

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2011 | VOLUME 37, EDITION 2

www.elon.edu/pendulum



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Family examines past, looks to the future in 'Crimes of the Heart'

Three sisters become united by family tragedy in "Crimes of the Heart," Elon University's Winter Term play. Set in a small Mississippi town, "Crimes" deals with the Magrath sisters reuniting in their grandfather's home following one sister's drastic actions.

With a small cast, single set and an intimate setting, "Crimes" gets the audience involved during each performance. The play's run ends Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Black Box Theatre
When: Wednesday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Admission: \$12 or Phoenix Card
Reservations recommended.

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Tunisian Elon student closely watches unrest

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Ala Eddine Maaref left his home in Tunisia in August 2010 to begin his studies as a freshman at Elon University. Maaref chose to come to the United States after living in a country ruled by one of the world's most oppressive governments. But Maaref's home wasn't the only thing in Tunisia he left behind.

Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia's president of 23 years, resigned Jan. 14 after a month of nationwide protests against his rule.

"It has been described as the first episode in modern times where people in a Mideast society have successfully overthrown an authoritarian regime," said Glenn

Scott, an associate professor in the School of Communications.

Maaref said his friends and family at home have all been affected by the revolts.

"Since Ben Ali has left, everyone whom I've spoken to at home feels less pressure from the government," he said.

Maaref said Ben Ali's family requires the Tunisian people to give the government ample amounts of money without specifying how it will be spent.

"I don't think it's right," Maaref said. "The government stole money from the people, and I hope that it's either returned back to the people or spent on them in beneficial ways."

The unrest began in December

See **TUNISIA** | PAGE 3

Elon award recipient arrested

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

According to multiple news sources, the FBI arrested Bill Hillar, a 2010 recipient of the Hometown Hero award from Elon University, at his home in Maryland Jan. 25. He is charged with defrauding clients after charging them for his expertise with the Green Berets, and claiming to have extensive military experience.

Hillar claimed to have been a retired colonel of the United States Army Special Forces.

The investigation began with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department in Portland, Ore., and moved to the federal level, according to Keith Bickford, director of the Oregon Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. Hillar could not be reached for comment.

Jeff Hinton, a retired Special Forces Master Sergeant with the association of Professional Soldiers, along with Mary and Chuck Schantag, who also work to expose Green Beret fraud, discovered

that Hillar served eight years in the Coast Guard and was never a member of the Special Forces.

"This is not the first time we've done this," Hinton said. "We don't go after the guy who claims it sitting at the bar. We go after the guys that make themselves public figures and say they can offer training."

Elon University first received notice concerning the validity of Hillar's background a few hours before the Hometown Hero ceremony took place Nov. 8.

Phil Smith, university chaplain, said the university received an e-mail with an anonymous tip. The tipster claimed military involvement and accused Hillar of misrepresenting his military record.

Hillar was awarded for his work as an advocate against human trafficking. Elon University freshmen nominate people for the award based on their interactions with them, and freshmen

See **HILLAR** | PAGE 3

iMedia graduate students put skills to the test around the world

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Every January, Interactive Media graduate students spend the month working on a project for the public good, typically with a nonprofit organization, by collecting audio and video content. This year, students traveled to Costa Rica or Panama in four teams to create multimedia products for their clients.

Club de Ciegos de Colón

For the team working with the Club de Ciegos de Colón, or Colon Blind Club, located in Panama, their final website must reach a broad audience. Rather than creating a single website, the group created sites not only in Spanish and English, but also separate websites in each language accessible to the visually impaired.

"This is an organization where people who are blind can go," said Ashley Pearson, project leader. "They get kicked out of their families because they can't be taken care of. They go here to be a part of something."

Currently, 12 residents live in the club year round. There, they learn how to cook, clean and take education courses. A computer room includes desktops with voice recognition software and laptops with brail for children, allowing the blind to access a computer in the same way a seeing person can.

The websites being built by the team involve software that literally reads the page to users or instructs them where to click for an audio or video clip.

"(This) center was a little oasis in this rundown town," Pearson said. "The city is so impoverished and disheartening, but the club is clean, bright and airy."

During the course of their stay, the team met every individual living at the club and spent hours each day interviewing those involved in the club, including its president.

Pearson said she anticipated

the trip would be emotional, but she was touched more than she expected.

"You feel something the entire time you're down there, then there's the breaking point," she said.

For Pearson, this point came as the club president's wife began crying, explaining their thankfulness for the students' work. Soon, the entire group was in tears.

Santa Cruz Recicla

A second team traveled to Costa Rica, similarly focusing on sustainable living, and worked with an organization called Santa Cruz Recicla, which deals with waste management and recycling in the region.

According to project leader Nicole Wyche, the group toured the region, met with representatives and discussed the organization's current needs and future goals in hopes of eventually creating a website for the company.

"The content team was the point people for getting photo and video content and stringing together a narrative on the website that will explain the company," Wyche said.

Throughout the project, Wyche said students learned not only about the workflow of creating a website, but also the difficulties of working with clients and making sure they approve of the final product.

"There was the added hurdle that they're in Costa Rica and not as easy to connect with them," she said. "It was a good learning experience for giving the client what they want, even though it didn't match our initial thoughts."

Faculty adviser Phillip Motley, assistant professor of communications, said topics for the iMedia program are often taught through simulated projects, which lack the human nature of a real client, who can change his or her mind or misunderstand the process.

According to Motley, it is the chance to work for a nonprofit organization that



Despite challenging language barriers, Elon iMedia students found ways to communicate with the indigenous people in Panama.

has the largest impact on students.

"I think this experience often recalibrates the future goals that the students have," he said. "This experience may well change the ways in which they use their skills to better the world through pro bono work or by volunteering their time to those who can truly benefit from their knowledge."

Earth University

After creating content for Earth University in Costa Rica, a second group of iMedia students were invited back to the institution to put their skills to work a second year.

"(Earth University) brings in international students from Costa Rica and abroad to try to teach them about sustainable farming and clean development," said Meghan Gargan, project leader for the team. "They then can teach agriculture processes in their home countries and villages."

The eight students, under the guidance of faculty adviser Sang Um Nam, assistant professor of communications, worked specifically with the Permanent Education Program, or PEP. This branch of the university targets American audiences including students, professors and industry professionals who

visit the university.

Along with a website, the team will create a promotional video about different areas of the program at Elon.

When a group visits the program, their tour is customized to fit their plans and then entirely coordinated by PEP. With the help of coordinators, the iMedia team visited the rainforest, as well as the beach in Costa Rica, and collected multimedia content to highlight the wide range of activities available to visitors.

Fundacion Bendaked

About 50 percent of all indigenous people in Panama live with disabilities, and the Fundacion Bendaked has set out to change lives in their own community, with the recent help of iMedia students.

Hayley Miller, project leader for the group, said the team created a bilingual website highlighting the organization's mission and documenting the stories of disabled members of indigenous communities.

"(The organization has) only been in existence for a year and they had no presence on the Web," Miller said. "The overall design (of our site) is based on a fun, vivid feel since it's tropical and indigenous."

Traveling to remote villages of indigenous people, the team gathered content and interviewed more than 15 families, after gaining approval from the village tribal leaders.

"The Kuna foundation people are trying to identify the needs within different indigenous groups and will work with all communities eventually," Randy Piland, faculty adviser, said.

Miller said the language barrier was often challenging, as the group needed to translate from the native language of Kuna to Spanish and then to English.

"It was intense to work with, especially in post-production and we don't know what communication got lost in between," she said.

After returning to Elon, the team packaged the stories of the disabled into videos and posted them on the website. One video tells the story of Inuiler Lopez, a 30-year-old man living with cerebral palsy and confined, for most of his life, to a wheelchair. Although it is unlikely his condition will improve, his family is striving to ensure he has the resources to live the remainder of his life comfortably.

Despite the sad environment, Miller said it was also inspiring to see families striving to help themselves.

Conservation made simple in fifth POWERless competition

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Elon University will launch its fifth POWERless event Feb. 15, giving on-campus residents the opportunity to reduce their energy consumption through a friendly competition. Each semester, POWERless encourages students to help the university make strides toward one of its long-term goals: becoming carbon neutral by the year 2037.

The goal of each year's POWERless event is to increase awareness of energy conservation among students by having residence halls compete against one another in total energy reduction.

This year's spring POWERless competition will take place from Feb. 15 to March 15.

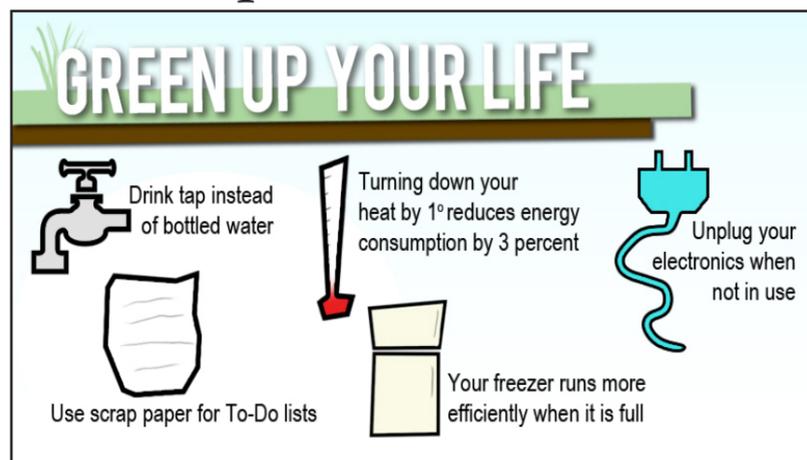
Measured against baseline consumption for each building, the winning residence hall is determined by the building with the greatest percentage of energy reduction during the month-long competition.

Brittany Siciliano, a senior intern in the Office of Sustainability, said this year's campus-wide goal is for 10 percent overall energy reduction.

"We make it really easy for students," Siciliano said. "POWERless is as easy as turning off your lights."

Last spring, the Honors Pavilion led the competition, finishing with a total power reduction of about 37 percent.

Holly Geibel, the current resident



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

assistant in the Honors Pavilion, also lived in the building last year and said she and the other residents didn't realize how easy it was to save energy.

Geibel said the residents were surprised when they were announced the winners of the POWERless competition.

"I felt like we were doing so little," she said. "It was surprising to find out we did so much."

Geibel said the Honors Pavilion used natural sunlight, only turned on one light at a time and minimized hot water use in laundry and showers.

After finding that these methods were easy ways to save power, the residents continued practicing them for the remainder of the semester.

"Why use electricity when it's unnecessary?" Geibel said.

Siciliano said the Office of Sustainability hoped students would become more aware of energy conservation by learning "different things they can do to bring into their everyday lives, and at home, too."

During the fall 2010 POWERless competition, Elon participated in Campus Conservation Nationals, a three-week competition among universities to conserve the most electricity and water. Elon's spring competition will only be taking place on campus among residence halls.

Elaine Durr, the sustainability coordinator, said students living in the

winning residence halls would each receive a sustainable T-shirt. In addition, Durr said these areas will have their names added to the POWERless trophy, which is located in Moseley Center.

In addition to the POWERless competition, the university also takes part in an on-campus recycling challenge, RecycleMania.

Rather than energy reduction, the goal of this competition is to raise awareness among students about waste reduction.

The eight-week event also allows residence halls to compete against one another, each seeking to have the largest amount of recyclables per capita.

RecycleMania is a competition among colleges and universities around the country, but Elon does not compete against other schools. Molly Strayer, a senior intern in the Office of Sustainability, said Elon is in the Benchmark category, as its results are recorded but not included in official rankings.

Strayer said Elon reports its weekly progress in pounds and compares results from year to year. The overall goal is "to do better than the results from last year," Strayer said.

The Loy Center placed first in the school's RecycleMania competition last year, collecting a total of 2,088 pounds of recyclables during the eight-week period.

This year's RecycleMania competition will be held Feb. 6 to April 2.

Bookstore evaluates textbook rental program, will determine availability in upcoming semester

Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

For the second time during Elon's trial rental program, textbook rentals will be available for spring semester. It has yet to be determined if the program will continue next year.

Kathy Scarborough, the campus shop manager, said it will take a full academic year of experimentation, which includes last fall and this coming spring semester, to evaluate the program and there is currently no timeline involving the final decision.

She said there are many variables involved in making the decision to continue renting books, such as financial ramifications, the condition of the books upon return, whether books can be re-rented and whether they are returned in a timely manner.

According to Scarborough, the new rental program was met with a positive response from the student body. While

not every listed textbook could be rented from the campus shop, Scarborough said 40 percent of students across campus took advantage of the rental program when the option was available.

"Students like that it's less expensive," she said.

Freshman Sierra Ferrier said of the 12 books she needed for fall semester, she rented five of them from Elon.

"If I'm going to use them for research or something later, I'll try to buy them," she said. "But if it's a book I know for sure is for a subject that I'm not going to use again, I'll just rent it."

Although textbook rentals cost 45 percent of the new book price, students can potentially get their books cheaper if their professor is using the same books the following semester. According to Scarborough, the best-case scenario for students is to buy the book used and sell it back for 50 percent of its purchase price — the buyback rate for books being used the following semester. But, when

students buy their books, they have no way of knowing whether they'll be reused.

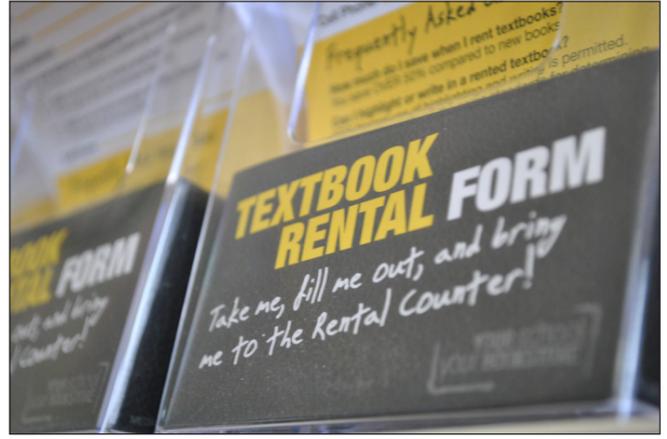
Ferrier said she rented the books because the initial investment was significantly less than buying them, and she did not have to worry about risking a lower sellback price.

"I knew the turnover price probably wouldn't be a good deal," she said.

Ferrier also said renting was less of a hassle because she didn't have to wait in any buyback lines, and she could just drop the books off quickly and leave.

Scarborough said feedback about the program was largely positive and students were appreciative about the reminders they received regarding procedures to return books. For those who forgot to return their books at the end of the semester, the bookstore offered free shipping labels so students could mail them back from off-campus at no cost.

Barnes & Noble, which runs Elon's bookstore, has established rental programs at



KATE RILEY | Photographer
It is still uncertain whether students will be able to rent textbooks through Elon this fall.

several of the other colleges it serves, as well.

Scarborough said about one third of the more than 600 schools Barnes & Noble runs have rental programs.

"Barnes & Noble did trial rental programs at 15 schools last year. At some schools, we have done it for 20 years," Scarborough said.

Ferrier said she is renting

some of her books from the campus shop this spring, but she found one that was not available for rental through the school on another book rental website. She currently does not have an account with Chegg, a company that rents textbooks, but she said she hopes to look into it and explore other third-party book vendors to save more money in the future.

Keeping history alive: Elon Archives retrieves important artifacts from university development

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

As progress continues on the construction of a new building in downtown Elon, bricks from the building on the corners of Williamson and W. College avenues will be archived by Elon University. The former home of The Pendulum office, which also once housed a bank, represents a piece of Elon's history, according to archivist Katie Nash.

Nash said this is the first time she's requested material to archive and in the past, people have sent in objects they have found.

"One thing that started this was when Alamance installed their elevator," she said. "They came across charred bricks in the foundation, bricks from the old main administration building."

The Office of the President also sent a piece to the archives from the siding of the old Jordan Center that was torn down.

"I thought I should keep up with it and be more proactive about asking for things," Nash said.

As for the former Pendulum office, Nash said bricks should be archived because there is a story being told.

"There's a potential for a display, that crops up every now and then," she said. "While there are no definite plans right now, there's always the potential."

One example she gave was a possible display from the Jordan Center siding.

"The tradition was to put Christmas lights over Jordan Center," she said. "We may one day have a Jordan Center anniversary with a display of the siding and pictures of the buildings with lights."

For Pam Richter, former editor-in-chief of The Pendulum, the artifacts represent the development of the university as well as the Town of Elon.

"It's important to have artifacts because we need to see where we've come from throughout the history and see how the school has changed,"

Richter said.

Richter arrived on campus in fall 2007 and immediately became involved with The Pendulum, which moved to the new location in the building in October 2007.

"The little time it was there, it was a fixture of campus," she said.

Artifacts are not the only things held in Elon's archives. Photographs, departmental files and university publications are stored, as well.

"It's anything the university is producing and generating, we have," Nash said. "Basically, it tells the story of the university."

Archived objects come from across the board, she said, and come in a variety of formats that make it interesting and fun.

"We're always looking for artifacts that tell a story and aren't just pictures or long text written," she said. "When you look at it and think it's interesting, it makes the display or story you're telling more exciting."



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
Tentative plans to tear down the former Pendulum office and bank have been made for early February.

Tunisians excited for change

TUNISIA from PAGE 1

2010 after a college-educated sell vegetables on the streets of a rural village without the possession of a license, and police confiscated his produce.



ALA EDDINE MAAREF

Other Tunisians became aware of his suicide via social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and protesters came together to rally.

"This is a secular citizen-led movement in which the citizens have successfully taken over the leader," sophomore political science major Joshua McGee said. "People have been frustrated. Ben Ali has been around for 23 years. It's time for him to go."

Maaref said that while his family and friends do feel less pressure from the government, they are also constantly nervous because they are unsure of what will happen next in the country and to the government.

"The country is slowing down," Maaref said. "Because of the chaos, not everyone is able to go to work every day. No one knows exactly what's going on."

Maaref said his family and friends have been

affected like everyone in Tunisia. He said that although no one knows the events that will occur each day, they have faith the new government will prosper.

According to Scott, who taught an international communications class over Winter Term, Wikileaks originally released information regarding high level corruption related to Ben Ali's family and the Tunisian government.

"In a digital world, secrets come out," Scott said.

Scott said he hopes his students continue to follow coverage regarding the Tunisian revolts.

According to McGee who took Scott's class, that won't be an issue for him.

"News is my major," McGee said. "I have to keep up with it, and I'm interested."

Maaref said he is aware that when he returns home things will be very different. He has been able to keep in touch with his family and said he looks forward to speaking with them as often as possible.

"Fortunately, my family has only been affected emotionally," he said. "I am still able to speak with them, and my dad is still able to go to work every day." Massref also said he is excited to return to Tunisia for the summer.

"There will definitely be more freedom in Tunisia, since it will be the first democratic election the country has ever seen," Maaref said. "I've seen the same government for so many years, and I'm so excited to see the changes that are taking place."

Hillar arrested

BILL HILLAR from PAGE 1

class officers select the final three recipients.

Smith met with Hillar before the ceremony and explained to him that the university had received an e-mail questioning the validity of his military record, to which Hillar said that it had happened once before.

His elaborate story began to unravel last year after students at the Monterey Institute of International Studies began to question his credentials. Around the same time, Hinton began investigating Hillar's records and published findings questioning Hillar's military record on Oct. 28.

Hinton found Hillar had fabricated information about his military record and conned multiple law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

Within two weeks of Hinton's published accusations, Hillar's website, citing his credentials and advertising his training workshops, was removed from the Internet. Around that time, Hinton confirmed that the FBI was on Hillar's case. a

Hinton has been in contact with the FBI about the investigation concerning Hillar and said he was contacted the morning of Jan. 25 with news of his arrest.

"Bill's con-games are over," Hinton said.

Opinions

Editorial:

Keeping the faith while facing facts

On Jan. 19, The Pendulum reported a 2010 Hometown Heroes award recipient, Bill Hillar, was under investigation for fraud, and that several federal agencies were calling into question the same actions Elon University praised Hillar for several months prior.

Less than a week later, because of increasing claims of fraud and a national call for consequences, Hillar was arrested at his Maryland home and now faces up to 20 years in prison, according to the San Jose Mercury News.

The university is arguably in a difficult situation. While actual school administrators do not select the Hometown Heroes, the Elon stamp is now publicly attached to these people, including Bill Hillar. This honor, so kindly bestowed upon him in the fall, should be immediately revoked.

Elon is just one of a long list of institutions that have praised Hillar for his actions that have now been called into question. Unlike other places, such as the University of Oregon and the Federal Executive Board of Los Angeles,

Elon didn't pay Hillar money to share his story or teach any courses about human trafficking or working for the military. The university just invited him to a ceremony.

But the problem shifts to what happens when Elon attaches its name to an individual or institution. What if someone on the School of Communications advisory board was arrested for shoplifting? What if an alumnus honored by the Physical Therapy Department is charged with indecent exposure after allegedly exposing his genitals on an airplane? Or what if an Elon teaching graduate is accused of having sexual relations with his students?

All of these scenarios have actually occurred in the last six months. Now, like it or not, the Elon name is attached to these people and these incidences. Will it deter the district from hiring Elon graduates in the future? Will Elon be wary of honoring those who claim to have exemplary military service?

In these cases, as in all things, a

healthy level of skepticism will have to suffice. To live in constant fear of making the wrong choice, and picking the wrong person, only leads to feelings of doubt, fear and distrust.

Without some healthy level of faith in the good will and intentions of others, we have nothing on which to build relationships, foster communities and find common ground. These same ideas can be applied to Elon University.

Elon shouldn't stop honoring Hometown Heroes. It can't stop giving degrees to those who wish to teach and can't stop moving forward to comb over the credentials and traits of each candidate with a fine-tooth comb. Elon just has to believe and apply reasonable judgement.

But despite this belief, Elon also has to face facts and assert itself, revoking Hillar's award and the honors bestowed upon others who sully the name of this institution. If not, then plaques bearing the Elon name become nothing more than worthless pieces of plastic and particle board.

Hardship persists beyond holidays



Caitlin O'Donnell
Columnist

It was the week before Thanksgiving and the Piedmont Rescue Mission was bustling in full holiday swing with festive banners, holiday lights and Christmas trees.

I had the pleasure of interviewing four men currently living in the shelter, which

houses and works to rehabilitate men in need of guidance and support after years of crime or homelessness.

Amidst the façade of cheer, there was an underlying emotion pervading every interaction — pain.

A need that didn't exist solely during the holiday season, when the majority of people experience a sudden burst of "giving," but rather one that defined every day of their week.

It's so easy to get into the giving spirit during the holidays and often, many automatically equate giving back with the season — after all, what's one more dollar thrown into the Salvation Army bucket or an extra toy from Toys R Us tossed into the collection bin at work or school?

But those most in need of gifts don't get a break from their struggles. A stable roof over their heads doesn't appear when they've unwrapped the donated gifts. Food doesn't appear on the table on the first day of the new year. Employers don't start calling with job offers after the lights have been taken down.

For more fortunate members of the community, poverty and need is often imagined only on a global scale. No real thought put into the actual locality of



WILL ANDERSON | Photographer

Need persists for the men of the Piedmont Rescue Mission after the holiday season has ended. The Mission works to rehabilitate men who need support after years of homelessness or crime and true gifts are needed throughout the year.

the situation, particularly in Alamance County, surrounding Elon's campus.

But, according to a report in the Burlington Times-News from January of last year, more than 120 people are currently homeless in this county alone — 14 of those are children, 10 are victims of domestic violence and five are veterans.

Here at Elon, it's easy to fall into the trap of the so-called "Elon bubble" and focus only on what's directly in front of us — the well-kept campus glowing with beautiful landscapes and friendly people. But that is not the Alamance County many people know. Elon students have the chance to leave a legacy of generosity.

This doesn't necessarily mean spending an entire paycheck on donations for

the food pantry or dedicating an entire weekend volunteering at the homeless shelter. It means being conscious of the local community and the issues it is facing. It means being part of the solution, in whatever way best fits your wallet and schedule.

While the "peak" in kindness certainly represents a positive change in society, it is not one that should end when the new year begins and everyone returns to his or her busy life.

As goals and pledges are made for 2011, it's important to think not only in terms of personal resolutions and how to make your own life better, but why not make a pledge to help those in our community? It's a goal well worth the effort.

TO COMMENT ...

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

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

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

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

Follow Caitlin as she tries to better the lives of those in the community around Elon. See this and the 2011 resolution stories of four other Pendulum staffers at:

www.pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

And read even more commentary about Elon and beyond at:

www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

Plus, have you read your horoscope lately? Your sign may have changed. Read Ashley Fahey's take on the new astrological calendar and how people are taking the news at the main Pendulum website. Just click on the Opinions tab.



THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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Directing the dialect

Student helps actors learn dialect for 'Crimes of the Heart'

Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

Ben Morris, a junior acting major, found his life pursuit by accident.

Morris had plans to spend a day with his friend, but his friend had rehearsal for the school's play. This scheduling conflict brought Morris to the stage for the first time.

"My friend turned to me and said, 'Hey, why don't you come to rehearsal for a play that I am in,'" Morris said. "I went to rehearsal with him and they had a couple people missing that day, so I filled in for one of the roles in rehearsal. They said 'You are pretty good, you should try out for the next play.'"

Morris did audition for the next play and got a role.

"After that play I did summer camp at a local theater," Morris said. "I have been doing it ever since."

His acting experience led him to audition for the acting major program at Elon. During his senior year of high school, he came to Elon and went through the audition process that includes an informational meeting with the head of the acting department, observing an acting class and the actual audition.

"It's a really relaxed day and the teachers are really cool and want you to do well," Morris said. "I get to help out with the auditions sometimes and it's a lot of fun to get to talk to the new students hoping to come here."

Morris has a role in the production "Crimes of the Heart" and playing a character called Doc Porter. Doc Porter had a relationship with one of three sisters, Meg Magrath, five years prior to when the play is set. During the play, the three sisters reunite for the first time, and Morris' character also reunites with Magrath for the first time.

"They are meeting for the first time after five years," Morris said. "It is a really fun part."

Doc Porter is not the only role that Morris has for "Crimes of the Heart." He is also the assistant dialect coach.

"I took the dialects class last fall, a course for acting majors," Morris said. "The teacher of the class is the dialect coach for the show. You were supposed to meet up with Richard pretty early on with rehearsal process to learn the dialect. He told me that I basically had the dialect down and offered me the position of being his assistant."

The dialect for this production is very specific to the town this play is set in Hazlehurst, Miss.

"It's not your typical southern twang or drawl that you hear in exaggerated cartoons or plays or that kind of thing," Morris said. "Richard Gang, the dialect coach, listened to YouTube videos from people from Hazlehurst, like news reports. He also listened to YouTube videos of the playwright because she is from Mississippi."

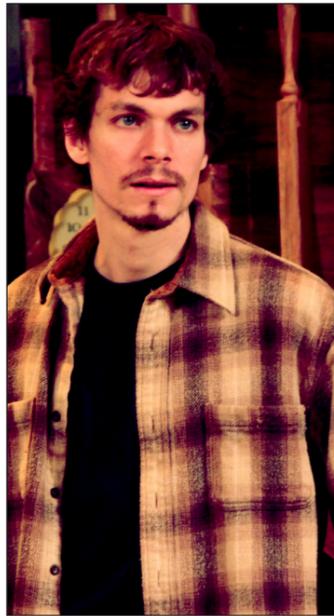
The dialect has many different changes and regionalisms from different places that mesh together to create one dialect. There are parts of the dialect from North Carolina, Mississippi and Texas.

There are some aspects of the dialect that Morris said were important for the actors to focus on.

"The most important change is the use of a hard R," Morris said. "For this play the actors need to have more tension in their tongue when they say that sound. Another one is what we call a pin for pen substitution, when you change the vowel sound. That is a big one that is consistent in dialects throughout the south. Since we are in North Carolina, a lot of people who came here as acting majors have to get them out of the habit of doing this."

Not all students involved with the production have taken the same voice and speech classes. Music theatre majors are not required to take all of the same voice and speech classes, and some students have not taken the course.

"Everyone in the cast hasn't had the same voice and speech training as everybody else, so you can't use the same vocabulary that some of us have learned," Morris said. "In class we use the international phonetic alphabet,



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
Junior Ben Morris had a supporting role in "Crimes of the Heart" and served as the dialect coach for the play set in small-town Mississippi.

symbols that stand for sounds that can be made with the mouth. Not everyone has had that training so you kind of have to explain it to them in different words."

Morris listened to speeches during rehearsals and would e-mail notes to the actors afterwards.

"It is kind of hard to explain how they are speaking over an email," Morris said. "It's a lot easier to say it, hear them and give instant feedback."

Morris hopes to continue working with dialects, perhaps even offering voice and speech classes when he graduates on the side while he pursues acting.

"As soon as I got here to Elon freshman year and heard there was a dialects class, I couldn't wait to take it," Morris said.

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO:

Ben Morris gives a mini-lesson in dialect at <http://bit.ly/BenMorris>

(Jeff Stern, Online Editor-in-Chief)

Small cast makes winter play a big hit

Stephanie Butzer
Reviewer

As the audience flooded the small Black Box Theatre, light country music floated around the room to introduce the setting and time frame of "Crimes of the Heart," Elon University's Winter Term play. Directed by Fred Rubeck, the play opened before Fake Break but is continuing into February. When the lights dimmed, eyes followed Lenny Magrath, played by senior Kristina Loeffke, as she introduced her character and opened the play.

Throughout "Crimes," the cast members showed honest feeling and action.

"The actors did a really good job of portraying emotion and I got a little teary-eyed at the end but was laughing for most of it," said freshman Beth Adolph.

The cast seemed to completely submerge themselves in their roles. The actions and reactions to events were perfectly portrayed to fit the characterization of their role.

"The performance went beautifully. The actors really blossomed with a live audience," said Natalie Hart, assistant professor of performing arts.

She also encourages the audience members to observe the one-room scenery during intermission. She wants the audience to find the "little stories hidden around the scenery." Even better, the viewers are encouraged to see the play more than one time in order to see all the cast members' expressions, as this is a key part of the play. Because of the set-up of the theatre, the cast cannot show their faces to every audience

member equally. Going to see the play more than once would ensure a greater understanding of both the characters and the play.

Freshman Josie McKinnon said the single-scene setting added to her impression of the play.

"I really liked the small setting and the one room scene for the whole play," she said. "I think it added something significant to the whole story."

Aside from the cast, the crew and various directors working behind the scenes played an immense role in making the play come alive. During the play, Hart said the crew puts emphasis on organization.

"The crew members use very precise paperwork to check that they have completed all their tasks before and during the show," Hart said.

With this method, mistakes, if any, are minimal and every member of the play can focus their attention on their own specific role. The crew's jobs in this performance ranged from designing different costumes and scenery to decorating an entire cake for every performance. They worked to make the scenery reflect the time period with faded colors, appropriate props and fitting apparel.

"I liked the costumes and I think it was a really great addition to the time setting," freshman Carolina Howland said.

Overall, the play reflected the students' diligence during the few weeks of Winter Term. The numerous hours they put into aligning their roles with each other resulted in a unified play.

Tapped Out serves up a 'double delicious' dose of dance

Madelyn Smith
Reviewer

Cee-Lo Green's hit tune "Forget You" blasts through the speakers as the dancers perform a series of diva walks, crisp turns and eye rolls that sum up the song's sassy tone. This infectious spirit and energy from the dancers is what summed up this year's Tapped Out performance, which took place Jan. 21 and 22.

Seasoned tapper and Elon dance professor Gene Medler was Tapped Out's artistic director, while senior student Bill Commander and sophomore Carly Flynn served as assistant directors. They also held spots as dancers in the show. The energetic show took place in McKinnon Hall and showcased 10 tap numbers that were mainly choreographed by Medler or the two student directors.

One piece choreographed by Medler, "Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra," was set to classical music and featured a smaller ensemble of dancers who tapped gracefully to the beats of the trumpets.

"The Eddie Brown Chorus" was just as dynamic of a piece, even though it

wasn't set to music. The tap dancers were at ease and having fun and were perfectly in sync during the a cappella number.

Tapped Out featured dance majors, as well as a handful of students from other disciplines.

Students were required to audition and if they were selected, they had the option to enroll in the Winter Term class. The dancers had rehearsal five days a week beginning at 8:30 each morning. The choreographers' attention to detail and the dancers' demanding schedule paid off.

Flynn, who has been studying many types of dance since the age of four, said the Tapped Out choreographing process was rewarding.

"It took a lot of time, but it was all enjoyable," she said. "It is also fun to cast your own dancers."

Flynn says that tap is a unique form of dance. "It is upbeat and allows for a more freestyle feel," she said. "Tap is all about rhythm and making sounds and that's what sets it apart."

Medler said the unique nature of tap dancing comes from a "marriage of movement and sound."

"I've always loved movement," he said. "I grew up as an athlete, but I



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
"Tapped Out" featured dozens of dancers who use their bodies and feet as percussion instruments. The dancers, mostly dance majors but some from other departments, practiced five days a week preparing for the production.

never learned to play an instrument, so the movement and sound of tap dance struck excitement in me."

Medler started tapping at age 27 and founded the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble. He describes tap as a

dance of function, while other forms of dance, like ballet, are dances of design.

"In tap, you integrate rhythm into bodies," he said. "Tap is just double delicious."



Behind the scenes of All That Jas

This Elon boutique sells more than Greek wear, does business beyond state borders

Katy Steele
Reporter

Michaëlle Graybeal, owner of Elon's downtown shop All That Jas, describes the creation of the boutique in just a few words: "We just kind of went for it, no business plan, no nothing."

Her strategy worked.

Today the business sells merchandise across North Carolina and the nation.

According to Graybeal, when she first had the idea for the boutique she didn't expect that it would become such a hit. She was simply trying to solve students' need for a Greek apparel store.

"I had done cheerleading before and the kids were mostly Elon students, and they got us going on thoughts that there were no Greek stores around," Graybeal said.

From there, Graybeal said she came up with the concept and designed the store herself. She said students gave creative input while helping choose patterns and fabrics for the merchandise.

The name of the shop came from Graybeal's first business, a cheerleading spirit-wear store called Jump and Shout, which inspired her to use the word Jas.

She opened the store in Burlington in fall 2003, but it



Left: Freshman Lane Drury buys accessories at All That Jas, an downtown Elon boutique that specializes in Greek apparel. Right: Freshman Whitney Levitt tries on a ring and other jewelry at All That Jas. The store also serves non-affiliated shoppers.

wasn't long until she realized the business needed to be closer to university students, leading her to eventually settle in downtown Elon.

While All That Jas isn't a chain store, its locality to Elon doesn't mean business stops there. According to Graybeal, it's the premier Greek store in all of North Carolina.

"Orders come from everywhere," she said.

Since the store went on the Internet last year, Graybeal said they've done business in 49 states. Recently, they've made sales to Puerto Rico.

The store specializes in Greek apparel, including sweatshirts, T-shirts, tote bags,

jewelry and accessories.

According to Graybeal, about 90 percent of the store's sales goes toward Greek merchandise, but she said the store has a lot to offer to non-affiliated customers. She said most don't realize this and Graybeal feels some students are missing out.

Elon freshman Kelly Selong has never been inside All That Jas, but usually looks in when she's walking by.

"Based on what is shown in the window, it seems that the store only sells shirts with sorority letters on them," Selong said. "It would be nice to have more stores that focused on selling Elon apparel

rather than specifically Greek apparel."

"Not Greek? No problem," Graybeal said. "Once they come in, they come back."

Instead of Greek letters, non-affiliated shoppers can have products personalized with anything from their initials to the name of a school.

Sophomore Caitlin Clarke said she shops there for both her sorority friends at Elon and her non-affiliated friends back home.

"Jas is my go-to spot," Clarke said. "I really love the service and friendly atmosphere of the store. They always know you when you come in and are such a great help."



Taylor Aucott and Mat D'Amico danced in the competition. Aucott was named Elon's Favorite Dancer.

Elon's DanceWorks holds second-annual 'So You Think You Can Dance' fundraiser

Sam Parker
Reviewer

DanceWorks, Elon University's student-run dance performance, choreography and technical organization, hosted its second-annual spinoff version of the television show "So You Think You Can Dance" Jan. 22.

Senior Kara Griffin, the organizer of the event, said the money raised through the \$2 audition and \$2 admission fees will be redirected into inviting more guest artists and creating additional master classes for members of the club.

The first round of auditions, held Jan. 8, resulted in nine dancers auditioning. Of those, Aislinn Koch, Taylor Aucott, Mat D'Amico, Julie Crothers, Emily De Vito and Jen McAllister were selected as the event's top six dancers and all progressed to the second and final round of the event.

Aside from routines from the top 6, the finale included performances by Elon's Finest, Elon's Ballroom Club, a number from the Elon Cares benefit concert and a solo from Alyse Keim, Elon's Favorite Dancer 2010.

Keim said she hopes the event becomes an Elon tradition because of

its atmosphere and cause.

"It's a really, really good cause," Keim said. "I hope it picks up from here."

Griffin said preparations of round two included participants drawing names and dance styles out of a hat to determine their partners and choreography for their duets. She also said all dancers were required to prepare a 30-second solo in his or her signature style before being voted on by audience members.

Freshman Schuyler Goodwin said she especially appreciated the show because of its diverse performances among participants.

"I really liked the show," she said. "I haven't been exposed to much dancing so it was really fun."

After all of the participants' performances, Taylor Aucott, a freshman musical theatre major, was crowned Elon's Favorite Dancer 2011.

On winning, Aucott said it was an honor to receive the title.

"It's so exciting," he said. "Just the fact that I can be compared to Alyse Keim is amazing."

According to Griffin, Aucott will receive a solo in the club's April concert as well as a DanceWorks sweatshirt with the title of Elon's Favorite Dancer printed on it.

Alumna donates historical piece of European past, aids Elon's future

Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

A piece of European history can now be found in the Elon library.

Betty Thayer, 1980 alumna, donated a copy of the first land survey ever completed in England to the library archives.

This book, referred to as the Domesday Book, is the result of a survey done on the orders of King William I.

"Essentially the King sent out census people," said Kate Hickey, dean and university librarian. "They were supposed to count livestock. The purpose was to try and find who owned what for taxation purposes. It also created an incredible snapshot of life in 1086."

This is not the original copy, but a facsimile, which is a copy or reproduction of a book. In 1986, 250 facsimiles were produced. These copies are called "Penny Editions" and were created to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the original.

The facsimile Thayer donated is the Penny Edition 151. This book includes a silver penny of William I, known as William the Conqueror, and a proof specimen of a bronze penny of Queen Elizabeth II.

This replication is the exact same size and same paper weight as the original copy. The book is also bound in wood from a historic home.

Elon provided many opportunities for Thayer that have shaped her current life, and even led her to learn more about the Domesday Book.

"While I had numerous options for college I felt that Elon offered the right mix of academics, social and geographic factors, and I wanted to study accounting and business," Thayer said.

Thayer also took advantage of the study abroad opportunities while at Elon. She studied in England during a Winter Term and studied in Russia in 1979. After leaving Elon she was an exchange student at the University of Exeter in Devon, England.

"I made many friends in England and hoped to be able to return," Thayer said. "In 1990 I was headhunted by Andersen Consulting to go to their London office so I was delighted to have this opportunity."

After moving to Elon, Thayer was given the

opportunity to view the original Domesday book at the National Archives in Kew, England.

According to the National Archives, the nickname Domesday may refer to the Biblical Day of Judgement, or doomsday, when Christ will return to judge the living and the dead. Just as there will be no appeal on that day against his decisions, so the Domesday Book had the final word — there was to be no appeal beyond it as evidence of legal title to land.

The book was called Domesday by 1180. Before that, it was known as the Winchester Roll or King's Roll, and sometimes as the Book of the Treasury.

"I was looking for a long-term investment and saw an article about the book in the newspaper," Thayer said. "It was going to be produced using a unique and rare photographic technique and looked very interesting. I have always been interested in history."

Soon after purchasing the facsimile Thayer moved to a new house.

"I did not have a proper place to display the various volumes hence it was kept in its original shipping boxes," Thayer said. "I had always intended to have a formal library but this never happened. My house in Bath, England does not have the right facilities to display it and it seemed a shame to keep such a beautiful document under wraps."

Thayer has regularly contributed to Elon's annual campaign so she started looking into the interest Elon students would have in this book. She contacted Professor Crowe, who went with her to Russia, to see if the university would be able to make use of the publication in its entirety.

"It occurred to me that the history department might be interested to have this unique document so that students of European history would have a special opportunity to see this work that was monumental in its time," Thayer said.

"Alumni gifts are very valuable," Hickey said. "Alums usually give us things that we could not afford in any way."

The facsimile of the Domesday Book costs more than 7,000 pounds, according to Hickey.

Currently, the Domesday Book is in the archives of Belk Library. Students and classes interested need to request the book specially, and it is recommended that you call ahead to guarantee that the book will be available.

Assistant coaches find solace in 'Noonball'

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

The grind of a college basketball season can get to anyone. Practices began Oct. 15, and Elon has played 22 games since then.

While the players use time away from practices and games to fulfill their roles as students, the assistant coaches for the Phoenix stay on the court, just in different suits from those they don on game days.

Assistant coaches Tim Sweeney, Will Roberson and Jack Wooten, along with Director of Basketball Operations Monty Sanders, participate in what they call "Noonball," which is a way of saying that the four play pick-up basketball in Jordan Gym on most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

"We're on the sidelines coaching, and you do everything there is to do with basketball except for play," Wooten said. "If you're a coach, you can joystick your guys on the court but you can't do it."

With Noonball, the coaches have an opportunity to escape the office, if for only a few hours per day, which they agreed is much needed for them.

"You come in early in the morning, work for a couple of hours, and then it gives you a chance to kind of get away from the office and release some stress," Roberson said. "I

usually feel better in the afternoon when I've done that."

But it's about more than just getting a good workout, at least for one of the Noonball players.

"I keep track of wins; I like to know how many times I win per week," Sanders said. "Over the past three times, Jack and me are 15-0."

But while Sanders talks about winning, his colleagues question his defensive motivations.

"Monty's defense leaves a lot to be desired sometimes," Roberson said. "Fortunately, he has us to back him up and cover up his mistakes. But Monty is more of an offensive kind of guy."

But Sanders didn't disagree.

"Those three were put on this earth to play defense at Noonball, and I was put here to play offense at Noonball," Sanders jokingly said. "Everybody has their role, and my role is to score anywhere from 15 to 17 points per game. I never signed up to play defense."

For the record, most games in Noonball last until a team gets 17 points.

When asked if any of the four men take the pick-up games too seriously, Sanders and Roberson are quick to say that Sweeney is the most intense competitor of Noonball.

"Some people on our staff take it a little more seriously than others," Sanders said, nodding



name: Will Roberson
age: 30

playing days: Was the head manager at Davidson College during his undergraduate studies.

coaching experience: In his second season with Elon, previously was at Emory University for one season as an assistant. Roberson was the graduate assistant at Clemson University for one season, and was the Director of Basketball Operations at Davidson for three seasons.

playing days: University of Rochester, where he ranks in the top 10 in school history for assists, 3-point field goals and free throw percentage.

coaching experience: In his second season as an Elon assistant, previously was an assistant at Bucknell for one season, two seasons at Davidson and three seasons at Rochester.



name: Tim Sweeney
age: 30

NOONBALL-PLAYERS

age: 25
name: Monty Sanders



playing days: Played at Elon for two seasons after transferring from the University of Richmond. Served as team captain in his senior year.

coaching experience: In his first season with Elon as the Director of Basketball Operations. Last year Sanders was an assistant coach at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh and head coach of the Garner Road Basketball Club AAU 15U team.

playing days: After playing on the junior varsity team for two seasons, Wooten was a member of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, and a member of the 2009 national champions.

coaching experience: In his first season as an assistant coach, last year he was the Director of Basketball Operations for Elon.

age: 23
name: Jack Wooten



GRAPHIC BY LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

to the other part of the office where Sweeney's desk is. "I'm just out there to fire up threes and get a light sweat, but it's a lot of fun."

The accused coach had his chance for rebuttal, and rebuffed that Sanders and Wooten are sore losers.

"Coach (Roberson) and I don't subscribe to the 'Loser's Limp' mentality," Sweeney said. "'Loser's Limp' is when things might not be going your

way, or you're not winning a particular game, and you might not have that spring in your step."

The friendly jabs that flew during interviews serve to show the chemistry that has developed among the coaches through Noonball.

"I think it's great for us because, as silly as it sounds, it is somewhat of a bonding thing for the four of us," Roberson said.

Because the games are usually 5-on-5 contests, it is understandable for observers to wonder when or if head coach Matt Matheny will join the team and form a full team.

"There have been talks," Sanders said of efforts to get Matheny on the team. "I think it will take a special occasion. If he ever sees our winning percentage start to drop drastically, in the interest of saving the program's

image, he will make an appearance."

On the suggestion that the assistants should wager with Matheny that if the team wins the conference tournament he would have to play, Sanders was receptive.

"Instead of going with the shaved head, we will go with a week of Noonball," Sanders said on the condition that the team garners a tournament championship.

Youthful team hopes to bring success to women's tennis

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

Despite starting 0-2, the Elon women's tennis team is quick to notice the positives that have developed from a team in its infancy of the spring season.

Of the nine players for the Phoenix, four were lost to graduation last year. This year's team has a different feel, as there are six newcomers to the program.

"The team is coming together nicely and working extremely hard," said head coach Elizabeth Anderson, in her sixth year at the helm for the Phoenix. "Obviously it takes time to get so many newcomers adjusted, but they are picking up college tennis very quickly."

Saturday, the Phoenix hosted the South Carolina State University Bulldogs from the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. The Phoenix won the doubles point behind the combined efforts of freshmen Frida Jansaker and Bryn Khoury, who defeated the Bulldogs 8-1 in their match and freshman Viviana Stavreva and senior Jessica Margolis, who won 8-5.

But the Bulldogs rallied

in singles and took the match 4-3.

"We fought hard and were very close to winning," Khoury said. "It came down to our number one player, and even though she didn't win, we made sure to support her and cheer for her throughout the match."

Although the majority of the team has not had college tennis experience prior to this year, the team has been able to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of each of its players starting in early fall. The Phoenix participated in three invitational tournaments and a regional tournament in September and October to improve as a team.

This year's squad brings a vast array of experiences both on and off the court for the Phoenix, as the nine women on the squad hail from five different countries. With only one senior in the program—Margolis—Elon will have to rely on the inherited skills and intuition of its youthful team to carry through this season.

"(As a staff) we need to make sure the girls use their strengths on the court to counter the opponent's strengths,"

Anderson said. "They need to get to the point where they are continually exploiting the opponent's weaknesses to win."

In its season opener, the Phoenix faced the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who is ranked No. 6 in the nation and finished last year third in the nation, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

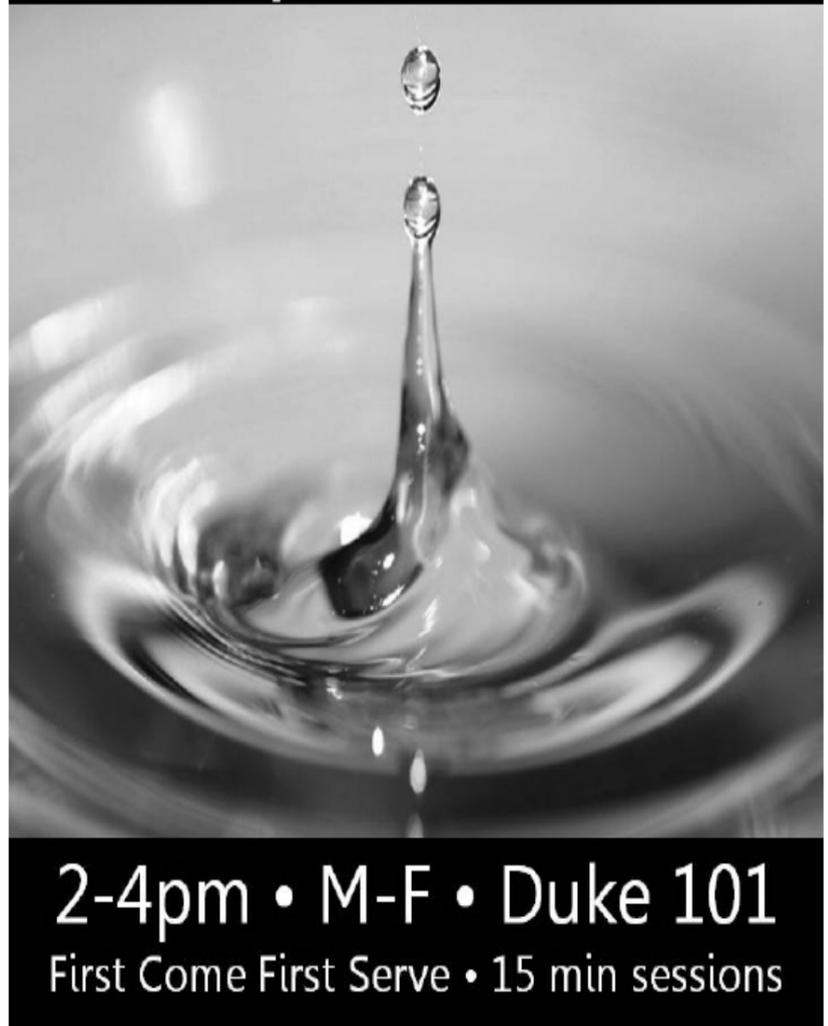
Even though Elon lost 7-0 to one of collegiate tennis' elite programs, the Phoenix learned a lot from their initial defeat.

"We really had nothing to lose," Khoury said. "It was a good learning experience, and through all the matches, we learned a lot about what we have to work on for the upcoming season."

The women's tennis program has 10 home matches this spring and nine away matches, continuing with a match at home Feb. 5 against Meredith College.

"We have worked very hard on being aggressive, while still playing to our fullest potential," Anderson said. "It's a very team-oriented squad who is working every day to win the SoCon tournament."

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Sports

Commitment to rebounding, 'inside presence' needed for Elon Phoenix

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

One step forward, one step backward has been the recent mantra of the men's basketball team, as the team has gone 4-4 in its last eight games.

Wednesday, Feb. 2 the Phoenix hosts Western Carolina University and will look to avenge its earlier loss two weeks prior to the Catamounts.

"It's important for us to match their effort on the glass early," junior guard Drew Spradlin said. "They work the ball inside and for us to win, we have to be just as physical as them."

Elon has been outrebounded in 13 of its 22 games this season, often limiting its shots to one per possession. In the games the Phoenix is outrebounded, the team is 2-11. In contrast, Elon has only lost once in games where it has beaten its opponent on the court.

"If our shots aren't falling, we need to place an extra emphasis on rebounding and stopping the other team from scoring in bunches," head coach Matt Matheny said.

Such was the case Saturday, when the Phoenix shot 29 percent

in the first half against The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and created a 15-point deficit because of shooting woes. Despite shooting more than 50 percent in the second half, Elon wasn't able to make up the difference and lost 85-76.

Perhaps the largest contrast was at the free throw line, where the Phoenix only took eight foul shots compared to the Mocs' 26.

"We failed to get offensive rebounds and attack the basket in transition," Spradlin said. "We dug ourselves into a hole early and couldn't get out of it. It was a humbling experience."

With more than 26 3-pointers shot per game, the Phoenix is sixth in the nation in attempted threes. While the Phoenix is fourth in the Southern Conference and is shooting 36 percent from the 3-point line this season, the team has become too one-dimensional, Matheny said.

"We have to do better at developing an inside presence," he said. "Especially when we aren't hitting from distance."

Matheny sees the

beginning of February as a pivotal point in the season — where the team can assess its goals and what it needs to do to improve heading into the final month of the regular season.

At the top of the list of things to improve on, according to Matheny, is consistency on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. While the Phoenix has had multiple stretches of consistent play on both sides of the ball, it needs to keep that consistency through an entire game more often.

"It's a quest for 40 minutes of consistent and competitive basketball," Matheny said. "Coming out of the locker room, the energy needs to be high so we can build off of that momentum throughout the game."

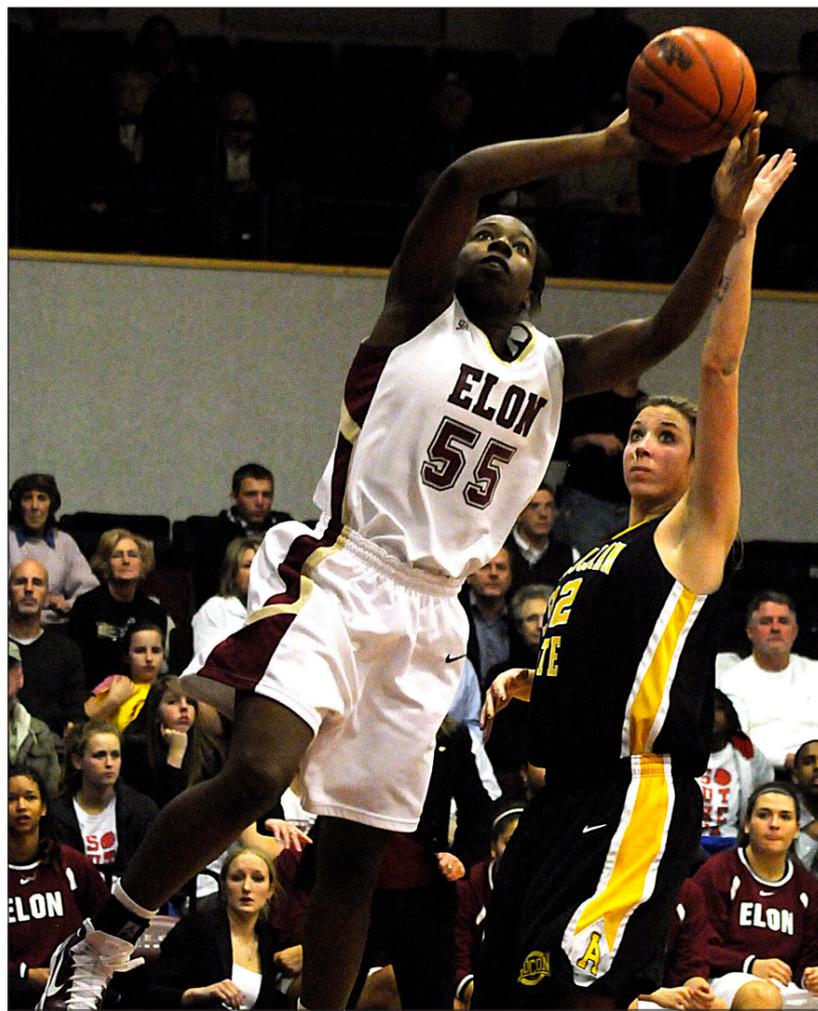
Not to be lost in their pursuit of playing at the highest caliber possible is the importance of enjoying the ride and having fun along the way, Matheny said.

"We play our best when we're having fun and enjoying what we're doing," he said. "When we're competing at our best, with every position working together, it makes it fun."



FILE PHOTO BY LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
Senior forward Scott Grable battled inside against Davidson College in the Phoenix's 77-70 victory Jan. 20. The team has a record of 10-12 this year, and is 4-7 in Southern Conference games.

Chemistry shines for women's basketball



FILE PHOTO BY LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
Freshman forward Candice Silas attempts a shot against the Appalachian State Mountaineers.

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team at Elon University adheres to a simple yet effective motto.

"Count on me" has been the team's direction since the start of the season. This has seen the team surge to a 15-7 overall record and a 9-4 mark in the Southern Conference.

According to head coach Karen Barefoot, the team has enjoyed success because of a toughness developed through being a family.

"Even through our losses, we have always shown that we are going to be the toughest team," Barefoot said. "If we lost, it was maybe a couple things here and there, but we need to be tougher to be the toughest team in the conference."

"We do a lot of things off the court to help them care for each other and love each other because they are sisters," Barefoot continued. "We feel like that has helped us become a better basketball team."

The Phoenix is better in Barefoot's third season, as the first two years saw the team compile a 17-45 record, 8-32 in conference.

As the records have reversed, the team has had to overcome more than one face of adversity this year.

Twice this season, the team has fallen to Appalachian State University, who holds the top spot in the SoCon at 10-2.

But part of the team's strength this season is its ability to rebound from losses. The Phoenix is 5-1 in games following a loss this year.

"After every game we watch film and we figure out the things we have done well and the things that we need to work

on," sophomore forward Lei Lei Hairston said.

"Watching film really helps the chemistry because you critique everybody, but then you say 'OK, today we have to get better at this,'" Barefoot said. "We probably watch more film than anybody, because we feel like with a young group, you have to watch your mistakes to become experienced."

The atmosphere of the locker room after a loss can be another place where the team learns how to improve, according to senior guard Julie Taylor.

"The day after a loss is really intense," Taylor said. "We always come together and we talk about what we could have done better, what we can change in the future."

In addition to six games in the loss column, the Phoenix has been forced to play without two key players this season.

Junior Tiara Gause suffered an ankle injury and missed seven games before returning last week in a game against Southern Virginia University. She was the SoCon Freshman of the Year in 2008-2009.

In a game against the College of Charleston on Jan. 22, junior guard Shon Redmond tore her ACL, ending a season in which she was averaging eight points and nearly four rebounds per game.

"We want to play for Shon, and it's that 'Count on me' mentality," Barefoot said.

With a team motto that speaks to team camaraderie, the Phoenix has established itself with tight bonds to pursue a common goal.

"It's not that we're all really similar, but we put differences aside to come together and work for a championship," Taylor said.