice President of Elon
Animal Protection
Alliance

The bill has been at the center of significant controversy since it was first filed in early 2015, with many North Carolina residents opposed to the legislation. In early June 2015, North Carolina legislators in the House and Senate were able to override Governor McCrory's veto of the bill, despite significant public outcry over the potentially devastating consequences of such a law.

The "ag-gag" bill, which makes it illegal for undercover investigators to film and release footage of standard

animal agricultural practices, is a thinly veiled attempt to keep the horrific abuses occurring on factory farms hidden from the public.

This law was not written to prevent Americans from seeing footage of the occasional injustice at the hands of one sadistic employee. That would be easy to dismiss as a single incident that isn't representative of the industry at large. Rather, this law aims to prevent the general public from seeing the immense and unimaginable suffering that is simply built into the meat industry's business model.

Standard practice on a factory farm is truly a nightmare. Male chicks are thrown into a grinder immediately after birth, male piglets have their testicles ripped out without anesthesia, chickens are scalded alive and cows have their bodies hacked apart while they are still fully conscious and alert.

This gruesome reality has only been revealed in the past through footage from undercover investigators. Animal agribusiness knows that any decent human would see footage of this terrible treatment and immediately realize how wrong it is to support such an industry, thus cutting into the profits

of mega-companies such as Tyson, Perdue and Hormel. This is where "ag-gag" legislation keeps this industry in business — if acquiring such footage is criminalized, the public will never know exactly what goes on behind the closed doors of an industry slaughtering billions of animals every year.

Let's say, however, that your circle

of compassion extends only to other humans. Here's what is so dangerous about this bill: It doesn't only apply to cruelty against animals. Any vulnerable group of humans is equally endangered by the broad language of the NC Ag-Gag.

THIS LAW INFRINGES ON OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH AND THREATENS THE SAFETY OF THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

Under this law, it's equally illegal to film and disseminate footage of cruelties committed against your grandmother in the nursing home, your little brother in the day care center or your friend in the hospital. Should you catch an employee or staff member commit-

ting a crime against another person in his or her care, you are the one at risk of suffering legal consequences. Why? Because, according to North Carolina legislators, property rights are more important than human rights.

This law is a shameful attempt to protect the animal agriculture industry from public scrutiny. It is under-

standable from an animal agribusiness standpoint to want to keep consumers in the dark about where their meat comes from, but at what cost? The meat industry clearly doesn't value animal lives, but what about human lives?

This law infringes on our constitutional right to free speech and threatens the safety of the most vulnerable members of society. A simple search can show you what abuses this law is working so hard to cover up. Find out what you can do to ensure the law is overturned.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In response to Elon University's statement on House Bill 2

Elon University's Vice President of Communications Dan Anderson posted a statement recently in response to North Carolina's legislative action. The posting on the university website states that "Elon remains committed to inclusion and equal protection for all people" and that they "reaffirm [their] position that individuals should use facilities in which they feel most comfortable and align with their gender identity." The university framed the response as a statement to assuage the "several questions and expressions of concern" with North Carolina's recent legislation.

It is my belief that Elon University has chosen to lessen

injustice. It provides an opportunity for your student population to find themselves at greater risk by taking this stance: You accept that a man can enter a women's bathroom or locker room simply by stating that he defines himself as a woman.

I have no doubt that the vast majority of the individuals who choose to use a bathroom marked for the opposite sex will do so as individuals seeking to define themselves. It is impossible, however, to prevent those who may have a dangerous motive from taking advantage of this misguided policy. I believe that this decision will expose the women of Elon to a greater risk of sexual assault and puts the university in a position of being liable for that assault. I believe the university has jeopardized the safety of a large portion of the student population with their stance.

I would like to make it clear that those advocating for free choice of restroom use regardless of their natural-born anatomy are not the only ones voicing concern. I am not the only member of the community that thinks that this stance is misguided and will ultimately put women at an increased risk on campus. I appeal to the good sense and wisdom of the university staff and board of trustees to take responsibility and stand up for the security and safety of women on Elon University's campus, regardless of what is popular or politically correct.

Jameson Dion
Elon alumnus, 2006

Protests show need for civility

It's been an interesting couple weeks for Emory University. After chalk messages supporting



Tim Melton
Columnist
@elonpendulum

Republican front-runner Donald Trump appeared on various walkways of the Atlanta university, a number of conservative students responded with anti-Trump protests, believing the messages represented a legitimate threat to their safety and to the state of inclusivity at their campus. University President James Wagner was forced to intervene, meeting with protesters and sending an email to all students on the values of expression and diversity of opinion.

Since the incident, this controversy has been interpreted by many news sources as a piece of a much larger puzzle: the debate on freedom of speech on college campuses.

Some say the chalk markings were a completely valid expression of political support, while others take issue with the moral implications of Trump's proposed candidacy. Since Trump first announced his bid for the presidency, his policies have consistently been associated with racist, sexist, transphobic, xenophobic and elitist ideologies, to name a few. Naturally, the notion of supporting these types of ideals in a small and diverse community would be seen as troubling, especially to minority students who struggle with issues of social acceptance



Messages in support of Trump appear written across Emory's campus.

every day.

To an extent, I believe the concerns of the protesters at Emory were justified. But, I still find fault in some of the ideas and values upon which these protests were predicated — most notably, that to support a candidate is to support all of their policies and ideological standards.

A chalk message of Trump's slogans does not mean that the writers likewise believe that America needs a wall, that Muslims should be banned from entering the country, that women who have had abortions should face legal penalties and so on, yet it has been interpreted as such. Even if the ones who wrote the chalk messages fully believed in all of Trump's policies, it still isn't fair to assume that such a demonstration is indicative of the community's overall attitudes or beliefs.

As such, the movement by the

protesters to denounce the chalk messages and the writers behind them not only seems unfair, but also contrary to their core message of inclusivity. When we meet disagreeable ideas with flat-out rejection and calls for punishment, we only prove the legitimacy of Trump's rhetoric.

Progress, both personal and social, cannot be made without conversation, and the willingness to participate in such conversations. Cases like Emory's can represent more than just the perceived over-sensitivity of today's college students. Rather, they can be used as examples of the power of ideas in shaping individuals and a community.

Here at Elon and anywhere we may go, we should be prepared for difficult ideas that will often conflict with our own. No matter what is being said, people should have the freedom to speak openly and honestly.

I BELIEVE THE UNIVERSITY HAS JEOPARDIZED THE SAFETY OF A LARGE PORTION OF THE STUDENT POPULATION WITH THEIR STANCE.

the safety of one of Elon's most vulnerable student demographics in favor of taking a popular and politically correct stance. Allowing anyone to define what bathroom they can use, regardless of their biological gender, does not prevent discrimination or abolish some long-held social

Living the 'Sky Life' with mindfulness

Senior promotes wellness through web series

Courtney Campbell

Style Editor
@courtcamp

For a while, senior Sky Cowans was lost. With graduation looming in the spring, she wasn't sure



Sky Cowans

if she was doing the right thing or on the right path. Cowans had been debating starting a health and wellness web series but was scared to put herself out there and do something completely different. All that changed after Cowans attended a yoga retreat in Mexico with Yandara Yoga Institute over Winter Term to fill 200 collective hours of teacher training.

During the retreat, Cowans learned about the anatomy, physiology and philosophy of yoga.

"I appreciated it so much because it focused on the true meaning of yoga," she said. "It opened my eyes and flipped my perspective on a lot of things, especially in having faith in a path and not being so caught up in the future."

At the retreat Cowans would wake up at 6 a.m. to practice meditation. She was taught how to assist students, pose-by-pose, with the correct alignment as well as the anatomy and physiology behind it. Days were spent chanting and learning about mantras and the lineage and history of yoga.

From there, "Sky Life," a health

and wellness website and web series, was born. Cowans incorporates aspects from the retreat into the series.

opting for fruit instead. By the age of 15, Cowans began practicing yoga with her mom, who is a fitness instructor. She immediately fell in love and is now a certified teacher, giving classes at Campus Recreation and private studios.

"Growing up [health] played such a big role in my life with what it meant to be healthy and taking care of myself, and it's guided me up until now," Cowans said.

Since a healthy lifestyle has been so ingrained into her, Cowans had no issues with getting off-track when entering college. She is human and does have treats every once in a while, but knows that won't completely ruin her health.

"I've never dieted," Cowans said. "It's all about doing what feels right in this moment. Eventually, you're just going to be drawn to the things that are going to help you."

Cowans also follows a vegan diet. She cut out red meat completely when she was 10 for health reasons, and ate 80 percent plant-based foods for her first three years of college.

But after learning about the environmental impact of animal agriculture and the ethical impact of consuming dairy and other animal products, Cowans decided she did not want to partake in it whatsoever.

"If I have the choice to live a healthy life and get all the nutrients I need while being vegan, I want to do that," she said. "I have so much energy. I just feel great."

Creating the series

As an avid health and wellness lover, Cowans wanted to share her experience with the public, especially the mental and spiritual aspects.

For her, health is the driving force behind everything that she does.

With many diseases preventable and diet-related, Cowans believes that now is the time to start thinking about and forming healthy habits in order to not deal with these medical issues in the future.

"I think it's the single most important thing in someone's life," she said. "If you're not healthy and feeling connected with your mind, your body and your spirit, and you're just moving around in life and going through the motions, then what's the purpose?"

Currently 'Sky Life' has four episodes that focus mostly on the mind with topics such as meditation and mindfulness as well as adventures with a vlog of a vegan festival in Los Angeles.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SKY COWANS

While in Los Angeles over Spring Break, Sky Cowans had the opportunity to interview Austin Kevitch, founder and CEO of the anonymous compliment app Brighten, for an upcoming video for 'Sky Life.' Cowans likes to feature people that share a similar message as her.

To come up with ideas for each video, Cowans does things she is interested in and films it as well as interviewing those she encounters in her own journey. Cowans mostly focuses on stories of holistic healing because it's not often thought of and is a huge part of Cowans' own life.

"Sharing it with other people and the power it's given me is really important to me because it has empowered me in so many ways," Cowans said. "Having this vitality and zest for life, it's all related to my health and me taking care of myself — not just my body, but my mind, my spirit."

Future videos will include an interview with a woman who healed after a traumatic mountain biking injury using the power of the mind, medicinal cooking, and a yoga sequence on empowerment and manifesting your dreams.

"I want to show the power of this work and this practice because it's easy to brush it aside, but it actually has a huge impact, especially when it comes to the power of the mind and your heart intelligence and head intelligence connecting," Cowans said.

Since Cowans has been busy and has more content she needs to edit than film, scheduling for the show has been a bit sporadic. But she is hoping to get into a weekly schedule as time goes on.

To assist with the videos, Cowans has a team including senior Emma Vo on videography and seniors Kayla Hammer and Nikita DeMare helping with production. Cowans usually edits all the videos by herself.

As a believer in positive energy and a health-minded individual herself, Vo was ecstatic to assist with this project.

"As a vegan and a public health minor, this is a project that my moral compass can approve," she said. "I want to help people too, and I think Sky and I have good chemistry when it comes to making content that we care about."

Cowans' positive energy has also benefited Vo during the pro-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SKY COWANS

Emma Vo, videographer for 'Sky Life,' assists with shooting an introduction video for the site.

duction of the series. Before working with "Sky Life," Vo was going through a rough patch and felt like she needed something positive in her life to get her back on track to pursue her passions.

"Sky Life" was it, and she now feels happier and sees good things happening each day.

"Sky's whole message is that she wants people to live their best life and give people the tools and information that she has learned that have worked for her," Vo said. "Sky does not claim to be an expert in health and wellness, but she is relatable to many people struggling to figure out their journey so I think that's what makes it so great."

Working toward the future

So far, Sky Life has only been promoted to friends, family and the Elon community through social media. But once she creates more content, Cowans wants to make partnerships with other health bloggers to hear their stories and reach their viewership as well.

"It's kind of scary 'cause I don't know what I'm doing," she said. "I don't even know what's going to happen in the future with this, but

this is what I want to do now, and that's all I care about."

Ideally, Cowans would like to continue filming beyond Elon and hopes to eventually have a job that would give her the time to produce it. Her end goal is to create a full-length television show and build Sky Life into a company complete with vegan clothing, all-natural beauty products and health programs for college and high school students.

"I feel like there's so much opportunity, who knows where it's going to go?" Cowans said.

Though Cowans isn't completely sure where Sky Life is heading, she is simply letting it flow and move forward the way it wants to go. Cowans also isn't sure where she will be working after graduation and hasn't applied to any jobs yet.

But she knows there will always be opportunities out there.

"I have three mantras that I live by, which are 'you do you,' 'trust,' and 'ride the wave,'" Cowans said. "You keep doing you, you trust it's all going to work out and you let it flow and enjoy every second. So that's what I'm doing."

IT'S ALL ABOUT DOING WHAT FEELS RIGHT IN THIS MOMENT. EVENTUALLY YOU'RE GOING TO BE DRAWN TO THE THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HELP YOU.

SKY COWANS

SENIOR, CREATOR OF SKY LIFE

and wellness website and web series, was born. Cowans incorporates aspects from the retreat into the series.

"I felt really centered in myself and felt more connected to myself than I had in so long," she said. "The vision became pretty clear, and it didn't matter what was going to happen in the future. It was just something I wanted to do for myself and share a message that was so meaningful to me to other people."

Finding a love of health

Cowans has had a fascination with health ever since she was little and attempted to eat grass. When she was 8, she began drinking green juice and refusing the candy her babysitter offered her,

MORE ONLINE

Check out skylife.tv to see the Sky Life web series and blog



Kappa Delta and Girl Scouts break records in cookie sales

Allie Dietz
Senior Reporter
@elonpendulum

“Sisterhood” is a word commonly associated with sororities and friendship, but it is also a mentality many girls learn early on in life, one taught to them by Girl Scouts.

The organization, which has more than 2 million members nationally, aims to empower girls by teaching them the importance of honesty, fairness, confidence, sisterhood and so many other values.

Girl Scouts is an organization many girls grow out of at an early age and one most are no longer a part of by the time they enter college.

This year, Kappa Delta helped the Girl Scouts raise \$3,500, \$1,500 more than last year.

Kappa Delta has made it their mission to continue to empower young girls and help them grow into strong women.

One way they do this is partnering with Girl Scouts.

The sorority worked closely with the young girls in the organization by selling Girl Scout

Cookies. The treats are sold at \$4 a box and were sold around campus in February.

This year, Kappa Delta helped the girls raise \$3,500, surpassing the girls’ previous records. In 2015 they raised \$2,000, and in 2014 they raised \$1,500.

Sophomore Genny Tankosich, Kappa Delta’s vice president of community service, said she thinks this year’s successful cookie sales had a lot to do with how long the selling season was in comparison to past years.

“We added an extra week of sales this year,



Junior Kappa Delta Emma Yarborough helps a Girl Scout earn her cookie badge on Badge Day last spring.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GENNY TANKOSICH

and it ended up working out well because the campus was super receptive to the sales,” she said.

Though Tankosich thinks the extra week contributed greatly to the success, credit is also due elsewhere.

Junior Kelly Reagan, president of Elon’s chapter of Kappa Delta, said the head of public relations, senior Katie Pownall, did a wonderful job promoting the event.

“We also have a really great girl on PR who did a lot of awesome work of promoting the weeks,” Tankosich said.

One other reason Reagan believes they were so successful was because they were able to work with the girls directly, and that students could pay with Phoenix Cash.

“The Girl Scouts do most of the work, though,” she said. “They are great. The Girl Scouts have gotten really good at working the

booths at Elon because we have been working with them for a few years now.”

Reagan said she personally has seen them grow more confident and comfortable talking to college-aged students over the years.

For Tankosich, one of the best parts of helping the Girl Scout troops is getting to spend time with the young girls.

“You get to see them grow over time and really get to know them,” she said. “It’s one of the things I really love about working with the organization.”

Not only do they get to see these girls grow, but they also get to help them do so. Kappa Delta has been working with Girl Scouts since 1998 and has become the sorority’s national philanthropy since then.

According to the Girl Scouts website, “Kappa Delta Sorority members serve as volunteers, guiding Girl Scouts across the country

through their leadership journeys and mentor girls to help them realize their full potential.”

On top of helping girls sell cookies, Tankosich said Kappa Delta brings the girls onto campus for events. For example, the girls were also on campus for Halloween and other holidays. There will also be a badge day held on campus May 1, where they get to earn badges for their work throughout the year.

“For the Halloween event, we watched movies in the house and wore costumes,” Reagan said. “We also decorated cookies and watched ‘Elf’ during Christmas time. We also support their events such as World Thinking Day and Daisy Days by helping set up and run the events.”

The Girl Scout website also says, “Kappa Delta chapters host confidence-building and anti-bullying events, International Girls Day celebrations and other activities that expose girls to life on campus.”

Some of the ways the girls of Kappa Delta do this is by challenging the chapter members to step out of their comfort zone.

“When I work the Girl Scout booth, I try to promote confidence by encouraging the girls to ask the college students to buy cookies,” Reagan said. “I also ask the girls to teach me how to sell the cookies.”

Working with these girls and teaching them to be strong, confident women is something Kappa Delta girls aim for.

“I love getting to know the girls so I’ll ask them what they do in their free time or what they’re involved in at school,” Reagan said. “One girl told me she was in show choir and I did that in middle school, so I did my song and dance for the girls and they all laughed. I hope they saw that it is okay to be goofy and yourself. I hope they will strive to be comfortable in their own skin.”

Her Campus raises money with annual fashion show

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor
@courtcamp

The Fat Frogg Bar & Grill was transformed into a runway March 31 as Elon University students modeled for the Her Campus 2nd Annual Fashion Show and Date Auction. Admission was \$5, and all proceeds from the event went to Elonthon and Duke Children’s Hospital.

The show was organized by seniors Jackie Tilton and Elizabeth Benjamin, Her Campus co-event and marketing directors, and was meant to bring more attention to the organization.

“We do our best to raise community awareness of Her Campus through events that we hope will lead to more views and following on our website and social pages,” Tilton said. “It’s an added bonus that the fashion show event in particular is also a great charity fundraiser.”

The two event directors spent weeks in advance organizing the show. They brought in models from the student body, two dates for the auction, hosts and Elonthon executive members.

After starting 30 minutes late, hosts

Corey Glass and Lisa Shulman, both seniors, took the stage and opened the show by reminding viewers to enter a raffle and explaining to whom the money was going.

They were followed by senior Lindsey Sinicki, Elonthon family relations chair, and Hannah Headen, one of Elonthon’s own miracle children. Headen suffers from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and has been receiving treatment from Duke for most of her life discussed the importance of Elonthon to the attendees.

“I’ve been doing it for a long time,” Headen said to the crowd. “To be a part of Elonthon every year, that benefits people like me, is awesome.”

Shortly afterward, the fashion show began, featuring clothing from BohoBlu in Alamance Crossing and What She Wants Boutique, which is owned by Headen. Outfits ranged from patterned rompers and maxi dresses to more simple blouse-and-pant combinations.

“We obviously love working with Her Campus, and we’ve worked with multiple chapters,” said Jenny Stilley, owner of BohoBlu. “We have great respect for the girls and they always put on the best

events. They make the clothes look good.”

The fashion segment took a break for the date auction, which featured “Campus Cuties” seniors Alex Day and Lichota Seidewand. Before auctioning off an act of chivalry, each date played a game of “Two Truths and a Lie.” Seidewand’s lie was that he played the drums — not the violin — in high school, and Day’s was that he is not actually related to Charlie Day from the show “It’s Always Sunny In Philadelphia.”

The acts of chivalry were a little more creative. Seidewand’s was a homemade meal of tacos or a car wash while he is dressed in any attire. Day’s act was a free pizza service at any hour of the day or being a DJ for a night with music solely from middle school. Bidding started at \$5 and went up in increments of \$2-3 as girls shouted prices around the room.

Each boy was bought between \$35 and \$50.

Last year, the show raised \$400 for the American Cancer Society. This time around, Her Campus raised \$450, with almost a quarter of the money coming from the date auction, which Tilton hopes will be expanded next year to be even more successful.

“This year we thought a partnership with Elonthon would resonate with more Elon community members because of Thon’s huge following and past success,” Tilton said. “We hoped it would draw more attendance, participation and donations. We also loved that we could tie the charity piece with the fashion show by including Hannah Headen’s clothing line.”



DIEGO PINEDA | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Chi-Chi Schneider works the runway at Fat Frogg for the Fashion Show and Date Auction



DIEGO PINEDA | Staff Photographer

The models for the Her Campus fashion show wore clothing from BohoBlu and What She Wants Boutique.

Lumen scholar researches 2016 Olympics, human rights

Ally Feinsot
Senior Reporter
@ally_feinsot

Prior to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, human rights violations in the host city were exposed by international media organiza-



Michelle Alfini

tions. Inspired by the media coverage, senior Michelle Alfini developed an interest with the Olympics and its relationship in human rights issues.

She was also introduced to the issue by her high school friend from Brazil, who was involved with protests leading up to the 2014 World Cup.

“These games are supposed to promote international friendship, but at the same time, the events happen at the expense of human rights,” Alfini said.

As a broadcast journalism major and Honors Fellow, Alfini wanted to combine her passions — the Olympics, journalism and South America — for her undergraduate thesis.

Beginning the research

To start out, Alfini taught herself Portuguese and examined the differences between human rights leading up to the 2014 Sochi and 2016 Rio games and how the media covered them.

Her initial plan was to supplement the paper with a documentary, which ended up turning into a website when in, October 2014, she lost all video footage from her first trip to Brazil.

Alfina’s final multimedia product was a website called “Righting Rio.” She began it exactly a year before the games on Aug. 5, 2015, each month publishing a few articles to make people aware of the human rights issues occurring in the Olympic host city.

Alfina was able to travel to Brazil twice with support from the Lumen Prize, which granted her a \$15,000 scholarship to conduct her research abroad.

She was mentored by Associate Professor of Communications Glenn Scott, who has experience covering four summer Olympic games. Though Alfina was able to turn to Scott for help,

his role was more of a guide for her.

“Michelle is such a great thinker and doer that I was trying to keep up with her more than she was with me,” Scott said.

The collaborative team began with mapping out a proposal for the Lumen Prize her sophomore year, exploring the idea of media and politics and what happens when a city becomes a host of the Olympics.

Scott said Alfina developed her website completely on her own, as he offered some observations and editing along the way.

“She is a phenomenal worker and just takes information and applies it,” he said. “She is a real tireless worker. I will give her a big idea on Thursday, and she’s done by Monday.”

The first time Alfina visited Brazil was during her fall break while studying abroad in Ecuador in 2014. She spoke with students in Sao Paulo about what it was like before and during the World Cup, including whether or not fires in favelas leading up to the Cup were intentionally caused by the Brazilian government.

A favela is like a shanty town — a group of haphazardly built shelters throughout urban areas in Brazil, often a hotspot for crime and poverty.

“There is a huge housing crisis in Rio, and when the city was developing, the people who couldn’t afford to buy land made these communities out of whatever they had,” Alfina said.

She went to Rio de Janeiro next, meeting with Viva Favela, a journalism organization that covers stories about favelas for the media.

After visiting Brazil during her semester abroad, Alfina went back in January 2016 for 10 days, spending her entire trip in Rio de Janeiro.

For half of the time, she was in Barra da Tijuca, a neighborhood in Western Rio de Janeiro where most of the Olympic events will be held. Next to the construction of the Olympic park is a favela called Vila Autodromo, where most residents have been evicted because of the Olympics.

“Some people refuse to leave, and the government can’t actually force anyone out, but they really can’t live there anymore,” Alfina said.

The Olympic park sits on top of Vila Autodromo, and the press center is planned to be built on top of the favela.

Barra da Tijuca is one of the newest developments in Rio de Janeiro, and Alfina explained it is being made into a new luxury hotel area,



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE ALFINI

Senior Michelle Alfina documented the mistreatment of human rights leading up to the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

using the games as an excuse to rid of the few favelas left.

Shoe-leather reporting

While in Rio de Janeiro, Alfina was on her own, forcing her to reach out to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help guide her during her research abroad.

She reached out to a community correspondent who lived in a favela to give her a tour of his home. Once at the favela, he told her they would be “going up the hill” to view the town.

Jumping on the back of a motorcycle, she was led up a steep hill, and then brought to the top, where she was able to see the entire favela.

“It’s beautiful and the people who live there are very proud of what they have, but at the same time they know their life would be better if they were not living there,” Alfina said.

The NGOs that Alfina spoke with were very willing to help — talking with her allowed the organizations to get their stories out to the United States and the mainstream media.

She worked with Catalytic Communities, whose interns gave her an understanding of what she was seeing in Rio de Janeiro.

“I would say to them, ‘Hey, I saw this protest, they were shouting this and this what I think it means. Does it have a further meaning?’” Alfina said. “They were more like my assistants, and Viva Favela was more my guide and my story.”

Alfina presented her research at the Asso-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE ALFINI

Alfina had the opportunity to travel to Brazil for research.

ciation for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication’s Southeast Colloquium at Louisiana State University in March as the only undergraduate to present her work.

“It was terrifying because people with Ph.Ds were presenting their research, but everyone who was there was very impressed and supportive that I did all this work as an undergraduate student,” Alfina said.

After completing her thesis, Alfina will sit down with Scott and two other faculty members to defend it, and to interpret her findings and the implications for the media industry.

“What attracted me to this idea in the first place was that I knew it was something a lot of people don’t know about, especially in the United States,” she said. “Most people don’t know what a favela is because it’s not something that Americans necessarily encounter. I wanted to do something that brought to light an issue that people weren’t aware about.”

Alumnus startup develops engine for

Kayla Hoey
Assistant Style Editor
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The ability to travel to Mars in 39 days was a notion deemed unrealistic. But Sibio Energy Edgar Ugalde’s ’01 startup solar energy company, assisted NASA and Ad Astra Rocket Company in the development of new type of engine designed to do just that.

The plasma propulsion engine, which uses a thrust from a quasi-neutral plasma, would allow for manned travel to Mars in a little more than one month instead of nine.

The engine could be one of the most important technological milestones in the history of space travel, and Ugalde’s company, based out of his native Costa Rica, was responsible for integrating solar into Ad Astra’s facilities and executing all of the solar engineering for the project.

Ad Astra is based out of Houston and has been developing the engine in both Houston and Costa Rica. The project is funded by NASA and private investors and has been followed by major news outlets including The Daily Mail and Huffington

Post. The solar photovoltaic project concluded just last week.

Sibio also contributed to creating a financial model for future projects.

“The solar photovoltaic system installed will allow them to run tests more frequently — accelerating the development of the engine,” Ugalde said.

The relationship with Ad Astra started over two years ago at a trade fair where the rocket company was very interested in Sibio Energy’s solar engineering. Ad Astra has a close relationship with NASA, and from there the joint project to create the plasma propulsion engine began.

“It’s unbelievable for me,” Ugalde said. “Right now you can’t hold that much fuel in space. The plasma propulsion engine makes space exploration easier. It heats elements in space to 1 million degrees Celsius. No material on earth can withstand that temperature.”

The electromagnetic field created is not the typical use of solar energy and consumes a very large amount of power. The engineering for this project was more complicated than others.

The project is not the biggest

Sibio Energy has taken on, but Ugalde feels this one in particular will make a big impact on the solar industry of Costa Rica.

“It’s a tremendous experience to make an impact,” Ugalde said. “It goes beyond our border to impact and change something much bigger.”

The idea for Sibio Energy began with Ugalde’s desire to close barriers in the country and help people become more sustainable. His goal was to bring clean ener-

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SUSTAINABILITY. WE MUST DO MORE.

EDGAR UGALDE
ALUMNUS ’01

gy to schools, organizations and homeowners.

In 2013, the company was named the most innovative startup in Costa Rica.



“When people see solar they become aware,” Ugalde said. “We’re the only company helping people go solar with no money down. Engineering would not help in a developing country, Costa Ricans could not afford solar [before us].”

When his daughter was born in 2010, it catalyzed his desire to continue making strides with solar energy and engineering.

“There is not enough sustainability,” he said. “We have to do more.”

Ugalde was a business major at Elon and had never considered starting his own business. In Costa Rica, entrepreneurship is not as praised as it is in the United States.

It wasn’t until Ugalde enrolled in Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship Barth Strempek’s entrepreneurship class that his mindset changed.

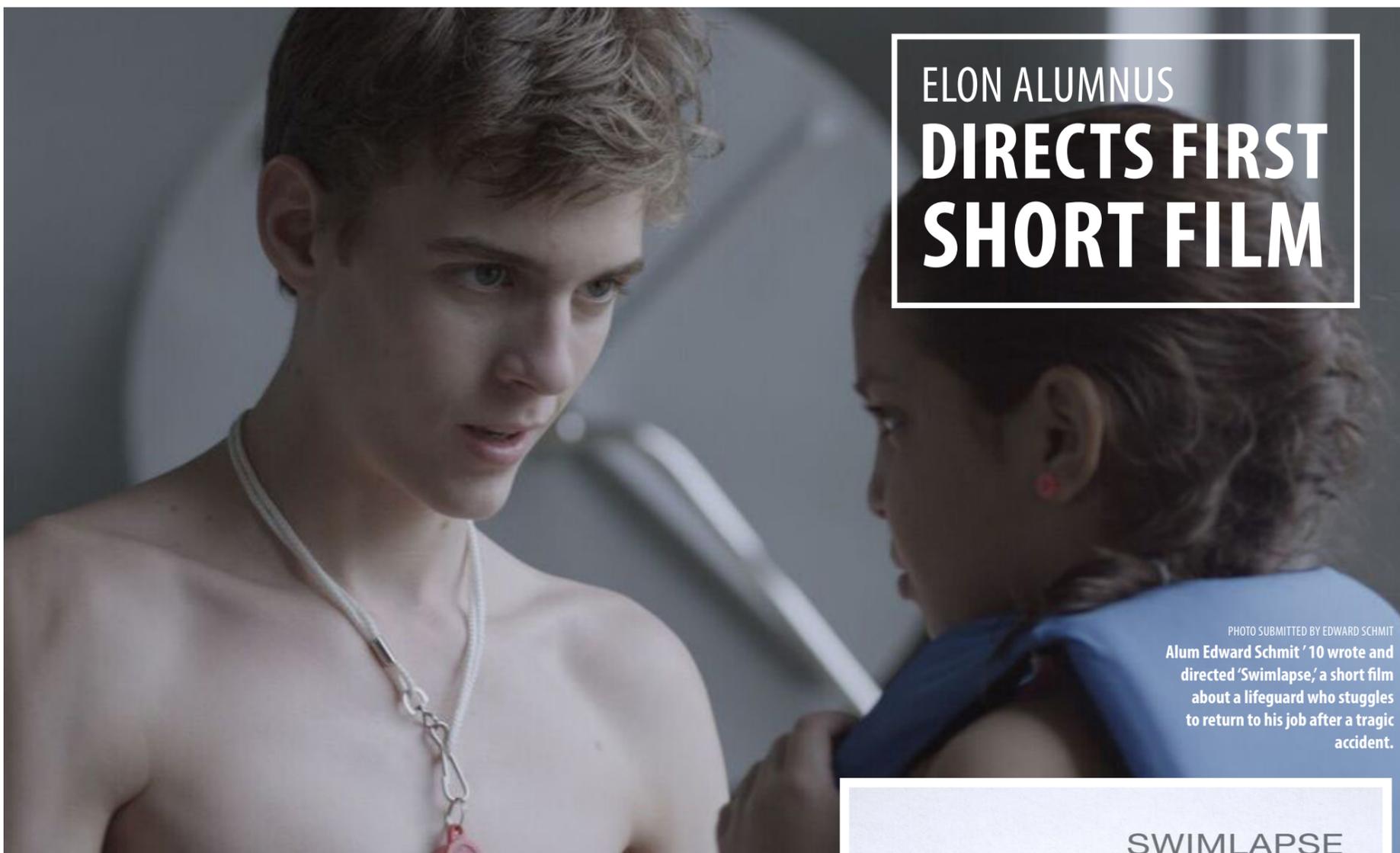
“Edgar is one of those students who extracted maximum benefit

from his time at Elon,” Strempek said. “In the classroom he was always engaged and curious about how to apply the concepts we were covering. I am not surprised that he has been successful in his entrepreneurial endeavors.”

Before starting Sibio Energy, Ugalde worked in different multinational organizations, but always had an interest and focus on sustainability.

“My parents were very, very worried when I said I wanted to do a startup,” Ugalde said. “Developing countries are different than the United States. My sister has a great position at Intel — parents want kids to be lawyers and doctors.”

As for Sibio’s future with NASA, there are no definite plans. Ugalde is just grateful and excited to be a part of such a historical invention and moving technology along to make humankind an interplanetary species.



ELON ALUMNUS DIRECTS FIRST SHORT FILM

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EDWARD SCHMIT
Alum Edward Schmit '10 wrote and directed 'Swimlapse,' a short film about a lifeguard who struggles to return to his job after a tragic accident.

Alexandra Schonfeld
Senior Reporter
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Edward Schmit has spent the past four years since graduating Elon University in 2010 using his



Edward Schmit

artistic skills to assist with other people's projects in New York as a filmmaker and graphic designer. But two years ago he decided to write and direct his first short film, "Swimlapse."

The film tells the story of a young lifeguard who struggles to return to the stand after a tragic accident. Upon his return, he begins to teach a reluctant girl to swim.

In collaboration with fellow Elon graduate and childhood friend Peyton Lea '10, who worked as the director of photography on the film, Schmit shot the nine-minute short in a matter of days.

Creating a vision

"Swimlapse" was inspired by Schmit's own experience as a lifeguard starting at the age of 16. Though he was never faced with an accident himself, the immense responsibility he held as a

"Swimlapse" was inspired by Schmit's own experience as a lifeguard starting at the age of 16.

young man never left him. "Nothing ever happened on my watch, but I was always very fearful," Schmit said. "That lived in the back of my mind when I was on the stand and hasn't left me since. I like to say that 'Swimlapse' is an exploration of those fears I had as a former guard."

The film was shot at a pool in Charlotte where both Schmit and

Lea grew up, and where Schmit spent much time as a lifeguard and swim teacher.

"I was debating from the start whether or not I was going to shoot it up in New York or down in North Carolina," Schmit said. "I'm from Charlotte and I was scouting a lot of pools in New York and none of them were really matching with the vision I had."

Schmit's love for swimming and fond memories of the hometown pool fueled his development of the plot.

"I learned to swim there, and I spent a lot of time there," Schmit said. "I just think it's a really magical thing, learning how to swim. I wanted it to have special meaning on top of the story I was already telling."

Schmit wrote, directed and produced the film, but since it was his first film, he depended a lot on Lea, who has more experience in the industry.

Lea started his own production company—Peyton Lea Productions LLC, based out of North Carolina—in 2012 and has worked on a wide array of short films, commercials and corporate web content. Lea helped to put together a crew in North Carolina to help execute "Swimlapse."

"It was really cool to collaborate with Eddie — we worked on a film together at Elon called 'The Magazine Girl' and we co-directed that which was a fun learning process," Lea said. "We were just learning how to flex our creative muscles. This was cool because we had gone out into the world and honed our skills and were able to come together and collaborate."

Planning and filming

The decision to make a short film rather than a feature film was made for a few reasons. Shorter films are less time-consuming and easier on the wallet. But Schmit also knew his story only needed a few minutes to express the message

he was trying to convey.

"I think some stories are shorter than other stories," Schmit said. "I think the job of an artist is tell your story as concisely and pointedly as possible, and the story that I wanted to tell I think only really needed about nine minutes."

Since moving to New York, Schmit has worked with the entertainment and production company Full Picture. He pitched his idea for "Swimlapse" to his boss and CEO of the company, Desiree Gruber, who was Emmy-nominated for her work as executive producer of "Project Runway."

Gruber thought it was a good idea and ended up funding a good portion of the film.

"It really wouldn't have been possible without her," Schmit said.

The time and budget restraints of making an independent film can be challenging, but Lea said it's all a part of what you sign up for when you become an independent filmmaker.

"Independent filmmaking is going to be difficult," Lea said. "You don't have the luxury of using a location for days and days because it is a functioning facility. When [you] don't have a big budget you are kind of at the mercy of everyone else."

Schmit put out a casting call on the Internet and received many responses for which he did many Skype auditions and callbacks.

For the main role, Schmit's old drama teacher in Charlotte recommended Stephanie Soto, who was eventually cast as the lifeguard's swim student.

"She's freakin' amazing," said Schmit of Soto. "Casting was pretty easy, everything sort of fell into place."

Directing "Swimlapse" allowed Schmit to use the skills he learned as an acting major at Elon even if he wasn't acting.

"When I moved to NYC I wasn't acting very much, and I missed it a lot," Schmit said. "I kind of fell into the same acting groove in directing this film, I learned the vocab-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EDWARD SCHMIT

The "Swimlapse" poster. The short film has been featured in a number of film festivals and was nominated for Best Narrative Short at the Queens Film Festival.

ulary and how to talk to actors and I think that really informed how I related to them as a director."

In addition to Lea, Schmit also reached out to another Elon alum, Rafe Andrews whose song is featured at the end of the film.

"It's a no-brainer; we work with so many talented people at Elon, and everyone goes off to their perspective careers and all you have to do is text them."

Premiering across the country

The film premiered last year at the Charlotte Film Festival in Charlotte and since then has been shown around the country.

"It was great because we premiered very close to where we shot so the crew and cast were all nearby and all came to the premiere," Schmit said. "It was amazing to see it on the big screen with the cast and crew who put a lot of time into this."

At the Queens Film Festival in

Queens, New York, the film was even nominated for Best Narrative Short. The film's website lists the festivals the short has been featured in, including the Dam Short Film Festival, along with a trailer.

Now, at the end of its festival run, the "Swimlapse" team is returning to North Carolina and appearing in the RiverRun International Film Festival in Winston-Salem. RiverRun is one of the premiere festivals in the Southeast.

The film will be screened at RiverRun April 10 at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Arts and April 15 in the Hanesbrands Theatre.

Moving forward, Schmit is happy with the success of his first film and hopes to have a chance to produce his newest idea.

"I'm taking it step by step. I have a day job, but I really loved making this film," Schmit said. "I am working on another short film — I want another crack at it. I've written it, I've got to go find another way to pay for this one."

SOCCER from cover

two years at Elon before leaving to head up the Orlando City SC youth academy. In his final season with the Phoenix in 2013, Powell took Elon to its first ever appearance in the second round of the NCAA Tournament after a dramatic victory over Clemson University in a penalty shootout in the opening round.

McBride said he has stayed in touch with Powell since he left Elon. Now reunited, McBride said Powell has matured a bit, but he still sees the same energetic coach on the sidelines.

"We go out there at 8:45 in the morning. Most of us are yawning and kind of tired, and he's out there ready to go, clapping his hands and can't wait to get started with training every day," McBride said.

He said one of Powell's best qualities is his pragmatism and his ability to change tactics for whichever situation he's thrown into.

Though, McBride expects the team to play true to Powell's philosophy of attacking soccer and putting opponents on the back foot.

"When we have the ball we want to keep it and create chances, but without the ball we want to tell the opposition where they can have the ball and where they can have time and space," McBride said. "It's pretty similar to our Elon days."

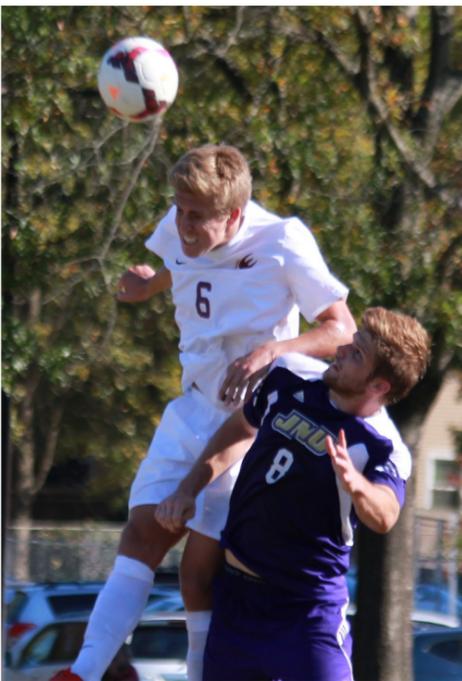
Achieving a goal

Elon Director of Athletics Dave Blank was sad to see Powell leave for Orlando City, but he knew the coaching in the professional ranks was always a career objective for him.

"When you're driven like that on a specific goal, the trick to that is to learn that level as best you can," Blank said. "Darren did a great job with his network of knowing who he needed to know and how to get into the major leagues from the college level, so he was ready when the call came. But more importantly, the other end of the phone knew who they wanted to call."

For Powell, San Antonio is just the latest stop as he traverses the world of coaching.

"I see it as a profession," he said. "I see it as a journey of coaching and where it all ends up, you can never tell, but you're always striving to extend yourself and test yourself."



McBride starts first match in club history

In the first match for San Antonio FC Sunday, head coach Darren Powell started Sam McBride at center back. McBride played all 90 minutes in the 3-0 victory over Seattle Sounders 2 in Tukwila, Washington.

Miguel Salazar was available as a substitute, but Powell did not use Salazar. Austin Dunker did not make the trip.

San Antonio FC's first home match is Saturday against the Swope Park Rangers.

Different routes, same destination

McBride said the opportunity to sign with San Antonio without having to go tryout was a major factor in signing with the club. He said some clubs had expressed interest in taking a look at him for a brief tryout, but McBride said he was looking for something more promising.

"I didn't want to be traveling around the country trying to go to different tryouts," he said. "I wanted to sign with a team right away."

Powell had reached out to McBride soon after he was hired. He told McBride he would be the third choice center back — if one of the two starting central defenders got injured, McBride would be the next man up.

"I drove down to San Antonio, 22 hours, met up with Darren the first or second day I got here and we reconnected just like we were at Elon, or when I was a little kid," he said.

Dunker took a more circuitous route to San Antonio. After playing for the Seattle Sounders' team in the Professional Development League (PDL), Dunker picked up an injury, forcing him out of action. With the help of a former teammate, Dunker was set up with Soccer Smart, a recruiting agency which helps place players with clubs in Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar.

Dunker said he was always intrigued by the opportunity of living and playing in Australia. He had been negotiating with a club, and the two came to a mutual understanding that Dunker would get himself down to Australia where they would then finalize the details of the contract.

Then there was a slight change of plan. "Everything was set. I had my flight, my visa and everything," Dunker said. "Darren had gotten the job a few days before he had called me. Five days before I was leaving for Australia he called me and said, 'Here's the deal. The situation in San Antonio is exciting.'"

But Dunker didn't sign when he arrived in San Antonio. He had to prove his fitness and was eventually signed more than a month after McBride and Salazar.

"He came, and what he did was impress the whole coaching staff on his current form and current fitness," Powell said. "He has some aspects that we think can be useful — maybe not in the immediate future, but



FILE PHOTO BY STEFAN FORTMANN

Darren Powell coached at Elon for nine seasons (2005-2013) before moving to the pros. Picture from 2013.

certainly in the long-term."

While the timing was near perfect, it was no coincidence. Elon head coach Chris Little, who previously served as Powell's assistant and coached McBride and Dunker with the North Carolina Fusion academy team while they were in high school, helped convince Powell to take a look at Dunker.

Dunker had been training with Elon to regain fitness when Powell came calling.

"Darren was looking for some cover at left back and I said, 'Look, he's been training with us, he's fit, he's committed, he's working hard, he's desperate for the opportunity and he just wants a chance to be able to prove himself,'" Little said.

Finding a club

Salazar was in a similar boat, unsure of where he would end up playing. Much of the debate came down to Salazar's player status by Major League Soccer (MLS). Salazar is not a U.S. citizen, and despite having family who are, MLS classified him as an international player. With only eight international players allowed per team (excluding exceptions), Salazar's prospects soon dried up.

While he's had to drop down two tiers,



FILE PHOTOS BY NICOLE OSGOOD AND ASHLEY KING

Former Elon soccer players Sam McBride (left), Miguel Salazar (top right), and Austin Dunker (bottom right) all play for Powell in San Antonio. Photos from 2014.

Salazar said there are obvious benefits to playing for San Antonio. He added having Powell coach him during his early professional career is "crucial" to his long-term success.

"The main thing is gaining experience, adapting to the game and getting playing time is the most important," Salazar said. "If you get drafted [by an MLS club], sometimes it's harder for the rookies to get playing time."

Doing it like a family

One concept Powell has brought with him to San Antonio is the idea of having a "family atmosphere" surrounding the club. He said it's especially important in his new setting, with so many different players coming from drastically different backgrounds.

"You want to go to a workplace where you want to be there," Powell said. "You want to surround yourself with good people, people you want to be around, so you create that atmosphere within a locker room, within a team."

Part of the family atmosphere stems from the players constantly being around each other. Dunker, McBride and Salazar share an apartment close to the team's facilities. Many of the other players also have their own places in the same complex.

Salazar said the set up was similar to when he was a part of Real Salt Lake's academy.

"We lived together in a residential program and just interacting with the players every day and getting to know them day-by-day is very crucial for the chemistry of the team," he said.

Creating new goals

McBride directed the team collectively and in small groups to come up with a pyramid of team goals. He said at the bottom of the pyramid are "buzzwords," or words they want to describe the team and how they play, and "character goals," which come from the Spurs Sports and Entertainment organization, who own the club.

McBride wasn't able to share specific team goals, but shared the club's ultimate objective: win the USL title.

Regardless of where Elon's triumvirate of players end up after their inaugural season, Little says they all have the skills needed to sustain a professional career at the highest levels.

"They all have the ability and potential to be MLS players," he said. "That's easier said than done, and sometimes you need luck. You need to stay injury-free, performing well at the right time and I think at their age the key thing is to get an opportunity and to get games."

Elon's pitching progress behind schedule

It took the Elon University baseball team five pitchers to get three outs, all in one inning that backfired but exposed a larger problem that's persisted through much of this season.



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist
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The Phoenix pitching staff still isn't at the caliber it was expected to reach.

About halfway through the season and three weekends into Colonial Athletic Association (CAA)

play, Elon's pitchers are still struggling to do the one thing they're supposed to do — throw strikes.

Elon has walked more batters (147) than any other team in the CAA, and has the second most wild pitches (37) among CAA teams.

The best representative of this was the

April 2 loss to College of Charleston, the league's reigning champion that's spent part of this season nationally ranked. Elon led 2-1 entering the seventh, when not even a revolving door of relievers could hold onto the lead.

As of April 4, Elon's 6.20 earned run average (ERA) on the mound ranks 251st out of 295 teams nationally.

Sophomore Sean

Byrnes pitched to the

first two batters, allowing a double and then a subsequent RBI single by College of Charleston's Bradley Jones that tied the game.

He was pulled in favor of senior Tyler Manez, who walked the only batter he faced. Then came sophomore Robbie Welhaf, who induced a sacrifice bunt and then exited.

Freshman Kellan Elsbury and junior Danny Crowe finished the inning, each facing two batters. Among those four at-bats were two RBI singles, giving the Cougars a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"We haven't been good enough to throw guys for a full inning, or an inning and two-thirds," said Elon coach Mike Kennedy.

"We just haven't had that happen. We tried to get some guys in some match-up situations where they can have some success one or two batters at a time until they can get



Junior pitcher Derek Pike (28) delivers a pitch in the sixth inning against the College of Charleston April 6.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

going. That was the goal."

Elon walked 13 batters that game, a season high. In all, the Phoenix used 10 pitchers, eight of which lasted less than an inning.

Elon's earned-run average is 6.20, eighth in the nine-team CAA. Opponents are batting .288 against the Phoenix.

While freshman Mason Daniels has stood out, not many other starting pitchers have.

Daniels has made seven starts, sporting a 2-2 record with a 4.91 ERA. He's struck out a team-high 37 batters.

Freshman Jordan Barrett is 0-3 with a 7.84 ERA in 10 appearances, six being starts. Junior Nick Beaulac has made seven appearances, five starts, but is winless at 0-4 with an 8.53 ERA.

Those two have combined for 43 walks.

Junior Chris Hall has been solid in the closer role, and freshman Ryan Conroy has been impressive in 10 appearances, mostly out of the bullpen.

But senior Michael Elefante is still finding his footing after missing the first few games while recovering from an injury, Welhaf hasn't been overly effective and junior Matt Harris is battling an injury.

That leaves Elon with a pitching staff

that, for the most part, is working to regain its confidence and find the best ways to approach batters.

"We're close," Elefante said. "We're not pitching to the ability we can. We competed in the zone all off-season, and some toward the beginning of the year ... We need someone to take the lead, take ownership and

throw a lot of strikes."

It doesn't get easier next weekend, as Elon travels out of North Carolina for the first time all season to face Northeastern University, who's tied for third in the CAA.

Kennedy said with the troubles the starting rotation has presented, Elon's had to move some guys to the bullpen to help them rejuvenate.

That's worked to some extent with Barrett, he said, but acknowledged, "we didn't bring him here to throw out of the pen."

At the start of the year, Kennedy felt good about the pitching staff after the work it put in during the off-season. His main concern was injuries.

Now though, he said the staff is certainly behind where he thought they'd be at this point.

"No question, simply because of the amount of strikes we're not throwing," Kennedy said. "Do I think our guys are capable? Yeah, very much so. We have to get a couple of those other guys, Beaulac and Barrett, really going.

"We have a couple of those guys where we're having to do something different. But that's part of what you go through in a season. The great thing now is we're throwing two freshmen on the weekends. Down the road, they're going to be really good."

That will be great, yes. But for success here and now, Elon's pitchers need to find a way to stay ahead of batters.



Assistant coach Micah Posey (right) took many trips to the mound over the weekend to talk to pitchers.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

FOOTBALL from backpage

and has consistently been playing with the first team. After last season's back-and-forth between Christiansen and rising sophomore quarterback Daniel Thompson, Skrosky said Christiansen earned the top spot — and Joyner can see why.

"He relaxes. Last year, I think he took a little too much to heart," Joyner said. "I did it. Everyone does it. And now he knows that, 'That last play doesn't matter, just relax, go back in there,' and he throws a dart."

Christiansen believes his focus on improving little by little each day has helped him, as has his workout regiment from the offseason.

"A big thing for me was putting on weight, and I worked with [Director of Strength and Conditioning Ryan] Horton to draw up how many calories I should have," Christiansen said. "He's helped me a lot, and I was able to put on a good six pounds."

But Skrosky is quick to object

to the notion that Christiansen is going to be the starter for Elon, who opens against Gardner-Webb University Sept. 3 at Rhodes Stadium.

"It's an open competition, but he's been good," Skrosky said. "I've said this a dozen times, and I mean it. I can't think of two better representatives, as kids, for this university. They're working hard, and their relationship is good."

A tight competition at wideout

Elon's deepest position on offense appears to be wide receiver, where the top four receivers all return and have two or more years of eligibility left. The amount of players returning, plus the addition of redshirt freshman wide receiver Tre Marsh, is a big change from last season for Joyner.

"I came early last year in the spring, and I knew then that I was going to have a shot," Joyner said. "But this year, it's completely different. Everybody's a shark. Everybody wants every rep, and no one's walking. The coaches don't need to coach effort as much as

they needed to last year. Every drop counts."

Joyner is pleased that the coaches aren't treating the group like underclassmen, and thinks the wideouts are acting like veterans. The mix of youth and experience is especially exciting for Christiansen, who has built a good rapport with them already.

"It's special because we are the same age and we came into it young," Christiansen said. "Last year, playing with Corey and [rising sophomore wide receiver] Treak McCray, it was their first time out there also. All of the guys are getting better. I can't think of one who is standing out from the rest. All of them have a great mentality right now, and that's all I can really ask of them."

Rising junior wide receiver Tre Lennon got hurt in the first practice of the season, but the team is optimistic it is a minor injury. In his place has stepped the other Tre — Marsh has made an instant impression since stepping onto campus in February.

"One of the biggest surprises is how well he knew the playbook and

adjusted to it quickly," Joyner said. "When I came, I struggled with the questions and meeting stuff, but that's not what Tre struggles with. He handles the way that coach is getting at him well, because they're trying to break him. I think he's a lot better than where I was last spring."

Christiansen added, "In the off-season, he was out here with all of us. He does the right thing, like ask questions. That's what you have to do when you're new in the system, especially when he knows he's going to play. He's attacking it the right way."

An optimistic start

After two years of teaching the student-athletes how to practice the way Skrosky wants them to practice, the coach finally feels as if the team can focus on the fundamentals.

"We're through with all of the mundane stuff, like the procedure," Skrosky said. "Most of the guys have been in it a while, they're on board. We're by all that stuff. Now you can teach details, nuances — the older

guys are doing that, having been in the same system for three years now. That's the biggest difference, you can coach the detail."

Skrosky said his staff went around the country to learn from other staffs and are ready to implement the tweaks into the offense. But initially, his defensive backs and linebackers have impressed him, led by rising senior linebacker John Silas and rising junior cornerback Chris Blair.

"Those guys got to find a way to elevate everyone else's level," Skrosky said. "They got to say, 'Here's the bar. It's really high. Come on up and get on the bar.' John Silas — for a guy who doesn't like talking — he's doing it, which is a good thing."

There are two players — rising sophomore offensive lineman C.J. Toogood and rising sophomore defensive lineman Nic Johnson — out for the time being, recovering from surgeries in the offseason. But other than them and Lennon, the team is at full strength as spring practices get underway.

And it has everyone in the program excited to get back to practice.

THE
**PHOENIX
FOCUS**

WOMEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

	March 31	
	7-0	
	April 2	
	4-3	
	April 3	
	4-0	
Away	April 8 2:30 p.m.	
Home	April 9 1 p.m.	

MEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

	March 29	
	4-3	
	April 3	
	5-2	
Home	April 6 3 p.m.	
Home	April 10 1 p.m.	

WOMEN'S LAX

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

	March 19	
	12-6	
	March 22	
	12-8	
Home	April 8 6 p.m.	
Home	April 10 Noon	



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

BASEBALL

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

	April 1-3	
	1 W, 2 L	
	April 5	
	Late	
Away	April 6 6 p.m.	
Away	April 8-10 3 games	
Home	April 12 6:30 p.m.	

SOFTBALL

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

	April 2-3	
	2 W, 1 L	
Away	April 6 6 p.m.	
Home	April 9-10 3 games	



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's tennis sweeps CAA competition over weekend

The Elon University women's tennis teams team beat all three Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) opponents last week to improve its winning streak to five straight matches.

The Phoenix beat the University of Delaware, James Madison University and Towson University.

While the CAA does not have official conference matches in the regular season, Elon went 4-1 in matches against CAA opponents, with its lone loss coming to the College of William & Mary Jan. 29.

Men's tennis continues torrid play with 2 wins

The Elon University men's tennis team extended its winning streak to seven straight matches with two victories last week.

Elon defeated the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and No. 62 College of William & Mary at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.

Elon finishes its season with three more home matches before hosting the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Men's and Women's Tennis Championships April 21-24 between the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center and the Burlington Tennis Center.

Softball player named CAA Rookie of the Week

Elon University softball freshman infielder/outfielder Erica Serafini was named Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Rookie of the Week April 4.

Serafini went 4-for-8 on the week, blasting her first career home run April 2. She scored a team-high four runs and added three RBI and a double.

It's the second Rookie of the Week honor for an Elon player this season, after freshman pitcher Abby Barket received the award March 14.

Elon went 2-1 last week, improving to 5-1 in the CAA on the season and 19-15 on the year.

Athletic department holding food drive

The Elon University Student-Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) is hosting a food drive as part of the Colonial Athletic Association's (CAA) fourth-annual Food Drive Challenge.

The student-athletes involved in the SAAC will be at nine events from April 9-15, with all proceeds benefiting Allied Churches of Alamance County.

The group will collect nonperishable food items — such as canned goods, boxed pasta and peanut butter — and monetary donations.

FOOTBALL STARTS SPRING PRACTICE



Alex Simon
Sports Editor
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Most college students would love more down time. But for rising sophomore quarterback Connor Christiansen, all the down time meant he couldn't be on the field for the Elon University football team.

And now, after four months of workouts, he gets to get back out there.

"I don't know how many weeks of winter workouts we had, but it felt like it would never end," Christiansen said. "We had way too much down time — obviously

down time is nice — but everybody was itching to get back out here and compete. We had full 7-on-7s after workouts."

The Phoenix started spring football practices last week, with the first practice taking place March 30. For some, like rising sophomore wide receiver Corey Joyner, having Spring Break right before the start of practices was difficult.

"I ran one time, thinking it was going to be enough," Joyner said. "That morning coming back, it was terrible. Terrible, terrible, terrible."

As head coach Rich Skrosky begins his third season in charge, he's pleased with the progress the program has had with recruiting,

especially with the volume of student-athletes he's brought to Elon.

"This'll be another big class — we haven't solidified all of the walk-ons yet, but we'll be in the 30s again," Skrosky said, noting that last season's class brought in 39 players. "My goal in the spring is somewhere between 72 and 76. That's ideal numbers. We're at 67 right now. Last year at this time, we were at 64. Our very first class was small by design. Our first year, we had four walk-ons. Last year, we had 18."

And while there have been a few injured players, including two key contributors last season, the Phoenix comes into practices as a

tighter unit and carrying a lot of hope for the next season.

Honoring a lost teammate

It's been almost five months since the death of Demetri Allison, and the Nov. 11 tragedy is ever-present in the program.

"It certainly is with us and will always be with us," Skrosky said. "It's not gone away, and it won't go away."

Skrosky doesn't want to generalize the way the team as a whole has dealt with it, stressing that each individual deals with tragedy in the way that is best for the individual.

"You think about it. Every day, something comes up and you're like—" Skrosky pauses, then sighs. "That'll be forever. That won't change."

The players say they have grown closer as a group through the tragedy, and the guys are more willing to talk about personal feelings and other things that aren't typically discussed in a football locker room.

"This isn't a typical locker room — not a whole lot of teams in

JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Rising sophomore quarterback Connor Christiansen (12) has been taking the reps with the first team at the start of spring practices. The Phoenix has completed four of its 15 spring practices so far, with the next one at 3:45 p.m. today.

the country can say they've gone through what we've gone through," Christiansen said. "We were very weak and numb to each other because it hits you in the face. It's a realization of life and how precious it really is. People were really down, and seeing grown men cry ... you don't see that in locker rooms."

The team continues to end practices by huddling together and breaking on the word "Family," and many players still use LLD — "Long Live Demetri" — on their football gear and social media.

"We've really cherished each other and cherished our relationships," Christiansen said. "When we were down, we brought each other up. Now, it's, 'What can we do to glorify Demetri Allison's name?' He would want us to play great and give our best effort."

Earning the reps

Christiansen has been the first quarterback on the depth chart,



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Redshirt freshman wide receiver Jon Leach (29) gets blocked during spring football practice April 4.