



THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

A collection of Elon students' best photos from study abroad experiences.

>> PAGE 4

A LEGACY OF LETTERS

Former Acorn employee cherishes notes from students during battle with cancer.

>> PAGE 5



THE PENDULUM

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Performing arts students show off acting chops in 'Macbeth'



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

The Department of Performing Arts' production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" has been challenging both its actors and audience for weeks. The drama, currently running in the Black Box Theatre through Feb. 4, forces heavy themes into the spotlight, including how far one will go to achieve greatness. "I think the play still poses some interesting, and perhaps uncomfortable, questions about the limits we do and don't place upon ourselves as we exercise the power that each one of us possesses in this world," said director Kirby Wahl in a previous interview.

To see more photos, visit <http://bit.ly/EPmacbeth>.

Elon begins Multi-faith Center construction

Current disturbances do not lessen excitement about pavilion

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

Construction of the Numen Lumen Pavilion brings increased noise levels and obstacles for pedestrians in East Area, but despite the current inconveniences, students said they look forward to the opportunities associated with the Multi-faith Center.

The construction creates an obstacle for students walking through the area, said sophomore Beth Beless, resident assistant in the International Pavilion. According to Beless, she and her residents have been affected by the construction.

"It mainly affects the pavilions because East Area has no dining halls," Beless said. "So most people, especially in the IP, have to walk in the mud because there is no sidewalk. The construction blocks the paths, and it is a hassle having to walk around it because it cuts off the direct routes to Moseley, Colonnades and Koury."

Nevertheless, Angel Garcia, assistant director of East Area, said he has not heard from any student with complaints.

"I believe the students are understanding," Garcia said. "We cannot just bring a building and just place it to avoid the noise. They understand that it's part of the process and I think they'll look forward to the Multi-faith Center being part of our area."

East Area residents received two emails from Residence Life one week

prior to the start of construction to inform them construction was starting and to encourage them to reach out to Residence Life if there are any problems. East Area faculty and staff received a similar email from the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

Although freshman Carolina resident Caroline Bondurant noted some disturbance near her dorm, the construction does not pose an exceptional inconvenience, she said.

"My room faces the direction of construction," Bondurant said. "It can be kind of loud and the building shakes a little bit when I'm trying to sleep in. (The construction) is kind of in the way, but it's not like it's totally out of my way (to go around the fence)."

Garcia said he acknowledges the absence of this sidewalk and recognizes that this may inconvenience students.

"So far, the construction site took away one of the sidewalks that students used, but that's for students' safety," Garcia said. "Other than that, I think that the company has done a good job at outlining and protecting the construction site and students, for that matter, and the only sacrifice that I'm aware of is that sidewalk."

To Garcia, the sacrifice is worth the benefits the Numen Lumen Pavilion presents.

"(The Numen Lumen Pavilion) is the completion of the academic

See FAITH | PAGE 2

New police chief for Town of Elon serves home, alma mater

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

When Cliff Parker assumes the responsibilities of Town of Elon police chief March 5, he is beginning more than a new job. He is returning home.

"I love Elon University and the community, and thought it was a great opportunity to come back and serve the community and get the chance to become chief," he said.

Parker applied for the position after LaVell Lovette, the former police chief, announced her retirement. Mike Dula, town manager for the Town of Elon, and an interview committee selected Parker as the new Town of Elon police chief. Parker will be sworn in following his retirement as special agent at the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation on March 1.

The Town of Elon received between 70 and 80 applications, but Parker's previous experience and connection to the town determined the interview committee's final selection, according to Dula.

"I think it's just part of the package of his experience," Dula said. "He is familiar with the university and has had contact with it over the years and has a lot of knowledge of the role of the community and the university and how they work together."

Parker graduated from Elon in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in history and a minor in physical education. Parker met his wife, Karon, at Elon University and they currently live in the town.

Parker worked for the Burlington Police Department for three and a half years before beginning his career with the North Carolina SBI, where he worked as an investigator and special agent in charge of numerous counties, including Alamance.

"Having 29 years in law enforcement has been preparation for where I am now," Parker said. "I've lived and worked in the community the majority of my career."

His service with the SBI provided Parker with the opportunity to work with a variety of law enforcement agencies, he said.

Although his previous experience exposed him to the Town of Elon Police Department, Parker has been meeting with Dula and the department to better prepare for his position as police chief. Parker has reviewed the budget, discussed structure for staffing and inspected the status of equipment, vehicles and training, Dula said.

Parker said he has already established a good relationship with the police departments in Alamance County, and believes he can rely on the department heads' experience and advice.

"My goal is the same as the university and the folks of the Town of Elon," Parker said. "We just want to work together to help folks experience the best quality of life that we can."

Craig Andrews, police captain, is interim police chief until Parker assumes responsibilities in March.

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Candidates announce plans for local election

Emily Hines
Assistant News Editor

The race for the Republican presidential candidacy has captured the nation's attention, but residents of Alamance County are preparing for a more local election.



MARK HOPP



JEREMY TEETOR

Mark Hopp and Jeremy Teetor, an alum who graduated in 2010, recently announced plans in the Burlington Times-News to run for Alamance County Board of Commissioners. Filing for local and state political offices is scheduled for

February, and the election for the Alamance County Board of Commissioners will be in November.

While Hopp and Teetor are the only individuals who have announced their candidacy, three spots are scheduled to open on the board.

Hopp, a Republican candidate, is running for the first time. Teetor, a Democrat, is running for the second time after losing to Tom Manning in the 2010 election.

While the candidates are preparing their platforms concerning economic issues, a recent state amendment may force Hopp and Teetor to delay their campaigns.

The controversy surrounding the wording of a North Carolina amendment regarding the definition of marriage has postponed completion of the ballot, influencing the date of both the primary and general elections in Alamance County.

This would have a trickle-down effect on the election for the Board of Commissioners. The primary election could be as late as August with general

elections in November, Teetor said.

Hopp said he fears that a delay in filing for candidacy may cause more people to decide to join the race.

Delayed filing will not affect voting in the national elections in North Carolina.

Both candidates said economic issues play a large role in their planned policies for Alamance County.

Teetor said he intends to address the educational roots of the economic situation in order to increase the number of jobs.

"Alamance County is historically known for its textile industry, and a lot of those jobs have gone away for various reasons," Teetor said. "Some people have struggled to make an adjustment, and the only way we can help is to educate workers in a way where they can pursue fields outside of textiles."

Teetor also said he aims to bring more companies to Alamance County to increase the number of jobs. An increase in education level attracts more employers, according to Teetor.

Hopp is also looking to focus on the economy of Alamance County for his platform. He plans to reduce the regulation of local farms.

Food Sovereignty, a movement in the United States that Hopp said he favors, supports passing a bill exempting food grown, harvested, sold and consumed in the same community from FDA regulations, which in turn increases sovereignty for local farmers.

If a farm only functions within the boundaries of a single community, an outbreak is confined and easily remedied, reducing the need for FDA regulations, Hopp said.

"When you see regulation, what happens is the small guy can't keep up with the regulation, and they either go out of business or they sell out to a bigger guy," he said. "That is what we are seeing in this country as a whole — consolidation of industries into larger corporations."

With local farms under less regulation, they can stay in business while offering more jobs, according to Hopp.

NEWS BRIEFS

Death of former trustee

Former Elon University trustee Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans passed away Jan. 25.

Semans became a trustee in 1978 and held the position until she resigned in 1982.

A funeral service was held Jan. 30 at Duke Chapel on Duke University's campus.

Belk Library changes hours

Belk Library has changed hours for the spring semester. The second floor will remain open 24 hours, in addition to the circulation desk and reserves. The third floor will close at 1 a.m.

Student requests motivated the change. Security and safety concerns impeded the change in the past. Dwight Davis, the late night building monitor, will continue to be the only staff member present, but security cameras are being installed.

The changes went into effect Jan. 31.

iMedia team finishes Fly-Ins projects

Graduate students in Elon's Interactive Media masters program, traveled to Mexico, Costa Rica, Iceland and Panama as part of the Winter Fly-Ins component of the program.

They aided nonprofit organizations through film, logo development and social media to spread the word of their causes.

The Fly-Ins enable students to use skills learned in the classroom in real-life situation, said David Copeland, director of iMedia.

Students, faculty welcome coming pavilion despite current disturbances

FAITH from page 1

pavilions so it is actually symmetric," Garcia said. "It's a beautification of the area, I think it adds value to it structural-wise."

Students said they also find value in the new building and look forward to the opportunities associated with the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

"One of the first things I wanted to do when I got to Elon was find a community or a church that I could get in touch with," Bondurant said. "The closest church is near Danieley, but not everyone is going to enjoy a traditional Baptist ceremony. I liked it, but some people might not. (The Numen Lumen Pavilion) will be very central and will allow for the spread of

different religions."

Freshman Dayna DiClemente said she agrees that the university will benefit from this new pavilion.

"(The Numen Lumen Pavilion) will further educate students about different religions and promote acceptance and tolerance of people's religions," DiClemente said.

MORE ONLINE

Sources comment on recent construction.

<http://bit.ly/EPnumenlumen>

MARY KATE BROGAN
Senior Reporter

Emergency response protocol modified to ensure faster notification, security

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

The emergency response protocol at Elon University has been modified to ensure campus officials are notified immediately of any incidents occurring near campus.

The change comes in response to an incident in December involving a student robbed at gunpoint at the Bank of America ATM on Williamson Avenue. The incident occurred around 10 p.m. Dec. 11, but the campus was not notified until 2:30 that morning.

According to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, Town of Elon Police responded to the scene and put out a "be on the lookout" notice for the robber, who fled on foot through the construction

site of the Station at Mill Point, in the opposite direction of campus. While University Police were notified of the "BOLO," they did not know a student was involved.

"Town police aren't thinking to call us first," Jackson said. "And campus police thought there was no danger (to Elon). The student's father eventually called security, which activated the system and I was notified."

In the future, Jackson directed Town of Elon Police to notify Chuck Gantos, director of campus safety and police, no matter the situation and even when it is not known if a student was involved.

Jackson said he encourages all students to call 911 immediately, rather than friends or parents.

"Time is of the essence," he said.



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Opinions

Numen Lumen Pavilion: expanding or containing diversity?

A Pendulum Editorial

The construction of the Multi-faith Center symbolizes Elon University's mission to develop a community diverse in practice and belief, but student reaction to current diversity initiatives does not promise that completion of the Numen Lumen Pavilion will fulfill the administration's goal.

While Jan Fuller, university chaplain, has said she believes the younger population is less confined to its own religious point of view, campus organizations do not reflect this idea. University diversity initiatives tend to serve the minority, rather than address the needs of all.

This is the fault of neither the administration nor the facilities themselves, but rather how students react to spaces designated for multiculturalism. Such organizations exhibit a safe-haven for minorities instead of a climate supportive of intercultural relationships and understanding.

In a previous interview with The Pendulum, Smith Jackson,

vice president and dean of Student Life, acknowledged popular student criticism of Elon's Multicultural Center, which primarily serves marginalized groups rather than a group representative of diverse backgrounds and cultures. The Multicultural Center's title does not reflect the functionality of the facility.

A large variety of organizations attract a diverse student body, but divisions remain evident throughout campus.

Even with the creation of the Multi-faith Center, distinct religious spaces will continue to exist. The Hillel House will occupy the building that currently holds the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life. With the establishment of space designated for specific groups, such as the Holland House for Catholic Campus Ministry and the Hillel House, we fear the Numen Lumen Pavilion will mirror the functionality of those already existing "multicultural" programs.

Nevertheless, the new Multi-faith Center aims to create an environment conducive to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF E-NET

study of religion and culture, according to Fuller.

The architecture and facilities within the Numen Lumen Pavilion intend to communicate that students of all faiths are welcome in the building, Fuller said. Each professional religious leader will have an office in the Multi-faith Center. In addition, the spiritual space will be round, so as not to exemplify a symbol of any one religion, she said.

"We also want people who have no religion to feel welcome in the building, to come and engage in conversation about value systems or ethical decisions from a purely curious

point of view," Fuller said.

Although the Multi-faith Center and Religious Community Houses Committee designed the Numen Lumen Pavilion in hopes of bringing a variety of faiths under one roof, the building only represents an opportunity for diversity and does not automatically translate to inclusivity of all students.

While the Numen Lumen Pavilion demonstrates how Elon as a university welcomes students of diverse faith traditions, in order to achieve multiculturalism, all those belonging to the university must change how they approach defining diversity.

Internet dodges federal regulation bullet

What have we learned from SOPA and PIPA?

The Internet is the world's last bastion of unregulated free speech. Fortunately for citizens of the United States, our government has kept its hands off of it, unlike other totalitarian regimes around the world. But we almost lost this exception when Congress introduced new legislation that would take government censorship to a whole new level.

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) in the House of Representatives and Protect IP Act (PIPA) in the Senate claimed to address ongoing debates regarding online piracy and protection of intellectual property. On paper, this sounds like a novel idea. Supporters in both chambers of Congress claimed the passing of these laws would not affect sites like Wikipedia or Reddit, and instead target sites hosting pirated material.

What the legislations' sponsors claim to attack isn't a bad thing. The protection of intellectual property is essential to a healthy and thriving market economy, where individuals can profit from the fruits of their own labor. But the precedent that passing such laws would entail would do more harm than good.

Had SOPA and PIPA's sponsors not dropped their support before the bills came to the floor, all it would have taken is more statist administrations to bring increasingly heavier government presence in our daily lives. President Barack Obama, for instance, campaigned against several of the PATRIOT Act's ramifications, which were

passed under former President George W. Bush's leadership. But Obama's recent signing of the National Defense Authorization Act expanded the federal government's authority far beyond warrantless wiretaps to include the indefinite detention of American citizens. Such a move would not have been possible without the passage of items like the PATRIOT Act, regardless of its intention to only target suspected terrorists.

The Internet is perhaps the only remaining realm where the free market of ideas can truly flourish. Created with the help of the U.S. Defense Department (no thanks to Al Gore, as some might believe), it began as a merging of networks such as ARPANET, CYCLADES, NPL and others into a virtual network of networks. Today, it has evolved into an essential component of our market economy, allowing businesses to reach out to potential consumers like never before. We, as consumers, have directly profited from this as well, as seemingly limitless information about almost anything available can be accessed within seconds.

Government regulation can only damage this. And the politicians responsible for even conceiving the idea that government has a rightful place in yet another area of expression in our society must be held accountable. Among those who announced they would have voted in favor of sticking their hands into our business include N.C. Sen. Kay Hagan and Rep. Melvin Watt.

While both these members of Congress are Democrats, it should be noted that the bills were supported by members of both parties. SOPA and PIPA have been pulled for now, but these incidents should remind us that it is better to judge those we send to Washington by their character and their ideas, not by whether they have an R or a D next to their name on C-SPAN.

Partisan politicians work toward own benefit, not common good

In the past few years, millions have tuned in to watch insults, slurs and barbs be thrown at what are supposed to be comrades on national television.

Having become a growing trend since television has played a part in elections, slanderous ads plague almost

every major channel. This leaves me, and many other voters, wondering, "How much could the politicians be getting done if they spent more time actually working with their competition instead of continuously smearing their opponent?"

With November looming closer and closer, political parties should be working together to support their respective candidate. A major factor prohibiting this is the partisan political groups like the tea party for the Republican Party. These groups are quick to hand out money and endorse candidates, but are even quicker to call out members of their own party.

The partisan groups make it difficult for a politician to gain any ground within his or her party unless that person lives and dies by the party's stances. When the tea party was

gaining prominence in 2010, The Washington Post found that 87 percent of organizers of the movement were unhappy with current Republican leaders.

This dissatisfaction could be attributed to Republican House members refusing to compromise with Democratic members. Since then, the tea party's approval rating has plummeted, which could lead to more moderate officials being elected.

Media plays a vital role in informing people of politicians' stances, but has been as much of a hindrance as it has been a help.

I will be honest and say I do not watch the GOP debates, and instead graze the headlines. But it does not seem like someone who is lacking political savviness is missing much. Most stories talk about the arguments that ensued between Republican candidates for the presidency because Mitt Romney called out Newt Gingrich for his shady divorces while Gingrich singled out Romney for "not being relatable" because of his wealth.

These arguments have turned into petty bashing, similar to those seen on an elementary school playground. But these are the leaders of the most powerful country in the world.

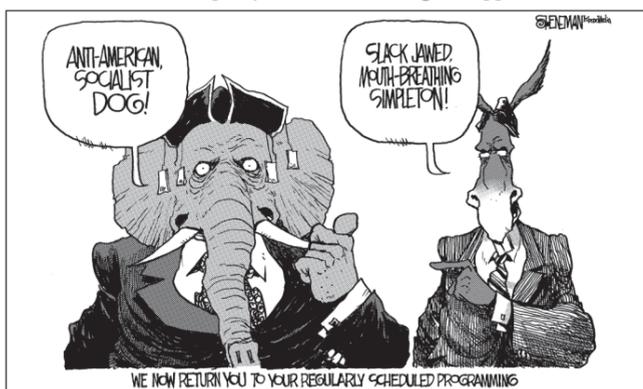
So, to all future politicians out there, you will have my vote if you stick with the politics and stay away from others' personal lives and spend more money on helping what you stand for than attacking the opposition.



Ryan Maass
Columnist



Jonathan Black
Columnist



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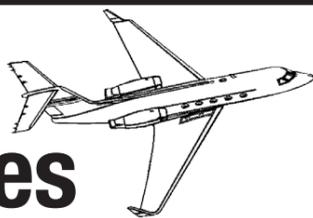
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International

Around the world through Elon's eyes



ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Above left: While abroad Winter Term, Elon students in London saw one of the city's famous landmarks, Big Ben. Above middle: Junior Anna McCracken greets a child with the local handshake in Tafi Atome, Ghana last spring. Top right: (From left to right) Senior Kelly Coble, senior Kelsey Cones, junior Carolyn Macaulay, junior Cory Corbliss, senior Mallory Hinzman, senior Rebecca Spurlin and senior Ally Golightly in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica. Bottom right: Students traveling with the Holocaust Journey, World War II in Europe and From Gutenberg to the Web classes made a stop in Prague, viewed from the Charles Bridge, while abroad this Winter Term.

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Former Acorn employee collects friends, postcards with generous, friendly spirit

Dominic Del Corso treasures memories of Elon in final days

Audrey Horwitz
Senior Reporter

Dominic Del Corso has been around the world without ever leaving his Burlington home.

Del Corso, a former employee of Acorn Coffee Shop, befriended a generation of Elon University students and treasured a collection of postcards they mailed him from around the world.

Battling an advanced case of lung cancer, Del Corso is receiving treatment at a hospice center in Burlington and is not expected to survive much longer, according to Danelle Del Corso, his daughter.

Del Corso made friends with students as well as Acorn employees. He keeps two shoeboxes full of the postcards and letters he received from students throughout the years. He would ask students to send him postcards from their semesters abroad because he knew he would not get the chance to travel to those places himself.

He also has hundreds of Acorn meal slips and has kept in touch with students by having them write their contact information on the back, with notes that served as memory cues. One says, "Comes in by himself." Another says, "Good looking. Good personality."

Until entering hospice, he was dealing with his own illness while also caring for his wife, Dorothy, who suffers from multiple sclerosis. Despite the adversity he faced in his personal life, co-workers said he always seemed more interested in other people's problems than his own.

His diagnosis came in November 2011, according to his daughter, but he avoided carrying his worries to work.

"Dominic would never tell you his problems," co-worker Jimmy Tykwinski said. "He would say he was good and everything was fine, and then listen while you told him all your problems."

After living in the Pittsburgh area his whole life and running a restaurant there, he moved to Elon in 1996 and began working for Acorn. His charming presence at Acorn resonated among co-workers, students, professors and anyone else who was lucky enough to walk in the coffee shop during his shift. He chatted with students as he prepared their sandwiches and was the first to offer a helping hand to a co-worker in need.

"He was the first one here," Tykwinski

and chili in the pot. He was just that type of person."

Dominic Del Corso found his interactions with the Elon community to be rewarding for many reasons, but there was one reason in particular: He was fascinated by the students' study abroad experiences.

"He wanted to travel more, but always had other responsibilities that held him back," Danelle Del Corso said.

D o m i n i c Del Corso may not have been able to travel as much as he had hoped, but he developed friendships with those who could. His collection consists of postcards from places all over the globe including Greece, Hong Kong, Africa, Spain, Germany and Vietnam.

"The postcards mean a lot because the students thought enough of me to send them," Dominic Del Corso said.

He treasured the postcards.

"He would always bring up the postcards when we were talking," Danielle Del Corso said. "He would talk about the students like I knew who they were."

One postcard from an Elon student studying abroad in Belgium reads, "Seriously in need of some good old Acorn tuna salad sandwiches! Send food! Ha ha. They do have some very strange foods here!"

According to the postcards, Dominic Del Corso was a comforting presence on campus.

"I just wanted to thank you for brightening my day, every day. I loved coming into the coffee shop just to see your smiling face," one student wrote in a letter to him. "You always made me feel so welcome and special. Take care of yourself and keep smiling."

Current students still value the time Dominic Del Corso spent getting to know the Elon community.

"You can't help but admire how friendly and patient he always is and how he goes out of his way to get to know his regulars," junior Keely Youngblood said. "He contributes so much to the sense of community at Elon."

Del Corso touched the lives of many people in the Elon community, but what might be less obvious is how much he relied on them.

"For my dad, working at Acorn was an outlet," Danelle Del Corso said. "For that moment in time, he did not have any serious responsibilities."

Despite his personal struggles, he let others lean on him.

Glenn Scott, an associate professor of communications at Elon has known Del Corso since he began working at the university in the fall of 2004. Scott's wife, Misako Scott, worked with Dominic Del Corso at Acorn upon moving from Japan to the United States, and the two formed a



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Jimmy Tykwinski (left) and Dominic Del Corso worked together at Acorn Coffee Shop, where Del Corso arrived in 1996.

bond immediately.

"So that was his struggle, to be an older man in his seventies trying to be upbeat and involved with us, trying to help his wife while he had cancer," Glenn Scott said. "And the struggle now for the rest of us is to see him on the verge of death. It's hard for us, hard to let him go."

The Pendulum is collecting postcards and sympathy cards for Dominic Del Corso, to be mailed to his daughter. They can be sent to:

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BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Dominic Del Corso received dozens of cards and letters from students after being diagnosed with lung cancer in November 2011.

said. "For the delivery people, the milk man and the food service trucks, Dominic was probably the first face they saw in the morning."

Between his first and second shifts, Del Corso would go home to care for his wife.

And despite his prior commitments, he was not the type to clock out right away.

"Dom would stay late to help," said Brenda Turner, another co-worker. "He was always making sure there was soup

Senior musician finds early success in solo career

Natalie Dupuis
Reporter

Local band Phoenix Highway is a familiar entity on Elon University's campus.

Senior Frank Hurd, 2011 graduate Jacob Danieleley and 2010 graduate Michael Lobacz started the band in 2009, and have since added junior Ben Soldate and freshman Jake Valente to the group.

But Hurd, one of the band's founding members, has recently begun to pursue a solo music career as well.

Though he will be receiving a degree in music technology and communications when he graduates in May, Hurd had little to do with music when he was younger. Originally from Warwick, R.I., he grew up playing baseball. It wasn't until he was injured while playing the sport at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania that Hurd made music a part of his life.

He decided to transfer to Elon, where he became involved in the music program, as well as the club baseball team and Campus Outreach, a prominent Christian organization on campus.

Hurd said Campus Outreach has been an especially crucial part of his life. During holiday break, Hurd attended the Campus Outreach National Conference in Chattanooga, Tenn. While there, he won their talent competition, Campus Outreach's Got Talent, after performing two original songs.

"I got an email the week before the conference that said, 'Did you know about this talent contest? There are four people in it, and you're one of

them!' It was an awesome opportunity, but I was totally nervous," Hurd said.

More than 5,000 people attended the conference, which Hurd said may have contributed to his nerves.

"Somehow, I won the competition," he said. "I couldn't tell you how, but it was just awesome. People were so supportive and it seemed like they were really loving it. It was just unbelievable."

Hurd said he has received numerous encouraging emails in support of his solo music career since winning the talent competition. Though he admits to still getting nervous on stage, Hurd said he likes performing.

"It's kind of ironic because I'm not a huge fan of being up on stage in front of people just for the sake of that," he said. "I don't like being the center of attention. But there is something special about performing, especially when people kind of know your music and they're singing along."

Lobacz said Hurd's pop-acoustic sound tends to quickly pull people into the music.

"He has the unique ability to write catchy melodies," Lobacz said. "When you listen to one of his songs for the first time,

by the time the second chorus comes around, you find yourself singing along. He has quite a gift."

It's not uncommon for the

members of Phoenix Highway to praise each other. Hurd was part of the Elon Electric Ensemble during his first year on campus, where he met Danieleley and Lobacz. Their frequent jam sessions eventually turned into writing songs and producing their own sound.

While Hurd enjoys writing his solo music, he said he still likes to create songs with his bandmates.

"It's always fun to play with friends — to be up there with people you care about and have relationships with," he said.

Each member of Phoenix Highway said

they hope this is one way they can live out their dream of having a career in music.

"The dream is to hit it big, I guess, in a sense," Hurd said. "But I would like to get to a point where I have a big enough fan base so I can sing songs that are more positive, uplifting, wholesome, to kind of counteract what's pretty much dominating the radio nowadays."

Phoenix Highway's EP, "American Blend," was released in December, and Hurd said fans can expect his solo EP in the spring.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

ALBUM REVIEW

★★★★

Elon-based Phoenix Highway delivers solid recording debut

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

What would it sound like if The Eagles joined forces with the Zac Brown Band? It might resemble "American Blend," Phoenix Highway's EP released last December. In five tracks, the band of Elon University students and alumni successfully pinned down the sounds of the South with traces of rock and pop that appeal to the masses.

The album starts off fast with "Young & Reckless," an upbeat dose of nostalgia. The tribute to adolescence has some addicting melodies, but the lyrics conjure visions of kids and keg parties. This mysteriously juvenile opener leaves something to be desired, but be patient — otherwise strong songwriting across the EP proves Phoenix Highway can be more than a college town ensemble.

After one minor hiccup, "Olde Fashion Runaway" slows down the album with powerful lyrics and an incredible melody. The ability of Phoenix Highway to balance the soul of the South with the authority of rock is one of the band's strengths, and this ballad is proof of that.

Storytelling lyrics and solid country beats carry the EP to its last track. From the tale of a country girl lost in the shuffle of rock 'n' roll, to the too-good-to-be-true quality of young love, these guys have it covered.

The styles and themes of "American Blend" vary greatly, but the band's commitment to a fusion of quality vocals and unique sound is consistent from start to finish. The audible passion Phoenix Highway emits seems perfect for a road trip, summer afternoon or any day of the week — on or off Elon's campus.

Winter Term course pushes students out of comfort zone



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Students enrolled in the Winter Term course "French Theater in Production" put the finishing touches on their production of Moliere's "Le bourgeois gentilhomme," which they will perform entirely in French. Each student was expected to have a role in the play, through acting or production, according to Olivia Choplin, assistant professor of French, pictured above. Audience members will be able to follow the prose through English subtitles. The play will take place Feb. 4 in Yeager Recital Hall.

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Elon senior linebacker reflects on last season, looks forward

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Elon University senior linebacker Joshua Jones was named to several All-American teams after this past season. The Pendulum asked him about those selections, his senior season and his future.

Q: How do you feel overall about your senior season at Elon?

A: We grew a lot throughout the season as a team. We had a few growing pains midway through the season, but we were able to come together and play well down the stretch. With a new coaching staff and new schemes, it usually takes a while to iron out all of the wrinkles, and when we finally started clicking, we became a very good team.

Q: You have watched junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette make a few All-American teams. You have also been named to a few of them yourself. Describe the moment when you first received the news you had been named to an All-American team.

A: I was actually sleeping and got a text from one of our former coaches congratulating me. I was still a little dazed from being asleep so I had to go and look on the Elon website to confirm it. It felt great though, to know that my efforts did not go unnoticed. This was the hardest I ever worked in an off-season and it paid off.

Q: Is there any disappointment or regret about the Nov. 29 Appalachian State game and how it ended? Why or why not?

A: There are no regrets at all about the game. When, as a team, you can come off the field knowing that everyone played their absolute hardest, you never have any regrets. I felt that all of my teammates left everything on the field that night, so it makes a loss a little bit easier to swallow. The only disappointment I have is that App State will always be the only SoCon team I did not get a victory against in my career. The future of Elon looks great, however, and I expect them to get it done soon.

Q: Describe the pick-six play you had against Furman. Was that the biggest play of your career, in your opinion?

A: We were running a man blitz and I was originally man-to-man on the running back. The tight end motioned over, making him my new responsibility. He ran an

out-cut and I just broke on the ball. I had been having a good game to that point, but it just put me over the top. I do think it was the best play of my career. Their tight end was the leading receiver that game and it helped ice a big win for the football team. The feeling of getting into the end zone was incredible.

Q: Tell me about the personality of the defensive side of the ball for Elon.

A: The personality of the defense is a relentless bunch of guys that, over all things, make sure all 11 players are around the football.

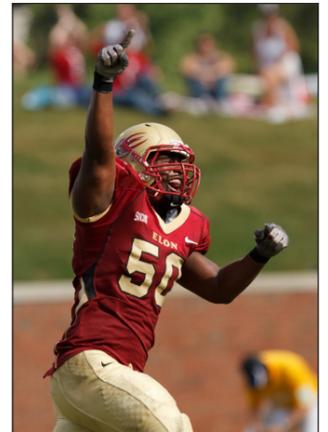
Missed tackles and mistakes in scheme happen on all levels of football from little leagues up to the NFL. Those mistakes are minimized when teammates are around to back you up. This is why we harp on running to the football more than anything.

Q: What are your plans post-Elon?

A: Shortly after the season ended, I signed with an agency. I'm currently training right now in hopes to get an opportunity to extend my playing career. I'm not quite ready yet to hang my pads up for good.



Elon senior linebacker Joshua Jones was named the Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Month for November 2011.



Jones had 343 tackles in his career, the fifth-best total in school history.

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Sports

Men's basketball faces crucial stretch of home matchups

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

The Elon University men's basketball's loss to Appalachian State University could be symbolized by a number of things that happened Saturday afternoon in Boone.

Maybe it was the three Phoenix airballs in a matter of 30 seconds or so in the first half.

Maybe it was the deflation seen on the bench in the last five minutes, where junior forward Brett Ervin's attempt at a hand-slap with freshman guard Kevin Blake was denied when Blake returned to the bench after being subbed out.

Maybe it was sophomore forward Ryley Beaumont's brief horse-collar of Mountaineer forward Nathan Healy with less than a minute left while Healy attempted a layup, almost knocking him down — a flagrant foul.

On a day where there were many big maybes, probably the sharpest reality came in the Southern Conference standings following the game.

When UNC-Greensboro defeated Western Carolina University in overtime a mere 20 minutes or so following the conclusion of the Elon-App State tilt, the Spartans vaulted the Phoenix into first place in the SoCon's North Division.

"There's a lot of parity in the league," Elon head coach Matt Matheny said. "This is as tight of a race as I've ever seen."

UNCG interim head coach Wes Miller, a former Elon assistant, has led his squad to six straight wins, all in conference, dating back to Davidson College's 92-63 rout of the Spartans Jan. 5.

"No matter what happens — and

that's off the court or on the floor this year — they just keep fighting," Miller said after a recent win. "They just keep coming together even more and believing in one another. And that's what I'm most proud of."

The Spartans' streak was aided by four straight games in Greensboro, and they have one more at home against The Citadel Bulldogs Feb. 2.

Meanwhile, the Phoenix has been the description of the word "inconsistent." After a five-game losing streak came to a halt against The Citadel Jan. 12, a harsh loss to the College of Charleston Cougars by 19 and a home loss to the Samford Bulldogs added to the pain. Elon then managed to pull off two big conference wins against the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and Western Carolina before the Appalachian State loss.

Matheny gets a chance for his squad to regroup for a few days before playing three games in five days at home. And all three opponents are teams the Phoenix has faced before this season, College of Charleston Feb. 2, The Citadel Feb. 4 and the Mountaineers Feb. 6.

"We're really, really young and getting better," Matheny said. "One thing I try to do is not even look at the standings and just try to be as good as I can be. There's a lot of basketball left."

Elon will need to make a statement against the Cougars, whose 12-9 overall record is one of the best in the SoCon and 4-6 conference record is the second worst in the South Division. The Phoenix shot just 23.9 percent from the field, were out-rebounded 55-39 and never held the lead.

The Citadel proved to be a weaker

opponent for Elon to handle last time they played. Senior guard Drew Spradlin had 21 points against the Bulldogs Jan. 12 and 10 different Phoenix scored.

And then there's Appalachian State, who thoroughly dismantled the Phoenix Saturday afternoon. The incident with Beaumont at the end of the game pumped up the Mountaineers for the next round in their fight, a bout in which Appalachian State has taken the last seven rounds.

"I'm pretty confident we can go down there (to Elon) and win," Appalachian State senior guard Omar Carter said. "That incident fueled our fire a little bit."

This is a crucial three-game stretch for Elon, which is 6-3 at home this season, but only 2-2 against SoCon opponents. This young group will be tested by the pressure of looking up the standings for the first time this season.

But if Matheny has his way, the players will not be concerned. The former Davidson assistant credits his old boss, Wildcats' basketball head coach Bob McKillop, for his approach to the standings.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer
Sophomore forward Lucas Troutman leads the Phoenix in scoring this season.

"He schooled me really well to not look at the standings during the season," Matheny said. "I don't even think about it. The one thing that we can control at Elon is to be the best that we can be. If we're the best that we can be, that gives us a chance to move on and win games."

Women's basketball runs into road blocks away from home court

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

Speed bumps interfere with greatness.

And it was losses at Samford University Jan. 28 and at Chattanooga Jan. 30 that coach Charlotte Smith hopes are just temporary hurdles for the Elon University women's basketball team to overcome on the road to a Southern Conference championship.

The Phoenix plays Furman University and UNC-Greensboro this week in an attempt to get back on track. The Samford loss ended a four-game Elon winning streak and the Chattanooga defeat enhanced the agony.

"We just gotta play the way that we played the last four games," Smith said. "We played with a lot of intensity and executed offensively."

Furman beat the Phoenix 75-60 in Greenville, S.C., Dec. 17. In that meeting, the Paladins used a 50-34 rebounding advantage to get ahead early and stay ahead late for an easy victory. Now Elon (10-11, 6-6 Southern Conference) looks to exact revenge on a team ahead of them in the SoCon standings.

"Teams that beat us the first time in conference, you know we're going to have that little extra something, you know trying to get them back and trying to show them that first game was a fluke," junior guard Ali Ford said.

The Phoenix should be quite familiar with UNCG. The two local foes met in Alumni Gym Jan. 23, an affair the Phoenix won handily 57-43.

Lazy passes leading to turnovers cost Elon dearly in their loss against the Mocs. The Phoenix gave the ball away 19 times and Chattanooga made them pay.

The losses put the Phoenix square in the middle of the SoCon standings. Elon is in sixth, well off the pace set by 11-1 Appalachian State University.

While the Samford defeat wasn't ideal for anybody in the Elon Phoenix program, it did have its shining moment. With 16:32 remaining in the game, Ali Ford found herself alone with the basketball behind the three-point line.

Her shot, like so many before it, found the bottom of the net. It gave the junior guard her 235th career triple, breaking the school record set in 2001 by Loretta Lawson.

"Those kind of things come if you just do what you're supposed to do," Ford said. "It was pretty much wide open, and I remember thinking, 'If you can't make this, this is as wide open as you're going to get all game.' So luckily, that went in."

And if luck goes the Phoenix way, a January defeat at the hands of the Samford Bulldogs may be just a distant memory in the rearview mirror on the road to an otherwise successful season in 2011-2012.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer
Senior guard Aiesha Harper (with the ball) and the Phoenix are 7-2 at home this season but 3-9 away from Alumni Gym. Harper leads Elon in field-goal percentage (47.6 percent) and assists per game (4.2).