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Students search for economic foothold

Some feel more prepared than others for post-grad life with uncertain economy

Kimberly Honiball
Senior Reporter

More than half of Americans now say their income has fallen below the cost of living, according to a recent study conducted by the Pew Research Center, leading some Elon University students to question whether they're prepared to take the post-grad plunge.

Resources exist — elementary courses in personal finance and economics, for example — but they're not required for all students and are dominated by majors within the Spencer and Martha Love School of Business.

Some may have more of an edge than others, namely, students from affluent backgrounds.

"Coming from an affluent background could be a positive because they are familiar with money management techniques and understand the benefits of having a lot of money and being responsible with it," said Jennifer Platania, associate professor of economics.

Some teach themselves.

Senior Julia Phillips hasn't taken any business classes during her time at Elon, but she's confident she'll be able to handle life after college this coming spring.

"I set up a budget at the beginning of the year and stick to it pretty well," Phillips said. "I don't buy much besides grocer-

ies and occasionally going out for food."

Others struggle.

Sophomore Rebecca Nipper balances a full course load with two part-time jobs, leaving her little time to call her own. It's worth it to her to have spending money and develop her own budget without having to rely on a parent, but working in the Gender and LGBTQIA Center and as a SPARKS peer educator takes its own kind of toll.

"Out of the two schools I could go to, both were expensive, so I chose Elon," Nipper said. "I would be struggling with money at any school."

As a liberal arts institution, Elon has a responsibility to ensure students are well-rounded, proficient in money management and math as well as in arts and letters, Platania said. Individual colleges within the university may not be delivering, she added, because they don't always do a good job of impressing upon students the importance of financial issues.

Comparing high-end student loans to a mortgage, Platania said students ought to ask their parents to see financial aid forms, especially loans taken out in the student's name, because they can add up. Information about loan repayments and interest rates isn't on student loan statements, which Platania said is a mistake.

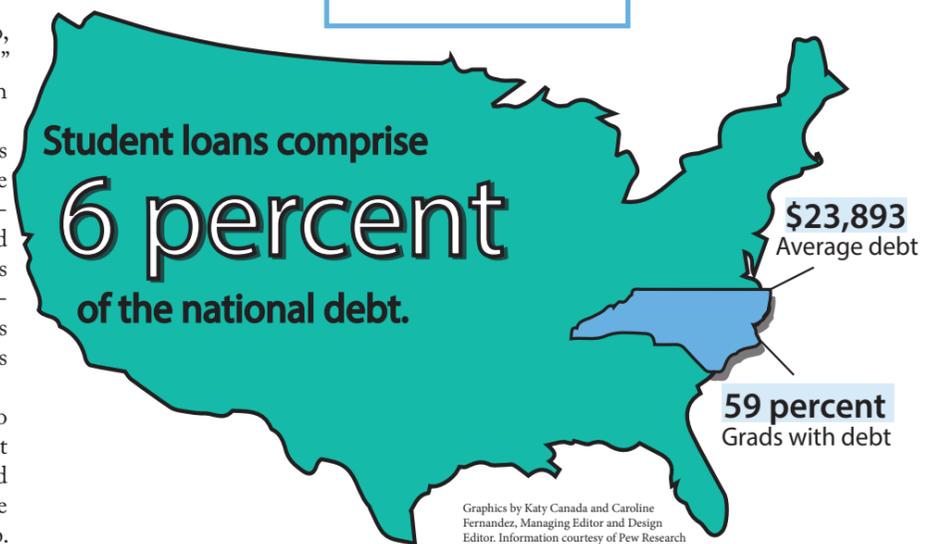
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HOW IS THIS AFFECTING YOU?

Fifty-six percent of middle classes families say their family's income has fallen behind the cost of living.

Perceptions of job availability have continued to decline, with about a quarter of young people saying there are "plenty" of good jobs near where they live.

Forty-five percent of Americans say they experienced at least one economic hardship over the past year.



Graphics by Katy Canada and Caroline Fernandez, Managing Editor and Design Editor. Information courtesy of Pew Research Center and the Institute For College Access and Success.

2 out of 5 Elon students graduated with debt in 2012.



Inman Admissions Center on track to open in early 2015

Cameron Saucier
Senior Reporter

The construction of the new Inman Admissions Center, which will integrate Elon University's financial planning, recruiting and admissions staff, is on schedule to be complete by early January.

"The building phase is moving along quite well," said Brad Moore, university architect and director of planning, design and construction management. "We've almost wrapped up the exterior of the building. Inside, we've started putting in drywall and the first coats of paint."

By early 2015, staff will begin relocating to the new two-story, 32,000 square-foot building. Many offices are already coordinat-



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Construction continues in the former parking lot.

ing their move.

Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning, said most of the office furniture will arrive soon. The Nugent lobby, which will provide seating and information in the front atrium for current and prospective students, will be one of the first spaces to be furnished.

If construction continues on schedule, "financial planning, the welcome center and graduate admissions will proceed in moving in the early part of next year," Zaiser said. The move, however, would need to precede Elon's application deadlines on Jan. 10.

"We don't want to be out of commission during that time," Zaiser said. "It's one of our busiest of the entire year."

The admissions and financial planning staff helped plan the building's interior design. Most have already scouted out their potential office locations.

"In terms of work space and work flow, we had to consider the public space we need to accommodate all of our visitors," Zaiser said.

Students are also considering public spaces. Many are glad the construction of the new admissions building is almost over. Its completion will make it easier to get to East Campus without having to circumvent construction barriers, especially those who

live in the Loy Center or other areas near the ongoing construction.

"It's hard to get around everything right now, so I'm glad that the admissions center will be completed soon," said senior Mackenzie Kiger.

Kiger also said that while it will be convenient to have all admissions-related offices in one area, she worries about the lack of parking spaces for students and faculty.

The Inman Admissions Center will feature a new 70-space parking lot on its north side for visitors only. — perhaps the biggest criticism of students.

"A bigger building for admissions is good, but I still wish there was more parking for students," said freshman Daniel Roth.

While the university may have had sacrificed on some student parking, Zaiser said he was excited to "become one department with financial aid and admissions."

"We have not been physically together in a decade," Zaiser said. "Sharing one space will be much more customer friendly for currently enrolled students, prospective students and families. Ultimately, this will serve everyone."

The Inman Admissions Center will not be dedicated until spring of 2015, though the facility will be in complete use before that time.

Health Center adjusts after first year on South Campus

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's R.N. Ellington Health Center has been at its new, larger location for a year now, and though it has seen an uptick in attendance, some students still have concerns.

The new building offers nine rooms instead of five, plus a procedure room and individual bathrooms in each pod. Dr. Ginette Archinal, medical director of student health, said a greater emphasis on privacy is important to the new location.

"The flow is different," Archinal said. "It's now basically run like a doctor's office. It's not that it was bad before, but now it's run with more oversight."

But the new building moved the Health Center to South Campus, across the train tracks from the rest of campus. Students like sophomore Iris Sullivan are displeased with the less centralized, less convenient location.

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NC poverty increases despite growth in GDP

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The good news: GDP is growing in North Carolina. The bad news: so is poverty.

Since 2009, per capita GDP has grown steadily, holding at 1.3 percent growth in 2013. This makes North Carolina one of the fastest-growing states in the country, especially compared to other states in the South. By comparison, for the entire United States, per capita GDP growth in 2013 was 1.13 percent.

“In some ways, we’re out of the recession,” said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science at Elon University and assistant director of the Elon University Poll. “Upper middle class families are doing better than they were before it started. But for many, it doesn’t feel that way.”

Although North Carolina’s GDP is growing, an August 2014 report by Business Insider shows that since 2000, the poverty rate in many major North Carolina cities has exploded. Greensboro’s poverty rate grew by 77 percent. In Winston-Salem, it grew 88 percent. And in Raleigh and Charlotte, the poverty rate grew 97 percent.

“For the past few years, the poverty rate in Alamance County has gone up,” said Tonmoy Islam, assistant professor of economics at Elon. “In North Carolina, one in four children are in poverty.”

The impact of poverty on minorities is also disproportionate, as 40 percent of African-American children in North Carolina live in poverty. For Latino children, the number is closer to 42 percent.

A Tale of Two NCs

While the data might indicate that North Carolina’s economy is growing at a faster rate than the rest of the country, Islam explained that GDP only measures one facet of the economy — total income.

Islam gave an example. If you have a state with two people — John and Jerry — and each makes \$100, the GDP is \$200. But if the next year, John makes

\$130 and Jerry makes \$80, the GDP would be \$210.

“GDP went up, but John got richer and Jerry got poorer,” he said. “Yes, North Carolina is growing, but the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. And we see that in the data.”

Islam pointed to several factors that could explain why poverty is growing in North Carolina. Not only did unemployment grow all over the country, but North Carolina’s economy is shifting toward tech-centric jobs, meaning less work for low-skill workers. Looking at a map of North Carolina, the areas with the lowest levels of poverty are centered around major universities or Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

By contrast, many of the counties with the highest rates of poverty are around the state’s borders, which are mostly rural areas where manufacturing jobs have disappeared. For example, Robeson County, with the state’s highest poverty rate of 31.9 percent, directly borders South Carolina.

“Increasingly in society, those with skills capture a higher share of the resources and income,” Husser said. “So some of this is a result of technological-focused jobs, but it’s also something to do with government and tax policy.”

But Islam said that alone doesn’t explain why there is so much rural poverty in the state.

“When you start looking at rural areas, you see that 300,000 North Carolinians are debanked; they don’t have a relationship with a financial institution,” he said. “If you don’t have access to finance or jobs, that makes things difficult.”

While this trend is more pronounced in North Carolina, the same dichotomy of GDP growth and poverty growth is true for the United States as a whole. From 2010 to 2012, the United States’ rate of GDP growth surpassed North Carolina’s own impressive growth, but since the financial crisis in 2008, nationwide poverty has grown from 13.2 percent of the population to 15.9 percent.

While the South is generally poorer than the rest of the country, trends in poverty reduction have only recently

changed. Islam said poverty in southern states “declined massively” throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s, until rates started climbing again in 2000.

Islam noted how, while unemployment is high in Europe, there are social safety nets in place to prevent citizens from slipping into poverty. The same system does not exist in the United States.

“If you’re sick, you don’t have anything to help supplement your income,” he said.

Voting for Change

With two different narratives — that the state’s per capita GDP is growing while poverty is on the rise — Husser said most people will gravitate toward believing the economy is doing better, even if they personally are not.

“Generally, perceptions of the economy are based on what people think about society, rather than their own pocket-book,” he said. “People are able to make the distinction between themselves and their neighbor.”

But what people think about society is not always determined by reality.

“Most people think in terms of media narratives, not data and statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics,” Husser said.

Still, the trend in growing GDP and poverty rates poses a challenge to voters in poverty who want to see their situation change.

If someone elected a politician to help the North Carolina economy, what do they do when the economy grows for people on the other side of the socio-economic divide instead?

Husser said, largely, people will blame their opposing political party, as party identification is still the biggest determinant of voting.

But for other voters, it comes down to whoever is in charge.

“The person in charge gets a disproportionate amount of blame when things go wrong and credit when things go right,” Husser said.

But across parties, politicians campaign hard on growing the middle class

while saying very little about those in poverty. The data on North Carolina’s GDP and poverty rate reflects this.

“Politicians are going after the median voter,” Husser said. “There is a perception that if someone campaigns about helping the poor, the middle class will think the candidate is talking about redistribution and not vote for that candidate.”

Bursting the Bubble

Part of the problem in tackling poverty — locally, statewide and nationally — is that people who are neither living in poverty nor have closer friends of family in poverty are rarely confronted with it. At Elon, this phenomenon is colloquially referred to as the “Elon Bubble,” where the infrastructure of Elon contrasts the lack of means in much of surrounding Burlington.

But as the data shows, these “bubbles” exist in a variety of communities across the state and across the country.

Jackie Pascale, a first year at Elon who regularly travels through Burlington, said with the “bubble” in place, this is especially true in the local community.

“Going through Burlington, you tend to see some smaller businesses, compared to the beautiful campus here,” Pascale said.

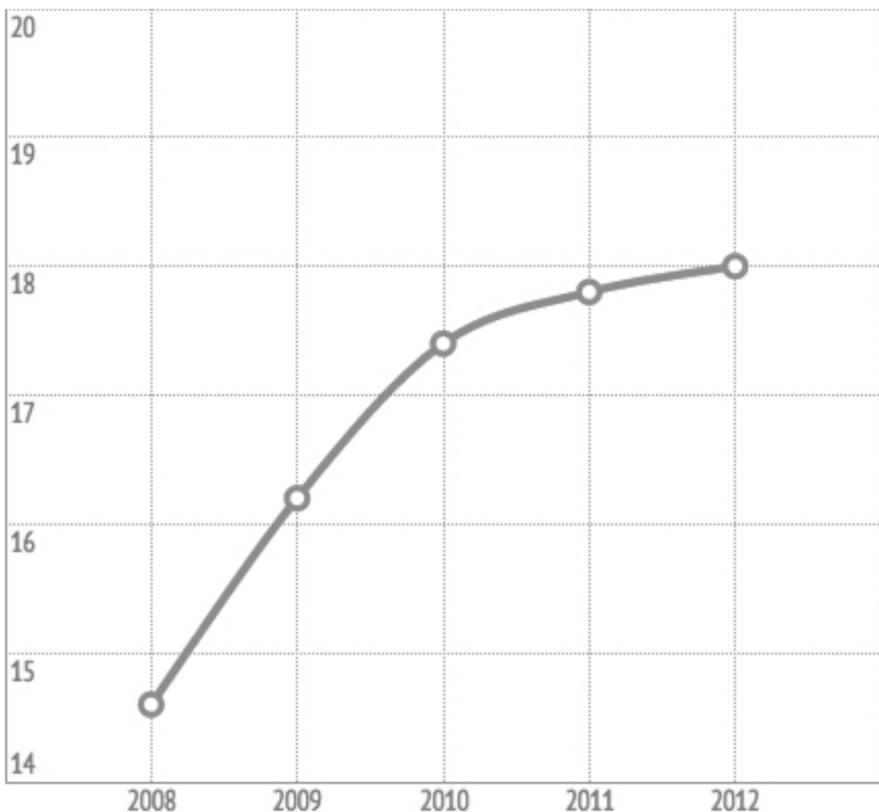
Sophomore Dani Halliday said the school gives students the opportunity to see and engage with economic and social problems in the surrounding areas. Though she volunteered with Allied Churches through Elon, Halliday said the impact these programs have on the students are still limited.

“We worked with members of the community, so we got to see how poverty affected their lives up close, but that was still only a small part of the larger community,” she said.

Other students, like senior Claire Lockard, try to find other ways to confront underdevelopment in Burlington.

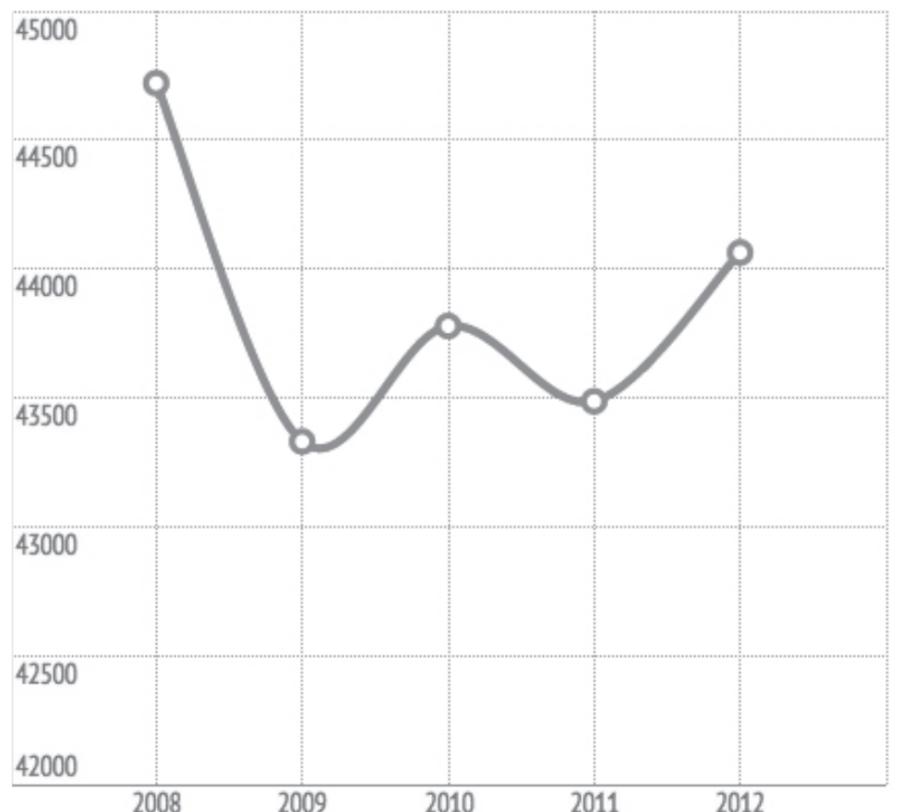
“I go to the Co-op, which fights poverty by giving back to the community,” Lockard said. “But on the way there, you see closed-down houses and businesses.”

North Carolina Poverty Rate (%)



Information courtesy of the Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per Capita Real GDP in NC (\$)



Information courtesy of Census.gov

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Elon community finds NC satisfying, but unaccepting at times

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

The results of a recent Gallup poll indicate North Carolinians have varied thoughts when it comes to the state's climate surrounding religion and the attitudes toward minorities, among other topics. These factors point to a general welcoming climate, and in a state with unsteady levels of acceptance, Elon University students and alumni have mixed feelings about living in North Carolina.

The poll was conducted nationally between January and July 2014 and sampled residents of all 50 states according to population. The information for North Carolina residents appears in the North Carolina Scorecard. In addition to satisfaction and culture, the survey also asked questions about politics and economics.

In the survey, 63 percent of North Carolina residents indicated they would remain in the state, compared to the national average of 65 percent. In addition, 83 percent indicated they are satisfied with their city or area, the same as the national average.

Elon junior Kirby Vuocolo, from Pennsylvania, said she wants to stay in the state after graduation.

"I feel safe, and people in general are just nice," Vuocolo said. "People talk to you in line at the supermarket. There's a quaintness here. Everything is so close, but it's still rural."

Lauren Duffy, director of employer and corporate relations for the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and a 2008 Elon alumna from the Washington, D.C. area, lived in Paris, Baltimore and Arkansas after graduation. But in 2012, she decided to move back to North Carolina.

"There was a peaceful atmosphere in North Carolina that wasn't in the D.C. area," Duffy said. "I didn't know much about North Carolina when I was a student. Now, I have a better understanding of the state."

She and her husband, also an Elon alumna, moved to Raleigh and Duffy said it's the best place she's lived.

"We really chose to come back to North Carolina based on our experience at Elon," Duffy said. "We just appreciate the Southern culture, but in Raleigh we have amenities of the Northeast, like the arts and culture."

Arayael Brandner, an alumni engagement officer for the mid-Atlantic region and a 2013 Elon alumna, said she decided to stay in North Carolina to pursue a career in higher education. She said she has noticed general trends with students staying in the state in her tenure in the alumni office.

"A lot of students who stay go to cities like Raleigh or Durham," she said. "A lot of young alumni end up in my [mid-Atlantic] region. I think a lot of people come back and settle here. This is a good place to raise a family. A lot of people venture out and if nothing sticks, they come back to North Carolina."

But in the poll, only 34 percent of people indicated that North Carolina was the best or one of the best states to live in, compared to the national average of 46 percent who said their state was one of the best.

Sophomore Mackenzie Dunn, from New York, said that the area around Elon doesn't have the same offerings as her home environment.

"For me, coming from a big city, here is really different," she said. "I miss being closer to a city. It feels remote for me. The

Elon area is sort of removed from the rest of North Carolina."

Dunn added that she decided to explore colleges in North Carolina after hearing about other New Yorkers who moved to the state. She said she would consider staying in the state after graduation because of the lower cost of living and job opportunities.

"A lot of people from New York move down here because you have everything you need, but it's a slower pace," she said. "It's also Southern but not so [far South]."

But Thomas Arcaro, professor of sociology and director of Project Pericles, said that satisfaction is difficult to measure from polling. He said that people should look at the Gallup results with caution because some of the questions were "poorly conceived."

"There are so many factors that go into whether you're satisfied or not, and few depend on where you live," Arcaro said. "Happiness and satisfaction have to do with relationships and what you're doing."

Arcaro said that one of the poll's limitations is that people could answer based on a personal desire to justify their choice to live in North Carolina.

"People want to affirm that they've made the right decision about where to live," he said.

In the culture section of the poll, over 50 percent of residents were "very religious," compared to the national average of 41 percent.

Vuocolo said that this atmosphere has influenced her experience in North Carolina.

"I've always been very religious," she said. "I'm in a Christian sorority. There are a lot of organizations both on campus and off campus to stay religious."

But Arcaro said that the religious atmosphere in North Carolina is difficult for non-Christians and non-believers, which can impact their satisfaction. He said that Christian beliefs influence many laws in the state, including Amendment One, the 2012 ban on same-sex marriage.

"The arguments were almost exclusively biblically based," Arcaro said. "That's just an example of when [Christian] beliefs have affected society in a very significant way."

In the poll, more than 80 percent of residents said they thought their city or area was a good place for ethnic or racial minorities, about the same as the national average.

Despite these poll findings, Arcaro said North Carolina, like other Southeastern states, isn't friendly to minorities.

"If your skin is a different color [than white], life is not the same," he said. "Racism is alive and well in the U.S. and in North Carolina. I can't imagine anyone who's Latino or African-American responding this way in the survey."

Brandner said she thinks there aren't many events around Elon to allow people to learn about different cultures. But she said that she goes to performing arts and athletic events at the university to be educated.

"I think it's becoming a more inclusive area," she said. "I almost wish there was more in the area — more opportunities to learn about different cultures."

But Duffy, who lives in downtown Raleigh, said that the city has a welcoming atmosphere for minorities.

"I think that Raleigh is a progressive city," Duffy said. "But coming from the D.C. area, there are a lot more international people there."

Global Education Center helps students cope with reverse culture shock

Morgan Abate
Senior Reporter

Senior Kevin Amaya woke up one morning before his study abroad program in Lyon, France, told his host mom that he was going to explore the city and left. He did not know where he was going. He did not have any euros. All he had was his host family's address and their phone number, just in case.

Amaya wanted to familiarize himself

with his home for the next four months.

"The area I was living in compared to the inner city where I was going to be spending most of my time were completely different," he said. "It was very well worth it in the end."

Amaya's experience during his time overseas was just one of many shared at the Isabella Cannon Global Education Center's (GEC) first structured re-entry workshop, meant to help students understand their experiences, deal with reverse culture

shock and meet up with other students who have studied abroad.

Born from a pressing need for a program to facilitate re-entry, the program is still in its infancy phase, and as such the verdict is still out. But early signs have been optimistic.

Elon University students brainstormed solutions to dealing with culture shock upon returning to Elon.

Though it doesn't affect everyone, it's still worth talking about, the GEC said.

"I got lost in [Buenos Aires], but it was awesome because I got to learn the city really well," said senior Katherine Larson.

Students created the world map by standing in their host country, listened to representatives from the Student Professional Development Center, shared what they missed most about their host country and discussed solutions for transitioning to life back at Elon.

The Student Professional Development Center recommended students interested in working abroad after graduation look into the Going Global page on the Elon SPDC website. It's one of the largest databases of its kind, according to Tom Vecchione, executive director of the SPDC. The database contains a plethora of information for students, including country profiles, volunteer and internship listings and potential employers to help students.

According to "A Student Guide to Study Abroad," published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), many students experience reverse culture shock. One of the reasons for reverse culture shock, according to the book, is disenchantment with American culture and others' lack of interest in the same.

Students shared their fondness for the public transportation of European cities, practicing their second language or wearing an outfit typical of their host country. They expressed frustration at always having to answer the same broad question: "How was it?"

"Most students have had experiences that change them in one way or another," said Sylvia Muñoz, associate director of the Multicultural Center and a facilitator during the workshop. "They need to know that there are other students who have had the same experiences and are going through the same thing."



The Global Education Center helps students cope with reverse culture shock and prepare for careers.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

HEALTH
from cover

"I've been to the Health Center a lot because I have bad asthma," Sullivan said. "Every time I get a cold, it can turn into something worse like bronchitis, so I have to act fast."

Sullivan does not have a car on campus and said she has to borrow rides from friends to get to the Health Center.

"It's hard to walk that distance. I end up wheezing and feeling even worse," she said.

Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of student health and wellness, said the Health Center accommodates students because, if they call the center, a shuttle will pick them up.

Also, there is a BioBus route that goes to the Psychology and Human Service Studies building, next to the Health Center, although the bus has limited hours.

"We email the students every term about this service, and it's on the website," Patterson said, noting that the shuttle transported about 1,000 students last year.

Sullivan did not know about the shuttle service and believes it's not advertised well enough.

Archinal said if students ever have concerns about the Health Center, they should contact her directly.

"If people see a need, we want to hear about it because otherwise, it's harder to find out about it," she said.

Another concern Sullivan brought up was wait times. According to Patterson, wait times are down compared to years

past. "Our wait times for students with an appointment are 45 minutes. Without an appointment, students usually wait around one hour," she said.

Sullivan said she has waited longer, sometimes having to miss classes.

"You really have to take time out. It's about an hour and a half wait, then 30 minutes for treatment, and maybe another 30 minutes for a prescription," she said.

Patterson said longer procedures like blood work or emergencies that take precedent can sometimes add onto the wait, but said an hour-long wait is still typical.

"I know sometimes it feels longer, but the staff tries to stay on schedule," she said. "There are outliers that can be two or three hours, but there are also some students who are in and out in 20 minutes."

There are a number of changes to the Health Center that Patterson said factor into the decreased time. For one, there are two administrators on at any time, and after looking into the needs of students, questionnaires about health history have been cut down to accommodate students' schedules.

Last year, health services saw a 13 percent increase in the number of students who came to the R. N. Ellington Center. Compared to September 2013, the Health Center has seen another increase of around 22 percent. Archinal attributed this to greater confidence in the center.

"Based on the feedback I'm getting, people trust health services. In the past,

there was less trust, and we're seeing seniors who hadn't been in since they were freshmen," she said.

The Health Center is now run by Cone Health, a nonprofit healthcare network based in Greensboro, instead of by Elon itself, which has led to many of the changes, including hiring a practice manager to further oversee the practice.

"What I've heard is that, in the past, if one person came in with a sore throat, there'd be an automatic strep test," Archinal said. "That no longer happens. It's not an assembly line. We treat stu-

dents as individuals." As the Health Center continues to grow, there will be more staff hired, including another provider since the building allows the space.

"The more staff we have, the more outreach we can do with the community," Archinal said.

While students still voice some concerns, issues with staff are not one of them.

"The staff are really nice," Sullivan said. "They know my name and what works for me."



A nurse fills out paperwork in the R.N. Ellington Health Center on South Campus.

Jane Seidel | Photo Editor

Writing Center sessions double in past 6 years

As more students take advantage of the service, student workers balance line between editing, teaching

Hannah Durbin
Senior Reporter

Despite Elon University's "slow growth" trajectory, as outlined under the Elon Commitment, appointments to the Writing Center have increased a little faster, with consultations more than doubling within the last six years. As the student-run service has grown, it has grappled with how to remain relevant and where to draw the line between enabling and editing.

Recently, the Writing Center has undergone renovations, adding a new presentation practice room and two multimedia studios that give students hands-on experience with the latest technology.

The number of consultants available to students, faculty and staff helps keep wait times down, consisting of 40-60 fully trained consultants to help the community with writing.

Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment in advance — online, over-

the-phone or in-person to keep the line moving.

The number of sessions scheduled with the writing center consultants continues to increase. The number of sessions has more than doubled in the last six years, resulting in about 3,200 sessions last year alone.

More so than the Writing Center, the Writing Excellence Initiative admitted that there was a flaw in Elon's writing education programs across majors.

That's not to say problems don't exist in the center as it stands. Students who have recently had appointments in the Writing Center aren't all happy.

From complaints about bias to grumbles about wait times, first-year students in particular haven't all been pleased.

"The session seemed to be very rushed," first-year Jordane Mink said. "I understand that the consultants have a lot on their plates, but I wish I would have received more input in my writing."

The Writing Center consultants stress that they want students to voluntarily sign up for a session. Professors are encouraged to discuss the value of the resource to students, and possibly add a small incentive for making use of it, but are asked to refrain from making it a requirement.

"We are not the police. We don't want to be a punishment," said Paula Rosinski, director of the Writing Center and associate professor of English.

On the whole, students on campus report mostly positive experiences and have gone on to recommend the service to others.

"This is a great resource to have," said first-year Jacquelyn McGorty. "It's extremely beneficial and a good use of time."

So far this year, the Writing Center has had a steady flow of students, faculty, staff and members of the Elon community in and out of its doors. The visible space, online scheduling and raised awareness across campus have been a major factor to the increased success of the Writing Center.

One idea currently being developed is a new family of Elon Fellows — Writing Fellows. Fellows would be trained consultants would be paired with a faculty member who would provide them with assignments. The student and the professor would be able to develop writing assignments and provide feedback, allowing them to learn from one another.



NICOLE OSGOODI Staff Photographer

The Writing Center is so far overseeing its busiest year yet, with more than 3,200 consultations made so far, ranging in length up until 45 minutes at a time.

FINANCE

from cover

Drawing from her own experience, Platania recalled borrowing money during her last two years of graduate school — something she had steadfastly avoided until then out of caution for her finances.

The loan, which Platania took out to pay for a car, took her a decade to repay. It's not just the big-ticket items that get students into trouble, though.

She added that once student loans are taken out, the majority of students won't repay them right away, even if they have an excess of funds, because it can sometimes seem like interest-free money in the moment.

After she took out the initial loan to finance her car, the checks kept rolling in the next year, without being asked for. But she wasn't going to return them, leading to the long repayment time and a struggle with interest rates.

Another soon-to-graduate senior, Mary Rouse, said she's learned much more from trial and error in internships in Washington, D.C. Thrown into a new city without parents to look over her shoulder, Rouse drew heavily on what she picked up from her parents along the way — how to balance a checkbook, not be wasteful and stay in the black as much as possible on a shoestring budget.

Elon helped her more outside the classroom than in, through personal relation-

ships she developed with professors who became more like role models to her than is often seen in a conventional teacher-student relationship.

"Not many students have that close relationship with a faculty member who helps connect them with other people," she said, noting that her courses haven't done much to teach her about finance.

Apart from elementary classes in business, economics and accounting, a Winter Term class is offered through the Love School that presents a crash course in money management to those who sign up for it. Issues covered in January include bank account management, credit cards, personal taxes, investing, insurances and even retirement plans.

Students, such as Rouse, think that if others are interested in learning about their financial status, they should and will learn on their own.

"I'm not sure how you would formulate the experience I had [with budgeting money] into a class," Rouse said.

But she also praises what Elon does well, such as her experience as an Honors Fellow, which she said drew her closer together with peers who had similar interests and professors to serve as mentors throughout college.

Many teens and 20-somethings, namely college students, are notorious for having a devil-may-care attitude when looking down the long road to retirement, despite elders who warn the AARP-era comes around faster than expected.

Sources of retirement income that previous generations have relied upon are looking less reliable for this generation, according to Platania, so students should plan accordingly.

"Chances are that you can't rely on Social Security for retirement," she said. "When you graduate college and get your first job, the last thing on your mind is retirement, but studies say you'll need over \$1 million to retire. Save a little each month. Even if it's just \$10 or \$20, it gets you in the habit of saving."

When it comes to budgeting, students with experience and experts agree earlier is better. Sophomore Rachel Echevarria's dad sat her down midway through the college application process. With his help, she devised a spreadsheet of all the schools she was considering, along with a factor more pressing than selectivity or prestige: cost.

The decision was ultimately one of compromise.

"We chose a school we knew would offer the most for the least amount of money," Echevarria said.

Students and faculty seem to agree that understanding the value of a dollar comes from more than just sitting in a classroom.

"I think all students should have some basic knowledge of how financial markets and budgets work," Platania said. "Whether they learn about it by talking to people around campus or just being well read, it's important to be educated regarding the situation they will be in after graduation."

Little day-to-day things may present the most valuable economic lessons of all — little bits of wisdom gleaned from eating out less and cooking more or cutting out unnecessary expenses.

It's the little things that add up, according to Platania.

"Students can make a difference in the amount of money they have to pay back after graduation by understanding what they are getting into when they sign on the dotted line and by planning to save money," she said. "Cut back on Starbucks once a day, and you will see the difference."

According to the study, wealthier families struggle less with economic security and less well-off families have a harder time. It's important to note, Rouse said, that there's more to Elon than meets the eye.

"Elon really harps on diversity," she said. "But that's a lot more than just what you see in front of you. That includes religious diversity, socioeconomic diversity — you can't just target a certain area."

Students of all backgrounds would be wise to soak up as much knowledge about personal finance as possible while they're still in a learning environment, Platania added, because the real world is a lot less forgiving.

"In economics, we encounter a lot of different kinds of students because it is considered part of the liberal arts core," said Platania. "But if they don't have a strong business or financial background, they may never take another business class again."

Little Free Library depends on give-take system



KATILIN DUNN | Assistant News Editor

Featuring more than a dozen books available to be borrowed, Elon's Little Free Library has forged a literary connection between The Burlington Times-News, the university and the stand's more frequent patrons.

Dalton Cox
Senior Reporter

When walking between the Mooney and Alamance buildings of Elon University, it is difficult not to notice what appears to be an elaborately painted newsstand. In reality, the bright green bin dispenses an eclectic range of free books.

It's Elon's branch of the worldwide organization "Little Free Library."

The Little Free Library is an exchange system. Readers may take a book as well as donate a book to the library. Books can be returned to the same Little Free Library, or another Little Free Library anywhere around the world. Generally, the books receive a stamp that reads, "Always a gift, never for sale."

Elon's Little Free Library was the brainchild of Elon Teaching Fellows senior Nicole Cesari and alumna Johanna Markiewitz. After learning about the or-

ganization, the two students presented the concept to the director of the Curriculum Resource Center, Laura Williams in the School of Education.

"It's really easy for people to lose their interest in reading when they're swamped by requirements or distracted by other media," Williams said. "So, in a way, it's not like we're putting it somewhere that has no resources, which is another purpose of the Little Libraries, but it's a way for us to say we still value reading, and we want to support people's shared interests."

After the idea was approved, Williams contacted the Burlington Times News, which contributed a retired newspaper stand to the project. Williams, Cesari and Markiewitz then began restoring the receptacle.

The stand was completed with a painted scene inspired by Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree." The Times News also ran an ad for book donations for the proj-

ect, which brought in enough books to replenish the library for the near future.

In July 2014, Elon's Little Free Library was officially chartered by the organization as number 14679.

It can now be found on the world map located on the organization's website, which gives its official GPS coordinates. Elon's Little Free Library is one of 36 in North Carolina, including another in the Burlington city park on South Spring Street.

Elon's Teaching Fellows will take on the responsibility of stewarding the library in upcoming years. Williams described future plans for the Little Free Library initiative by Elon, which include founding Little Free Libraries outside Burlington's Boys and Girls Club as well as at schools around the Elon Center in Costa Rica, where such resources might be scarce. She also spoke of a book truck that should begin making appearances on

Elon's campus later this term.

"Nicole [Cesari] has an idea to create one that's mobile," Williams said. "There was already a book truck leftover on campus, which was no longer in use. It's going to be painted by Nicole, who already has a design for it. The goal is to maybe wheel it out at College Coffee or at other special events."

Though not all students are aware of the Little Free Library's presence on campus, several Elon students described their excitement upon recently discovering this resource.

"I was actually planning on buying 'The Fault in Our Stars,' when I saw it in the bin on campus," senior Stephanie Burke said. "I think it's a really great way to give Elon students reading material they might normally be too busy to seek out online or at the bookstore, and because of that it's easier for us to stay engaged in just reading for fun."

Cheat Sheet: ISIS terrorist group

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

By the News Editors

While debate continues over the details of the recent military decision by President Barack Obama, the fact remains that the United States involvement in Iraq is returning. The cause: ISIS.

Also known as ISIL or, as the group has now dubbed itself, simply the Islamic State, ISIS is the preeminent threat in Iraq to many of the world's largest countries, including the United States. ISIS currently controls land in both Iraq and Syria and, when it is not battling with local populations, is locked in conflicts with the Iraqi and Syrian army. ISIS also maintains ongoing conflicts with the Turkish army and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

ISIS quickly took cities in northern Iraq over the summer, and for a long period, the United States' policy for dealing with the army was to encourage pushback from the Iraqi government and leave U.S. forces largely out of the fighting. However, reports from The Guardian in June revealed that Obama requested \$500 million from Congress to support Syrian rebels to fight ISIS.

After ISIS released videos of the executions of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, Obama announced a plan to engage the terrorist group. In conjunction with allies like the United Kingdom and Germany, the U.S. will provide aid to Kurdish fighters and "moderate" Syrian rebels. In addition, the United States will increase air strikes in Syria and send more than 400 U.S. soldiers to Iraq to support and train forces there.

So far, Saudi Arabia is the only Middle Eastern ally in the region that has openly agreed to join with the U.S. in supplying aid to Syrian rebels, although Secretary of State John Kerry said more Middle Eastern countries are joining in without releasing their names. Iran and Syria are both independently using their military to fight ISIS.

Obama's plan has detractors who either criticize the president for going too far with the military or not far enough. There has been a push from both Republicans and

Democrats to increase military support for rebels in Syria since the war between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and groups like the Free Syrian Army began, and although the U.S. has been supporting and training less explicitly since 2013, Obama's detractors are blaming the current crisis on late support. Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) and John McCain (R-Arizona) both said there should also be U.S. ground forces in Syria and Iraq to battle ISIS.

The agreement to have U.S. troops leave Iraq was negotiated between then-President George W. Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who subsequently rejected appeals from Obama to push back the U.S.'s withdrawal date.

Whether the U.S. will eventually send ground troops to Iraq to combat ISIS is not clear — the Vietnam War started initially with advisers and trainers in a similar capacity to Obama's proposal here.

The plan has also been criticized for being too rash and not considering the conditions on the ground. Rep. Bill Posey (R-Florida) said the proposal, particularly with regards to arming rebels in Syria, is too broad and vague.

According to Florida Today, Posey said "We need more information about the 'moderate rebel' groups that the administration proposes to arm, such as their capabilities and what they hope to achieve," adding that previous attempts to arm rebels in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya resulted in more hostile organizations.

Others have criticized more U.S. involvement in the area as falling right into ISIS's hands. Compared to al-Qaeda, the global terrorist group from which ISIS branched out, ISIS has more sophisticated messaging and production capabilities. The videos of American journalists' beheadings, as well as the beheading of British aid worker David Haines, were designed not only to instill fear but also to incite retaliation.

ISIS does not have any apparent allies. It openly opposes nations ranging from the United States to Iran and has lost support from al-Qaeda. And as it gathers enemies,

ISIS, a majority Sunni organization, is in conflict with majority Shia governments like those in Iraq, Syria and Iran, as well as Hezbollah in Lebanon. Foreign support against ISIS would, in theory, legitimize a Sunni-Shi'a divide with imperialists like Britain and the U.S. on the side of the Shiites.

This situation would be a similar to what happened in the U.S. invasion of Iraq in the 2000s, when a combination of infrastructure damage and support for a Shia-controlled government led to discord within Iraq's Sunni minority. This led to al-Qaeda moving into the country when it had previously been kept out.

ISIS's ability to spread any farther is questionable. The current number of fighters in the group is estimated between 30,000 and 40,000, and while the Iraqi army alone is stronger, it is not as well organized, and ISIS has increased its fighting ability by taking Iraqi weaponry — much of it paid for by the U.S. government. When it declared itself a caliphate, or Islamic-based state, in June (prompting Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram to also declare a caliphate), ISIS revealed maps saying it wanted to expand across northern Africa and across central Asia, but no foreign policy experts consider that a realistic goal.

As the United States along with other countries around the world prepare to confront ISIS, it remains that this is not an organization that will go away soon. Its ability to recruit disillusioned men from around the world is greater than any other modern terrorist group.

According to John Horgan, a professor of psychology at University of Massachusetts Lowell with a focus on terrorism, ISIS is acting more like an insurgent army than typical terrorists, which requires thinking about this crisis in a totally new way. As Horgan put it, "There's a very different set of psychological demands associated with someone who's trying to lay low in a Western city versus someone who's involved in front-line fighting. This is the stuff that really attracts a far broader set of potential recruits."

News Briefs

Compiled by the News Editors

No major injuries reported in car accident near Sheridan

A gray Mitsubishi Lancer said to have been traveling at a "high rate of speed" collided with a silver Mazda 626 Monday evening at the intersection of Haggard and Oak Avenues.

After the crash, Town of Elon Police and Elon University Police closed off a section of Haggard Avenue starting at McMichael Science Center eastward toward the site of the crash, opposite of Sheridan Place. The road opened again shortly after.

The accident, which occurred around 5:15 p.m., happened when the Mazda, headed west on Haggard Avenue, turned left onto Oak Avenue and crashed into the speeding Mitsubishi, according to Town of Elon Master Police Officer Jim Giannotti. The Mitsubishi flipped onto its side from the impact of the crash, and debris scattered across the road. The force of the collision crumpled the front of the Mazda.

The drivers — unidentified, but not believed to be students — were taken to Alamance Regional Medical Center to be evaluated for minor injuries. According to Giannotti, the driver of the Mitsubishi sustained an injury to the right leg.

Chief Justice receives top Elon Law Award

Dean of Elon University School of Law Luke Bierman presented the law school's highest honor, the Leadership in the Law Award, to North Carolina Chief Justice Mark Martin. The award is meant to honor individuals for their contributions to "law, the legal profession and society."

Martin received the award Sept. 19 for his long service in North Carolina's judicial system. After serving on the Court of Appeals, he became Chief Justice in 2014 after being elected to the state's highest court in 1998. In the speech he gave at the event, Martin talked about the importance of supporting those in public service, citing prosecutors who have been killed in countries like South Africa and Colombia.

Former Elon athletic director added to Hall of Legends

Alan White, Elon University athletic director from 1979 to 2006, will be inducted into the ACC Hall of Legends. White, the namesake for the bell tower in the center of Elon's athletics complex, oversaw Elon athletics' transition to the NCAA's Division 1 level from the NAIA level, as well as the construction of Rhodes Stadium, Irwin Belk Track, Latham Park, Jimmy Powell Tennis Center, Rudd Field and the Koury Field House.

White was also named MVP when he played for Wake Forest University, setting the ACC's 1961 rushing record with 586 yards as a running back. White will be honored alongside other figures in college football — 14 in all from each of the ACC's institutions — at a ceremony Dec. 6.



Protesters make their objections known as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry addresses the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on plans for dealing with ISIS. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Family Weekend evolves but maintains traditions



Students and parents celebrate Elon's victory over UNC Charlotte 20-13 Sept. 20 at Rhodes Stadium. It was the first victory of the year for the Phoenix. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Caroline Fernandez
Design Editor

Elon University father Drew Bachman said he was surprised when he saw his son, first-year Chris Bachman, during Family Weekend 2014.

"My son seemed more happy to see us than ever before," Drew Bachman said.

Family Weekend was a time for students to reunite with their families and show them their home away from home as they visited with professors, enjoyed musical performances and supported the Phoenix at the Elon vs. University of North Carolina at Charlotte football game.

For decades, the idea of Elon families reuniting with their students hasn't changed, but the weekend and activities have evolved.

The first documented Parents' Weekend was scheduled on a crisp fall day back in 1964.

That November day looked a lot different than present-day Family Weekend. Parents drove through the countryside to enter Elon's humble campus for one day of activities and reunion.

J. Earl Danieley, Elon's president at the time, welcomed the modest group of 300

students and parents at a convocation in Whitley Auditorium. Families then walked Under the Oaks and past West Residence Hall to enjoy a complimentary meal in McEwen Dining Hall.

Because Rhodes Stadium wasn't built until 2000, families didn't have the luxury of a short walk to the football stadium.

Dedicated visitors and students drove 4.5 miles to Walter Williams High School in Burlington to cheer on the team, which was then known as Elon Fighting Christians as they played Newberry College.

Elon history was made during Family Weekend 1966 when Virginia governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. and North Carolina governor Dan Moore stood in Whitley auditorium to dedicate the opening of four new buildings: Hook, Brannock, Barney and Long.

After the dedication ceremony, families headed across the lawn to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Iris Holt McEwen building.

The library was then housed in the Iris Holt McEwen building until the bigger Carol Grotnes Belk library opened in 2000. Today, the building that broke ground during Parents Weekend in 1966 is home to McEwen School of Communications.

Grandparents welcomed

Parents' Weekend evolved into a family weekend when Elon began to invite grandparents to campus.

Danieley was a major influence in welcoming this new crowd to Elon and said Elon began to invite grandparents after they found out that many of them were interested in seeing the campus.

"That turned out to be a very good thing," Danieley said. "We got outstanding reactions from them."

Former Elon parent and current Elon grandparent Carol Blake has a strong connection to Elon beyond sending her child and grandchild to the university.

In the late 1960s Robert Blake, beginning his career as an Elon English professor, purchased a house on the corner of East College Avenue and North Antioch Avenue with his wife, Carol. Today it is the home of Elon Hillel.

Carol spent a lot of her leisure time on Elon's campus with her children, taking her young children for walks in their strollers around the campus and later enrolled them in violin lessons at Elon.

The Blake family was tied even closer to the Elon community after Carol and

Robert's son, Jonathan, enrolled at Elon in 1984.

The Blake family experienced Family Weekend over the years as they spent time at Elon with their son and now with their granddaughter, Sabrina Thornton, who is a sophomore at Elon.

"I was more involved as a [Elon] parent, but as a grandparent I'm just enjoying the progress," Carol said. "Everything's changing, but I'm enjoying seeing everything change in a positive way."

As for her granddaughter, Carol said she couldn't be more proud of the aspiring physical therapist and loves that she chose Elon as the place to spend her college years.

Family Weekend today

Many first year students used Family Weekend 2014 to spend quality time with their families after being apart for a month.

"We saw my son Thursday night. He's the first child [to go away to school]," said Elon mom Jodi Eisen. "It was a very emotional moment for me."

Students' younger siblings got to know campus by taking campus tours. Averi Eisen, a younger sister of first year Elliot Eisen, said she took a tour of campus Friday morning to start off her college search.

"I hadn't been here before," Averi Eisen said. "I liked the tour. It's a really nice school."

Many students showed their families around campus and introduced them to new professors and friends.

Saturday morning, parents wandered the halls of McEwen, Alamance and other academic buildings to meet their students' professors.

"I really enjoyed meeting my daughter's professors last year and am looking forward to meeting them again this year," said Elon mom JoAnne Lawton. "It's a great way to put a face to the name."

It was also common for students to opt out of Elon family weekend activities and instead venture beyond Elon to Greensboro, Raleigh or Chapel Hill.

"We spent a little bit of time on campus but there were things we wanted to do and see outside of Elon in Greensboro," said junior Maggie Miller. "Campus is always crowded so we decided to leave it to the freshmen whose parents hadn't seen the campus yet."

Just like Family Weekends in the past, the weekend gave parents a chance to connect with their students and the university.

Skid's regulars hold close ties to university, town

Courtney Campbell
Senior Reporter

It's Wednesday morning, and Kyle Wills is enjoying breakfast at Skid's Restaurant off West Haggard Avenue with his old college roommate, Mitch Rippy. The eggs are scrambled, the bacon is crispy and the coffee is hot — the way it has been every Wednesday for the past 20 years.

"He comes in every week without fail," said Skid's owner George Katsoudas.

Over the years, Skid's has collected a number of regulars, each with their own stories and connections to the town and university. It is a place to catch up, meet before the big game and watch Elon change from the windows of a small-town restaurant.

"We have so many [regulars]," said Katsoudas. "Ninety-five percent of the time they will order the same thing. The only way they change it is if I have a special running, or if they just want to come in for a cup of coffee."

This loyalty defines the restaurant and means the world to Katsoudas. The continuous pattern of returning customers has allowed him to maintain a place that provides classic Southern hospitality and allows for friendships and the community to grow. Wills is one of the regulars.

"There are now 14 guys in this regular Wednesday group," Katsoudas said. "It has grown slowly. You meet one person, and you meet another person. Ten years go by, and you are buddies now, just from coming here."

Wills has been at Elon longer than Skid's, moving here when he was 12 years old in 1970 from Greenville, North Carolina when his father became the athletics director at Elon. He hasn't left since. He grew up with the school, and eventually attended Elon, even though he said he thought the school might have been moving backwards.

"As time went on, it was clear that we didn't," he said.

Now, more than 30 years later, Wills drives five minutes to work and sits at his

desk in the Alumni Field House as Elon's senior athletic director of business and communications, bringing his colleagues with him to Skid's every Wednesday.

Since Skid's opened in 2003 it has formed a close connection with Elon.

"The university means a lot to me in terms of how I have grown," Katsoudas said. "I have connected with the faculty, especially the athletic department. They have invited me to cater for them. To me [the university] is a part of the restaurant."

Wills has stayed in the same place without boredom, watching the school and town rapidly expand in the past few decades. The area is not slowing down as both the university and town have expansion projects popping up in every direction.

"The nicest thing about Elon is that it is never stagnant," Wills said. "The vision of the Board of Trustees is remarkable. Students leave for the summer and say 'holy smokes' when they come back to the changes. Imagine 20 years of that."

Wills can't help but think of the chang-

es from an athletics perspective.

During his time here, there have been nine head football coaches, one retired golf coach and three presidents.

"Sometimes in a place like this, you just hold on for the ride," Wills said. "It keeps on moving, and I was fortunate enough to keep moving with it."

According to Katsoudas, any new growth is good for the town. Students leave during the summer, but he figures there will be more reason to stay with a better downtown area, proposed by the Town of Elon, adding attraction to his own restaurant.

Skid's has even made annual regulars with Family Weekend. Students will bring their parents for a nice breakfast with a side of Southern hospitality. Three years later, they will still be coming back.

"I don't mean to brag, but I've done good for the school and for the town," Katsoudas said. "It's not something I pushed, but something that has happened naturally. Customers enjoy what I have, and they keep coming back."

Leaping on the landscape

Dance in the Landscape showcases students on Family Weekend

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

Elon University Dance Company presented its first performance of the year, *Dance in the Landscape*, Sunday Sept. 21 on the lawn of the Center for the Arts in Pardue Court. Every year, this performance is held during Family Weekend to showcase the first-years and several upperclassmen students.

This annual tradition began when the dance faculty agreed that performing outside the theater on Elon's campus would be a great utilization of the natural settings. The location varies each year. In years past dancers have performed on the grass in the Academic Village and in front of Koury Business Center.

The choreography is not developed until the first-year class has arrived. As a result, the choreography varies depending on the strengths and weaknesses of the class of 2018.

"I have an idea, and then when I meet them the first day in rehearsal, I try to play around with the idea and see how that can work with them," said Jason Aryeh, assistant professor of dance. "I love seeing the development of the freshmen in a very short period of time."

Given the accelerated preparation time, Aryeh pushes the first-year dancers to demonstrate what they are capable of achieving. He encourages them to take risks in rehearsals and to bond as a group



The first-years of Elon Dance Company performed for the first time in a piece choreographed by Jason Aryeh.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

to develop teamwork in the classroom and on stage.

Aryeh's modern choreography required the dancers to execute precise technique. Performing outside capitalized on the students' athletic abilities as they jumped, collapsed to the ground and

created elongated lines in their movements. They took advantage of multiple levels of the performance space.

First-year dance major Abby Corrigan said the experience united the first-years.

"We all come from different places around the country and focus on different styles," she said. "By diving in and putting together a piece in our first few weeks here, we really got to know each other, both as people and as dancers."

The outdoor setting is a challenging aspect of the show. Weather conditions can affect the performance. Also, a dancer's movement quality needs to match the space.

"It's like dancing but times 10 compared to what you would do in a theater," Sandler said. "You really want to utilize the space you're given."

Corrigan said she hoped the audience could perceive the joy generated from the dancers. All of the dancers incorporated their own steps into Aryeh's choreography, making the performance a

collaborative effort.

Senior and Assistant Artistic Director of the show Heather Sandler choreographed a piece for the upperclassmen to kick off the performance. Though she has participated in *Dance in the Landscape* every year things were a bit different this year.

"I really tried to challenge myself and do something new with choreography that I've never done before," Sandler said.

Her modern, contemporary piece was "sultry-inspired," derived from the tango. The piece included many jumps and Latin-American character movements, such as placing flexed hands above the head.

Sandler added she saw genuine transformation from the first-years as she watched them grow as dancers this semester.

"It's hard when you're a freshman and going away for the first time," Sandler said. "I think it's good for them and really gets them out of their comfort zone."



Upperclassmen Elon Dance Company members performed a piece choreographed by Heather Sandler.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Coffee Shop duo, Cracked Vessels, explores Elon music scene

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

Juniors Tyler Meacham and Jacob Lenz are no strangers to performing for the Elon University community. They have been doing so as part of the co-ed a cappella group, Twisted Measure, for the last two years. But now, Elon will get to see them in a new musical capacity as the musical duo Cracked Vessels.

Meacham and Lenz have always shared a love of music and songwriting. Meacham said living together sophomore year in the Twisted Measure house brought their music-making connection to another level.

"Freshman year we played music together, and last year we spent more time [playing together]," Meacham said. "We started writing early fall and carried it on throughout the entire year. We had individual pieces of something, and it became easy to come together and finish it."

Their work as a duo differs from their work with Twisted Measure, partially be-

cause they have fewer people to bounce energy off of.

But, Meacham said their natural musical chemistry makes their Cracked Vessels performances easy and organic.

"Our voices blend and pick up each other's cues almost too well," Meacham said. "We will be performing, and we'll look to each other, and we're about to forget the same words. We play off each other really well."

Senior Stanley Dowell, president of Twisted Measure, isn't surprised by Meacham and Lenz's endeavor. After watching them collaborate before, Dowell said the pair's chemistry and passion for music makes this move an understandable and encouraged one.

"When it comes to performing, they really know what they're doing. I think one of the best parts about watching them is seeing how much they really love what they do," Dowell said. "They'd typically hate being in front of that many people at once, but being able to share their mu-

sic with people makes it all worth it for them."

At this point, Cracked Vessels has had a number of Elon gigs, including performing on Elon Local News' morning show and opening for their friend and fellow Twisted Measure member Powell Mansfield's stand-up comedy show. Lenz says they are always looking for new ways to bring their music to more people.

"We're up for anything," Lenz said. "There are a lot of places in the area on and off campus that are looking for this kind of coffee shop duo to play. So we'd love to expand our opportunities to perform, or even record an EP. We're taking baby steps."

The name, Cracked Vessels, comes from a mutual love for John Green's novel, "Paper Towns," and was inspired by a line from the novel — "But once the vessel cracks, the light can get in. The light can get out."

It is this kind of openness that Lenz and Meacham explore in their songwrit-

ing. Lenz said he hopes they can continue to get their music into the community, because audiences might find what they perform relatable.

"I would love to find some way to get our music even more out, because our music speaks for itself," Lenz said. "Most of the things we write are pretty personal. All of our songs have pretty specific meanings to us. From an outside perspective, I connect more to someone's songs and lyrics when they portray something important to them."

Dowell said his peers can make a huge impact on Elon's musical climate because they are a talented, down-to-earth musical act.

"People know that they're talented but are always pretty blown away when they see them for the first time, and it's always great to watch that reaction," Dowell said. "Their songs cater to a large variety of audiences, and most importantly, they're really relatable. It's really easy to feel like you're friends with them, on and off stage."

Located in the South, inhabited by the North



Massachusetts (left) and North Carolina (right) had the highest representation of students within the Class of 2018. North Carolina made up 18 percent and Massachusetts made up 11 percent. States above the Mason-Dixon line — New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania — rounded out the top six.

Southern location populated by Northerners adds cultural advantages

In 1889 North Carolina legislature issued a charter establishing Elon College in one of North Carolina's oldest counties — Alamance County. Seven of Elon's eight presidents were born in the South and U.S. News and World Report ranks Elon as the top regional university in the south. The rest of the school's make up, is distinctly less southern.

When asked to explain Elon to an outsider, one might mention that the mascot is the Phoenix or that the school has a high study abroad rate. However, describing Elon as a northern school in the south has become a more prominent defining trait.

While it is true that the highest percentage of students hail from North Carolina, the majority of Elon's students come from states located above the Mason-Dixon line. More than 55 percent of students in the two most recent incoming classes reside in the Northeast or Mid-Atlantic regions of the country. States such as Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut are among the most common states where Elon students reside.

Northern students are exposed to some new ways of life. Southern cuisine, like sweet tea, grits, and barbecue, are

regional staples. The pace of life in the South can be considered a bit slower. The classic Southern drawl from locals also becomes a telltale sign of where the university is situated. The laid back tone contrasts with the more hectic pace of Northern life.

Some students may even be a bit thrown by some Southern terminology, such as calling a shopping cart a "buggy" or a winter cap a "toboggan" or saying "grocery" instead of "grocery store."

Some Elon students have already been exposed to the mixture of Northern and Southern cultures. Students who call the Washington, D.C. area home have had a taste of both world. The Mason-Dixon line, which lies right above Maryland, calls everything below it the South. While drawn in the late 1700s, this line still holds some truth about how the regions' cultures slowly divide.

Culture shock can go both ways for Elon students. There is a large influx of students from the North, yet those from the South also experience an exposure to a more Northern culture. This makes Elon a quintessential melting pot.

Although Elon may not be as racially diverse as other schools across the country, the unique location of the university

provides students with a platform from which they can mingle with people from parts of the country that they would not otherwise interact with.

College is a time when students work, live and play side by side with thousands of people around their age. At no other time in their lives are people living in such close proximity with so many people who are all pursuing the same goal.

It is true that Elon, despite its location, is not a southern school. However, this is not a bad thing. For although Elon isn't as southern as a school like Appalachian State University, its lack of classic southern values means that its campus is a strong blend of Northern and Southern cultures.

To take full advantage of attending school in the South, go and immerse yourself in the community. Talking to people and getting to know them can make the Southern university experience more vivid.

Elon is a great place to understand something new and get to know a different way of life. In fact, the school encourages it heavily by promoting the idea of "global citizenship" — which students can easily start by embracing their southern surroundings.

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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Financial aid opportunities insufficient for incoming students

The spring of senior year in high school can be a liberating, invigorating and exciting season for high school students.



Ailee Ballard
Columnist

But for some of us, senior spring meant endless waiting, not for acceptance letters or deposit confirmations, but for financial aid packages that would make or break our college opportunities.

As a naive prospective student, I fell under the impression that with a solid GPA, some extracurricular activities and leadership experience, I would be the apple of every school's eye. For years I had been conditioned to believe that my strong academics and extracurriculars would cause colleges to offer enormous scholarships that would open any doors that I could imagine.

This wishful thinking caused me to expect more than I should have from various colleges, but when I received financial aid from only one school out of the three to which I was accepted, I was flabbergasted.

My mother does not earn enough money to send me through school without aid, and my father already pays for my

brother's college education alone. How was I expected to attend quality schools with no help from these institutions?

So instead of spending my spring riding out the last wave of high school, I filled my afternoons by writing scholarship applications, searching for community colleges that I could attend for a year or two and wondering if I would have the same great college experience as my friends.

Many sleepless nights passed and I worried that I might have to enter the workforce for a while before returning to school. It was only when I received a financial aid package from Elon University in late May that I believed again in the possibility that I would attend a quality institution for my freshman year.

Although I was relieved that at least one school had offered me enough money to make my attendance possible, the experience rattled me. It opened my eyes to a frightening reality: many other hardworking students had been denied academic opportunities because of an institutional failure.

The answer often does not lie in these schools' funding but in the allocation of those funds. Schools spend millions of dollars beautifying campuses to make them attractive to prospective students, but if

they cannot provide aid to low-income or even middle-income students, many of these students cannot attend regardless of the campus allure.

Although fancy amenities and a beautiful campus are enjoyable, a higher per-

centage of institutional revenue should be allocated toward making college affordable for students. We chose these schools for our mutual benefit and it's high time the schools returned the favor. Schools should reward our loyalty with financial support.

College costs

College costs rose again this academic year, but not as steeply as they have in past years. However, federal aid, which eases the burden for most students, has declined over the past two years.

Type of college	2012-13	2013-14	% change
Two-year public	\$3,154	\$3,264	+3.5%
Four-year public	8,646	8,893	+2.9
Four-year private	28,989	30,094	+3.8

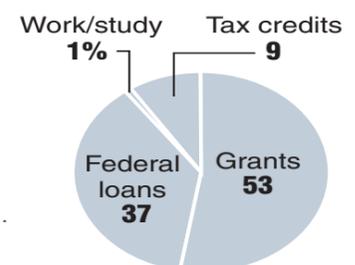
NOTE: Does not include room, board

Sources of aid 2012-13

Public and private sources of funding, in billions

2012-13 figures are preliminary

Federal aid	
2010-11	\$185.5
2012-13	169.7
Non-federal loans	
2010-11	8.1
2012-13	8.8
State, institutional, private grants	
2010-11	64.2
2012-13	68.7



Source: The College Board

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GRAPH COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

From Oakland to Ferguson

Guns should be used as safety precaution for nonviolent protestors

In 1967, the Black Panther Party espoused a Ten-Point Program called “What We Want Now!” Point No. 7 made a poignant statement that speaks to this summer’s murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri: “We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people.”



Tom Neas
Columnist

This demand has gone unmet by America’s police officers. The Black Panthers, which formed in Oakland, California, published a second version of its ten points, titled “What We Believe.”

They expanded on point number seven to be less dependent on the police to change:

“We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States gives us the right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self-defense.”

This point does not call for people to engage in violence or attack other Americans, rather, that the ownership of a gun keeps the power of the police from overreaching its bounds.

One of the two main operations of the Black Panthers was the armed patrol of citizens to keep the police in check.

Those who went on these patrols wore simple outfits: blue shirts, black pants, jackets and berets, and a loaded shotgun – legal in California, as long as the gun was unconcealed and not

aimed at anyone. The concept was that the mere possession of arms protected African-Americans from police brutality and gave the means of self-defense.

During the Civil Rights Movement, nonviolent demonstration was backed up with self-defense. Daisy Bates, a newspaper publisher and mentor to the Little Rock Nine, carried a handgun in her purse. Armed supporters guarded Martin Luther King, Jr., who tried to get a gun permit, but was denied. Nelson Mandela kept a pistol buried near his home.

These leaders each showed us that nonviolence is an effective way to bring about social change. However, in the American South during the Civil Rights Movement, the police, many of whom were involved with the Klu Klux Klan, did not protect nonviolent civil rights activists. It fell to these citizens to protect themselves.

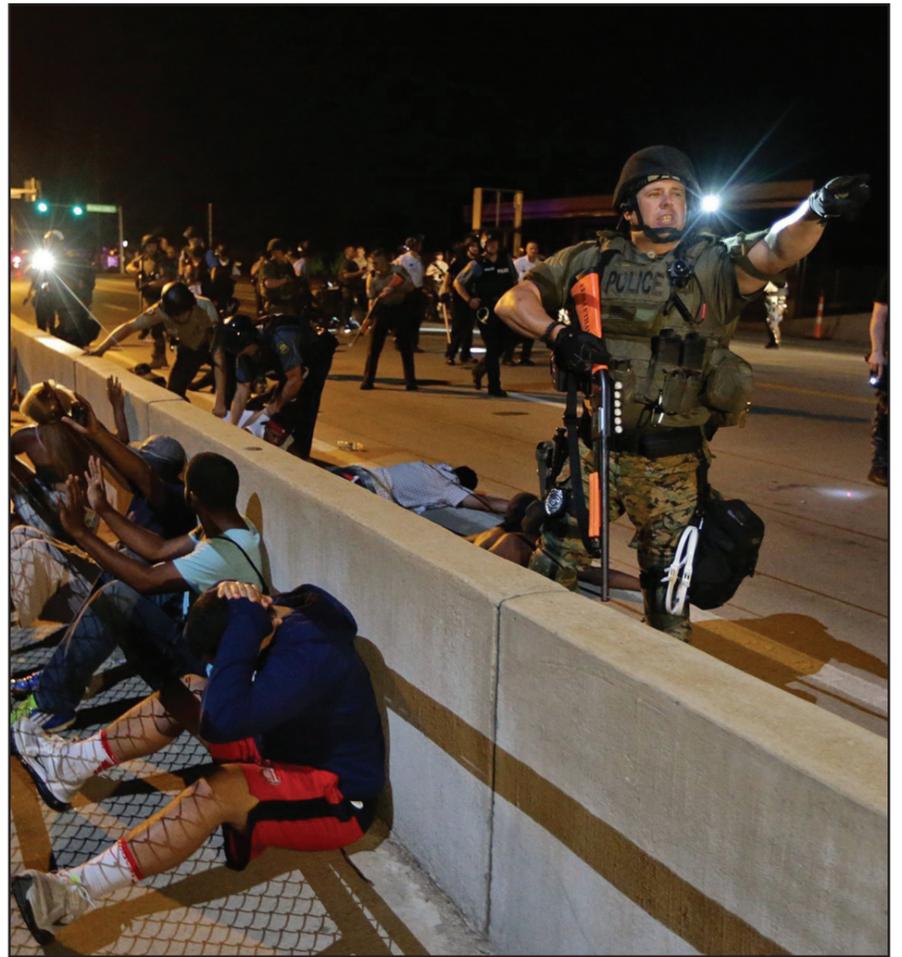
The Second Amendment grants civilians ownership of guns, stating, “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state.”

We are allowed guns so that we may ensure the freedom of our country. If this is true then how can this exist while the enemies within continue to gas and beat nonviolent protesters?

The recent armed resistance in support of Cliven Bundy, a Texas rancher who stole public land for his own profit, saw no arrests, gas or police brutality. This is a stark contrast to the events that have unfolded in Ferguson.

Protests against the murder of an unarmed black man are met with more than 200 arrests in the first 12 days, but theft of public land is allowed on the grounds of state’s rights. Worse crimes have been allowed under the same argument.

The police have built their careers as being effective tools in the defense of



Ferguson residents cover their heads as armed military personnel disrupt a protest. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

the law. A plan of fighting against police brutality cannot rely on the police becoming less violent. New police tactics, such as the ineffective “broken windows” tactics, serve only to distance the police force from the community they are meant to serve.

Violence leads to more violence and death. Nonviolence without self-defense leads to dead and arrested activists. The police, and hate groups, as we have seen, are willing to attack and even kill nonviolent activists and people.

Protestors at the Bundy Ranch held off police by peacefully assembling and carrying weapons. Black Panthers ensured their programs of free food for children and other social welfare programs by arming themselves for defense.

Now, in Ferguson, it falls to the protestors, and to oppressed people nationwide, to defend their rights to free expression and protest.

The constitutional way to do this is for them to buy guns. As the saying goes, if you want peace, prepare for war.

Impactful Emma Watson speech good for feminism

Hermione Granger isn’t going to stand for your sexism.

In front of the United Nations, Emma Watson made her stand for the global equality of women. With a slightly shaky voice, she delivered a commanding speech, urging men to participate in stopping violence against women through a campaign called HeForShe.



Jonathan Black
Columnist

With the NFL continuously fumbling punishments toward Ray Rice and other players, this speech comes at a welcome surprise.

Watson, a goodwill ambassador for UN Women, rightfully challenged men to promote equality of the sexes. She is the latest celebrity to join the fight, and may be the most influential yet.

People of all ages, from tweens to adults, have immersed themselves in the Harry Potter culture. They live and breathe for Hogwarts and it’s cast of characters, a

world where sexual inequality doesn’t exist. Witches are just as powerful as wizards, and as Watson shows, people of all genders are just as powerful as one another.

By addressing men, Watson reminds the audience feminism is not a women-focused movement. No one, regardless of gender, should be afraid to fight for gender equality.

While this could easily pass as another social media fad, we’ve seen the power celebrity actions have caused in the past year.

Amy Poehler’s “Smart Girls,” a web series encouraging girls to pursue their passions, has a loyal following. Beyoncé’s “Flawless” is routinely performed on national television and sung by people everywhere.

Whether or not people are intentionally accepting these messages, they are being internalized.

Watson took a more direct route openly challenging men, but it’s the right one. Too long men have stood aside, afraid being labeled feminist would somehow make them less masculine.

If it takes a celebrity message to convince the masses, so be it. It’s time we all become feminists.

Military spending should be reduced despite ISIS threat

With plans to launch an air strike on ISIS, the Islamic militant group that has been posting horrifying videos of beheadings of U.S and British citizens online, seems like a good time to take a hard look at our military budget and what its doing to us as a country.

In 2011, the United States spent \$711 billion dollars on military and defense. To put that in perspective, the United States spends more than the next 13 countries on the list combined.

But since it is military spending it is somehow completely justified to overspend to this degree.

This idea that dollars spent towards our nations military aren’t real dollars is a pernicious and dangerous one. As safe as we feel when we increase our military budget and presence, we need to realize that as great as it can be to have the kind of resources we do and be able to step in

when necessary, there is a flip side to an enormous military budget that we rarely looked at or considered.

This would be the fact that as much as our budget protects, it also provokes. Having U.S. military presence all around the globe acts as a catalyst to increase sentiment toward the United States from radical groups.

Having a larger active military is not intrinsically a bad thing, but at a certain point it becomes just too large and causes more harm than good.

There are many different routes to take but the most reasonable and responsible would be cutting our military budget.

I understand this is a bold assertion but keep in mind we would still have the largest military in the world, but would gain back a substantial amount of money to put towards our deficit in a way that doesn’t rip food out of the mouths of poor people.

The battle against ISIS is an important one that should be carried out carefully, and when it inexorably escalates, we can only hope that we don’t find ourselves in yet another never-ending war that needlessly spends taxpayer money.



Paul Leblanc
Columnist

Skrosky's first win a foundation builder



Demitri Allison had seven catches for 81 yards against Charlotte, setting a career-high in receiving yards. Elon's total offense combined for 454 yards, 331 of those coming via the passing game.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Matt Mallian
Assistant Sports Editor

While far from perfect, the Elon University football team showed a shifted mindset from past years in its 20-13 win against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Sept. 20 at Rhodes Stadium.

In past years, Elon would have found a way to lose but against the 49ers, the Phoenix instead found a way to win.

The victory marked the first of the season for Elon and for head coach Rich Skrosky, who said after the game that



Rich Skrosky, who spent the last three years at Ball State, picked up his first win as Elon's coach.

this was a big one for his team.

"[The players] needed that validation," Skrosky said. "I think that's the biggest thing, especially when you're starting new, and you're a new staff, and they're under a new coach. You keep sending that same message, and sometimes if you don't get that validation for a while with a 'W,' it starts to show."

On Sept. 13, Elon lost 17-12 to North Carolina A&T State University, squandering multiple opportunities to take control of the game.

The Phoenix left the door open against the 49ers as well — throwing an interception and missing three field goals — but was able to lean on its defense to hold Charlotte's final push and win the game.

"Losing maximizes mistakes sometimes," Skrosky said. "After last week's game, everybody was like, 'That might be the worst red-zone offense in the world.' Winning minimizes mistakes, and we can't let that be a problem with us. We have to make sure that we're critiquing ourselves just as hard as we did last Sunday after a tough loss to [NC A&T]."

Coming up big for the Phoenix were senior wide receiver Kierre Brown and senior linebacker Odell Benton. Brown hauled in 13 passes for 81 yards and two touchdowns while Benton had five tackles, a forced fumble and recovery, as well as an interception.

"[Brown and Benton] were a big part of the leadership element, which is so important when you get into games like that — there's going to be trust, there's going to be confidence in that, 'Hey, we've worked our tails off,'" Skrosky said.

For veterans Brown and Benton, this win was one of, if not the most, rewarding of their careers.

"That's probably one of the best moments of my whole career," Benton said. "Being out there on the field and seeing all 80-some guys running onto the field and seeing the happiness in everybody's face. That was just a really great feeling, and I'll never forget it. It was beautiful."

Winning is something that hasn't been associated with Elon football in recent years, as the Phoenix was 5-18 over the past two seasons under head coach Jason Swepson.

"It was great seeing the entire team show some type of enthusiasm and finally have that winning feeling," Brown said, "Some guys haven't come from winning programs in high school. They don't really know how it feels to win. And to actually get that feeling for everybody is great."

Under Skrosky's leadership, players who have played under both coaches have a different mentality.

"Something that Coach

Skrosky has come in and really instilled in us is we play for the community, and that's something that we really haven't — I personally haven't — thought about, that is playing for something bigger than us," Benton said. "We know that this is the foundation we're setting. It definitely feels good for sure."

As with any football game, Skrosky said there are certain areas the Phoenix will need to examine and improve before Elon's Sept. 27 game at Coastal Carolina University. But there is more to this season than wins and losses — it's about building for the future.

"It feels pretty good," Brown said. "We got the win for Elon and for the program. With this win, I feel like it's going to help change things around here and get on the right track."

Following the win, Skrosky mentioned many times how excited he was for the players. It was the definition of a team win, and he leaned on one of his common sayings to express it.

"I'm so confident each and every day the program's moving in the right direction," he said.

No matter the struggles a team goes through during a season or even in the years prior, there is nothing that winning can't solve.

"It's a great feeling," Brown said. "Winning is always the best feeling in the world, honestly."

And it's a feeling that the Phoenix is trying to experience a little more often under Skrosky.

About Coastal Carolina

—Coastal Carolina is 4-0 on the season and ranked No. 3 in both the Coaches' and media polls.

—The Chanticleers beat Florida A&M University 48-3 on the road this past week.

—Joe Moglia is in his third season as head coach of the Chanticleers. He has an overall record of 24-8 and was named Big South Coach of the Year for the 2012 season.

—Coastal Carolina won two playoff games in 2013 before falling to top-ranked North Dakota State in the quarterfinals and finishing with a national ranking of No. 7.

—The lone mutual opponent between Elon University and Coastal Carolina is North Carolina A&T State University. The Phoenix lost 17-12 to the Aggies Sept. 13, while the Chanticleers beat the Aggies 31-30.

—Elon and Coastal Carolina played at Rhodes Stadium Sept. 28, 2013, with the Chanticleers winning 53-28.

—Coastal Carolina is averaging 35.0 points per game and allowing just 13.0 points per game.

—The Chanticleers have outscored opponents 51-10 in the first quarter. De'Angelo Henderson leads Coastal Carolina's ground attack, averaging 124.5 yards per game with six touchdowns.

—Quarterback Alex Ross has completed 67 percent of his passes for an average of nearly 200 yards per game with three touchdowns.

—Quinn Backus leads the Chanticleers with 38 total tackles, while also tallying two sacks.

What To Watch For



Elon at Coastal Carolina

1-2 | 4-0

Saturday, Sept. 27 | 7 p.m.

Brooks Stadium | Conway, S.C.

Injuries add pressure to Elon's small lineup

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

When searching for a substitution, Elon University head volleyball coach Mary Tendler hasn't been left with many options as of late.

Elon has had five players miss time because of injuries in the last two weeks, depleting an already small roster into one with little leeway for variety.

The Phoenix has 13 players listed on its roster, which is small for a Division I school. Most teams have at least 15 players.

In its last two games at the Deacon Classic Sept. 20 in Winston-Salem, Elon used an eight-player lineup.

"If we're struggling at something, we look down the bench, and we don't have that person that has experience to come out and help in certain things," Tendler said. "I like the players we have in. We have nine players healthy, and I'm proud of them for their effort."

The injuries have left the Phoenix especially short at setter, as both junior Ana Nicksic and redshirt freshman Sydel Curry have missed the last four games. This meant junior Chelsea Rafetto, formerly a defensive specialist, had to step in and play setter.

Rafetto sat out last year because of a knee injury. She started at Elon as a setter but was

transitioned into a defense role. Before Elon's Sept. 17 game against North Carolina A&T State University, the last time Rafetto played setter was in November 2012.

Through four matches in which she's played every point at setter, Rafetto has accumulated 103 assists and 47 digs.

"[The injuries] put a lot more pressure on Chelsea," said senior outside hitter Chanelle Smith. "We're still getting used to her style of setting. She's doing a great job. It takes confidence to have to come out there and run an offense."

Junior outside hitter Megan Gravley has missed the last five games because of a foot injury that required her to wear a boot until this past weekend. Senior outside hitter Danielle Smith didn't play in the three matches at the Deacon Classic, and she nor Curry traveled with the team for the tournament's first game against Western Carolina University.

Junior middle blocker Catherine Head also missed three matches after slightly aggravating a previous knee injury but was back in the lineup this past weekend.

Tendler has been forced to shuffle the lineup in order to fill the void of those players who can't play. The short lineup has emphasized the need for Elon to start sets off strong, something that's been a point of focus in practice recently.



Freshman outside hitter Sydney Busa (No. 9) has carried Elon's attack with injuries keeping others out.

"With this new lineup, we don't have time to play catch-up," Chanelle Smith said. "It's a whole new lineup, whole new offense. We have to be coming out with the same energy and fire."

Sometimes, going down a few points early has helped the Phoenix.

"We actually play really well when we're in a hole," Tendler said. "We really pick things up. Sometimes the intensity picks up when you're behind. Right now, our team plays better when

we're behind than they do from being ahead."

Regardless of who's playing and who's not, the goal is the same. It's something Elon's worked through during the past couple weeks and will have to deal with for at least the next few matches.

"It adds a little bit more pressure," said sophomore outside hitter Kayla Agae. "We're bummed we can't have those girls on the court with us too, but we trust whoever's on with us or without us that they're going to make it happen."

Elon defense looks sharp as CAA play begins

Jordan Spritzer
Senior Reporter

With a run of three straight victories, the Elon University women's soccer team is heating up going into its inaugural season in the Colonial Athletic Association.

"We're certainly going in the right direction," said Elon head coach Chris Neal. "Would I want more wins going into conference play? Sure, but winning three straight is a very good ending to nonconference play."

The Phoenix recorded an opening night victory over Jacksonville State University Aug. 22, but followed up with four straight losses in which it scored just one goal.

Elon got back on the winning track by beating Coastal Carolina University and Francis Marion University during a weekend trip to Wilmington and continued its winning streak into a Sept. 19 victory against Gardner-Webb University.

In the three wins, the Phoenix conceded one goal while keeping two clean sheets. It's been a dramatic improvement from the 13 goals Elon allowed during its four-game losing streak.

Senior defender Bethany Houpt said the difference has been in the team's discipline.

"We've focused a lot on our defensive tactics, especially in the last few," Houpt said. "We were really focusing on staying compact, keeping the gaps between us and midfield tight with a lot of communication."

Thus far, Neal has partnered Houpt's experience with freshman defender Kendall Ballotti on the back row. Ballotti was the only player to play the full match against Gardner-Webb and is second on the team in minutes played with 543. The Long Valley, New Jersey native also recorded a goal and an assist in Elon's victory against Francis Marion.

Four Elon defenders lead the Phoenix in

minutes played through eight games, but Neal wants to maintain a defensive rotation, particularly with their fullbacks.

"We have a nice rotation of our outside backs between [sophomore] Erin Tanhauser, [senior] Caroline O'Dee, [sophomore] Sarah Henson, [sophomore] Hannah Howard and [junior] Mel Insley," Neal said. "Those are five capable players that can hold down the outside back positions for us."

Neal admitted that conference play is a horse of a different color, especially with the steeper competition throughout the CAA.

"The mentality changes completely," Neal said.

In the CAA, only the top six teams qualify for the conference tournament. With postseason spots at a premium, Neal said he believes there is no room for a let-down game.

"Every game for me, which I need to imprint on the team, is a tournament game," he said.

Neal reaches NCAA century win mark

Jordan Spritzer
Senior Reporter

The Elon University women's soccer team's 2-0 victory against Gardner-Webb University Friday, Sept. 19 was more than the team's fourth win of the season.

It was head coach Chris Neal's 100th career victory as a head coach.

Neal said he was not distracted during the match, and his focus was simply on winning.

The players also knew, and when the final whistle blew, Neal was honored with a bath of ice water.

"We knew tonight was going to be his 100th win," said junior midfielder Taylor Glenn. "We went into it with a game plan and water was the way to go."

Neal won his first 36 matches as the men's coach at Pfeiffer University between 1998 and 2000, where he gave the Falcons their first-ever Division II ranking.

After a spell as an assistant at his alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Neal took the Elon job, where he is now in his seventh year.

"When I first got here seven years ago, I was new, the players were new, everything was new," Neal said. "But now the relationships are firm, and this is a family."

Neal's intent was to turn the program around in his first season at the helm. The Phoenix went 8-8-3 in 2008, giving Elon its first .500 record since 1999. In his second season, Neal led the Phoenix to 12 wins, the most since moving to the Division I ranks.

From the day senior defender Bethany Houpt signed on to play for Neal, she knew she was with a special program.

"Coming in as a freshman, we were already playing really good teams," she said. "Throughout the four years here, it's been so consistent. We just continued to grow stronger mentally, physically and it's been a dramatic difference over the years."

Neal has created a winning tradition behind the framework of a strong team, not individuals.

"He's really there for us and makes us understand how we each have a specific role on the team and we're all there to make it a team effort every game," Glenn said. "He expects a lot out of us and we give him a lot [in return]."



Elon went three games without scoring in a four-game losing stretch earlier in the year, but has outscored opponents 6-1 in its last three matches.

Club rugby learns from UNCG rivalry game

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

Facing a familiar foe from just down the road will always get an athlete's blood pumping. They are competitors, and competitors feed off the motivation and desire to beat their longtime rivals.

It is especially true for the Elon University men's club rugby team, which fell 19-14 by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the newly anointed Rivalry Games Series championed by Elon Campus Recreation at the South Campus Rugby Pitch.

The series in which each of Elon's club sports teams will participate, pits two longtime rivals against each other for regional bragging rights. Elon and UNCG happen to be in the same division and conference for men's rugby — the Piedmont Division of the Southern Rugby Conference.

"Anytime we have a team that we play on a regular basis that's close to us, it brings a heightened level of excitement," said Elon club rugby coach Ryan Bays. "Anytime you get more people out and have them yelling and screaming and making noise, it's a good motivator for your team."

Elon trailed 19-7 late in the match before scoring and adding a kick to cut UNCG's lead to 19-14. But they could

get no closer and were forced to watch their rivals holler joyfully on the other side of the pitch.

Despite the loss, Elon senior Nicholas DiBiagio hopes the Rivalry Games Series with the Spartans will become an annual event.

"These kinds of events will really help us grow the game and grow our program," DiBiagio said. "Our program has come a long way in my four years, and hopefully this event will continue and bring rugby a bit more recognition."

Bays echoed the sentiment of the team captain, but added that it doesn't have to be an annual game with UNCG. In fact, because Elon plays UNCG so often, he wouldn't mind switching up the opponent every year.

"I don't know if playing this event against UNCG every year is a necessity because we're probably going to go back and forth with them on a regular basis," Bays said. "With other teams, there's less camaraderie than there is with [UNCG], so having a different team who you're less familiar with would bring new intensity to the event."

Moving forward, DiBiagio knows that the team must clean up the mistakes that cost dearly against UNCG, most notably the penalties and infractions that played a significant role in their slow start.

If they are able to build on the posi-

tives they've shown early on this season, clean up their messy mental mistakes and get off to quicker starts, Elon will be able to steadily improve as the season goes on.

"We came out a little flat," DiBiagio said. "Our energy level, especially at kickoff, is something we need to improve. We need to work on our energy and discipline. It's key that we cut down on the number of penalties we're called for."

Their goal, of course, is to build on

the success of last year, when the team competed at the USA Rugby College 7s National Championship in Greensboro. If they cut down on their mistakes, there is no reason to think they couldn't replicate last season's success.

"We can't make that many mistakes or play outside of ourselves," Bays said. "We have too many people who are trying to do too much individually and not taking what the opponent gives us. If we can play more as a team, then we'll get back on track."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN BAYS

The Elon Men's Club Rugby Team lost 19-14 to UNCG Sept. 19 in its second match of the year.

Photos from the field



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Elon senior outside hitter Danielle Smith spikes the ball during Elon's sweep of NC A&T Sept. 17.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Elon players take the field Sept. 20 for their game against Charlotte. The Phoenix won 20-13.



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer
Alissa Pantuosco slides to gain possession during Elon's 2-0 victory against Gardner-Webb Sept. 19.

Upcoming Fall Sports Schedule

Friday, Sept. 26

Men's soccer at Coastal Carolina, 7 p.m.

Men's tennis at Elon Invitational
Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

Volleyball vs. Hofstra
7 p.m., Alumni Gym

Women's soccer vs. Hofstra
7 p.m., Rudd Field

Saturday, Sept. 27

Men's tennis at Elon Invitational
Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

Football at Coastal Carolina, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Men's tennis at Elon Invitational
Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

Women's soccer vs. Northeastern
1 p.m., Rudd Field

Volleyball vs. Northeastern
2 p.m., Alumni Gym

Monday, Sept. 29

Women's golf at Forest Oaks Fall Classic

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Men's soccer vs. High Point
7 p.m., Rudd Field

Women's golf at Forest Oaks Fall Classic

Follow us on twitter at @pendulumsports for updates on all Elon athletics.

Man behind the scenes

Elon professor pens sports broadcasting book

Miles Garrett
Senior Reporter

Downstairs in Elon University's McEwen School of Communications, the office of Max Negin, assistant professor of communications, is tucked away out of the spotlight. Negin prefers to settle behind the scenes. He has, in fact, done so throughout his entire career.

As a kid growing up in Philadelphia, rather than aspiring to become involved with journalism, Negin dreamed of becoming the middle linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles. Like most young men who realize that their skills lie in places other than the NFL, Negin took his talents elsewhere but still stay true to his passion.

Negin decided to pursue sports broadcasting as a way to work with something that he loved. As an undergraduate student at Rowen University in New Jersey, Negin embarked on a career in sports broadcasting.



Max Negin

Four-time Emmy Award recipient, including for his coverage of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and the 2012 London Summer Olympics.

Negin worked as an editor, writer and producer for NBC, ABC, FOX, ESPN, HBO and Comcast SportsNet outlets.

He worked as an associate producer and broadcast coordinator for two seasons with the Philadelphia 76ers.

At Elon, Negin teaches sections of Creating Multimedia Content, Sports Broadcasting, Sports & Media and Elon 101, as well as producing "Phoenix Vison" for home football games.

connections," Negin said. "You never know which one of them will get you a job one day."

When he stands in front of his classes, he brings with him a plethora of experience in the field of sports broadcasting. Not long after earning a degree in communications from Rowen, Negin landed a job at ESPN. P

Prior to earning that position, Negin was up late at night calling 30 or more people to ask for jobs in camera work.

All it took was one "yes" for him to get hired at Baur Visual — a job Negin said was "better than Chili's," his former employer. Somewhat overwhelmed with the new technology surrounding him, Negin approached work with a "fake it 'till

you make it" outlook, a skill he still teaches his students today.

At this time in 1996, ESPNNews made its debut. Negin worked with equipment for the Philadelphia Phillies, eventually working his way to his ultimate dream job: working full-time for his hometown team.

Around five years after his graduation, Negin became the video coordinator for the Phillies after switching over to Comcast Sports,

which had just opened for business at the time.

Working behind the scenes and traveling with the Phillies to all 162 of their baseball games, Negin learned all the tricks of the trade in his industry.

"Sit in a chair [for 162 games], you'll get good at something," he said.

But working nearly every day took a toll on Negin, and he decided to settle down and work mostly as a freelancer for local networks as a tape operator before taking the teaching job at Elon.

Wanting to give his students a competitive edge once they graduate, Negin teamed up with Marc Zumoff, the play-by-play broadcaster for the Philadelphia 76ers, to create a sports broadcasting book titled "Total Sportscasting" that covers the performance and technical sides of the industry.

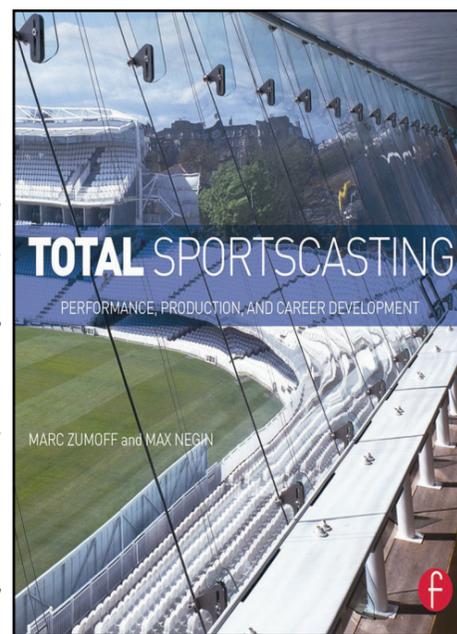
The whole idea of everything conjoining as "one unit" like a sports team is very similar to what goes on in a sports broadcast and precisely what Negin wants his students to learn. The new book is required reading for Negin's Sports Broadcasting class.

Negin strives to enrich his students on every aspect that goes in the process of delivering a sports broadcast. This is a process that senior Natalie Beach said is valuable in her learning experience at Elon. Beach works with Negin on Elon Phoenix Weekly, a student-run television production that Negin advises, and is currently taking his Sports Broadcasting class.

"I've learned a lot from Max about more than just sports. I've learned how to work with people and get the best out of them. He's also taught me a lot about creating content worthy of being on a television screen," Beach said. "Max is a lot of fun to work with, but he sets a high standard and is never going to let us get away with mediocre quality on EPW, and I think it shows in our finished product."

Although Negin has typically stayed behind-the-scenes throughout his career in the sports broadcasting industry, he stands out among his students at Elon. His passion for teaching is evident with the experiences he has developed throughout his lifetime.

Whether it's freelancing for a professional sports team, being a media manager in the Olympics or teaching groups of college students, Negin strives to create a "team" aspect of making something special.



Elon's Vargas, Bierut break records at cross country meet

Kate Murphy
Senior Reporter

Two Elon University runners crossed the grassy finish line in record-breaking times at the Adidas Cross Country Challenge Friday, Sept. 19 at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary. Elon junior Elyse Bierut and senior Luis Vargas put their names in the books when they set records in the women's and men's 5K races.

Bierut set an Elon school record in the women's 5K race, crossing the finish line at 17:25, a 25-second improvement from her previous best and five seconds faster than 2014 graduate Allyson Oram's previous school record. Bierut finished fourth overall and was closely

followed by five other Phoenix runners that all finished under 18 minutes. The women's team came in second in the team standings, just behind defending champion and host North Carolina State University by a margin of 21-36.

Vargas set a new course record, coming in at 14:29 and breaking former NC State All-American Ryan Hill's previous record. This marks the second straight first-place finish for Vargas and the third overall of his career.

Vargas also led the Elon men to a second-overall finish behind NC State with a score of 20-60.

The next Phoenix runner on the men's side to cross the finish line was senior Ari Rothschild, who came in at 15:22.5

for an 11th-place finish. Senior Adam Bernstein came in 16th with a time of 15:39.8, and freshman Sam Geha was close behind at 15:49.2, finishing 19th overall.

On the women's side, Elon senior Jenny Gallagher also set a new personal record, coming in a few strides behind Bierut at 17:27 with a fifth-place finish along with fellow senior Tereza Novotna, who had a personal-best time of 17:38.

Three other Phoenix runners finished under the 18-minute mark. Haylee Dawe ran a 17:51.5, putting her at 10th in the standings. Emily Dunne finished 11th with a time of 17:53.4, which was also a personal record, and Kaitlin Snapp came in 12th with a 17:56.8 finish.

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