



## ELECTION COVERAGE

Newly elected SGA officials describe plans prior to taking office April 1.

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## GOING OUT WITH A BANG

Three graduating dance majors choreograph and perform final pieces.

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# THE PENDULUM

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AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Eryn Gorang tutors T.C. Jones after school at Cummings High School in Burlington. Gorang is the coordinator of Leaders in Collaborative Services, a program that works to tutor and mentor students at the high school.

## Elon volunteers target local schools' need for help

*Tutors invest time, serve as mentors for struggling Alamance County students*

Natalie Allison  
Managing Editor

When sophomore Eryn Gorang began riding the BioBus to tutor at Burlington Housing Authority her freshman year, she noticed that no one got off at the Cummings High School stop.

Gorang asked the director of BHA's Leaders in Collaborative Services tutoring program about the school, located in East Burlington. With a history of high staff turnover and low test scores, Cummings had been on the verge of closing in 2006 for failing to meet progress requirements. Gorang learned that the school was also at risk for being removed as a LINCS site unless a new leader came and turned the

program around.

Though Cummings underwent curriculum and staff restructuring over the course of the following years, the school still faces low student achievement levels. Such a scenario was exactly how Gorang wanted to make an impact during her time at Elon, and was able to through the Kernodle Center's Elon Volunteers! program.

Gorang, now a human services major, started Elon majoring in strategic communications. After becoming involved with Elon Volunteers! and spending her time as a tutor for BHA, she realized her passion for helping young people succeed.

"I think my involvement in the

Kernodle Center solidified to me that I was in the wrong field," Gorang said. "All of my extracurriculars focused on human services. My heart and soul have been invested in the Kernodle Center and in Cummings High School."

As the LINCS coordinator for Cummings, Gorang oversees almost 30 student volunteers with different majors and career plans. LINCOS, one of several opportunities for Elon students to volunteer at local schools through the Kernodle Center, involves different types of tutoring methods.

Though after-school tutoring is available for students, Gorang said much of the tutoring occurs in the classroom because many students have to ride the

bus home from school or have other obligations in the afternoons.

"Some kids work jobs to help out the family," Gorang said. "A lot of parents have two, three jobs and students have to be home to babysit other kids. There's a high dropout rate for Latinos because family is so important in the culture, they have to stay home and help the kids."

Graduate!, a program designed to focus on 30 Latino students at-risk for dropping out of school, is another facet of LINCOS that Gorang oversees. Founded by the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals, the program offers participants academic tutoring as well as

**See VOLUNTEER | PAGE 8**

## Housing selection process met with student complaint

Hannah DelaCourt  
Senior Reporter

With upperclassmen taking advantage of the opportunity to live in The Station at Mill Point, a new on-campus housing option available only to juniors and seniors, many students now find themselves with no place to live next year.

Juniors and seniors who wanted to live on campus completed phase one of the housing selection last week. According to Niki Turley, assistant dean of students, roughly 60 juniors and seniors were put on the waitlist, although Turley said this is consistent with years past.

The regular cap for the number of juniors and seniors living on campus has

been met, and The Station filled up after the first time slot in phase one for juniors. Juniors who signed up after the first time slot found there was no longer any on-campus housing available for them.

"My three roommates and I were trying for The Station at Mill Point and the Oaks was our second choice," Hart said. "I thought we would have a good chance at getting into either, however when I registered, it said that all housing was filled up, so we ended up with no where to live on campus."

Hart said she and her roommates were put on the waitlist, but does not feel that there will be any openings in either The Station at Mill Point or the Oaks and are worried they are running out of time to

find someplace to live off campus.

"Now, we are looking at places off campus for four people, and we are most likely going to live at Provence apartments," Hart said. "I wish that Residence Life would have respected our desire to stay on campus, because I don't think it is fair that we are being forced off of the university housing, while many rising seniors are able to get back on campus to live in Mill Point after living off campus last year."

MarQuita Barker, associate director of Residence Life operations and information management, said almost the same number of juniors as seniors are living in The Station at Mill Point next year.

"Mill Point did fill up quickly," Barker

said. "It's new and it's entirely for (rising) juniors and (rising) seniors so there is no competition from (rising) sophomores."

Turley said in the past, Residence Life has been able to provide housing for everyone on the waitlist, but that it takes time to complete this process. In the meantime, Residence Life is trying to connect with the students and provide information and support.

Current sophomores hoping to get into The Station at Mill Point were frustrated by the large number of rising seniors choosing to live on-campus next year. Sophomore Julie Hart was surprised at how quickly The Station filled up.

**See HOUSING | PAGE 3**

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# Research into issues of body image reflects Lumen Scholar's experiences



Katherine Segura  
Reporter

Her size always defined her.

As a child, senior Kelly Little, who describes herself as tiny, recognized the limitations body image imposed on individuals, eventually inspiring her Lumen project and collaboration with SPARKS' annual Love Your Body Week.

As part of the week's activities, Ophira Edut,

an activist, author and national body image speaker, enlightened an audience of Elon University students, faculty and staff with information regarding body image and how it expands beyond eating disorders.

Edut, author of "Body Outlaws" and co-founder of loveyourbody.com, has made it her personal mission to create a world where women and girls cherish themselves.

Little contacted Edut, among other potential

speakers, as a way to combine her research with Love Your Body week. Edut and Little began communicating via Facebook, and Edut became very interested after Little told her about her Lumen research.

The Lumen Prize is awarded to students who seek to complete a research project their junior and senior years at Elon. After receiving the \$15,000 prize, she conducted extensive research and observation

to analyze how body image influences peer interaction.

"Body image is something I have always been passionate about," Little said. "Growing up, I was always tiny, and that defined me. I could not put on weight, which was different from many people I loved, some of whom had eating problems."

The annual Love Your Body week consists of various activities that promote positive body image. Usually there is a much smaller turnout, according to Little. But this year, more than 100 people came to the speech and 3,000 "I love my body" pins were made.

In her presentation, Edut shared five levels in which individuals can strive to become a "body outlaw," or a person who defies norms and customs that are bestowed upon them by society. The levels begin individually and extend globally, she said.

"This is the world we live in where women and girls are taught that our real values lay in our looks and attractiveness," Edut said.

Edut reminded the audience that change begins with small steps — for instance, not participating in conversations about calories and practicing self-acceptance.

She said she encourages individuals to be the bold and outspoken ones in their friend groups. Creating campus events, such as Little

did to educate other peers, is an example of an evoking action.

Edut also encourages people to create their own blog and use social media websites like Facebook and Twitter to promote new points of view that contradict the ideals of "perfection."

"Forty percent of women wear a size 14 or above, yet the average model weighs 23 percent less than that," Edut said. "We have to decode these messages that have become normal to us."

Edut motivates people to become involved on a national level and stop movements such as the anti-obesity one in Georgia. As part of this campaign, billboards were put up that read, "It's hard to be a little girl when you're not hot" and showed photos of young girls who were overweight.

But exposing obesity bigotry is not the way to promote a healthy lifestyle, according to Edut. Instead, health can be promoted by progressive acts to fund more physical education programs in elementary, middle and high schools.

Edut ended with an inspirational quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GLORIA SOI | Staff Photographer

Senior Kelly Little researched the effect of body image on interpersonal relationships among college males and females for her Lumen Scholars project and Honors Fellow thesis and planned a Love Your Body week in February.

## the Swing

Watch The Swing at  
[ElonPendulum.com/TheSwing](http://ElonPendulum.com/TheSwing)

Head online to check out The Swing, a new way to experience The Pendulum.

This Thursday on The Swing...

### Meet the President

We ask SGA Executive President-elect Darien Flowers your questions about how he will influence the Elon community in the coming year.

### Speed Teaching

Emily Haring covers a new event at Elon where current professors receive one-on-one training and advice from award-winning teachers.

### Sidewalk Talk with Julia

Julia gets student opinions about The Station at Mill Point and the current housing situation.

### The 90-Second Newsdesk

Don't have time to read the whole paper? Swing producer Kassondra Cloos runs through this week's paper in 90 seconds or less.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Professor Kevin O'Mara talks to faculty members about pedagogy techniques while leading a speed teaching session Feb. 27 in Belk Pavilion. O'Mara titled his technique "corporate autopsy."

### Rotating tables, one professor at a time

Natalie Allison  
Managing Editor

What happens when professors want to hear about their peers' tried teaching methods without committing to listen for too long? Speed teaching.

Sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, Kevin O'Mara, professor of management, David Copeland, professor of communications, Linda Niedziela, associate professor of biology and Terry Tomasek, assistant professor of education discussed practical teaching techniques while faculty participants rotated during 15-minute sessions.

Mary Jo Festle, professor of history, served as timekeeper for the speed teaching event, which was the first of its kind at Elon.

The short sessions were designed to allow participating faculty members to briefly hear about methods the four award-winning professors implement in their classrooms.

"When you go to conferences where the sessions are an hour or an hour and a half, you may realize halfway through that you chose badly," Festle said. "This way, you can have a short seminar and make contact with that person leading."

Participating faculty members heard brief presentations that involved disciplines other than their own, from Niedziela's talk on team learning to Copeland's presentation on how oral history plays into the instruction of his communications students.

O'Mara discussed "corporate autopsy" — case studies students perform on failed corporations — and Tomasek's "assessment is sexy" session focused on the benefit of formative assessments.

Though participants represented a range of departments, Festle said most of the techniques could be applicable in any field.

"There's a lot expertise on campus," Festle said. "We don't have to bring in experts from other places all the time."

### MORE ONLINE

Check out the video of speed teaching at Elon

<http://bit.ly/EPspeed>

EMILY HARING | Multimedia Reporter

## Sustainability themes educate campus on 'green' initiatives

Grace Elkus  
News Editor

With the recent obsession with all things green, the issue of sustainability has become a global hot topic that has trickled down into personal homes, office buildings and even college campuses.

Elon University engages the campus community in sustainability with monthly themes that promote a specific sustainable aspect. The Office of Sustainability initiated these monthly themes in the beginning of the 2011-2012 academic year in hopes of educating students on a variety of sustainability topics, according to Kristi Jacobsen, education and outreach intern in the Office of Sustainability.

"There are so many topics under the heading (of) sustainability, so Elaine Durr and I constructed a list of monthly themes," Jacobsen said. "We hope (the themes) encourage students to take a few minutes to learn about sustainability and change their own life habits to be more sustainable."

Jacobsen informs the student body on ways they can live eco-friendly lives by creating a variety of advertisements for the monthly initiatives.

"I create informational materials, like newsletters and E-Net stories, and also promotional materials for the events and competitions that are hosted in my office," Jacobsen said.

All of the themes encourage students to change something about their current lifestyle in order to reduce their impact on the environment. For November's sustainable foods theme, Jacobsen organized an organic and local baking

contest hosted by the Office of Sustainability, and students were encouraged to purchase local food. In December, students took to carpooling, walking or biking in support of the month's theme of alternative transportation.

"We hope the information provided leads to more people thinking and talking about as well as practicing sustainable behaviors," said Elaine Durr, director of sustainability at Elon.

POWERless, a competition organized by the Office of Sustainability, runs from Feb. 21 to March 13 and is an energy competition implemented among residence halls to increase conservation awareness. The standings are determined by a building's percent of energy reduction compared to baseline consumption, Durr said.

Residence halls and Loy Center Courts are all competing for the greatest energy reduction, and an area competition is in place to see which area — Oaks, West, East, North, Colonnades or the Loy Center — can reduce its energy usage the most.

This year, Elon is participating in Campus Conservation Nationals, the nationwide resource reduction competition in which 150 colleges are competing. The competition allows Elon to have both a campus-wide and a national goal in mind.

"The savings from all participants will be accumulated, and the target is to



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer  
**POWERless encourages students to conserve energy.**

achieve a national challenge goal of 1 gigawatt hour," Durr said. "(At Elon), we would like to see a cumulative energy reduction across all residential buildings of at least 10 percent."

Although the energy reduction rates continue to increase, the numbers don't necessarily mean all students are active participants in the competition. Oaks A is currently in first place, but according to hall assistant Riese Narcisse, his building may be winning because his residents are conserving energy unintentionally.

"I believe we are doing well due to there being a lot of theater majors, sports players and other very busy people in my building," Narcisse said. "Since they are all rarely at their apartments, they are able to conserve energy by simply making sure to turn off their lights before they leave for the day."

But motivated students who are determined to make a change can participate in the "Commit to Conserve" on the Building Dashboard, an interactive website where students can track building and area progress.

## Students frustrated by housing

From HOUSING, PAGE 1

But sophomore Ashley Meerbergen said it is lack of communication that has been the most frustrating for her. Meerbergen registered for housing in the first junior time slot, but said all the housing was full when she signed in to register.

She said the main reason she wants to live on campus next year is because her roommate pays for housing through student loans, and if they have to move off campus her roommate will be forced to pay out of pocket. Meerbergen said she was told that because her roommate pays for housing in this way, it could affect their place on the waitlist, but doesn't know if that is fair for those students with earlier time slots.

In an email sent out by Residence Life on Monday to juniors and seniors on the waitlist, Director of Residence Life Elaine Turner informed the students that Residence Life was currently unable to house all of the students requesting to live on campus, which is why they are continuing to build more campus housing.

Turner acknowledged there were several students who were unable to select a space on campus during the housing selection process for rising juniors and seniors despite the fact that the number of available spaces for rising juniors and seniors was the same as last year.

According to the email, students can now access the waitlist via OnTrack and add their names to the building(s) on campus, which they would like to be waitlisted for. The process for pulling students off the wait list will begin in mid-March and continue as cancellations are

made.

Turley said this is a transitional year for housing, and because of that, more rising sophomores will be living in the Oaks because Moffitt and Staley are being torn down at the end of the school year.

"We tore down 300 beds last year and we are going to tear down 300 more with the Moffitt and Staley to build the Global neighborhood," Turley said. "After that, the Oaks will be mainly juniors, sophomores will live in the Danieley Center, Colonnades and the Global neighborhood and first years will live in the historic (East and West) neighborhood."

The Global neighborhood will be completed in 2014, but in the mean time, rising juniors on the waitlist said that not being able to return to where they currently live is unfair.

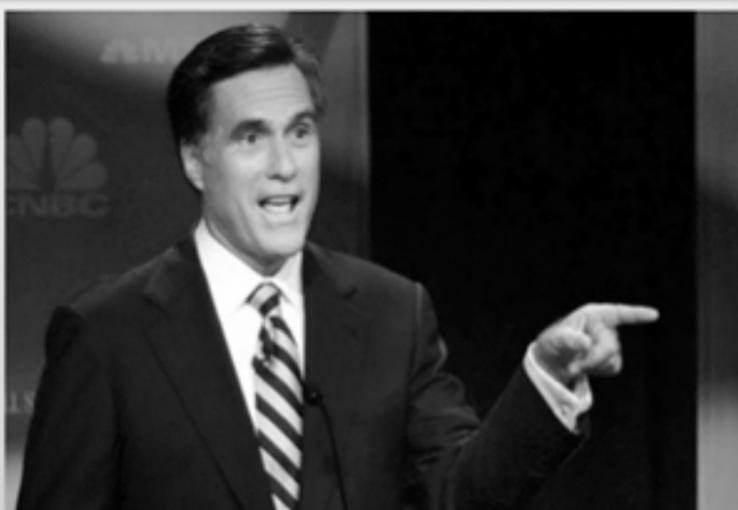
"I almost understand the housing shortage, but the fact that I can't even stay where I am is infuriating," sophomore John Bowden said. "I would think upperclassmen would get priority over underclassmen, but it feels like the (rising) junior class is being shunted around while good housing goes to everyone else."

The email also said Residence Life hopes to help as many students as possible find housing. They have contacted some local apartment complexes to offer more expanded housing on the university's shuttle route and have a list of local apartments for students who wish to look for housing on their own. They are also working with SGA to bring local realtors to campus for a housing fair.

Turner wrote that Residence Life will provide students with details on these options by March 1

Join us at Whitley Auditorium to discuss the issues at Elon University's

## THE GREAT DEBATE



YOUNG REPUBLICANS



YOUNG DEMOCRATS

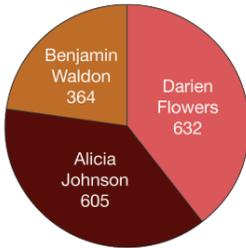
**Whitley Auditorium  
March 8, 2012  
7:00pm**

# SGA Elections

## Original voting breakdown

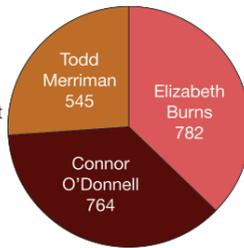
### Executive President

In order to be elected, the candidate must have 50 percent of the vote plus one.



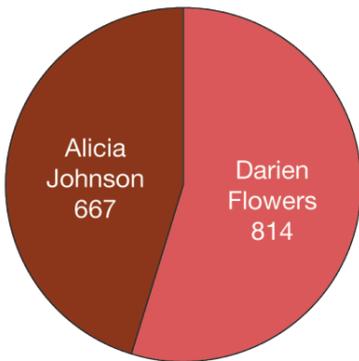
### Executive Vice-President

In order to be elected, the candidate must have 50 percent of the vote plus one.

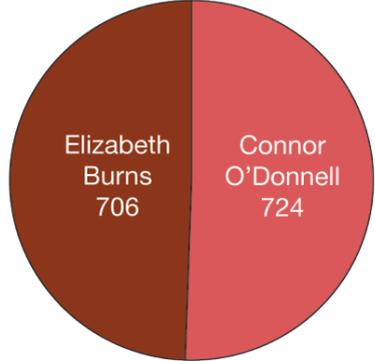


## Runoff voting breakdown

### Executive President



### Executive Vice-President



KRISTEN CASE | Design Chief

## New officials credit advertising of elections for voter turnout

Katherine Blunt  
Senior Reporter

Palpable tension filled the room in Moseley Center as the results of the run-off elections for executive president and vice president were on the brink of release. The candidates sat very still, clutching the hands of their friends and supporters.

And then, the moment of truth arrived. Cheers erupted for junior Darien Flowers and sophomore Connor O'Donnell, the new executive president and vice president, respectively.

The run-off executive election took place Feb. 23. This year, the increase in Student Government Association executive candidates resulted in not one, but two run-off elections. The two candidates that won the most votes during the general election participated in the run-off election. Candidates need 50 percent of the votes plus one more vote to win.

The heightened interest in the executive presidency and vice presidency speaks to the strength of the current executive board, O'Donnell said.

"The people who were running for executive positions that were already in SGA saw all the things that the (current) executives were doing and wanted to mirror that," he said.

Prior to the election cycle, the current executive board advocated their positions to existing members of the SGA, as well as students outside the realm of government.

"The current executives really challenged all the senators to advertise the election to their own constituents and groups of friends," Flowers said. "I think that word-of-mouth (advertising) really

increased candidates for all positions."

Such advertising increased voter turnout as well. A total of 2,091 votes were cast in the 2012 general election, a 14 percent increase from last year, according to Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life and SGA adviser.

Social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter allowed students to exchange campaign and election information quickly and easily, which bolstered support for candidates and rallied enthusiasm.

"I think Twitter is the fastest-growing social media platform that students are using," Flowers said. "The instantaneous information that Twitter provides was able to attract students to vote."

Student media covered the election campaigns and encouraged students to consider the platforms of each candidate. The SGA website was staffed throughout the entire election cycle, and students were prompted by SGA representatives to vote online.

"I have only heard good things about how high-tech and professional the campaigns and speeches were," O'Donnell said. "It seemed like an actual debate and really mirrored the professionalism of the candidates and the student media."

After a largely successful campaign cycle, Flowers and O'Donnell look forward to working with the student body and the student media to foster change in the Elon community.

"It was definitely a great experience to operate in an environment where we had access to people with the ability to send information to extremely large amounts of people," Flowers said. "It really helped combat that sense of voter apathy that has been prevalent in elections past."

## Interactions with candidates prompted students to vote

Hannah DelaCourt  
Senior Reporter

Whether students voted in the recent Student Government Association election was largely determined by whether they heard directly from the candidates and how much significance they felt their vote would have.

SGA election gave students a chance to exercise their right to vote and allowed them to have a decision about which of their peers will represent the student body. But even though voting only takes several minutes, not all students participate in the voting process.

According to senior Grant De Roo, SGA elections co-chair, while there was an increase from the number of students who voted last year, only about half the student body voted this year.

"This year, there were 2,091 students that voted compared to 1,827 from last year," De Roo said. "If we increase the voting base by 50 students every year, we are increasing the voting base by 1 percent."

Although only half the student body voted, De Roo said he is pleased with the outcome this year, including the participation in the runoff election in which 1,481 students voted.

The increase in the voter base benefits SGA because, with every increase, more students are represented, De Roo said. He attributes this year's increase to three factors: Media coverage, the number of candidates and the work of the candidates.

Phoenix 14 News covered SGA's debate live allowing candidates to respond to questions and talk about their platforms. De Roo said the media coverage this year, particularly from The Pendulum and Phoenix 14 News, helped increase the interest of students in the candidates themselves and what SGA can do for them.

De Roo said he also believes the number of candidates running for positions affects how students portray the significance of their vote. As opposed to last year's two candidates, this year there were four candidates running for executive president.

"I think it just depends on how contested of an election it is," he said. "With four candidates (running for executive president), people's votes counted more as opposed to last year when there were only two candidates."

Also with four candidates, they have different groups that they are close to or tied to so that would increase the voter base as well."

De Roo also said he felt the candidates did a good job this year of going out and talking to students and student groups in person. He said they tried to reach out to more diverse groups this year so there would be less of an overlap in the number of students in the same groups they talked to.

Some students said this personal connection was what encouraged them to vote, including junior Cecil Worsley, who said he would not even have considered voting if candidates had not come to talk at his fraternity's chapter meeting.

"The candidates for the different positions came to our chapter and presented some of the issues that they were going to work to improve or correct," Worsley said. "I had no idea that they had that much influence over the campus. Before, I didn't think (SGA) was that important at all."

Other students who did not personally hear from the candidates said if they had had this opportunity, they might have understood more of the importance of SGA and took the time to vote.

"I would have voted if I knew more about (SGA) and I knew more about what it can actually do to help," said freshman Alex Komrovsky. "I basically know nothing about it."

But De Roo said each year is a learning process for SGA and for the candidates running.

"Each year, people learn from the innovative things that past candidates have done," he said. "And students should realize that after their time at Elon, very rarely will they have a vote in a political election that will count so much."

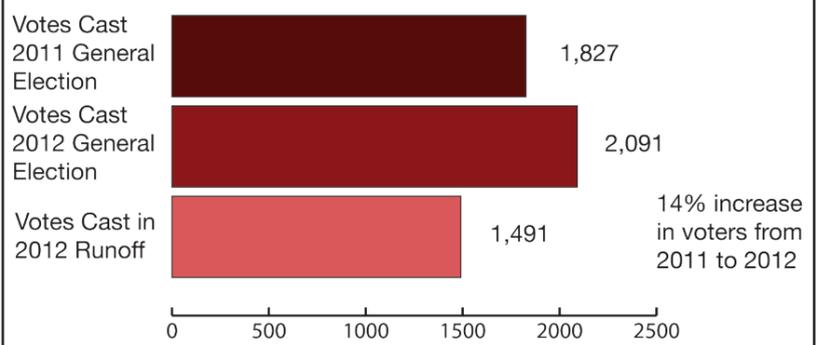
### MORE ONLINE

Hear from Sam Warren about the significance of the runoff election.

<http://bit.ly/EPsgaresults>

SHERYL DAVIS | Multimedia Editor

### Votes cast in 2011 and 2012



KRISTEN CASE | Design Chief

## Vacancies to be filled by new executive president

Ben Donahue  
Senior Reporter

While voting for candidates in the recent Student Government Association elections, many Elon students noticed some substantial vacancies in the ballot. More than one candidate was also running unopposed.

These unfilled positions were not for lack of advertising on the organization's behalf according to Rachel Long, executive vice president for SGA. The elections packet

was released during the first week of classes spring semester to give students plenty of time to consider running for a position, she said.

"Additionally, we held an interest meeting with current executive officers and Grant De Roo, the elections committee chair, to provide interested students with valuable insight into a variety of roles on the senate, as well as the elections process before the election packets were due," Long said.

The candidate turnout this year is nothing unusual, Long said. It is typical that some races remain empty — especially in the major spring elections.

"There is generally a bit of fluctuation between years, but rarely a drastically different participation rate for candidates," Long said. "This year in particular is fairly regular, with a bit higher participation in the executive presidential and vice presidential races."

The empty spots in the

ballot remain vacant until Darien Flowers, the new executive president-elect, is sworn into office. All available positions on Academic, which is the coordinating committee of the faculty, and At-Large councils, which consist of class officers and senators for each graduating class, are appointed through a process conducted by the executive president.

De Roo said the process is fairly straightforward.

"How it's really done is that (the executive president)

will go around and see who has an interest in the vacant positions and then he will have the final say on who gets the position," said De Roo.

The normal process of filing for candidacy, as defined by SGA's constitution, requires that all candidates must sign the election rules to verify their knowledge of and adherence to the guidelines, and they must obtain signatures of varying quantity (as defined in the election rules) from voters that pertain to their position.

## New SGA executive president sets sights on student issues

Following the announcement of the SGA election results last week, The Pendulum spoke with Darien Flowers, executive president-elect about his win and visions for Elon University.

Flowers, and the other newly-elected representatives, will officially take over April 1, after being sworn in March 29.

*Q: How are you feeling right now?*

A: I am relieved. It has been an eventful 72 hours, but I'm relieved and excited to get down to business.

*Q: What is your next course of action?*

A: First of all, we have to make sure that we have a seamless transition. There are plenty of idiosyncrasies that I am not aware of and will have to learn by being in the office. I can't wait to start working with Sam Warren, current executive president and understanding what (courses of action) have been successful for him in the past and what has been successful for other previous executive presidents.

*Q: What goals do you plan to first pursue after assuming the position?*

A: First and foremost, I would like to talk with University Communications about overhauling the SGA website. That is the medium through which the Senate itself can communicate to students. It is in dire need of an upgrade and I would like to overhaul that. The next thing is getting feedback from the students. I've heard several things from other SGA candidates that I think we need to talk about.

*Q: What ideas have you heard from the other SGA candidates that you are interested in?*

A: For example, the schedule of the BioBus. Is it serving the needs of the students in the most effective way?



Junior Darien Flowers (right) speaks about his plans for his time in office as SGA executive president after winning the SGA election for the position Feb. 23, following a run-off vote. Connor O'Donnell won the race for SGA executive vice president, also in a run-off vote.

Other things include looking at all the dietary options on campus. We need to start having conversations with ARAMARK to make sure that the options they are providing students are the options that students want, as well as healthy options. We need to take a nutritional sampling of what is offered on campus. We would also like to get an eating option in the Academic Village. We need to see what ARAMARK would envision that to be and what students would like to see and find a viable compromise between the two parties.

*Q: Are there any other issues you'd like*

*to address primarily?*

A: I had a student email me during the campaign to tell me she would like easier access to printing options in all academic buildings, especially on the first floors. (We would also like to expand) the availability of tissues in all classrooms. That is something that we are going to look at through Auxiliary Services and Campus Technology.

*Q: What does your transition period entail?*

A: Well, obviously Sam is going to

finish out his term, which ends April 1. I will be assisting him, and he and I are going to talk regularly about the things that he has been working on that should be continued and what those things will entail for my administration.

Sam creates a transition binder of whatever he thinks is appropriate, and he and I will work through that so I can see exactly what the executive presidency looks like. There will be regular discussion between the two of us.

*Information compiled by Katherine Blunt.*

## New executive vice president aims to improve student liaisons to SGA

Connor O'Donnell won the position of SGA executive vice president by 18 votes in a run-off election against junior Elizabeth Burns.

O'Donnell spoke with The Pendulum about his plans for SGA in his new position.

*Q: How are you feeling?*

A: I am ecstatic. It is hard to put into words. These past two weeks have been like a roller coaster, but I couldn't have done it without the people who supported me. I feel that this isn't just a win for me, but a win

for the people who supported me and spread the word.

*Q: How are you preparing for your transition?*

A: I am really looking forward to working with Rachel (Long, current executive vice president). I know that there is a whole list of things that she needs to go over with me, but I know parliamentary procedure. I did debate in high school — I know the ins and outs of it. But I am looking forward to going over it and starting my term.

*Q: What are some of the first issues that you want to tackle as executive vice president?*

A: The first thing I want to tackle is shrinking the gap between the liaisons that represent organizations of the student government and the organizations that they do work with. I want to make sure the workings and happenings of the SGA are known to the student body as a whole. I think The Pendulum article that was just written about the SGA is very relevant. It is up to both sides — the student body and the SGA — to start working together and I'm very excited to start that this term.

*Q: Is there anything else that is on your agenda?*

A: I definitely want to work with Darien to fully staff the SGA in various areas. We have a lot of people who are interested in being appointed to our various senator positions and I'm looking forward to hearing from them.



SGA Executive Vice President Elect Connor O'Donnell speaks about his plans for his time in office after winning the election Feb. 23.

*Information compiled by Katherine Blunt.*

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CAITLIN O'DONNELL | Editor-in-Chief

## New semester program in Los Angeles pilot for future domestic opportunities

Mary Kate Brogan  
Senior Reporter

As part of an attempt to expand Elon University's study away domestic programs, Elon will be offering a full semester program in Los Angeles beginning in spring 2013.

More than 70 percent of Elon students study abroad during the course of their four years, according to Elon's admissions website, but few students have taken part in a semester-long domestic program. The Los Angeles program currently exists as a summer program, but the semester program will provide a new opportunity for students to take part in professional and academic experience. The experience will be eye-opening for students, said J. McMerty, coordinator of Elon in L.A.

"We often use the term that it 'demystifies' the Hollywood experience," McMerty said. "So it's not just what you see on 'Entourage' or in movies. You actually get to live there, in this case in the spring, for 100 days and see what it's like to live and work in the entertainment capital of the world."

The program, which will take a maximum of 24 students, will be open to 14 to 16 Elon students and eight to 10 students from other universities that do not offer domestic programs in Los Angeles, McMerty said.

Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs and professor of communications, said Elon plans to open the program up to students from universities that offer a similar undergraduate experience to Elon, such as Butler University in Indiana, which has an experiential learning requirement similar to Elon's. Book, who served as dean of the School of Communications when the Los Angeles summer program began,

said she hopes the trip will help Elon students make connections with students from other schools and programs.

"I like that they live at Oakwood housing, which houses several other university programs," Book said. "And I'm always hopeful that they'll reach outside of the Elon cohort and talk to the kids from Syracuse and Ithaca and Texas. There are so many universities running their own Los Angeles programs that I hope that in that setting they'll stop and talk to the other kids."

Four Elon students have already been admitted to the semester program, for which the early decision date is March 15. Among them are freshmen cinema majors Jordan Roman and Ben Stringfellow, both of whom said they are excited to have the opportunity to study in Los Angeles.

"I want to be a film director and I came to Elon saying I need to jump into things as fast as possible, which is good and bad," Stringfellow said. "It's not good to just run straight-forward at things, but at the same time, I really wanted to get my feet in the water as soon as possible, and I feel like this is the best way to do it."

McMerty said internships are an important pillar of the program, and he hopes that students will get a good internship and professional experience out of the Elon in LA semester program. Roman said the program will give him a head-start in working in the film industry.



J. McMerty coordinates and instructs the Elon in LA program, which has taken students to Los Angeles for five summers.

"The fact that it is in Los Angeles really drew me to it," Roman said. "I really wanted to spend some time out in Los Angeles getting internships and just getting my name out there and working and just getting some experience in Los Angeles because I think that really is the crucial place you have to be (to be a filmmaker)."

The university hopes to learn more about domestic semester programs from the Los Angeles program, Book said.



Elon students on the summer program hiked to the top of a mountain near their L.A. apartments in order to get a clear view of the city.

"I think pilots are really important, because they teach us what kind of services students are looking for and how we can infuse those services with important intellectual moments for students and important personal development," she said.

## New director of campus safety to be named next week; 3 candidates remain

Mary Kate Brogan  
Senior Reporter

After several months of interviews, phone calls and committee meetings, Gerald Whittington, vice president of Business, Finance and Technology and head of the search committee for a new director of campus safety and security, must pick a candidate for the director position. Whittington said he intends to meet with the search committee a final time and will decide on a new director in the next week.

"(When) you get to this point, you don't want folks to just sit and sit and sit," Whittington said. "In some searches, people are in multiple searches, so your candidate might be in another search for another position somewhere else, and you don't want to lose because you were slow to decide, but you don't want to rush into it."

Each of the three candidates came to Elon's campus last week and spent a day meeting with various campus groups including senior administrators, the Student Life staff and community members. The candidates each gave a presentation on what they see as the role of campus safety and police in the Elon Commitment, according to Whittington.

Dennis Franks, deputy chief of police of the Pekin Police Department in Pekin, Ill., was the first of the candidates to present. Franks,

who spoke Feb. 21, said his strengths lie in his ability to develop relationships and communicate with a wide variety of people. He talked about his five-point plan to pursue service excellence, which includes treating others with respect, ensuring a safe campus through crime prevention, hiring officers who have a desire to serve, providing employees with goals and opportunities for their careers and supporting the inner workings of campus police.

"I feel that those five points kind of (exhibit) what I think can be done to foster culture and service excellence," Franks said.

Todd Sigler, director of the department of public safety for Southern Illinois University — Carbondale, spoke Feb. 22 about his determination to focus on partnering with and providing support for students. He said his greatest strength is identifying people he can bring together as a team and communicating well with them.

"There is a ripple effect with our words and deeds," Sigler said. "As (a) campus safety and police (unit), we must ask ourselves, 'Are our words followed up by our deeds?' What we say is what we should do and what we do is what we should say. If we don't follow up those things with our actions, people aren't going to have a lot of confidence in us after a while."

Elon's campus police

investigator Dan Ingle was the third candidate to speak. He spoke Feb. 24 about his goals for campus police in the university's strategic plan. He addressed several areas he would focus on as director of campus safety and police, including commitment to diversity and global engagement, support of campus police staff, delivery on Elon's promise and support of a strong alumni network. He said his greatest strengths are that he is a successful problem solver.

"I begin to address a problem immediately," Ingle said. "I do not let it sit there and fester."

The committee, which includes Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, among other faculty and staff members, reviewed more than 100 applications from candidates, conducted phone interviews with about 20 and met seven for in-person interviews before selecting the three candidates to bring to campus, according to Jackson.

Jackson said he is excited about the opportunities that having a new director of campus safety and security will give the university.

"Mr. Gantos has set a wonderful tone for the kind of climate we want for the person who will assume his position," Jackson said. "The candidates offer new perspectives and have different experiences. They will add to the foundation that Mr. Gantos has laid."

## Residence Life reacts to bed bug infestation

Brittany Lloyd-Jones  
Reporter

Physical Plant and Residence Life cleared a bed bug infestation in less than a week, acting quickly after confirming a case of bed bugs in a Colonnades single.

On Feb. 17, an anonymous student began itching and wondered if it was bed bugs. By Feb. 22, the problem had been addressed and fixed, Turner said.

"It was an excellent response," said Elaine Turner, director of Residence Life.

The Elon student went to Health Services first to question the itch. In the meantime, Residence Life had also been informed.

The process for eradicating the bed bugs doesn't start until an evaluation is completed by Physical Plant, which is contacted by Residence Life. After confirming the sighting of one bed bug, Physical Plant brought in a K9 and search team to look for more. The necessary treatment was implemented, Turner said. Residence Life then worked with the student to prepare for a heat treatment and eradication. Turner said they provide boxes and instruct students to pack up items that aren't susceptible to high temperatures. Flammable items or items that can melt, such as various foods, are taken out of the room before the process of infusing heat begins.

The heating takes five hours, and the room then has to cool down. There are also follow-up investigations to verify that the

infusion worked, Turner said.

Students are advised not to visit other rooms if bed bugs are identified in their own until the treatment is finished because bed bugs are very small and can travel on clothes, book bags and phones, Turner said.

In the case of another infestation, Residence Life will send out another email telling people what to do and where to get more information, Turner said.

Bed bugs have been a problem on college campuses all across the nation. At the University of Nebraska, 94 rooms were infested with bed bugs. An outbreak of this severity can cause serious issues for individual students, the health and image of a school and can become a complicated issue when attempting to balance the privacy of students and warning other students about the issue, according to Inside Higher-ed, a website that provides news concerning higher education.

"Bed bugs are very difficult to get rid of because they reproduce so quickly and are really resilient," said Elon freshman Caleigh Erickson, who experienced bed bugs at camp several years ago. "Their bites are like really itchy mosquito bites. Your best bet is to heat-treat everything or throw away a lot of your stuff."

If treated quickly and effectively, bed bugs aren't a major issue.

If anyone suspects bed bugs, it is important to keep Residence Life informed so they can monitor the situation, Turner said.

# Gay minister sets agenda for achieving greater relational justice

Grace Elkus  
News Editor

The debate over Amendment One, legislation that recognizes marriage only as a union between man and woman, has sparked conversations regarding marriage equality, social approval and basic human rights. But the conversations haven't been limited to the upcoming ballot in North Carolina. Individuals across the globe have voiced their opinion on topics such as sexuality and religion and the institution of marriage.

Marvin Ellison, a gay ordained Presbyterian minister and widely published author, spoke on these topics Feb. 24 as part of a day-long colloquium on religious discourse in same-sex marriage debates hosted by the Elon Center for the Study of Religion.

"You and I are not alone in this conversation or in this struggle about the future of marriage," Ellison said. "Much is afoot, both here in North Carolina, but also around the world. It seems that almost whenever two or more are gathered, there will likely be conflict or at least intense conversation about marriage, family rights and same-gender loving people."

Ellison, whose talk was titled "Is same-sex marriage a 'must' or a 'bust,'" said there are three voices in the same-sex marriage debate. The first voice is that of marriage traditionalists, who resist marriage equality because they fear it will erase gender differences. Marriage advocates represent the second voice, who feel marriage exclusion is a form of discrimination that violates equal protection under the law. They believe the debate is not just about homosexual marriage, but rather confirming the highest form of social approval possible.

The third voice is that of marriage critics, who support the right of same sex couples to marry but are not convinced it will inevitably lead to greater relational

justice.

"For marriage critics, same-sex marriage is an ambivalent good," Ellison said. "If not quite a bust, not entirely a must."

Ellison himself is also skeptical of placing too much emphasis on legalizing same-sex marriage.

"While gaining equal access to marriage is a worthy goal, I fear that limiting justice to the acquisition of equal rights may in fact be problematic," he said. "Especially if other compelling requirements of justice are ignored."

During a sabbatical leave in 2002 and 2003, Ellison was inspired to write his book "Same-sex marriage: A Christian Ethical Analysis" after realizing he had yet to find a progressive, justice focused Christian voice that could contribute directly to marriage debates.

"Little did I know what an interesting and complicated and hotly contested topic marriage would turn out to be," Ellison said. "Not just marriage for same-sex couples, but marriage, period."

While writing his book, Ellison discovered that historically, Christians have often been on the wrong side of marriage debates. But in Biblical traditions, justice is meant to right relation both interpersonally as well as communally, he said.

"(Justice) is about showing respect for persons and honoring their humanity," Ellison said. "To deny, therefore, a group of people the freedom to marry and the moral right to love and be loved is therefore not a minor inconvenience or merely unpleasant, it is rather an exclusion that is dehumanizing, unjust and wrong."

For many centuries, the purpose of marriage for most Christians was to restrain sin and to regulate sexual passion, Ellison said. While men and women were considered spiritual equals, they were not socially equal. But Christianity,

Ellison said, is engaged in a dynamic evolving process that has resulted in a shift in the meaning of sex, marriage and intimate love.

Ellison said he would encourage the church to not view marriage as a duty expected of all people. He said the church should promote only egalitarian, justice-loving marriages and other intimate relationships.

"I would encourage all of us, in our own ways, to become wedding industry resistors," he said. "Why not place marriage ceremonies back within the context of public worship. Friday night in the synagogue or Sunday morning in the church, and then follow the ceremony with a spiffy coffee hour."

Ellison shared the results from research that indicate that moveable middle voters on LGBTQ rights can be described as conflicted Christians.

They are not anti-gay, but have never heard a compelling gay-positive faith-based argument in support of LGBTQ equality and justice, Ellison said.

"The research indicates that conflicted Christians want to be supportive of gay and lesbian persons, but they cannot imagine how their faith values and commitment could ever allow them to make this move," Ellison said. "Theology trumps their support of LGBTQ rights."

The solution is finding the right messenger, Ellison said. The more local and trusted the messenger, the more persuasive the message will be. But within the solution lay a problem — faith leaders have not been willing to translate their personal support into public leadership.



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer  
Marvin Ellison, a Christian Ethicist discussed the intersection of sexuality and religion as part of a recent colloquium.

"Fearful of conflict, concerned about their ability to pastor to all people and unprepared to preach and teach about sexual justice, these faith leaders have fallen silent and too often try to remain neutral on these matters," Ellison said. "But that strategy of being neutral actually raises the anxiety levels in congregations."

But, as Ellison emphasized, change is possible, and while inclusion is good, transformation is better. Expanding marriage rights is important, but an agenda that aims at relational justice for all, rather than legal remedy for a few, is what the focus needs to be on, Ellison said.

"The change many of us desire so deep down is not mere inclusion but rather spiritually, moral, economical and cultural transition toward genuinely right relations," Ellison said. "From the grassroots upwards, and in our bedroom and far beyond."

## Writing encapsulates campus: Elon searches for director to enhance teaching of writing

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

Elon University acknowledges that writing runs through all disciplines. The search for a director of writing across the curriculum signifies the institution's commitment to developing writing, according to Peter Felten, director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning and chair of the selection committee. This director will work to implement a writing program in every curriculum.

The university's writing-focused initiative demonstrates the need to graduate effective communicators, according to Lynne Bisko, nonprint librarian and member of the selection committee.

"The WAC director also will bring distinct experience and knowledge, including national leadership experience in writing," Felten said. "We've had a strong writing across the curriculum director for a number of years at Elon, but that role has just been a fraction of that faculty member's time."

Tim Peebles, associate provost for faculty affairs and professor of English, served as the director of writing across the curriculum and said he recognizes the benefits of hiring an individual specifically for the position.

"The people we are trying to recruit into the position are very experienced, so they will come with a wealth of experience that I did not have," Peebles said.

Designating director of writing across the curriculum as an individual position will provide the director with more time and more resources geared toward enhancing writing, according to Felten.

Hiring an individual specifically dedicated to strengthening a writing program will also expand the breadth and depth of student learning and develop alongside the writing-focused Quality Enhancement Plan, which is part of the university's reaccreditation process, Felten said.

The QEP concerns transforming the teaching and learning of writing across all disciplines.

"In some ways, when we wrote the QEP we grabbed onto the proposal (for a WAC director) and ran on the coattails of that proposal," said Paula Patch, professor of English and co-author of the selected QEP.

Patch said she expects the director to set goals for student writing and work with all the departments to meet those goals using the tools already available.

"The QEP made the position particularly appealing to a number of candidates because it's a statement of the institution's commitment to writing in the long haul," Felten said. "The timing is good."

The search committee has received a number of applicants since beginning the hiring process in November. The two final candidates will interview on campus this week.

The application called for candidates with experienced leadership in the teaching and learning of writing and who have led a writing program on a campus or multiple campuses to advance scholarship related to writing.

"There were differences, and people on the committee saw different things in different applications, but we came to a consensus about the strongest candidate," Felten said.

The selection committee consists of faculty from various departments.

"I feel it is an important position on campus, and I believe that the library should and will play a large role in the QEP, and I felt it was important to be involved in selecting this person," Bisko said.

Although Michael Carignan, associate professor of history, said he believes the history department has a clear writing program, the director of writing across the curriculum can provide more opportunities to evaluate writing goals.

"It is intended to guide faculty who want to develop how they teach their writing instruction," Carignan said. "It is available for every discipline."



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer  
Senior Lauren Stranahan observes effects Prozac has on fish, which she raises from infancy.

## Scholar heads to D.C. event to promote passion for research

Adriana Miano  
Senior Reporter

Elon senior Lauren Stranahan hopes to make an impact this spring at the annual Posters on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., where she will express to Congress the importance of funding undergraduate research.

"I think it's a really good cause because doing research has really changed me," Stranahan said. "It has made me more professional, and it has prepared me for a career outside of college."

For the past two years, Stranahan, a biology major and Lumen scholar, has focused her research on the effects trace amounts of pharmaceutical drugs have on aquatic wildlife when leaked into the water supply.

"I've always been interested in animal behavior," Stranahan said. "I love to see animals in a medical setting."

In November, Biology professor Linda Niedziela, Stranahan's academic adviser and Lumen mentor, encouraged her to apply for Posters on the Hill, hosted by the Center for Undergraduate Research, after being impressed by Stranahan's work.

"The quality of Lauren's research has been really outstanding, so (Posters on the Hill) seemed like a natural fit for her," Niedziela said.

Stranahan has shown a true dedication to her work, spending long hours in the lab conducting research on a strict schedule she developed for herself, Niedziela said. Currently, Stranahan is drafting an article for publication on her findings.

"She doesn't see this as a class or as something she should do, but as something she wants to do," Niedziela said.

In spite of a rigorous research schedule, Stranahan said she has not had much difficulty accommodating weekly class work.

"As you go along, you get better at (conducting research) and it takes less time," she said.

Though all aspects of Stranahan's research don't always go according to plan, she manages to see the challenges her work presents as a learning experience.

"The more (work) you do, the easier it is to overcome obstacles," she said. "I think it makes you better, not just at doing research, but in life in general. You become more mature through it and it makes you more professional."

Stranahan's research has at times yielded unexpected results. She was surprised to find that even the smallest amounts of a pharmaceutical drug can have a great impact on aquatic wildlife.

She is looking forward to sharing this finding with others at Posters on the Hill, where she will present a poster displaying the findings of her research to more than 100 undergraduates. State representatives will also be invited to attend the presentation.

"I'm excited to be presenting with all these other people that are doing their own research at their own universities," Stranahan said.

Though Stranahan is the first of Niedziela's mentees to apply for Posters on the Hill, Niedziela said she demonstrates how students can benefit from conducting research in such a focused and determined manner.

"She is a great example of what undergraduates can do with their research," Niedziela said.

# Business students host first international career conference

Kristin Olsen  
Senior Reporter

A group of Elon University students in the International Business Club interested in working abroad have helped organize the school's first international career conference. The event will feature speakers who have worked globally with nongovernmental organizations in international business or trade.

The goals of the conference are to encourage global thinking and cultural awareness, prepare students for the global workplace and showcase career opportunities outside of the United States.

Junior Lizzy Larson, finance and international business double major, studied abroad in Barcelona and is a

founding member of the International Business Club. She worked with Tom Tiemann, professor of economics, to plan the conference.

"It's a great outlet for any student looking for international opportunities," Larson said.

Larson said she hopes students of all majors will come and grasp a greater understanding of the importance of international jobs. At interested students can begin seeking opportunities to work abroad.

Sophomore Austin Rhoads, a international business

double major, was in charge of contacting and scheduling speakers. He will bring in speakers from a variety of local and global companies, including

Thomas Nelson, professor of communications.

Junior Lauren Teltsch, a marketing and management double major, is managing the public relations and advertising of

"Everyone, in some way, should be looking at a global career."

-Austin Rhoads  
SOPHOMORE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND MARKETING MAJOR

the conference. Teltsch lived in Paris for five years because of her father's job, and said she believes everyone should have some international experience.

"I am very open to working abroad,"

Teltsch said. "It keeps work interesting."

Larson, Rhoads and Teltsch have been organizing the conference with Tiemann and fellow student Scott Bishopric since the fall 2011 semester.

"It's so easy to get caught up in your own world that you forget about everything else going on in the world," Larson said. "It's a good way to open your eyes."

The conference is open to all students. "Everyone, in some way, should be looking at a global career," Rhoads said.

## International Career Conference

**When:** 1-4 p.m. March 1

**Where:** Moseley

**Why:** To present post-graduate international opportunities

## Guest speaker shares journey to self-acceptance

Ben Donahue  
Senior Reporter

Roger Sneed described himself as a very angry undergraduate.

"I kept encountering these sometimes catastrophic collisions with race and religion and sexuality," he said in regards to multiple life experiences, especially those during his years in college.

Sneed, who teaches religion at Furman University, spoke in Belk Library Feb. 23 about how his homosexuality made him rethink his religious beliefs and values as a black male. His speech and discussion "Intersections: A Conversation about Race, Sexuality, and Religion" were sponsored by SPECTRUM, Elon University's queer-straight alliance.

Sneed prefaced his talk with his upbringing in Tulsa, Okla. He was the only boy in his family and said certain religious expectations were ingrained in him by his parents.

"I pictured myself as a preacher at age eight," he said. "By the time I got to college, I had been thoroughly ensconced in what scholars call 'the black church.'"

Sneed said his identity crisis came during his undergraduate years at Tulsa University, where he assumed a number of respected positions within his campus' black community. He joined Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, sang in the gospel choir and became the first vice president, and later president, of the Black Union. These roles were all typically attributed to

a heterosexual black student, according to Sneed.

Sneed said he experienced disjointed and unfounded anger during this period of college.

"Man, are you mad at everything?" was a question Sneed said was posed to him by his classmates on more than one occasion.

Sneed said he had a realization that his anger stemmed from the fact that he was gay.

"I couldn't admit to myself and others that I liked men," he said. "I came out, and then I went back in the closet."

Sneed said he initially received a varied response to declaring his sexuality.

Some of his fraternity brothers warned him that coming out would embarrass the organization. Sneed said he thought it was incredulous that he was being treated more harshly than another member who had been making drug deals.

Sneed's exposure to negative views of homosexuality is a factor he attributes to moving to Atlanta to join a seminary after he completed his undergraduate studies. He said he had some preconceived notions of the city being a utopia for the gay community. But when he arrived, he met black men that shared his sexuality, but were ashamed and regarded it as something that was only supposed to occur in white males. Sneed said he was often stereotyped, especially when he started to pursue his Ph.D. in the field of religion.

"It was a matter of recognizing the paradox of

who I am and the positions I have held," Sneed said.

Sneed engaged in debates with college classmates — even fellow LGBTQ allies — on the subject of religion versus sexuality. The arguments were spawned when he revealed to people, who already knew his sexuality, that he was pursuing studies in religion, he said.

This collision is the basis of his recently published book, "Representations of Homosexuality: Black Liberation Theology and Cultural Criticism."

Sneed said he wanted to teach because he did not want undergraduates to have the same experience he had.

"To be a professor is not to be a perfect disseminator of knowledge," Sneed said.

Sneed said he remains optimistic about furthered acceptance and understanding at the intersection of sexuality and religion.

Sophomore Kevin Moore, president of SPECTRUM, said he recognizes the importance of Sneed's topics.

"I think it's good that we are having programs like this because there is a divide of religious beliefs in SPECTRUM and on campus," Moore said.

Kirstin Ringelberg, coordinator of both the art history program and the LGBTQ Office at Elon, said Sneed's discussion was just one program in SPECTRUM's lineup of events focused on voting against Amendment One. The upcoming state legislation slated for the May 8 ballot will ban legal recognition for all unmarried couples.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
Eryn Gorang first became involved with tutoring at Cummings High School at the start of her sophomore year at Elon. Here, she works with student T.C. Jones.

## Elon tutors engage local community

### From VOLUNTEER, PAGE 1

life skills and parent-student interaction sessions.

Out of the three North Carolina high schools participating in Graduate!, Gorang said parents at Cummings are the least involved.

"It's common across school in general," Gorang said. "The PTA isn't overly involved in the school. The parents who do show up are excited and some move around work schedules to be there. But it's extremely sad to see that having to take place. No more than half have their parents with them." Since becoming the LINC coordinator at Cummings at the beginning of the fall 2011 semester, Gorang said students in the Graduate! program have improved their grades, and very few continue to fail any classes.

"It's extremely difficult to measure, but I definitely feel that a lot of the Cummings students feel like they don't have stability in their lives in a lot of ways," Gorang said. "Parents are coming in and out of their lives and things are changing a lot. Having a special tutor coming in on a regular basis is a confidence booster."

Opportunities for working with Cummings students are not limited to education or human services majors, Gorang said. From English to business to music, teachers at the school are requesting tutors for core and elective classes.

"You don't have to be involved in the Kernodle Center to be involved in this," Gorang said. "Which is a shame, but you don't have to be an avid, crazy service person who's constantly in the Kernodle Center. People can come from any major — anywhere — and be involved in Cummings."

Mary Leigh Frier, associate director of the Kernodle Center, said there are other opportunities for Elon students to volunteer with children and teenagers in the area. EV! Tutoring, America Reads and Lunch Buddies are in-school programs designed to help elementary school students. Volunteers can also go to after

school sites to mentor and tutor children, such as The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, Positive Attitude Youth Center, the Avalon Trace Development Center for immigrant families and Burlington Housing Authority, including the "Transition to Manhood" program for young boys.

Nicki Watkins, Class of 2002, was an education major at Elon and currently teaches first grade at Grove Park Elementary in Burlington.

"These kids that the volunteers are working with are usually the kids who are struggling more," Watkins said. "They're not going to get it in one or two lessons, and I know that, but any extra help those students can get will benefit them."

The Kernodle Center offers an open-door policy to school administrators seeking volunteers for ongoing and one-time needs, according to Tammy Cobb, assistant director for community partnerships. Schools can post requests throughout the academic year, and the Kernodle Center works to promote the opportunity to Elon students.

"Our Alamance County K-12 students are strongly influenced by students in higher education and oftentimes see (Elon) students as role models," Cobb said. "While classroom support and student teaching is one way our students engage in the Alamance-Burlington school system, students also provide other kinds of support that touches on needs outside the classroom."

Gorang said giving much of her time to be a mentor and tutor for low-income, at-risk high school students has been worthwhile, and wishes more students at Elon would become involved in local schools to understand the challenges they are facing.

"Everyone is spread thin in all different areas," Gorang said. "There are so many needs in the school and not enough people to fill them. If I can be the person to help fill those needs, I fill like I've accomplished something really great."



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer  
Roger Sneed, religion professor at Furman University, confronted his homosexuality after facing anger issues during his years in college. He spoke about his experiences in an event sponsored by SPECTRUM Feb. 23.

# Correspondent provides insight into Arab Spring

**Katherine Blunt**  
Senior Reporter

Applause thundered in McCrary Theater Feb. 23 as correspondent and foreign analyst Robin Wright delivered a discourse on the continued relevancy of the Arab Spring and the forces that drive the ongoing transformation of the Middle East.

"The most important series of events in the early 21st century are the epic convulsions across the Islamic world," Wright said. "The new uprisings are redefining who is in power. The days of the elites, many of whom were America's allies, are over. This is a whole new crowd."

Wright attributed the eruption of uprisings in the Middle East to simple numbers — roughly two-thirds of the region's 300 million people are under the age of 30. The younger generation is largely literate, an advantage not widely afforded to older generations. It is the literate majority that facilitates the flow of ideas spurring the region's restlessness, which is eased by social media and digital communication.

"People have found a voice," Wright said. "They are willing to use it bluntly through old media as well as new."

With that voice, dissatisfaction is proclaimed. Frustration is broadcast. Change is demanded. And then, voice is translated into action, Wright said.

"The overwhelming attempt to bring about change in the world's most volatile region is through peaceful civil disobedience, even when (citizens) face being fired on with live ammunition," Wright said.

The former leaders of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen have been effectively ousted by the sweeping revolution, which has left in its wake a sea of change.

"All 22 countries in the Arab world will be changed significantly by the rage and rebellion across the region," Wright said. "All 22 leaders will have their power changed in significant ways, even in countries where they manage to retain power, at least for now."

But the rebellions have given way to more than just political upheaval. The revolutionists now challenge longstanding social and cultural norms and redefine what it means to be



Foreign analyst Robin Wright spoke about the younger generation's influence in revolutions throughout the Islamic world Feb. 23. Wright has covered conflict in the Middle East since 1973.

Muslim.

Wright cited stories of women who feminized the hijab, protested the practice of female genital mutilation, lobbied for the right to show independent films and campaigned for political office. She spoke of men who dared to criticize the government through rap music in a region where the genre is widely outlawed. She showed photos of a new wave of political satirists and social commentators that see humor as a means to an end.

But despite its apparent advances, the Middle East is to face a "wild and worrisome decade," Wright said.

Political parties, both secular and Islamic, are competing to fill power vacuums left by the ousting of former presidents. Countries such as Syria are still in the midst of an uprising — about 9,000 Syrian citizens have died in violence enacted by the government, according to CNN.

Political instability compounded with economic uncertainty will dominate much of the foreseeable future, Wright said.

"The big question is whether these old autocracies will become new democracies or new theocracies," Wright

said. "For the people in the region and for us, the next decade will be a time of unprecedented transformation and greater turbulence than the last decade."

But there is hope. In a recent conversation with a young female activist in Egypt, Wright asked if she was worried about the future.

"She said, 'I'm concerned because we don't have the resources. We don't know enough about democracy, and we don't have the institutions or the time to build them,'" Wright said. "But I'm not worried," she said, "because I now have power, and if this ever happens again, I know how to challenge it."

Wright began covering conflict in the Middle East in 1973 at the start of the fourth Arab-Israeli War. Her subsequent coverage of wars and revolutions in the Middle Eastern and African regions has won immense critical acclaim and seven journalistic awards, as well as fellowships with a multitude of elite institutions. She has reported for more than 10 major newspapers and magazines and authored seven books, most recently "Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World."

## Academic program recognizes women's achievements in March

**Erin Valentine**  
Reporter

Already representing 60 percent of students on campus, women will gain even more prominence in March.

The women's and gender studies program is coordinating these events in celebration of Women's History Month.

"Given the huge amount of debate and discussion about women, particularly in regards to women's healthcare decisions, I find this opportunity to be especially important," said Mandy Gallagher, women's and gender studies program coordinator and assistant professor of communications.

The events will include panels, digital displays in Moseley that will feature important women and a documentary screening that will include a discussion about the prominent women in history and their

effect on society today.

"This is a time for us to reflect on the historical accomplishments of women before us to further explore where we would like to see women go in the future," Gallagher said. "We need to continue to have meaningful dialogue and collective action to debate and discuss issues."

Women's History Month celebrates women such as Amelia Earhart, Eleanor Roosevelt, Julia Child, Maya Angelou and Oprah Winfrey.

There will also be a student and faculty panel that will examine the different approaches to Women's and Gender Studies research that the faculty and students have conducted. Belk Library will have a special collection during March about the history of women.

According to the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, multiple historical markers around the state honor North Carolina women and

their accomplishments. For those who wish to celebrate off-campus, events in Raleigh will be held at The Center for Community Leadership March 8, International Women's Day. The day celebrates the economic, political and social successes of women in the past, present and future, according to UNWomen.org.

As March quickly approaches, students are beginning to express excitement for the events.

"The fact that the department is hosting events on campus is a cool thing," said freshman Katie Maraghy. "I think it would be great if people attended these events."

But although the events are planned solely for the month of March, the discussion of the important issues surrounding women should not be confined to one month, Gallagher said.

"I think we should celebrate women every day, not just over the course of one month," Gallagher said.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Sorority hosts Impact Day

The Omicron Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will host Impact Day: A Day of Service at 9 a.m. March 3 at in Harden Club House. The event will provide individual students and campus organizations an opportunity to gain service hours.

Every organization is asked to send at least two to three representatives to the event. After meeting in the club house, students will travel to one of 22 service sites.

### Isabella Cannon Center brings performing arts icon to campus

The Isabella Cannon Center for Leadership will host Judith Jamison as their Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership. Jamison is an American dancer, choreographer and former artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Jamison will give a presentation called "Passion: The Key to Great Leadership" at 7:30 p.m. March 5 in Whitley Auditorium. Admission is \$12 or free with an Elon ID.

### Service Learning Community to host spring clothing and accessory Swap

The Service Learning Community is hosting a spring swap of clothing and accessories from 12-5 p.m. March 4 in Oaks 212. Those who attend the event are encouraged to bring clothing or accessories to give away at the event and can take anything back in exchange. All leftover items will be donated.

### Italian Studies Advisory Board presents Festival Week

The Italian Studies Advisory Board will present its very first Italian Festival Week Feb. 27 to March 2.

On Feb. 27, Professor Dino Cervigni of UNC-Chapel Hill will give a lecture in Holt Chapel from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. A viewing of the silent film "The Italian" will precede the lecture.

A Pasta Sauce Creation Competition and Pasta Eating Contest will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 in Colonnades Common Room A.

A film screening of "Fuochi d'artificio" will be held in the Isabella Cannon Room, Center for the Arts Feb. 29 and a study abroad student photo contest will take place from 4-5:30 p.m. March 1 in Ward Gallery, Center for the Arts.

Showcase performances by Natalie Marrone and the Dance Cure at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 2 in La Rose Auditorium will conclude the week.

### Teaching and Learning Technologies provide Moodle walk-in training

Teaching and Learning Technologies are providing training to help with the transition from Blackboard to Moodle. They will be offering walk-in support March 2 at 3 p.m. in Belk Library 115. Registration is not required, but TLT would appreciate an email in advance.

## Feb. 29 - Mar. 7

### Feb. 29

- David Blanchflower to discuss financial future: 5:30 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre
- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus: 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

### Mar. 1

- Moving Forward: A New Dance Cycle: 7:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre
- Amphion String Quartet: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

### Mar. 2

- Moving Forward: A New Dance Cycle: 7:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre
- Stand-up comedian Adam Grabowski: 8 p.m., Irazu

### Mar. 3

- Moving Forward: A New Dance Cycle: 7:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre
- Black and White Ball: 7 p.m., McKinnon Hall

### Mar. 4

- Service-learning community's spring clothing and accessory swap: 5 p.m., Oaks 212

### Mar. 5

- Understanding the Federal Application Process workshop: 4:30 p.m., SPDC-Office of Career Services
- Judith Jamison "Passion - The Key to Great Leadership:" 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

### Mar. 6

- "Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders" screening: 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011
- Invisible Children documentary screening: 7 p.m., McCoy Commons

### Mar. 7

- "Reality Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning from the Students' Standpoint:" 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus: 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

COME SEE  
WORLD RENOWNED  
ECONOMIST  
Dr. David G. Blanchflower  
author of "The Wage Curve"



Thurs., May 5  
7 p.m.

LaRose Digital Theater

Brought to you by Sigma Phi Epsilon

# Editorial

## Determination of budget should include student input

Elon students are often given ample opportunities to have their voice heard in regards to campus issues during open forum discussions. The university has implemented several of these town hall discussions in recent months in response to a variety of campus-related issues, ranging from international events to incidents of derogatory comments directed toward students.

Yet, Elon administrators hold an annual discussion that doesn't cater itself to any student input — one that everyone at Elon eventually feels the effects of right where it hurts the most: their wallets.

The lack of student input in university budget processes is a policy that seems to be considerably out of place within collegiate culture today, even at private schools.

Students deserve the opportunity to demand the implementation of periodic open forum discussions specifically related to the renewal of Elon's annual budget. These forums would allow students to voice their concerns and questions about what their tuition money would go toward in the coming year.

These forums would require university administrators to provide considerable detail surrounding the pros and cons of each budget proposal. Administrators at universities

across the country have designed their budget hearings to accommodate the opinions of affluent parents and alumni who are invited to serve on various boards, in the hopes of garnering further donations for the institution. Meanwhile, no room exists for current student input, and that must change.

We recognize that the logistics of accounting for 6,000 student opinions makes the proposal seem somewhat impractical, to say the least.

But Elon should take note that the American public has recently been demanding increased knowledge and discussion of policies that affect them, some of which have been previously treated as closed door discussions.

The Occupy movement has highlighted how the American youth, particularly those who are 18-24, are no longer willing to be subjected to blindly accept policy decisions that they had no hand in making.

The media coverage of the Occupy protests has sent a clear message to private businesses and institutions: They need to seriously re-evaluate their decision-making processes and should consider creating opportunities for public input if ones do not already exist.

Students in particular should be taking up the gauntlet in this campaign, as the budget process has the potential to drastically alter one's college experience. Bolstering the funding to a particular study abroad program

or campus organization could prove beneficial to a student's future success, but they should be made aware of the change before the policy takes effect.

The university should consider revising its annual budget process to allow student input. Whether or not students would take advantage of the opportunity to contribute their opinion to the budget process remains unclear. But the university cannot afford to ignore the signs that American youth are becoming increasingly incensed by their lack of voice in issues that directly affect their lives and future. Every person should be able to contribute their opinion toward a decision that affects their community.



Students gather in the Academic Pavilion quad for an open forum in response to derogatory comments during College Coffee in September. This forum was the first of many discussions held by the university to help facilitate student input in campus-related issues.

FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS

## Going green means more than just saving energy

Despite the fact that Elon University's colors have long been maroon and gold, its perpetual efforts toward increased environmental sustainability may soon turn the school colors to an Earth-friendly green.

But Elon is not the only campus to embrace the "all things green" mentality. The trend of increased sustainability has been popping up on college campuses across the country, effectively announcing a conscious effort by American youth that Al Gore would be proud of: to accept responsibility for the preservation of our environment.

But going green means more than just creating campaigns toward conserving energy and recycling. The sustainability efforts of a university help paint it as a socially conscious institution of higher learning. From a collegiate administration standpoint, trying to become more sustainable translates to a lot of great publicity, which could mean more federal grants for achievement in energy conservation and donations from environmentally-conscious alumni. Essentially,

there is a potential for a healthy bottom line.

At any point in the year, Elon's campus-wide efforts toward going green are usually in full swing. Some of our campus buildings are LEED-certified for maintaining exceptional standards of energy conservation.

The Office of Sustainability adds to this green dream through monthly alternating themes geared toward encouraging students to reconsider the effects their lifestyles have on the environment. In November, we saw a campaign advocating the consumption of sustainable foods and local organic products. In December, alternative transportation was all the buzz, as students were encouraged to get in the habit of carpooling, walking and biking in lieu of public transportation. February's theme promoted recycling. And with the POWERless campaign having recently kicked off in our residence halls to help promote conservation awareness, it's safe to say that Elon's commitment to sustainability is staunch.

But sustainable efforts made by American colleges

today mean more than just an effort to save gas by walking to class or recycling additional products.

Sustainability has now become a major source of pride, and sometimes bragging rights, for college campuses themselves. Every year, colleges hire sustainability coordinators and advocate the creation of new sustainability committees to add to its sustainable efforts.

Campuses find themselves in (sometimes not so) friendly competitions over who is most environmentally friendly, with the same intensity that they might have for academic or athletic achievement. But it seems that some schools may forget what the real point of sustainability is. And as some colleges try to overpower rival

### TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 250 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244

Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at [www.ElonPendulum.com](http://www.ElonPendulum.com) where commentary can be quickly posted.

### THE PENDULUM

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The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) 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.

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# Opinions

## GOP candidates lack party unity

Under President Barack Obama's leadership, gas prices have doubled, unwarranted wiretaps have continued, foreign intervention has accelerated and unemployment has not once dipped below 8 percent. It goes without saying that this is unacceptable.



**Ryan Maass**  
Columnist

While the people that labeled Bush a fascist have mysteriously vanished, Obama has done a great job in making his re-election as unlikely as possible. But if Americans want to see a true change in their nation's politics, they must realize that it's going to involve more than just showing up at the polls this November.

Before President Bill Clinton took office, he proclaimed "the era of big government is over," suggesting that he was a "New Democrat." This was a lie. But this is not unique to the Democratic Party. Big government supporters have planted themselves in countless institutions, including the Republican Party. These people are easy to recognize—a few of them are running for president.

It is imperative for conservatives to realize the options in this race are far from perfect, as these men will say whatever they need to say to sit in the oval office. Mitt Romney gives lip service to his tenure as a businessperson and a strict tax-cutter. Newt Gingrich tries desperately to bury his past flirtations with liberalism. Rick Santorum contends that small government cannot exist without "strong families." Ron Paul proclaims himself to be the "champion of liberty," stating he would allow Iran to have nuclear weapons.

The last GOP debate concluded with the same general "more GOP than thou" rhetoric. But who really wins this competition? Certainly not the Republicans—and most definitively not the American people. The GOP contenders feed the Democratic machine with enough ammo to destroy them as they did in 2008. With all this juicy gossip and nearly 10 times the campaign funding, Obama can easily sweep his way to victory.

The sad part of this debacle is that the Republicans have everything they need to defeat Obama. Republicans are proceeding with the belief that they are not only in contention with the Democrats, but that the media favors them as well.

Drudge Report has both Romney and Paul leading Obama in the polls. The only thing missing is party unity. The mission for American conservatives should be simple: Remove Obama from office.

It's time to stop waiting for a small government messiah. If big-brother-like initiatives like SOPA and PIPA could be virtually crushed before they're even brought up for debate, then every other form of unwanted government intrusion can be too. It merely requires that we wake up a little.

## Breaking the mold, embracing the 'band geek'

In 2011, a neighboring school of my hometown in Pennsylvania was faced with a tough decision when the state's education funding was cut. Like many of the schools in the 500 districts across the state, the school board had



**Lindsay Kimble**  
Columnist

to make cuts to cope with waning budgets. They opted to eliminate the annual musical, saving around \$15,000.

This is only one example of an alarming trend across the country where arts programs continually seem to be the first to go. Why do the arts get thrown on the chopping block first?

One could argue that the arts and the students who partake in them are often pigeonholed as the weakest links and outcasts. Could this stereotype, often perpetuated by the media, be the reason arts programs are under-appreciated in society?

There should be no argument of the merit of theatre, art, dance and music students. The evidence of their talent can be seen throughout Elon's campus.

From the recent theatre productions of "Macbeth" and "She Loves Me," to the numerous dance shows continually held at the university, the impressive talents of the inclined are clear.

It's also obvious that people do enjoy the talents of Elon students. Shows continually sell out, and crowds flock to student performances. But it still seems like the connotation

surrounding the title of "arts student" is somewhat unsatisfactory.

While it may not be fair to place fault, one could blame entertainment media. Television shows such as "Glee" continually emphasize the awkwardness of their geeky stars, all of whom are incredibly talented.

The kids on the show, who are members of a high school glee club, are continually mocked for being musical, and are often attacked with cruel words and slushies.

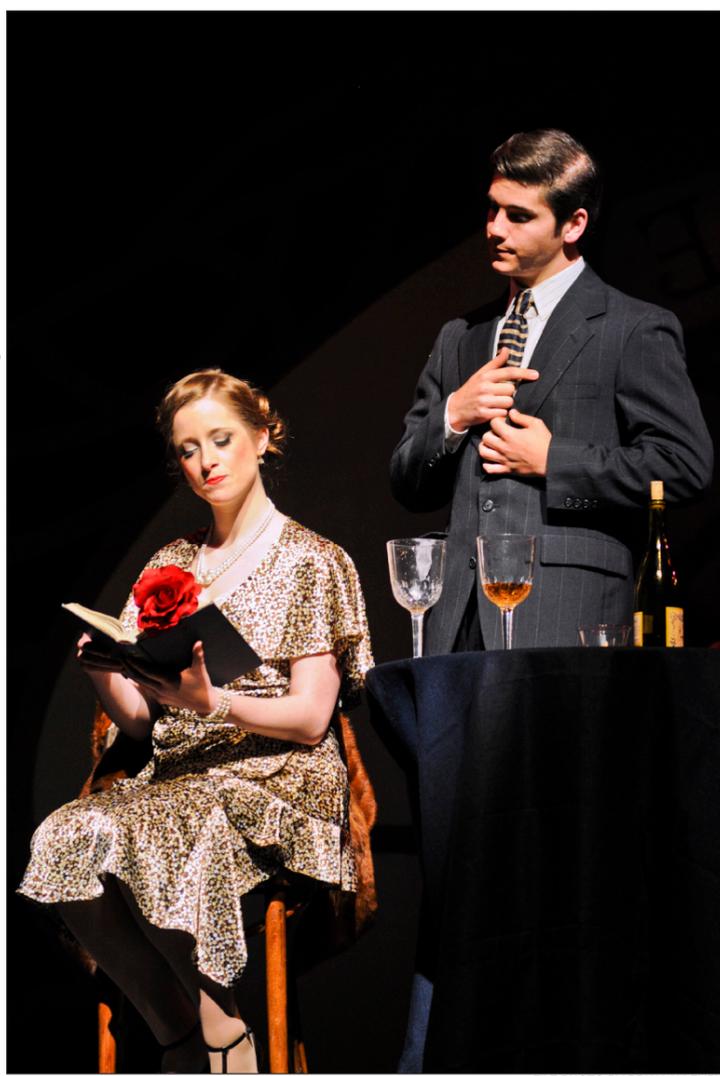
But, it's hard to see what about these characters is nerdy. They're all attractive, smart, well-spoken and well-dressed. It seems that "Glee" has dubbed its cast ragtag merely because of its musical prowess.

The stereotype extends into film as well. Think of the "American Pie" series—the movies make band camp a running joke. Some films, not even centered around arts subjects, throw in jabs at the students who partake in them.

For example, one character in "Mean Girls" labels students "band geeks." Even in the Disney film "High School Musical," a singing Zac Efron had to hide his interest in joining the school musical from his friends because he was embarrassed. His father can't even fathom his son choosing singing over basketball.

So, is the media to blame? It's easy to believe that's the case.

In reality, I think society has an unspoken need



FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN ALLENBY  
Seniors Emilie Renier (left) and Adam Kaplan challenged the social stereotypes of the "awkward theatre student" in Elon's recent production of "She Loves Me."

to award some people as superior to others. The idea of "survival of the fittest" has been around for decades.

The concept, originated by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer, concludes that evolutionary process results in the evolution of organisms that are best adapted for the environment. But why arts students have been dubbed "the weakest" in this scenario, I may never

understand.

I'm envious of the students who have the nerve to stand on a stage, in front of a crowd and bear their souls through song and dance. So, regardless of the flack, I feel arts students should be proud.

Embrace your talent and take that stage—because the only outcasts are those who can't recognize the merit of the arts.

## US citizens should not face discrimination based on language

English is not the official language of the United States of America.



**Zachary Horner**  
Columnist

The U.S. of A. is one of the 8 percent of countries in the world that does not have an official language. While this may appear shocking on the surface, it is reflective of the "melting pot" mentality the country has held since the 19th century, when thousands of immigrants moved through Ellis Island.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, around 215 million people speak English as their main language. Other major languages include Spanish (28 million), Chinese languages (two million), French (1.6 million) and German (1.4 million).

Some states, such as North Carolina, have established English as the official

state language. Another state that has done this is Arizona, where a city council candidate was prevented from running because of her limited English skills.

Alejandra Cabrera, a U.S. citizen who resides in San Luis, Ariz., was disqualified from running for office because of what a Yuma County Superior Court judge called a "large gap" between her language skills and what is needed to serve as a public official.

"I speak English and I read and I write," she said in an interview with Reuters. "I know my English is not proficient, but I can understand and I can answer. For San Luis, Ariz., it is enough."

San Luis is just across the Mexican border and workers from Mexico come into the town daily for work.

In a less political example, the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens hired Randy Cunneyworth to replace fired Head Coach Jacques Martin Dec. 17, 2011.

Cunneyworth is the first Canadiens' coach to not speak French since

1971. Quebec Culture Minister Christine St-Pierre criticized the hiring, and Canadiens owner Geoff Molson promised that the new permanent head coach would speak both English and French.

Cunneyworth has promised that he is trying to learn the language and sees the importance of the culture of the Canadiens, the NHL's most storied team with deep ties to its Quebec roots.

The question at play is this: How important is knowing the language to doing your job? In Cunneyworth's position, players, for the most part, know English.

If they're from the French-speaking provinces in Canada, it is likely they know French as well. So Cunneyworth can easily communicate with his players, but the tradition of speaking French is cause for concern for Canadiens fans.

In Cabrera's spot, the question becomes entirely more broad. With 16.3 percent of the American population identifying themselves as Hispanic

or Latino in the 2010 U.S. Census, Cabrera is part of the largest minority of the American population.

This ruling is ridiculous. Like the Cunneyworth debacle, Cabrera appears to know enough to get by and to do her job. In theory, that should be enough for anyone.

Maybe it is insensitivity to things being done differently. All of the laws on the books in the United States are written in English, and all of the Congressional discourse is done in English.

But, considering the area in which Cabrera is seeking election, with a constant stream of Latinos, her candidacy is not only allowable, but essential.

In a country that prides itself on being acceptable to many nationalities and ethnicities, this sort of discrimination should not be happening.

Yet, with all four remaining GOP presidential candidates pushing for new legislation to make English the official language of the United States, it unfortunately may continue.

# International

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

### Nelson Mandela released from hospital for stomach issues

Nelson Mandela, a former South African president, was released from the hospital Feb. 26 after receiving a laparoscopy, involving a stomach incision to view abdominal organs. Doctors discovered nothing was wrong. Jacob Zuma, South Africa's current president, announced that Mandela was admitted to the hospital Feb. 25 for abdominal concerns.

### Haitian prime minister quits job

Garry Conille, Haiti's Prime Minister, quit after only four months in office because of increased tension between himself and President Michel Martelly and his cabinet.

Conille was the president's third choice for prime minister and the only candidate met with approval. President Martelly is now taking quick action to appoint a new prime minister and hopes to appoint one in the next few weeks.

### Guantanamo Bay accused of deteriorating prison conditions

Guantanamo Bay prison conditions have decreased dramatically since last year, when the prison officers changed hands according to the lawyers of six high-profile detainees who sent a letter to the Pentagon explaining their displeasure. Food provisions, medicine and hygiene products have reportedly deteriorated, as well as the quality of leisure time for prisoners.

But a Pentagon spokesperson denied any complaints of maltreatment or abusive conditions. All detention operations are expected to meet certain requirements for their occupants, and it is still in question whether or not Guantanamo Bay has abided by these rules.

### President of Abkhazia survives sixth assassination attempt

Aleksandr Z. Ankvab, president of Abkhazia, survived his sixth attempted assassination in the last decade Feb. 22. Unidentified assassins used grenades, automatic rifles and bombs, highlighting the instability in Abkhazia, a Russian-controlled territory of Georgia. Ankvab took office in August 2011 after winning a turbulent election and began an operation against criminal groups that had penetrated the country and government. The president remains uninjured from the attack, but at least one bodyguard died and two more were severely wounded.

### Powerful earthquake rattles Siberia

Siberia was hit with a powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake Feb. 26, the second earthquake to hit in two months. No damage or casualties have been reported yet, but the quake was felt throughout much of the country. In late December 2011, an earthquake devastated many buildings, roads and bridges. Siberia is still rebuilding the damaged areas and may now be faced with more destruction.

### Revolutionary group promises to release captives in Colombia

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a rebel group known as the FARC, announced Feb. 26 they are releasing the remaining government members they have kept in captivity for several years.

They also claimed they are deserting the practice of kidnapping, but there is still no promise of a peaceful future. Their plans to release 10 prisoners of war could help end a long civil conflict within Colombia and the surrounding areas.

## Satirical themes float through French Carnaval

Madelyn Smith  
International Reporter

NICE, FRANCE — Never is there as much confetti as there is during Carnaval. Parents run up to street vendors and buy dozens of euros' worth of silly string, confetti bags and noisemakers for their children. Most buy a few for themselves, as well. The colors, the continuous upbeat techno music and the intricate floats with characteristically dark French humor mark Nice's 128th Carnaval celebration that began Feb. 17.

Nice's beaches and colorful streets start to attract crowds as the opening weekend of Carnaval approaches each year. This year's theme was "King of Sport," a universal subject that the masterminds behind Carnaval hoped would draw international guests. Many floats showcased popular sports from the French Riviera region, such as water skiing and soccer, and others paid homage to the upcoming Summer Olympics in London.

There are four main events during opening weekend: The opening ceremonies, the Flower Parade, the Parade of Lights and the Carnaval Parade. Each has similar music and follows the same parade route through the main square, Place Massena. The Parade of Lights begins with a countdown through the loud speakers and spurts of confetti erupting from the bleachers. Those who have purchased tickets said they were surprised to find they could stand anywhere, including

the middle of the parade route.

"It was a lot more accessible than parades in the United States," said Maggie Grossman, a junior from UNC-Chapel Hill studying in France this semester. "And the tone of the parade was definitely different than Disney or July Fourth parades, for example."

This laid-back atmosphere is characteristic of French events. There were few policemen at the entrance, and everyone sprays confetti directly at the dancers on the floats without hesitation.

"It definitely wasn't what I expected, but I enjoyed it," said Julie Johnson, a sophomore from UNC-Chapel Hill. "It reminded me of Halloween, but it was more family-oriented."

The two main floats of this year's Carnaval, the "King of Sport" and "Queen of Sport," were featured at the beginning of every parade. They were massive, with exaggerated facial features, including moving eyes. Another float included a giant Queen of England, Prince Charles riding a tricycle and Prince William and Kate Middleton behind them, showcasing Middleton's enormous engagement ring.

The floats that best demonstrated



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MADELYN SMITH  
The "King of Sport" float represents Nice's Carnaval theme through its satirical portrayal of current sporting events.

France's humor are those that touch on current events. This year's sporting misdemeanors included illegal substance use and the corruption of money in professional teams. One float featured a cyclist, presumably Lance Armstrong, with giant muscles surrounded by dancing syringes and IVs.

## Inaugural study abroad fair promotes winter programs

Katie Moran  
International Editor

The Isabella Cannon International Centre will hold the first ever Winter Term Fair programs for 2013, giving students the opportunity to talk with professors and peers about each of the 25 programs offered for the upcoming Winter Term.

"There are still one or two (programs) that are not quite confirmed. We are hoping to have them confirmed by the time of the fair," said Bill Burress, International Programs Adviser.

For students interested in studying abroad Winter Term 2013, the fair is sure to provide ample resources

for answering their questions and providing more complete information on each of the trips. All of the confirmed programs offered will be represented at the fair, giving students a large variety of options and resources to explore.

"We are hoping that all the faculty members will be able to attend, but if they can't, we will have student representatives in their place," Burress said.

While this year's fair isn't an entirely new concept, it will be the first of its kind. The Isabella Cannon International Centre has hosted a few general study abroad fairs in the past, but nothing that specifically focuses on Winter Term

programs.

As an incentive to participate, there will also be door prizes for attendees.

"Everybody who comes will have the chance to win something," Burress said. "You'll drop your name in a bowl, and we'll give away stuff. Local businesses are helping us out with that."

Gift certificates to Fat Frogg, The Root, Town Table, Local Yogurt and other businesses will be awarded to winners. The grand prize is a free airfare voucher worth 400 dollars from Aladdin Travel.

Those who are unable to attend should not be deterred from seeking further assistance in selecting a program.

"Students are always encouraged to come to the International Centre or to get in touch with the faculty (member) who leads the program," Burress said.

The International Centre is dedicated to supporting as many students as possible in their study abroad endeavors, and this year's Study Abroad Fair is sure to provide the necessary resources for students wishing to study abroad next Winter Term.

### Study Abroad Fair

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

March 8

Where: McKinnon Hall

Why: To learn more about winter programs for 2013.

## Correspondents' Corner

Leigh Iler  
International Reporter

LONDON — Travel opportunities are limitless in London, and England has so much to offer. I have been here for merely three weeks and have already gone to Stonehenge, Oxford, Bath, Canterbury and Dover. These places are within close proximity to the city, so day trips are quite manageable for students.

From London, one can also travel through the United Kingdom. Wales, Ireland and Scotland all boast beautiful countrysides and gorgeous coastlines. Countries in continental Europe are also easily accessible. I am looking forward to venturing to Paris, Rome and Venice later in the semester. The beauty of it all is that if I decide to make last minute arrangements to travel for the weekend, I will have no problem at all.



Katherine Wise  
International Reporter

DAKAR, SENEGAL — One of my absolute favorite traditions in Senegal is drinking Attaya. It's a sweet, strong tea, but it is so much more than that — it's a social event. Friends and family come together to enjoy each other's company as the Attaya is made. The drink is heated, often using coal. The tea is added directly to the water and boiled with the water because there are no tea bags. It takes a while, but that's part of the fun. Let go, relax and enjoy the company of others around a pot of Attaya. It's a nice change to the coffee-on-the-go way of life. Traditionally, three "shots" or cups of Attaya are served in one gathering or event, and each cup gets sweeter, which represents friendships becoming sweeter with time.



Evan Studenmund  
International Reporter

SANTIAGO, CHILE — I never knew that Santiago was the world's largest dog park. Vagrant dogs roam the streets at

will, looking for a shady spot to rest or a spilled platter of food to eat. The locals seem to rarely acknowledge their presence, but I cannot take my eyes off them.

Labradors, Collies, Great Danes and a host of other breeds

regularly join their human counterparts for a stroll down the sidewalk. The most fascinating part about this phenomenon is the level of good behavior that these forgotten dogs display. They rarely beg for food, and I have yet to see one foaming at the mouth. I heard that a few years ago, a referendum was cast in Santiago to determine if the dogs should be removed from the streets, and the people, both rich and poor, overwhelmingly voted to keep them. The only downside is that you must be careful where you step, for caca (poop) lurks around every corner.



# Style



PHOTOS BY BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer  
**TOP LEFT:** Sophomore Taylor Aucott lifts junior Kristen Sandler in senior Jess Duffy's piece.  
**TOP RIGHT:** Freshman Amanda Rhine (left) and sophomore Jennifer McAllister in "at home."  
**ABOVE:** Junior Alyse Keim (left), sophomore Chet Norment and junior Lauren Renck performed in "Number \_." The dance was choreographed by senior Kassi Mattera.



## Leaving a mark:

*Graduates of dance program conclude studies with emotional performances*

**Kassandra Cloos**  
 Producer of The Swing

The dance department at Elon University may be small, but during the past four years, it has fostered a second family for its students. This year marks the end of an era for the three seniors in the program, but they are looking forward to a life beyond Elon.

The students in the program worked together to produce this year's Senior Thesis Dance Concert, composed of original pieces created by each of the students and one faculty-choreographed piece featuring the three seniors. The show, held in the Black Box Theatre last week, was so well-attended Friday evening that a handful of people were turned away and needed to be put on a reservation list for shows the following day.

Senior Jess Duffy choreographed the first student-made piece, titled "at home." The three-part piece was set in post-World War II America and explored the constructs of mother-daughter, lesbian partners and husband-wife relationships in the context of the struggles each one evokes.

"My inspiration originally was just about the idea of relationships and what people deem appropriate and inappropriate," Duffy said. "Then actually getting into the constructs of that relationship and breaking down, 'Are they actually successful?'"

"This wouldn't have been possible without them, we firmly believe that. Yes, this is our choreography and our work, but it's just as much theirs as it is ours."

- Kassi Mattera  
 SENIOR DANCE MAJOR

The centerpiece of Duffy's work, which she said fueled the entire composition, was driven by the duet of two women demonstrating a lesbian relationship, exploring the first public occurrence of gay and lesbian partnerships.

The final part of "at home" explored the challenges couples faced when men returned from war to find their wives in different situations. It wasn't uncommon for women to start new relationships because they had no way of knowing whether their husbands would ever come home, according to Duffy, who did extensive research on the post-World War II era.

Senior Kassi Mattera choreographed the closing thesis, titled "Number \_." Mattera's cast came on stage dressed in stark white costumes that became more and more colorful as the dancers flung paint at each other and onto a canvas on the floor.

Each dancer immersed his or her hands in paint numerous times throughout the piece, showing how each artist influences the others as the colors mixed on the dancers' costumes whenever they interacted with one another.

Mattera's piece was inspired by painter Jackson Pollock, and she said she and her cast watched numerous documentaries about him to capture his style.

Senior Anastasia Windeler choreographed a visual response to a paisley pattern, which she found while doing research on Hinduism. The pattern is rooted in Middle Eastern culture, she said, and has been used to ward off

demons, which contributed to the darker edge found in Windeler's composition, titled "Boundaries."

"I found I wanted to use a visual inspiration because it's something I don't usually do," Windeler said. "I'm usually driven by music. So I found a paisley print, which is strongly based in Middle Eastern culture, and I based it off a paisley print."

The print was posted in the lobby outside the Black Box for the audience to see, and the distinct lines restricting the movement displayed in the print contributed to the emotional reaction of the piece.

All but one of the dancers wore a black ribbon tied around her. The title of the piece reflects the way some of the pieces in the pattern are trapped inside one another, Windeler said. Near the end of the piece, each dancer removed her ribbon and tied it around the dancer that started with none.

The Elon dance department has also left its mark on each of its students, making them feel at home. Duffy and Mattera said some have become each other's best friends since starting at Elon, and the entire department acts like a family.

"We really are a family in this department and that's what means the most to both of us," Mattera said. "Our casts were not just casts to us — they became our family for the semester."

The choreographers collaborated with their casts in a positive way, Mattera said, and both she and Duffy said they were incredibly grateful for the work their dancers put into the production week after week.

"This wouldn't have been possible without them," Mattera said. "We firmly believe that. Yes, this is our choreography and our work, but it's just as much theirs as it is ours. We've had people faceplant from that paint because it's slippery, fall off tables. They're amazing."

After graduation, Mattera expects to start working on acquiring her teaching licensure for K-12 dance education at Towson University in Baltimore, where she also has a job lined up at Dance Connection. Duffy said she is looking at moving to either Chicago or New York City to pursue work in a professional dance company.

Windeler is also majoring in international studies with a minor in business, and said she hopes to teach English abroad, incorporating dance into the lessons. She finds out in April whether she's been accepted to the Japan Exchange and Teaching program, and has been researching other opportunities abroad.

As the three seniors ready themselves to part ways after four strenuous years together, they reflected on the Elon dance family they will leave behind.

"It's hard in our profession to find people who are very supportive," Windeler said. "A lot of the time it's competitive because of the nature of grabbing money and opportunities — you have to be forceful with what you want, but this department really has shown all of us how to be supportive and growing as artists."

# Breathing life into Elon's brick and mortar

## University's interior designer brings passion to every project

Caitlin O'Donnell  
Editor-in-Chief

It's the faces that tell all, according to Holly Hodge, interior designer for Elon University.

"Just to see people's faces for the first time when they're walking through when everything is in place — just to see people's gratitude — that's what makes what I do all worth it," she said.

Since arriving at Elon about a year and a half ago, after spending eight years working in architecture, Hodge has been involved in the planning and design for the spaces students, faculty and staff visit everyday.

"One of the things about higher (education) that I love, when you think about it, is you've got everything in this little bubble," she said. "If you look at a student space, it has a different feel from a professional office space. Each space is different, which makes my job exciting."

Her first project included the creation of a graphics package for the Alumni Field House, which opened in January 2011. Since then, she has planned, among others, the new Colonnades residential area, the Student Professional Development Center, the Gerald L. Francis Center and the Station at Mill Point, slated to open in the fall.

And despite the experience she's gained, she said the job has not necessarily gotten easier.

"Each project is different and a new assignment," she said. "Every day is different for me."

For each project, Hodge follows a specific process to complete a design, working alongside a team of architects and project managers from the department of planning, design and construction management.

It begins with programming, or meeting with end users to determine their vision and use of the space. She



Holly Hodge, Elon's interior designer, finds inspiration for campus projects from a room brimming with carpet, flooring and other material samples. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

then transfers that idea to paper.

"(It's) fun because it's like a puzzle," she said. "I usually sketch things and then transfer to the computer to see if it fits in different areas. I like to visualize how things are going to look in real life."

Next comes the selection of materials for the space, including carpets, base colors and the accents that "make it come to life," according to Hodge.

"That's when you see a glimmer in peoples' eyes, like 'This is for real,'" she

said. "(It's) the little details that come into it — the art and signage that create a brand for the space that make it a bigger picture."

Finally, the project moves into construction, which Hodge monitors closely to ensure everything is built to the correct standards.

While not all universities have an interior designer, Hodge said she views her position as a key one.

"We have a holistic approach to the

campus, so there's some type of unity and standards involved so it's not just a building," she said. "We work to (achieve) consistency. We know what works and what doesn't."

Always a creative person, Hodge said she's sought a career that would allow her to utilize that passion on a daily basis.

"I've always been involved in design and I can honestly say I love what I do," she said. "Not many people can say that."

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# DJ TippyCat climbs to Internet success with mashups

Jeff Stern  
Online Managing Editor

The brain-damaged kitten from Washington, D.C. that couldn't walk straight probably never expected to become the name of an aspiring Elon University student disc jockey.

Sophomore Jay Cutler, also known as mash-up artist DJ TippyCat, saw this kitten in an alumnus' apartment while at a club swim team meet in D.C. last spring. Soon, this kitten became his team's mascot.

"A couple weeks after that, I started getting better at making music and I started DJing club swimming parties regularly," Cutler said. "People were like, 'You know what, you should be the mascot for club swimming.'"

When Cutler began making music, he was harsh on himself and didn't want to show it to anyone. Similarly, his friends weren't initially receptive to the music he was mixing together on his Macbook Pro.

"Eventually I got over that and showed it to my friends and they were like 'Uh, this isn't that good,'" Cutler said. "They were brutally honest and I needed that. I was like 'OK, I need to make this better.'"

Mitch Plummer, a Class of 2011 graduate who also goes by Mitch Mash, was the one who got Cutler hooked on DJing.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what he comes out with," said Plummer, who identifies himself as a mash-up artist hobbyist and not as a DJ. "Being in school, he has a lot of time. It's the best time to cultivate this hobby and talent and passion."

Cutler has a strong online support system of other established DJs, according to Plummer. Through websites such as Turntable.fm and SoundCloud.com, he is forming connections impossible in the past.

Currently majoring in sport and event management, Cutler never thought he'd get back into music. He quit playing piano after 11 years, but the musical experience behind the keys has helped Cutler.

"As long as you have a basic understanding of keys, pitch, tone, stuff like that, you can do pretty much anything you want," Cutler said.

And the constant practice has helped



Sophomore Jay Cutler mixed his new song 'Slam Mitch Five' from his dorm room in Kivette Hall using a free version of the program Virtual DJ. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

his skills, too.

"I've heard all of these songs hundreds of thousands of times," said Tyler Oberle, Cutler's roommate. "They're like the soundtrack of my life."

Oberle has lived with Cutler since they arrived at Elon. According to the roommates, the pair has a neighbor who does not appreciate the loud music through the thin Kivette Hall walls, but Oberle has enjoyed watching his friend grow and develop his DJ skills.

Cutler has shown growth as well. His latest track, 'Slam Mitch Five,' was recently featured on popular music blogs such as Dirty Mexican Lemonade (DML.fm), a site founded in part by Elon sophomore Conor Ambrose.

From that, he got a lot of new followers, and other DJs are now asking

to collaborate with him.

Despite Internet success, he said he does still feel some resistance from home.

"My parents are like 'Is this distracting you from your school work?'" Cutler said. "They're like, 'You're here to go to school,' which I understand, but I think everyone needs a hobby."

But Cutler's parents have plenty to be proud of. He spearheads Campus Kitchen at Elon and will lead a service trip to Washington, D.C. during spring break to help feed the homeless.

When it comes to music, his friends have cut the criticism and are now impressed with what Cutler has produced with just a computer. He's interested in playing bigger shows, but the lack of additional equipment is holding him back.

"For something like Tap House or West End, I'd definitely want to rent higher-end equipment, and I don't think I can find that around Burlington," Cutler said.

After Elon, he hopes to work for the Washington Capitals in a management role. Even hockey-rink side, that DJ experience could come into play.

"A group came down here to play at the Fat Frog recently," Cutler said. "One of them is the official DJ for the Charlotte Bobcats. The DJ industry is getting really broad with what you can do with it."

While DJ TippyCat may be mixing tracks alone on his computer, DJs, just like the music they're mashing up, require a process of collaboration.

"You can not learn enough about what you do as a DJ," Cutler said. "We all learn from each other. We all talk to each other."

## Internship coordinator abandoned spotlight to help students get in it

Janae Frazier  
Multimedia Reporter

In college, Nagatha Tonkins, director of internships and external relations for the School of Communications, said she was at a disadvantage. She did not know how to iron or wash clothes very well, because her mother would always do those tasks for her, encouraging her daughter to read or do homework.

Now, she works to help college students put their best foot forward, as her mother did for her.

She was uncertain about what she wanted to study in her undergraduate years at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, but settled on communications. With her current career based around internships, it is only fitting that Tonkins received her first job from one. As an undergraduate, Tonkins interned with WLOE-FM, a radio station in Eden. She was hired after her internship and graduated with a bachelor's degree in speech and mass communication.

This decision eventually led to a series of journalistic achievements, including the success of hundreds of Elon interns.

### A passion to serve

As a reporter, Tonkins chose stories that could help people. She was the first consumer advocacy reporter in the High Point market. She not only helped her viewers, but also people inside the newsroom.

She was assigned to work with interns at the station, and it was then that she discovered she loved working with students.

"They needed more information, more guidance," Tonkins said.

Tonkins attributed this love of

assisting others to her upbringing. She said her parents were always helping people, and she adopted that trait from them.

Her mother was a trained nurse, but never practiced because she focused on doing all that she could for her family.

Her family was also focused on education.

It was Tonkins' mother who pushed her to get her graduate degree. With that encouragement, Tonkins returned to her alma mater to earn a master's degree in educational media.

During her studies, Tonkins was a newscaster for WGHP-TV and a graduate student simultaneously.

"If you want something bad enough, you will find a way to do it," she said.

A typical day for Tonkins included shooting and writing a story, then running to her night classes. In addition, she had a daughter and husband waiting for her at home.

During her graduate years, Tonkins also secured an intern position at a company that had no internship program.

"Don't accept the no," she said. "Be able to sell your skills and you will be able to create your own opportunities."

Tonkins was the first intern at the American Express corporate training department because she got her foot in the door.

As a result, her reporting career ended in 1985. The decision came down to the fact that her love of students outweighed her love of reporting.

"There's more joy for me in teaching," she said.

### From television to the classroom

In 1986, Tonkins began teaching journalism at North Carolina A & T. A year later, she also became the internship director.

"Internships are wonderful because it enhances the classroom instruction," she said. "There is enthusiasm and excitement in the end, no matter what the outcome."

During her 22 years at North Carolina A & T, she developed numerous courses and programs, including the National Association of Black Journalists' Student Broadcast Short Course. This annual short course gives students the opportunity to network, learn from the country's top journalists and produce a television newscast.

Her great contributions and success as an educator were recognized nationally in 2008, when she was awarded the NABJ Journalism Educator of the Year Award.

### A new challenge

At that time, Tonkins was ready for a new challenge. She started at Elon in 2008, and became a valuable faculty member, according to her peers.

"I love her," said Ross Wade, assistant director of career services for the School of Communications. "She's incredibly knowledgeable about broadcast news."

Wade said Tonkins is one of the most professional and positive people he has ever met. He said she has lots of great contacts and strategies for finding internships. Wade said he



Nagatha Tonkins (right), left a successful broadcast career to help students like senior Farley Fitzgerald, student internship director. FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS

often goes to Tonkins for advice on how to handle a parent or a student.

"I hope one day I can be as knowledgeable and connected as she is," he said. "Inspire and educate — I think that's what she was born to do. I'm so glad I get to work with her every day."

Students share this appreciation for Tonkins.

"The great thing about Mrs. Tonkins is that she is such a great, friendly, approachable person," senior Sam Baranowski said.

Tonkins helped Baranowski secure an interview with "60 Minutes." After she received the internship, Tonkins visited her in New York. In this way, she has tried to follow her golden rule.

"Be mindful how you treat people," Tonkins said.

That is the best career advice she said she has ever received.

"Your success is not of your own making," she said. "You were blessed to be a blessing to others."

# Business blooms for student entrepreneur

Rebecca Wickel  
Features Editor

When Elizabeth Greenberg's friend was suddenly diagnosed with thyroid cancer last spring, silk flowers didn't do the trick.

The Elon University sophomore was not allowed to bring live arrangements to the oncology facility where her close friend was receiving treatment. Her background in business and passion for helping others led to the creation of Non-Scents Flowers, an alternative to traditional flowers for those who can't care for live plants.

"I went to Michaels, got a cup and made very simple origami flowers with funny quotes from 'The Hangover' and 'Seinfeld,' and put it together as an arrangement," she said. "My mom helped me a lot (last summer) and by July, we had decided that it was going to be a business."

The success the pair has found is rooted in a need for alternative sentimental gifts in oncology wards, a problem her family knows too well.

"My mom had cancer and received beautiful lilies. But she had to give them away because they smelled so potent," Greenberg said.

This experience taught her what to do when her friend was diagnosed.

"Live flowers aren't allowed in cancer facilities, and really, what's a 22-year-old guy going to do with silk flowers?" she said.

With help from her mother, Mimi, Greenberg began pursuing copyrights, applying for an LLC and handling the legal and financial responsibilities of starting a small business.

Together, the two make the arrangements. Greenberg's grandfather managed a family business that produced parts for airplane engines. The business recently passed to her mother and uncle, and the her mother's experience in business operations and confidence has proven helpful in the process.

"It was just me and my mom building this," Greenberg said. "We've always been really close and she's pushed me to do anything I can think of and I know that she's always there."

According to Greenberg, the two make a good team.

"I can do the presentations to bankers, the Twitter and the blog and the Facebook, but I don't know much about applying for LLCs or doing the accounting stuff," she said.

Greenberg's mother is not the only guidance for the student's business venture.

"Professor (Gary) Palin was the one I leaned on for questions, ideas, support and help," Greenberg said. "I had taken a course with him and Dr. (Sharon) Hodge in the marketing department in Winter Term 2011 in Argentina that focused on a startup company. It really was that experience that threw me into a startup environment and then later on when this idea came up, I could pull from that."

Palin, a senior lecturer in entrepreneurship, said Greenberg came to him during concept development and together they discussed strategies and potential obstacles.

"Fail to plan, plan to fail," he said. "A great start (for Elon students) would be to pursue a major or minor in

entrepreneurship."

This has become Greenberg's plan. As an entrepreneurship major, she plans to use practical experience to get a job at a company after graduation before making Non-Scents Flowers her career.

"I've always been interested in the TOMS idea of social entrepreneurship, but at the same time I'm interested in getting experience at a pre-existing company," she said. "Ideally, I'd work at one for a few years, and then when my mom's retired, I'd take (the business) over."

The success of the business has kept Greenberg busy, even at Elon. While on campus, she handles the company's social media and works with her mother to plan presentations and partnerships with hospitals.

"It's something that has been going really well, and it's been surprising how quickly people are grabbing onto it," she said.

## MORE ONLINE

Hear more about what Elizabeth has to say about starting her own business.

<http://bit.ly/EPflowers>

SHERYL DAVIS |  
Multimedia Editor



Sophomore Elizabeth Greenberg used YouTube to teach herself how to make the origami flowers used in the arrangements she sells at her company, Non-Scents Flowers. SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

## 'Not just a drink in a bar:'

Toasting milestone with mentors at Turning 21 dinner

Rebecca Wickel  
Features Editor

Once a semester, the chime of glass and a few spoken words ring in the sacred age for college students. But at one of the university's treasured rites of passage, those glasses aren't full of alcohol.

"Ironically, we toast sparkling grape juice because at that moment, it isn't about alcohol at all. It's about so much more," said Janet Fuller, university chaplain of Elon University.

Turning 21: Coming of Age at Elon celebrates the gateway to adulthood for students and their mentors. Sponsored by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, the event is a chance for reflection during a time of growth.

"Former Chaplain Richard McBride started it because college students are prone to thinking 21 is the drinking age, but there's more to it than that," she said. "It's time to become an independent adult and get ready to move away from home."

This period of change is not wasted on students.

"Now that I am 21, I feel like I have a greater responsibility to be a global leader," said junior Whitley Dozier. "I am currently in a stage

of growth in all aspects of my life. This stage that I am growing into is challenging, but I am learning so much more about myself than ever."

A key part of the celebration is the presence of mentors. Each student is encouraged to bring a faculty member, adviser or supervisor that has influenced his or her growth.

This opportunity recognizes the concept of mentorship and honors Elon faculty and staff as well as students, according to Phil Smith, associate chaplain and director of religious life.

Dozier invited her residence life area director, who she said has grown with her both professionally and personally.

"My guest shared some really nice remarks that really made me thankful for our friendship," she said. "Sometimes, we can get so caught up in our busy lives that we forget to recognize people that have had an impact on us, and I think this ceremony really brings students and faculty

together to share these memories and celebrate our coming of age."

Fuller said recognizing accomplishments helps students prepare for the changes they will experience.

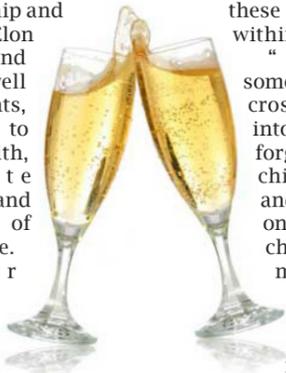
"The world is going to see you differently after you turn 21, and we want to give you the chance to see yourself differently, too," Fuller said.

Junior Deanna Fox said she expects to feel these changes within herself.

"It's something like crossing over into adulthood, forgetting our childish ways and moving on to a new chapter in my life," Fox said.

This transition is exactly what the chaplain has in mind for the event.

"At the ceremony, we like to say 'Welcome to the third decade of life,' because it's the decade of your life of great productivity," Fuller said. "You decide what kind of family you'll have, have children and get your first job. That's not just about a drink in a bar, that's about who you're going to be for the rest of your life."



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STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter

Music professors Victoria Fischer Faw (front) and Dan Skidmore rehearse a piece of chamber music from their repertoire. The Phoenix Piano Trio strives for a varied selection of music each year.

## A talent triumverate: Professors' passion plays out beyond classroom

**Stephanie Butzer**  
Senior Reporter

It seems as though the Phoenix Piano Trio was made for each other.

Department of Music professors Meaghan Skogen and Dan Skidmore were new faculty members when colleague Victoria Fischer Faw introduced the idea of making a piano trio. This type of trio would consist of a piano, which Fischer plays, a violist and cellist. Skidmore and Skogen played the respective instruments and jumped on the idea.

Although the Phoenix Piano Trio aims to give one 90-minute performance each semester, the group canceled its spring

recital because of a medical emergency within the group. But they still spend much of their free time rehearsing and discovering new music, which Skogen said is a testament to the group's musical and personal chemistry.

"This is a group where we really have both, which truly is rare," Skogen said. "Sometimes it's just a look from each other and we know exactly what we're going to do and that's what makes it fun when you play."

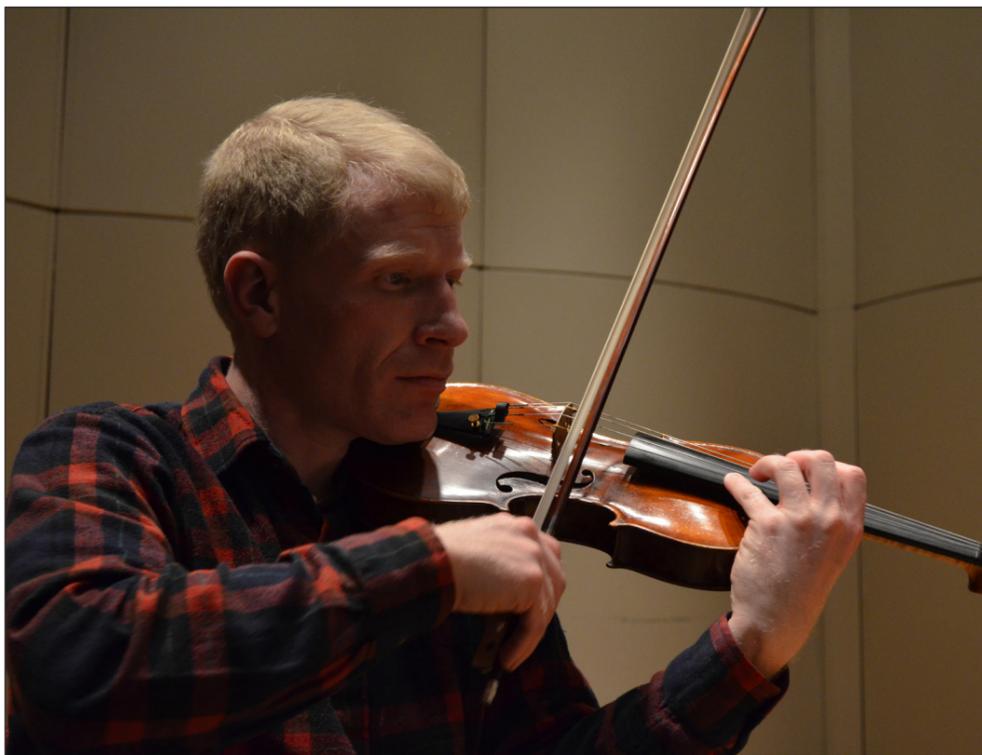
The trio strives to give each member an

equal voice. They bounce ideas off each other until they find something that seems to work for the particular piece they're practicing. The trio agrees this is vital, and as a result, they recognize the importance of each group member.

"We all really like to dig in below the surface and explore," Fischer said. "The chamber music is so special because it's more intimate. It's like a team of specialists."

Skidmore agreed the group's musical interests allow for a varied repertoire.

"We read a bunch of things," Skidmore said. "We all have stacks of music. Like reading a book, somebody would bring (in a piece and we would read through



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter

Dan Skidmore practices violin for an upcoming recital. The Phoenix Piano Trio hopes to perform during the spring.

it together and (see) if it's possible, or if we really like it or if it's for a long-term project."

The Phoenix Piano Trio said it hopes to inspire Elon students through its music. According to group members, college imposes stress on many and they hope to relieve some of this stress by allowing students to enjoy a night of relaxation away from studying. If they reach this goal, the recital is a success.

But the trio's hopes to connect with students go beyond the stage. Not only are the members of the trio active performing artists, they are also active educators.

"The Phoenix Piano Trio is a great example of professors pursuing their career outside of the classroom by practicing what they preach as professional musicians," said junior Wesley Rose.

Group members said they hope to see more student musicians following in their footsteps.

"The old joke is, 'How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice,'" Fischer said.

In graduate school, Fischer practiced eight hours a day. She now works directly with Rose during private piano lessons, and Rose said there has never been a dull moment.

"Her personal commitment to my growth as a professional musician never ceases to impress," Rose said.

Group members agreed the trio has gotten to where it is today because each member loves what they do, and they enjoy the many rehearsals leading up to a performance.

Skogen said she encourages students to follow their instincts and pursue the things

they are passionate about.

"Find what it is you love, don't give up and go after it full-heartedly because you deserve that," Skogen said. "Everybody deserves to be the best they want to be and it's worth the work, it's worth the practice, it's worth the effort."

### MORE ONLINE

Hear the Phoenix Piano Trio in action.

<http://bit.ly/EPtrio>

SHERYL DAVIS | Multimedia Editor



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter

Professor Meaghan Skogen plays cello in rehearsal.

# Acorn transformed from coffee shop to center stage

Grace Elkus  
News Editor

Dimmed lights, flying sunglasses and a live acoustic rendition of Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" sure doesn't sound like the typical atmosphere at Acorn Coffee Shop. But on Thursday nights throughout the year, the cafe in downtown Elon gets both an aesthetic and acoustic makeover for Open Mic Night.

Created by Acorn employee Eddie Talley and manager Max Akhlaghi in the fall of 2011, Open Mic Nights provide students an opportunity to perform for their peers while bringing activity and an increased sense of community to the coffee shop.

Although only four of the 10 acts scheduled to perform showed up, the Open Mic Night Feb. 23 brought one of the largest crowds and some of the strongest performances of the year, according to Talley.

"The last one we had in the fall term, it was kind of slow because there was a lot of things going on during that time," Talley said. "But the first one was very successful. And this one has been a good success. There are a lot of students at Elon that got talent. A very good group of kids."

The first group to perform was "Brought to You By," a newly formed five-man band represented at the event by



(Left to right) Sophomores Andrew Kidd, Ethan Smith and Elliot Dodd perform at Acorn's Open Mic Night Feb. 23.

sophomore members Andrew Kidd, Ethan Smith and Elliot Dodd. The group, whose cellist and harmony singer were unable to perform, jammed out to "Little Lion Man" by Mumford & Sons as the audience sang along. Later in the night, the band performed "Wagon Wheel" by Old Crow Medicine Show.

Members of "Brought to You By" said they credit Acorn for bringing them together as a band and inspiring them to perform for an audience.

"I started peddling around

with the guitar and learning a couple songs, and we saw an (advertisement for) Open Mic Night and got together and said, 'Hey, we can do this,'" Smith said.

Smith and Dodd, who are roommates, recruited Kidd to be their banjoist despite the fact that Kidd had never touched the instrument.

"We asked him for Elon's Got Talent," Smith said. "We were doing it with just the guitar and vocals, so we didn't have that depth."

The band, which has won two Open Mic Nights, said it hopes to also perform at Midnight Meals and, if given the opportunity, would love to perform actual gigs. For now, the bandmates said they appreciate the opportunity to share their music at Open Mic Nights.

"It's really nice, because we mess around in our dorm room and learn stuff, and we get to share it," Dodd said.

But it was the fourth act of the night that was favored most by the audience. Guitarist Sean Dolan and vocalist Michael Callahan began with a unique version of "Single Ladies," transitioned into a more serious song written by Dolan and ended the set with an acoustic rendition of Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back."

Although this was their first time playing at Acorn, Dolan and Callahan have performed both individually and together at a variety of different venues. They began performing together in the fall, when they roomed together in Florence, Italy.

"I couldn't go a whole semester without playing guitar, and I bought one (in Florence)," Dolan said.

"(Callahan) and I started making covers of fun songs and played at a talent show. Once we got back here, we said if we can find an opportunity to play, we

should keep it going."

Similar to "Brought to You By," Dolan and Callahan are looking into performing at Midnight Meals and hope to take advantage of other performance opportunities presented to them. But their busy schedules often prevent them from taking their music seriously.

"He and I are both really busy, so it's more (likely we'll perform) if we both have time," Dolan said. "We both really enjoy doing it and we kept trying to get our stuff recorded, so once we get on that it will get a little bit more serious. We take it seriously when we can, but sometimes it's hard because we are both so busy."

The crowd sang along as Dolan and Callahan took the stage a final time to perform "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele, "Everything" by Michael Buble and another original song dedicated to the students in the audience who had been in Florence with Dolan and Callahan in the fall.

"Music is a great way to bring people together, and I think an Open Mic Night is a great facilitator of that," Dolan said. "From a listener's standpoint, it's fun to see your friends do what they love to do."

Dolan and Callahan took away the prize of 25 food dollars, a decision made by Talley and other staff members at Acorn. Talley said he will continue to host Open Mic Nights throughout the year because of the increased student interaction the nights provide.

"I enjoy the students, I love the students and that's what keeps me coming to work here," Talley said. "It's for me to get to know them a little better. Get them to come to the coffee shop."

And Dolan said he would encourage more students to sign up.

"I think the important thing about an open mic is that it's completely open," Dolan said. "It doesn't matter how long you've been playing, or how good you are. You just go and get the experience."



Juniors Sean Dolan (left) and Michael Callahan debuted an acoustic cover of Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" during Open Mic Night. The duo walked away with 25 food dollars each, after Acorn employees deemed them the winners.

## Breaking free from fixed fashions

Picking out the typical Elon student in a crowd based on their style isn't



Alyssa Baxter  
Guest Columnist

exactly tricky — the brown Hunter boots and green Barbour jacket don't exactly bring the word "diversity" to mind. It can be difficult

to find your own style. Here are some tips to transforming the campus norm and constructing your chic closet this spring semester.

Though they might be a wardrobe staple, brown boots certainly don't have to cost hundreds of dollars. Try a few thrift and consignment stores to find worn vintage brown boots or even cowboy boots. You can also switch out tall boots for some little brown booties once in a while. Playing around in shoes that you don't have to spend a fortune on is good for your wallet and good for a more sundry look. Don't be afraid to pair these with high-waisted shorts, socks, a skirt or a dress for a more playful spring look in comparison with the typical skinny jeans and boots.

With spring just around the corner, the casual jacket that you wear daily should be light and comfortable. An anorak jacket is a perfect combination of the two, adding the element of nonchalant style. Usually hooded, this jacket makes a great fit for those rainy April days. They're also thin enough to make it cool for the warm, sunny days that are hopefully right around the corner. Playing around with distressed denim and military styles are also a great way to show personality instead of the puffy vests and jackets usually spotted on the walkways of Elon.

Accessories act as icing on the cake, and every girl needs a cute bag to carry around campus. Mix it up with a large satchel or cross-body bag and even a vintage tote or unique book bag. Have a wide variety of bags at your disposal to correlate with different outfits. A different bag with the same outfit can change the whole look. Accessory pieces can also act as inspiration for an ensemble, which can bring out your individuality and personal aesthetics.

This spring, don't be just another Burberry-wearing, Tory Burch-toting student. With a season as colorful as spring, it's important to embrace your individuality. Let your own style stand out and allow the annoyingly roundabout pathways of Elon's campus to be your runway.

## Peace Corps at Elon University

Last year 18 Elon graduates began the experience of a lifetime by joining the Peace Corps.

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### MORE ONLINE

See what happened during Open Mic Night.

<http://bit.ly/EPacornmic>

MORGAN MAYER | Multimedia Reporter

## Spanish Center hosts international holiday celebration



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Spanish instructor Ricardo Mendoza Castano paints the face of community member Liliana Cardenas during the Department of Foreign Languages' celebration of El Carnaval, an international holiday that occurs before Lent. Mendoza (below) was one of many faculty members and students who gathered Feb. 21 in El Centro de Espanol to recognize the holiday, which is celebrated in several Spanish-speaking regions. Elon has commemorated international holidays throughout the semester, including a Mardi Gras celebration hosted by the Catholic Campus Ministry earlier this month.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

## Student record label schedules rapper on rise

Ethan Smith  
Reporter

Limelight Records, Elon University's student record label, has booked up-and-coming rapper Ryshon Jones to perform at College Street Tap House March 2. Cooly Wright from Atlanta will be performing as the opening act.

"Both of these performers are artists on the rise," said Neima Abdulahi, co-founder of Limelight Records. "Having them come here widens their fan base and gets their music out to a different audience."

Jones is a rapper from Philadelphia and describes his style as a blend of influences, ranging from Pink Floyd to Kanye West. He has continued to make appearances in the rap and hip-hop music realm.

Limelight Records contacted Jones because they knew he was a rising talent and because they felt his style of music would appeal to an Elon audience, according to Abdulahi.

"I knew that Ryshon Jones had a good buzz and was on the rise," Abdulahi said. "He's gotten coverage and reviews from major hip-hop sites and he has a strong following."

Abdulahi said Limelight Records is looking forward to hosting Jones as the headliner.

"We think his sound and artistry would appeal to an Elon audience," Abdulahi said. "We're excited to have him perform at Tap House."

In addition to the opening act and headliner, Limelight Records is giving one of its own the chance to share his music with a wider audience as well.

The record label recently selected junior Tyler Marenyi to perform between sets. He will have the opportunity to share his music with Jones and Wright as well as the Elon audience, Abdulahi said. Putting together this event is something new for the staff of Limelight Records, but one that's been handled in a professional manner, according to Abdulahi.

"It's a collaborative effort between all the staff members," she said. "This event will help stamp Limelight Records as an organization that can put together an event. (The organization) aims to create a tradition so that students can participate in something very similar to the music industry," she said.

Limelight Records picked up nine artists last year and has already signed two more artists this year.

A presale on \$8 tickets is currently being held in the days before the show. Tickets will be \$10 at the door.

## Visiting sculptor molds current exhibit around technology shift

Lindsay Kimble  
Senior Reporter

Sculptor and installation artist Damian Yanessa said he has trouble thinking two-dimensionally, because of his background in sculpture and ceramics.

Such challenges ultimately provided inspiration for "Shifting Ground," the exhibit Yanessa is currently showing from Feb. 10 to March 7 in Elon's Arts West Gallery.

Yanessa, whose studio is based out of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, works as an adjunct professor of art at George Washington University.

Yanessa's overall body of work explores how technology is changing the way people interact with their environment. His pieces employ light, translucency and reflection in order to draw awareness to the space and ultimately communicate Yanessa's vision.

"Basically as a sculptor, I try to examine the modern world with visual transformations," Yanessa said. "My work is very characteristic of what is happening in the world today. My pieces carry a trajectory of meaning through the material significance of the mixed media components."

The "Shifting Ground" exhibit and Yanessa's accompanying lecture at Elon were tailored specifically for the university and Arts West, according to Yanessa.

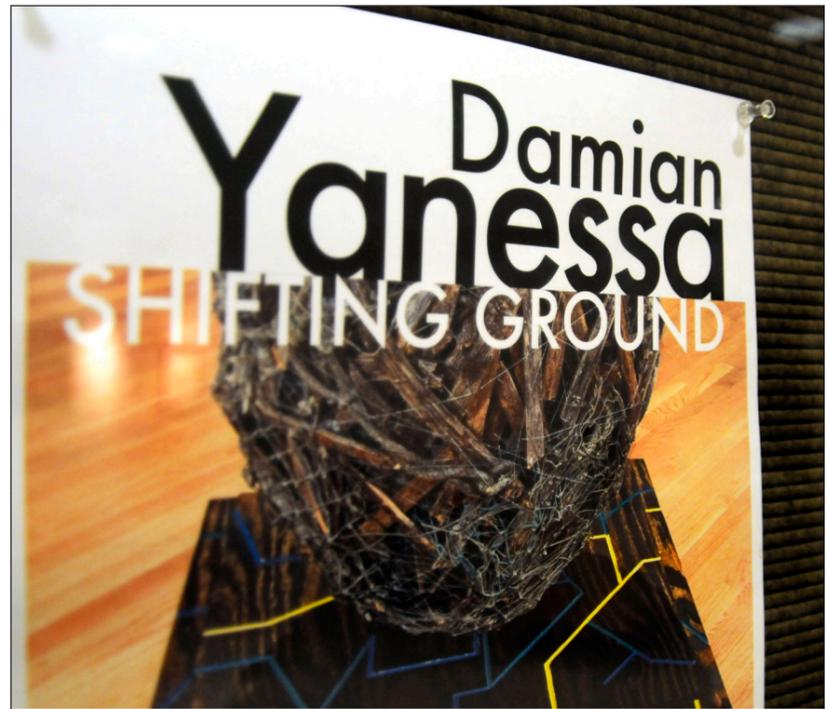
"What I am saying with the exhibit is that it's very important to talk about materiality," he said. "I'm trying to think about the world around us."

Yanessa created two of the three pieces in the exhibit when he was approached by Elon to hold an exhibit in Arts West. He created and worked in the final piece accordingly. Once the exhibit at Elon is over, the sculptures will likely be displayed as separate pieces.

"Arts West is not a huge space, and I don't like to crowd a space when designing an exhibit, so three pieces worked well," Yanessa said.

Yanessa visited Elon Feb. 13 to serve as a visiting artist for the Bachelor of Fine Arts art program. Seniors in the program are required to create a thesis consisting of a written piece and exhibit. Several of the students Yanessa spoke with had similar aspirations and observations about life in the modern world, he said.

"It was nice to talk to them about



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

Sculptor Damian Yanessa's "Shifting Ground" will be showing in Arts West Gallery until March 7.

what they're going through," Yanessa said. "I can give them a different perspective because they are used to working with and talking to their professors here."

Yanessa said it was also important for the seniors to see how an exhibition is set up and the installation process that goes into it.

"We have artists visit (at George Washington) as well, but they lecture and don't bring work," Yanessa said. "I think it's great that Elon has the visiting artists bring their work. It's one of these tools used in order to educate students through art. That's why I do try to have at least one exhibition a year at a university."

Yanessa received his BFA from Alfred University and his Master of Fine Arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art, in addition to post-bachelor study programs and a year of studio art.

"When I went to grad school, I studied sculpture," Yanessa said. "Ceramic arts taught me about the movement and complexity my pieces needed to have. The way that sculpture is made refers to how people adapt to their changing environments. They shift to match their surroundings."

### 2011-2012 Opening Receptions:

- Sept. 5:** The Plastic Box
- Sept. 12:** Indrani Nayar-Gall
- Oct. 3:** John Douglas Powers
- Nov. 9:** "Ally/Enemy," Heather Layton
- Nov. 21:** SJE Art Exhibition
- Dec. 1:** "Visualizing Multiculturalism"
- Jan. 9:** "Fabulous Fibers"
- Feb. 1:** African Art Collections
- Feb. 6:** "Current Trends in Print"
- March 12:** "Analytic Mark," Jelena Berenc
- April 15-19:** BA Senior Thesis Exhibitions
- April 16:** Tom Hubbard, photography
- April 29:** BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Track and field finishes fifth at SoCon Indoor Championships

The Elon track and field team placed fifth at the Southern Conference Indoor Championships in Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23-24. The team finished with six new school records and one title.

Freshman Louise PrevotEAU won the women's 800-meter run pentathlon with an Elon-record time of 2:19.55. Sophomore Veronica Luedke was second, running the event in 2:22.76.

The 4x400-meter relay team, comprised of Luedke, sophomore Bria Bell, junior Christine Pacewicz and senior Amy Salek finished third in the event with a school-record time of 3:49.14.

Sophomore Charlise Morgan (weight throw), Luedke (60-meter hurdles), junior Emily Tryon (3000-meter run) and sophomore Allyson Oram (5000-meter run) also set new Elon records.

## Men's golf finishes 16th at Wexford Plantation Intercollegiate tourney

With a three-round score of 943 (322-319-302), the Elon Phoenix men's golf team finished in 16th-place at the Wexford Plantation Intercollegiate in Hilton Head, S.C., Feb. 20-21.

Sophomore John Somers had the best score for the Phoenix with a three-round total of 230 (81-74-75), tied for 28th in the field of 90 golfers.

Senior Tanner Norton finished tied for 49th with a 234 (77-82-75) and redshirt sophomore Blayze DiPasquale shot a 238 (83-80-75) to earn 66th place.

Georgia State University freshman Damon Stephenson finished first with a 216 (72-71-73), and the Panthers won the tournament with an overall 892 (297-294-301).

The Phoenix's next match is March 5-6 at the Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate in Aiken, S.C.

## Women's tennis continues winning streak with three victories at home

The Elon women's tennis team swept a triple-header Feb. 25 by defeating Queens University 7-0, Winston-Salem State University 7-0 and Meredith College 5-0, and now sits at 8-2 on the season by winning their fourth, fifth and sixth straight matches.

Against Queens, sophomore doubles team Jordan Johnston and Frida Jansaker claimed the doubles point with an 8-1 victory over Erin Williams and Christina Rustscheff. The Phoenix swept their singles matches, getting wins from Johnston, junior Briana Berne, freshman Maria Camara Ruiz, senior Kaylyn Smialek, freshman Katy Canada and freshman Barbara Lazarova. Berne and Camara Ruiz added a doubles match victory.

Against Winston-Salem State, Johnston and Jansaker won their doubles match again, while Lazarova, Jansaker, Canada and Smialek all won singles matches.

Berne and Camara Ruiz won the lone doubles match against Meredith, and the Phoenix got singles victories from Lazarova, Jansaker, Canada and Smialek.

## Men's tennis splits double-header

The Elon men's tennis team split a double-header Feb. 25, defeated Queens University 6-1 then dropped a 4-3 decision to South Carolina State University.

The doubles team of sophomore Cameron Silverman and freshman Jordan Kaufman was one of three pairs that won to help sweep the doubles matches, defeating Raahil Dhruva and Christaan Lee-Daigle 8-4 in the one spot. Sophomore Andrew Prince, freshman Juan Madrid, freshman Christopher Geaslen and junior Carlos Arboleda won singles matches for Elon.

South Carolina State won a close match, taking the doubles point by winning two of the three matches. Senior Eric Turner and Silverman won the lone doubles match for the Phoenix, while Silverman, Prince and freshman Stefan Fortmann won singles matches.

The team will open Southern Conference play March 3 at College of Charleston.



Senior Allie Solender (second from left, with plaque) was just a fan on the sidelines before becoming a manager for the Elon men's basketball team.

## For the love of the game: Elon fan transitions to athletic sphere

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

Even before she stepped on the court, she was a member of the team. Becoming a manager just made it official.

After stumbling on a sign in Moseley announcing a search for more basketball managers, senior Allie Solender described her shock as pure excitement.

"I sat there for five minutes because I was so excited that I could be part of the team that I cheer for all the time," she said.

Solender, now a manager for the men's basketball team, first distinguished herself as a proponent of college athletics while watching from the stands. Musically inclined, she began attending college athletics as a trumpet player for the marching band and pep band.

"Just like the fan support, it's important to have the band there and they do a good job, not just when they're playing, but when their instruments are down they are some of our most vocal supporters," said Will Roberson, men's basketball assistant coach.

For Solender as well, music and sports developed an inextricable connection.

"I definitely attribute my love of sports to my love of music," Solender

said.

From sitting in the stands she started to learn the names of the team members and rules of the sports. According to Solender, the design of the gym brings the spectators closer to the court and more invested in the team. Cheering and playing quickly characterized her college experience.

"Our coaching staff has been here for three years and Allie went on some road trips in the past as a fan," Roberson said. "She went on some away games and we would only have one or two fans there, and she would be one. It's rare for students to go to away games and we appreciate that."

Although she naturally attended all the football and men's basketball games as a member of the band, she has also become an avid supporter of the volleyball team, women's basketball team, men's soccer team and baseball team. And her enthusiasm as a fan has not gone unnoticed.

Following the soccer team's victory at the Southern Conference

tournament, the team presented the loyal fan with an autographed soccer ball.

"Her support throughout the season and during the playoffs meant a lot to use as a team and we thought it was necessary to show our support for her," senior center-midfielder James Carroll said. "We wanted to

give her a token of our appreciation and give her a soccer ball with all of our autographs on it."

But the sentiment is mutual. Solender describes watching the soccer team with the tournament as one of her most memorable Elon moments.

"It would have been a different experience if we won and didn't have fans there to celebrate with," Carroll said.

The baseball team gave her a jersey — No. 2, Chris Bresnahan's number — to wear to all their games.

"It's awesome because I actually know him," she said. "We took Current Issues in College Athletics together in Winter Term."

Solender developed friendships with the athletes in her class, which motivated her to support their teams.

"I wish I could support every team," she said. "I know that sounds really cliché. It has to do with scheduling, so I try to make it to the sports teams that any of my friends are playing on. I try to spread myself out as much as possible."

Now as manager, her role for the team has changed, but her spirit is unwavering.

"One thing about Allie is she always has a smile on her face," Roberson said. "It's easy to be distracted and think about things outside the team, and she always has a positive attitude and is ready. She does a good job of raising the spirits of everyone around her because she's always in a good mood and smiling."

Although Solender described her position as a glorified water boy, she said she enjoys the opportunity to be part of the team.

"Athletics is just one of the biggest representations of our school, so I wanted to be part of the team and part of the win," she said.

Mission accomplished.

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# Soccer never sleeps for this squad

*Short spring season allows women's team to develop skills, community*

Amanda Bender  
Senior Reporter

One week after the fall 2011 season closed, junior defender Claire O'Keeffe and the rest of the women's soccer team were craving an opportunity to get back on the field and compete. The spring season allows the team to get back out there, try some new things and grow together before the fall season, O'Keeffe said.

"It's fun. Without a spring season I don't know what we would do," she said. "Spring is really important for our development. Everything is focused around not only the team, but also individually."

Since the spring games will not count towards their record, head coach Chris Neal said he will be able to experiment how the team plays and learn more about each player's strong points. He said he does not want to go into this fall season not knowing each of his players' full potential.

"The most important goal is to find out as much about our players' positional abilities," Neal said. "When we go into the fall, I don't want to look back and go, 'I wonder if Chelsey Stark can play attack and center-midfield,' because I want to find that out in the spring."

The spring is about the younger players on the team building toughness both mentally and physically, Neal said. His goal is to better prepare the team to win in the fall by focusing on the technical side of the game and helping them become smarter players.

"Coach has put a huge emphasis on defending this spring, which is definitely something we need to improve on," O'Keeffe said. "(We need) to let less goals in and be more tenacious, never hiding, always doing your part and not passing roles."

The rising upperclassmen on the team will use these spring games to see where the team is now that the seniors have left and what holes the incoming freshmen need to fill, said Simi Dhaliwal, a sophomore forward. These games will show where people thrive on the field, she said.

"This spring is a chance for the two new captains to cut their teeth and start figuring out how they lead," Neal said. "It is also interesting to see some of these sophomores who are going to be juniors naturally speak up more and seek more responsibility."

During the spring season, each team is allowed five days to play as many games as they would like. The first day of matches will be Feb. 29, with games against University of North Carolina at Greensboro, one of the team's rivals, and Duke University, the national runner-up. Other schools in the team's schedule include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.

"We have a lot of history with (UNC-Greensboro), but skill-wise playing teams like Duke and Chapel Hill are some of the top teams in the nation," Dhaliwal said. "We are excited to play with them and compare ourselves with them. We should be on that level."

The biggest challenge for the team will be knowing they are good



The Elon women's soccer team is preparing for a series of spring games against teams such as Duke University and the University of North Carolina.

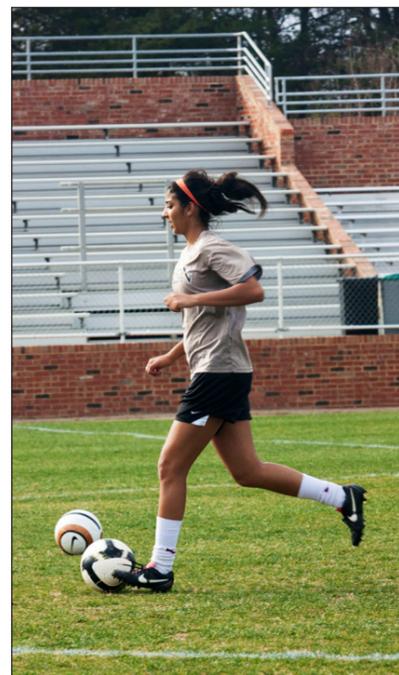
SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

enough to compete against teams like Duke, Dhaliwal said. The team needs to just play like it is another soccer team and not let the reputation of their competitors get into their heads, O'Keeffe added.

"We can level with the other teams," Dhaliwal said. "We are really confident about our team this year, which is a change. It is going to be different."

The spring season was almost canceled by administration in an attempt to cut costs, Neal said. A petition signed by coaches and about 9,000 athletes resulted in a veto of the legislation. While it may be different for other schools, Neal said the spring season is inexpensive for Elon because the university only has to pay for the gas to and from games.

The players are simply getting the more valuable currency: real game experience. For a team with just one senior, that experience is worth any price that needs to be paid. Even just a few more laps at practice.



Sophomore midfielder Simi Dhaliwal is one of several players returning for the women's squad.

SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer



The spring season is a way for the players to try new things on the field, according to junior defender Claire O'Keeffe.

SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

## Women's Soccer Spring Schedule 2012

### February 29

Greensboro, N.C. at 6:30 p.m.  
vs. UNCG and Duke

### March 31

Elon, N.C. at 10:30 a.m.  
vs. Columbus State, Wingate and Campbell

### April 4

Elon, N.C. at 7 p.m.  
vs. UNC and High Point

### April 11

Charlotte, N.C. at 7:30 p.m.  
vs. UNCC

### April 21

Raleigh, N.C. at 11:30 a.m.  
vs. NC State



AMANDA BENDER | Senior Reporter

## Jansaker, Johnston's chemistry winning formula for women's tennis

Nick Brooke  
Reporter

The Elon women's tennis team can look to a pair of second-year players as the push behind its 8-2 record halfway through the 2012 season.

Sophomore doubles tandem Frida Jansaker and Jordan Johnston are currently ranked 43rd in the nation among doubles, making history as the first Elon girls and the only members of the Southern Conference to be nationally recognized.

Women's tennis head coach Elizabeth Anderson attributes the turnaround to the hard work and development of her young players, as well as their teamwork.

"They have really good chemistry, get along really well and they've always been friends off the court," Anderson said. "On the court, their games complement each other really well."

Both players hint at almost a telepathic bond.

"We don't even have to say anything anymore," Johnston said. "I know wherever I need her, she will be there."

Originally from Sweden, Jansaker was recruited to play at Elon following her primary schooling. She sees a significant difference between the American and Swedish games.

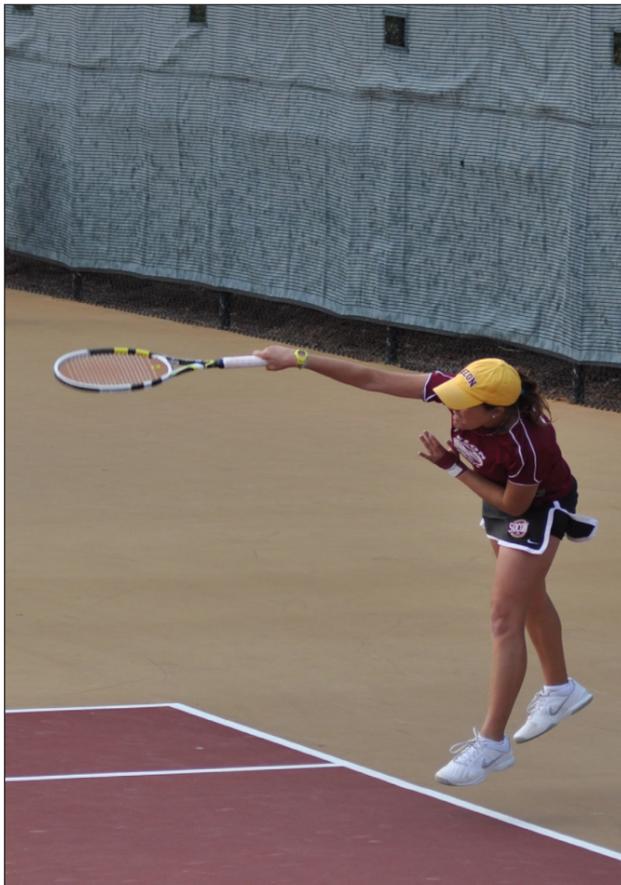
"Here in America, there are so many more players, all with different styles of game," she said. "As a result, college tennis competition in the states is much tougher."

The duo, which is 7-1 overall this season for the Phoenix, is pleased with the results.

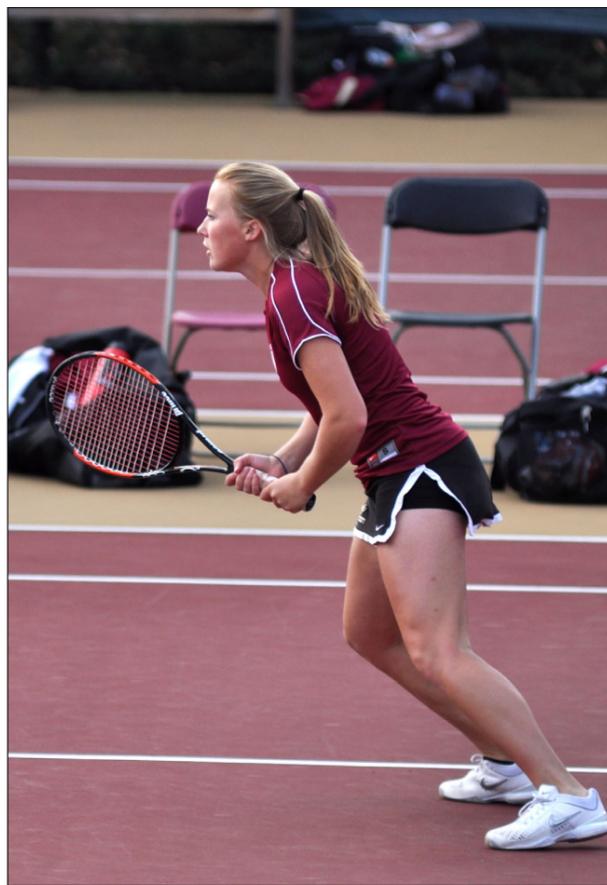
"It's so nice to see all of our hard work pay off," Johnston said. "We're seeing results and that's what is important."

Jordan, hailing from Snellville, Ga., attended tennis manager Sean Patterson's rival high school.

"The combination of being easygoing and knowing when to be intense and buckle down really helps them a lot,"



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ  
Sophomore Jordan Johnston and the Elon women's tennis team is 8-2 so far this season, on pace to best their 12-11 record from the 2011 season.



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ  
Sophomore Frida Jansaker, seen here in a match from last season, is one of two second-year players making noise on the court for Elon this year.

Patterson said. "This compatibility is evident in their playing."

The countless hours spent on and off the court has facilitated a close bond between the pair.

"Frida is one of my best friends, and it's really nice to be able to share the success with someone you are close with and you get along with so well," Johnston said.

Jansaker said that all the players are close friends and enjoy playing together, a crucial element to the

team's current success.

"There are a lot of teams here in our conference and North Carolina that just hang out on the court, but that's it," she said. "We are such a close team. If we don't have practice we would probably be hanging out anyway."

Equally important, the team embraces the philosophy of Elon, priding itself on upholding principles of respect, hard work, sportsmanship and friendship.

"We are known to be a team which is

very close and stresses sportsmanship on the court," Jansaker said. "Our coach is very particular about our on-court behavior, because we are representing Elon."

The team agrees, and Johnston said she has loved being a part of the team.

"There is nothing more fun than going out, being competitive and playing well with eight of your closest friends," Johnston said. "Every match we play we are all together in it, kicking butt, taking names, doing our stuff."

## Former Elon football assistant hired as head coach at Western Carolina

Mark Speir, a former recruiting director and assistant coach at Elon University, was hired as the head football coach at Western Carolina University in December,



MARK SPEIR

returning to the school where he was a coach from 1991-1996. He was asked about the excitement of heading into his first coaching job and his time as an assistant coach at Elon, Appalachian State and Clemson during his 21-year coaching career.

**Q: What made you want to take the head coaching job at Western Carolina University?**

**A:** It was a great opportunity to become a head coach in the best FCS conference in the country. WCU has had great tradition in the past, like playing for a National Championship in 1983. It is also a great university with an alumni and student body who are ready for a winning program again.

**Q: Describe how it feels to be the coach of a Division I program.**

**A:** It is an awesome responsibility that I don't take lightly. You only get a very few opportunities this big in your life. You have an obligation to a group of players, coaches and university to provide vision and goals for success. I am very blessed and thankful to the administration here at WCU for their confidence in our staff's ability to rejuvenate this program.

**Q: How did your time at Clemson jump start your career? What did you learn while there?**

While at Clemson, I learned from Coach Danny Ford the values of commitment, hard work and toughness in a program. There are no shortcuts to success. You

have to be willing to give up stuff individually to become champions as a team. Coach Ford was also a relentless recruiter. I learned that the little things matter.

**Q: Describe your time at Elon.**

**A:** I enjoyed my time at Elon. I worked with some wonderful people such as Dr. Allen White and Coach Al Seagraves. We accomplished a lot of great milestones while there, such as making the move from Division II to FCS, opening Rhodes Stadium and making the jump to the Southern Conference. It was a part of my journey to this point at WCU.

**Q: What challenges did you face while you were the recruiting director at Elon?**

**A:** Always trying to establish yourself as a true contender in the SoCon. Budgets were going from Division II to FCS. It was hard when we were in Williams High School stadium with facilities. But a lot of those issues have since been addressed.

**Q: You recruited some extremely talented classes while at Appalachian State. What made you such a successful recruiting coordinator?**

**A:** The program that coach Jerry Moore established up there in Boone. It is all about the people and relationships you have with high school coaches. It is how you treat people.

**Q: Would you say you're more excited or apprehensive about the upcoming year?**

**A:** I am extremely excited about the upcoming year. It is going to be a process of building this program, but that is what makes it fun. We have a great group of men here who we are excited about. With great challenges comes great rewards.

Information compiled by Kyle Maher.

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# Win in Columbia erases softball's woes

*Team heads to Georgia this weekend for last tournament before conference play*

Adam Lawson  
Assistant Sports Editor

After soggy weather and a two-game losing skid dampened its spirit a week ago, the Elon University softball team will go into the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic in Woodstock, Ga. March 2-4 on the heels of a three-game winning streak.

The Phoenix (8-2) won all three of its games in the Gamecock Invitational, a rainout against South Carolina notwithstanding.

"The girls did a great job," interim head coach Kathy Bocock said. "Every one of them stepped up, did their job. They worked real hard this week in practice and they all stepped up and took care of business."

The upcoming tournament will be the last for the Phoenix before SoCon play starts March 10 against Furman University.

"These tournaments are very beneficial because they push us and we get to play really good competition outside of conference," said junior outfielder and pitcher Tomeka Watson. "They also allow us to work on our skills before conference."

The Buzz Classic will be a homecoming for four players on the team from the Peach State. Among them is Erin O'Shea, a senior pitcher from Kennesaw, Ga.

"I think it's definitely going to be a cool experience just because it's where I'm from," O'Shea said. "I told people about the games so I'm hoping they're coming out."

The Phoenix will face Kennesaw State March 2 before playing doubleheaders the following two days. On March 3, Elon will take on Southeastern Louisiana and Georgia State University before facing the University of Rhode

"These tournaments are very beneficial because they push us, and we get to play really good competition outside of conference."

- Tomeka Watson

JUNIOR OUTFIELDER AND PITCHER

Island and Georgia Tech University the following day.

It will be a challenge unlike any the Phoenix has seen this season. Three of Elon's five opponents this weekend have records over .500, including No. 20 Georgia Tech.

"Each week we've gotten better competition. We're just taking care of each game," Bocock said. "Whoever we're playing, we're just trying to do what we need to do."

Elon enters the Classic on the heels of a performance in Columbia, S.C., that saw the Phoenix cross home plate 18 times without hitting the ball out of the park.

"We do a very good job manufacturing runs," Watson said. "Getting runners on base, moving them around and getting hits to

(bring them in)."

After beating George Washington 4-1 Feb. 25, Elon bested Presbyterian College 11-5 and 2-1 the next two days.

The wins helped erase the bitter feeling the Phoenix faced after dropping the last two games at the Phoenix Softball Clash the week before.

"We have a long ways to go," Watson said. "But we're striving and we're getting better each and every week."



Sophomore outfielder Carleigh Nestor (15) has started all ten games and is batting .360 for the Phoenix. She is tied for the team lead with nine RBI. FILE PHOTO BY GLORIA SO

## Trio of losses to 2-time defending champs not dampening baseball team's confidence, drive

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

It is not often that a Southern Conference baseball team gets to play the twice-over defending national champions in a weekend series in just the second week of the season.

The Elon Phoenix squandered that opportunity, losing all three games by a combined score 17-3 to the University of South Carolina Feb. 24-26. Its record dropped to 4-3 on the season, ending an opening four-game winning streak, but Elon has a chance to turn it around, taking on High Point University Wednesday and College of Charleston March 2-4 in the first SoCon series of the 2012 season.

According to sophomore outfielder Eric Serra, the team got caught up in the hype of the situation.

"I felt like we thought we were ready, but when we got there, we definitely sure did not look or play ready," he said. "It was one of those things where we got hyped up and caught up in everything around us and just forgot to play the game."

In game one against South Carolina, a matchup that Serra called "brutal," the Phoenix was nearly no-hit by Gamecocks pitchers Michael Roth, Nolan Belcher and Patrick Sullivan. Only senior shortstop Garret Koster's homer in the penultimate at-bat of the game prevented a no-no as the Phoenix fell 8-1.

In game two, Elon rallied in the ninth inning but fell 3-2. The Phoenix was then shutout by the Gamecocks 6-0 in game three, getting just three

hits.

"The second game was one of those that took longer, but we started kicking it in high gear," Serra said. "We started to play the game, and when we started doing that, things started to fall. The third game was just tough, because from the beginning, we found ourselves in a hole."

South Carolina picked up a 5-0 lead by the end of the second inning in game three, a lead too insurmountable for the Phoenix to overcome.

"We tried to dig ourselves out of it, but the thing is, South Carolina is a good team," Serra said. "You have to give them credit. When they jumped on us, we kind of hit a wall. The balls just started falling their way, the calls started going their way and you couldn't do anything about it. It was just one of those weekends."

A weekend that Elon will have to look past quickly. Wednesday, they take on High Point University, who currently sits second in the Big South Conference at 6-2.

"All of us know that High Point is no team to overlook," Serra said. "We know that we have our first SoCon weekend coming up, but we've got High Point first. This weekend that just passed us, we're definitely not just putting it behind and moving past it, we're actually building from this."

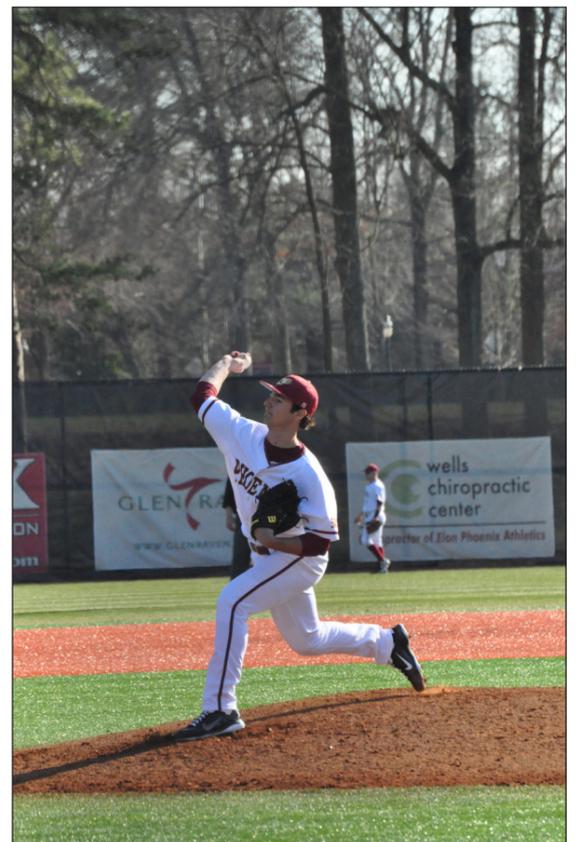
The Phoenix will then take on No. 30-ranked College of Charleston Cougars in Charleston. It will be the first three SoCon tests for Elon, the defending conference regular season champions.

Serra said the South Carolina losses, which ruined Elon's perfect 4-0 record, are being used as motivation.

"(College of Charleston) better watch out, because I know for a fact that we're ready, we're hungry," he said. "We were fired up for this past weekend; it didn't turn out well. We want to turn things around, we want to prove to our fans, to our school, we want to prove to everyone that we're not just some team. We're there to be on the map. We want to get respected because that's something we haven't been able to achieve."

The losses are also being used as a building block for the rest of the 2012 season.

"It may have been only three games, but three games where we learned," Serra said. "We're not going to face a bigger crowd than we faced at South Carolina. For the younger guys, having a big crowd won't be as overwhelming. Playing a team that's ranked second in the



Freshman pitcher John Antonelli and the Phoenix are 4-3 this year. FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

nation, it's not going to get much better than that. Any team that we face from here on out, we'll be ready for them."

# Sports



## SoCon Tournament Preview

*Women stay confident while heading to Asheville*

Adam Lawson  
Assistant Sports Editor

Four months of work, triumphs and pitfalls. Four months of practice, of games, of long bus trips all over the Southeast.

Four months of Elon University women's basketball comes down to this weekend in Asheville. The Phoenix starts the Southern Conference Tournament as the No. 5 seed with a game against fourth-seeded Samford University March 3.

"Whole season, preseason, all the years I've been here," said senior point guard Aiesha Harper. "It all leads up to the SoCon Tournament."

Elon enters the postseason sizzling. The Phoenix has outscored each of its last four opponents by double digits and has held each of those teams under 40 percent from the field.

"We just have the momentum in our hands right now," Harper said. "Our words of affirmation, I know, for me is we can control our destiny. That's exactly what we can do at this point."

Elon (16-13, 12-8 Southern Conference) closed out the regular season with a 73-46 thumping of Western Carolina University. For senior guard Kallie Hovatter, things couldn't have ended any better. After starting her college career at St. Joseph's, leaving, and having to sit out two years because of transfer rules and injury, Hovatter finished her career at Alumni Gym with a career-high 14 points.

"I couldn't be any more happy for her," said junior guard Ali Ford. "She deserves everything, all the credit

and her career. Never giving up. She's sitting on the sidelines with an injury and never once does the long face come on."

The two games in the season series against the Bulldogs couldn't be any more opposite from one another. After the Phoenix pummeled Samford 69-44 early in the year, Samford (17-12, 12-8) rebounded — big time — with a 63-57 home victory Jan. 28. Elon goes into the matchup hoping for a repeat of the former and a total avoidance of the latter.

"I am demanding because I feel there's so much more in (our team)," said head coach Charlotte Smith. "I think there's been times where they couldn't see it, but I could see it. I know what it's like to be a championship team because I've been there. I just know what it takes. I demand it out of them."

For Harper, it's do or die time. One loss would be her last — each win extends her career for at least one more game.

"I'm not necessarily expecting anything," Harper said. "I'm just expecting for us to play absolutely as hard as we can and I think the rest will show."

Elon enters conference tournament play as the proverbial underdog. A team just below the leaders of the pack not expected to make a serious championship run. None of this puts a damper in the spirit of the Phoenix, a team destined to prove it belongs by winning — one game at a time.

"I don't think anybody expects us to win," Ford said. "Except for us."

That's just fine for the Elon women's basketball team.

- Aiesha Harper  
SENIOR POINT GUARD

*First-round bye crucial to men's tourney hopes*

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

It's not often that a first-round bye in a tournament of any kind is classified as negative.

Elon University men's basketball head coach Matt Matheny is happy with the bye, but concerned that his team might end up being a little behind their second round opponents in the Southern Conference Basketball Tournament March 2-5 in Asheville.

"The bye is an interesting thing," Matheny said. "It's almost like dead man walking because you're sitting there and they have game experience on the court. Having been in that situation before, you don't know how your team is going to react."

With the Phoenix's 93-79 victory over SoCon North Division champions UNC Greensboro Feb. 25, and Samford University's loss to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Matheny's squad clinched a first-round bye in the tournament and will face the winner of Chattanooga and Georgia Southern University March 3 at 8:30 p.m.

"The bye is always a good thing," Elon sophomore forward Lucas Troutman said. "It's a help on legs and a help on the mind. When you go into the tournament on a bye, you've got an advantage."

The Phoenix ended a five-game losing skid with the victory over the Spartans. After scoring only 45 points in a loss to South Division champion Davidson College Feb. 23, Elon had no problem reaching that number against UNCG.

"Going into the conference tournament with a six-game losing streak, nobody wants to do that," Phoenix sophomore forward Ryley Beaumont said. "We were really prepared for the game knowing that it was an important game."

The victory was the final game at Alumni Gym for senior guard Drew Spradlin, who had nine points and four

rebounds on Senior Night.

"It was emotional, but honestly I was just so relieved and happy to be going out on a win," Spradlin said. "It's been a great four years. I could have never even imagined the kind of career I've had and the kind of people I've met playing here."

But his career is not over. The Mocs or Bulldogs await.

"We're so far along in the season that whoever we're going to play, we know them pretty well," Matheny said. "We've played one of them (Chattanooga) twice, the other one (Georgia Southern) once. You feel like you know them, but more importantly, we know who we are."

The Mocs finished last in the North Division this season. The Phoenix defeated Chattanooga 88-87 Jan. 21 at home, but fell on the road to the Mocs 83-75 Feb. 9. Troutman and sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger both averaged 16.5 points per game in those contests. Elon lost to Georgia Southern 69-63 in their only matchup of the season Jan. 5. Isenbarger had 17 points off the bench and Troutman had 16 points and nine rebounds.

The Phoenix will benefit in the tournament from the healthy return of freshman guard Austin Hamilton, who had 11 points, five assists and four rebounds in 23 minutes off the bench. But for the last two games, Elon has been without fellow freshman guard Kevin Blake, who is fighting mononucleosis.

"People are going to get hurt and sick and not be able to play games," Beaumont said. "A good team is going to take that and do what we have to do to get the wins anyway, adjust what players have to do."

While the streak-ending victory over the Spartans was key for the Phoenix's confidence, it means little as far as the actual tournament goes.

"Getting this victory gives us a so much better feeling," Matheny said. "But it guarantees us absolutely nothing in the tournament."

"Going into the conference tournament with a six-game losing streak, nobody wants to do that. We were prepared for the game knowing that it was an important game."

- Ryley Beaumont  
SOPHOMORE FORWARD



Senior guard Aiesha Harper (shooting) and the Phoenix finished 12-8 in the Southern Conference regular season, good for fifth place their first season under rookie Head Coach Charlotte Smith.



Sophomore guard Sebastian Koch (24), shown here with sophomore forward Lucas Troutman (31), started all 29 regular season games for the Phoenix and averaged 9.2 points per game in 2011-12.