

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014 • VOLUME 40, EDITION 7

www.elonpendulum.com

Elon Founders Day kicks off with College Coffee

Elon debates tobacco use as standards shift at other universities

Hannah Wolfe
Senior Reporter

Twenty years ago, the idea of a tobacco-free campus was all but laughable, particularly in a state that consumes as much of the product as North Carolina does. But as 1,182 institutions of higher learning are now smoke-free, portions of Elon University are ready to jump on the bandwagon.

Over the last two years, the number of smoke-free campuses nationally has almost doubled from 586 in October 2011, according to the National Tobacco-Free College Campus Initiative (NTFCCI).

Elon's current policy regarding tobacco states, "Elon University is a smoke-free campus with respect to all facilities, except outdoor facilities. Smoking is not permitted within 30 feet of university buildings or in Rhodes Stadium."

The university expects smokers to deposit waste in the proper receptacles in order to maintain a litter-free campus.

Though Elon is surrounded by old tobacco money — Duke University was built on the crop — the university will keep up with nationally developing standards, according to Julie Lellis, assistant professor of communications and instructor of Health Communications.

"Despite the tobacco culture in North Carolina, I think Elon will try to keep up with what other universities are doing," Lellis said.

NTFCCI, made up of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the American College Association and the University of Michigan, encourages universities to adopt tobacco-free policies.

Putting an end to tobacco addiction is the initiative's main purpose, by stopping young adults from smoking in order to prevent them from becoming addicted.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

(From left to right) Earl Danieley, Welsford Bishopric, Fred Young and Leo Lambert pose for a selfie on Founders Day March 11 at Phi Beta Kappa Commons.

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

Elon University celebrated its 125th birthday with a special College Coffee to honor Earl Danieley, Fred Young and current university president Leo Lambert.

Hundreds of students, faculty and alumni gathered on Phi Beta Kappa Commons to hear student body president Welsford Bishopric speak and share in Elon's birthday cake.

"This Founders' Day is extra special because of the 125th birthday and the beau-

tiful turnout," said Dianne Ford, a science librarian at Elon. "It's nice to bring everyone out to celebrate together."

In his short speech, Bishopric recapped Elon's history and honored the leaders who sought to make Elon a nationally-competitive liberal arts university.

Danieley became president at 32 years old in 1957. He expanded the library and created the academic advising system, career services, the chaplain's office and many other features of today's campus.

In 1963, Young took over for Danieley, who remained at the university as a chemis-

try professor. Young pioneered the engaged learning program, including study abroad, internships and undergraduate research. Young's main area of emphasis was the improvement of the overall quality of Elon's academic programs.

Lambert became president in 1999 and implemented two separate strategic plans for the university. These plans aimed to increase the academic reputation and transition Elon from a college to a university.

"He has facilitated our transformation

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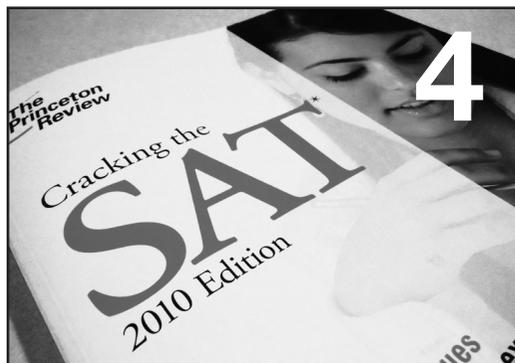
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16 Magha Puja - Buddhist Holiday	17 Truitt Center hosts 'whirlwind tour' of world religions 4 p.m. Numen Lumen Pavilion	18 Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series with Ian Hobson 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium	19 Softball vs. Towson 6 p.m. Hunt Softball Park	20 Michael Aneser's senior recital 7:30 p.m. Yeager Recital Hall	21 Undergraduate Spring Break begins 2:50 p.m.	22 Women's Tennis vs. Wofford 10 a.m. Jimmy Powell Tennis Center
23 Baseball vs. Western Carolina 1:30 p.m. Latham Park	24 National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day	25 Baseball at Wake Forest 6 p.m.				

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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SMOKING

from cover

According to the U.S. Department of Education, almost no smokers become addicted after the age of 25. The Initiative aims to reduce the 18.9 percent of people aged 18-24 who smoke or are addicted.

Elon has its own in-house programs to curb smoking use on campus by students, faculty and staff. The Health Center offers appointments to design quitting plans, as well as literature on the harmful effects of using any tobacco product.

SPARKS, a student-run health and safe practices initiative on campus, hosts “Smoke-out” each November, which is a campus-wide event designed to reinforce to students the dangers of smoking, as well as to ensure they are aware of university policies and regulations for those who choose to smoke.

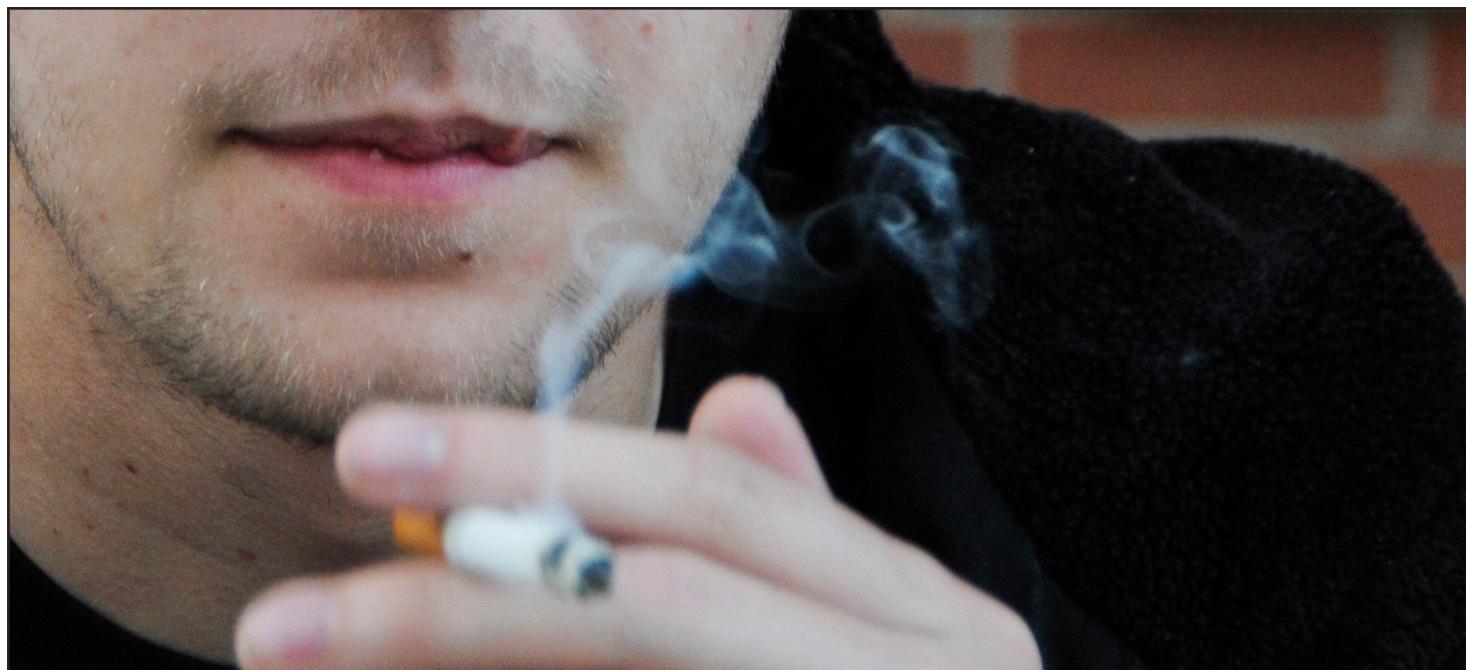
The health center also offers counseling to students who are fighting their nicotine addictions. Elon sponsors the Quit Smart Cessation program at Duke University, and students can register for classes that help them incorporate treatments into their daily lives.

Universities that have adopted smoke-free policies have since enhanced and added to these types of programs.

Emory University in Atlanta, which has been a tobacco-free campus since 2012, has a variety of tobacco cessation programs, both on and off campus, for students who want to kick the habit.

A major concern with implementing such a tobacco-free policy is that it would be difficult to enforce around campus, considering that other bans are not successfully enforced.

“If we can’t enforce alcohol use, then



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Though the university’s smoking policy officially prohibits lighting up within 30 feet of any building, many smokers can be found breaking the rule around campus.

there’s no way Elon could enforce tobacco use,” Elon sophomore T.J. Mullen said.

Currently, the rule that requires people to be 30 feet away from a building when smoking is not heavily policed, Mullen said. He said he has often seen students or faculty standing outside academic buildings before class enjoying cigarettes.

Part of the problem is convenience and proximity of available tobacco products to campus, Mullen said.

“Kangaroo sells a lot of tobacco products and is right next to campus,” he said.

Mullen said if cigarettes were not as easily accessible, perhaps less students would be inclined to use them, he said.

Cynthia Fair, professor of human service studies, said she sees hope in other universi-

ties throughout the country who have instituted successful tobacco policies.

“I’ve seen many other organizations enforce the ban effectively,” Fair said. “I see no reason why Elon can’t make the same commitment to the health of its students, faculty, staff and broader community.”

Not only does the tobacco-free initiative intend to improve health for smokers themselves, Fair said, but also for those who are breathing in the secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is smoke that comes from the exhaust of a lit cigarette, as well as the smoke that is exhaled by a smoker.

According to The American Cancer Society, nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling the same nicotine and toxic chemicals as smokers.

“There is very strong evidence that secondhand smoke is associated with increased risk of ear infections in young children, lung cancer, emphysema and other pulmonary problems among those who are exposed to the carcinogens in smoke,” Fair said.

Although most people are on board with the initiative, many who do smoke feel their interests are not being fairly considered.

“I think banning tobacco completely from campuses is unfair to people who are addicted and need it to calm their nerves,” said Sam Christopher, a sophomore smoker. “Banning tobacco seems like a self-righteous quest with energies that could be better spent

elsewhere.”

The initiative may not always encourage students to quit the habit as it intends. It is critical the school not marginalize a group of students and faculty while trying to support the majority, some smokers pointed out.

“The university certainly has the right to institute and enforce rules against smoking, as it has done with other behaviors,” said L.D. Russell, lecturer in religious studies and a smoker. “The key, it seems to me, is to find a solution that is fair to all.”

The health center offers a strong starting platform for students who want to quit, Lellis said. If students utilize these programs, they should receive support systems and the basic knowledge of how to break their addictions.

“If Elon is going to ban smoking on a campus, they’ll have to launch a campaign to explain it to the public and show empathy that it will affect certain individuals negatively,” she said.

Despite the lack of major governance over the tobacco culture, smoking is becoming less of a trend on its own, according to Russell.

“Elon is much more smoke-free than it once was. I see this as a broader social change in attitudes toward smoking as much as a response to any university rule,” he said. “When I first arrived on this campus 20 years ago, Elon was something of a smoking culture. Today, there seems to be a much smaller incidence of tobacco use.”

Smoking in North Carolina

January 2006:

Smoking banned in state prisons

August 2007:

Smoking banned on all UNC hospital grounds

January 2010:

Statewide ban on smoking at almost all restaurants

January 2012:

Smoking banned on all public sidewalks in Orange County



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN DEMARIA | Design Chief

Back to 1600: SAT now essay-optional

Michael Bodley
News Editor

In an effort to impose a fair national test-taking standard, the SAT will drop the required timed essay, eliminate the more obscure vocabulary questions and return to the 1600-point scale. Though Elon University has in the past embraced the addition of the 800-point writing section, the university follows the guidelines of the College Board when it comes to standardized testing.

Another major change is the end of the 1/4 point penalty for a wrong answer that punished would-be guessers.

This redesign is the SAT's second since 2000, and it won't take effect until the 2016 testing season. But critics of the change are up-in-arms now, saying the new test is a shift away from emphasizing writing in secondary education, which then translates to deficiencies at the college level.

"It's academically concerning," said Elon University Registrar Rodney Parks. "Students need to be learning the broad skills — writing,

researching and reading with depth — early on, so that they can come into college and apply them right away. Filling in bubbles doesn't accomplish that goal."

The formerly-required timed essay, which debuted on this century's first revamp of the SAT a decade ago, doesn't provide a complete and telling portrait of a student's ability to write, according to Megan Isaac, chair of the English department and associate professor.

Some students write better under pressure, she said, while others require a more traditional process of crafting an essay from a series of edited drafts, which the time constraints of the SAT don't allow for.

"I think the decision to make the SAT essay optional reflects an understanding that the kind of writing generated under the pressures of the exam tells very little about the writing potential of a student," Isaac said.

Last year, the ACT — the other widely-taken national standardized college-readiness test that has a science section and no essay for the first time — surpassed the SAT in the number of people taking it nationally. SAT

skeptics have said the test is simply copying tried and true ACT testing standards.

ACT President Jon Erickson told the Washington Post he was glad with the College Board's announcement, but that it was long overdue.

"I appreciate and I'm glad they're fixing their acknowledged flaws in their test," Erickson said.

College Board President David Coleman said in a speech in Austin, Texas last week that the SAT overhaul was not in response to any competition from the ACT, but rather indicative of the need to extend higher education opportunities to more students.

"What this country needs is not more tests, but more opportunities," Coleman said. "The real news today is not just the redesigned SAT, but the College Board's renewed commitment to delivering opportunity."

His speech last week came on the heels of the release of the 2013 SAT results toward the end of last year, which found a staggering 43 percent of students taking the test not ready for college. Each year, the SAT decides

a "benchmark college readiness" score that is supposed to measure a student's ability to perform academically at the collegiate level.

And that number has remained "virtually unchanged" over the last five years, according to the College Board, which no doubt encouraged the redesign.

To these discouraging numbers, pundits have pointed to classrooms they say prize teaching to the test more so than actually preparing students for the next step: college. And they say it applies to both public and private schools, though private schools tend to have more control over the curriculum on the level of the individual school.

But the 45-minute timed essay portion might have been discouraging creativity just as much as the rest of the test, according to Drew Perry, associate professor of English.

"I've never been convinced that a timed essay scored not for beauty but for alleged effectiveness is an accurate measure of ability," Perry said.

Jessie Moore, associate professor of English, said she sees in her English 101 classes a tendency to write in a particular fashion, one that aligns itself closely with the "formulaic" five-paragraph template that sandwiches three body paragraphs between an introduction and a conclusion.

"Our students here at Elon tend to be very well prepared, but even here students have been prepared to write on one type of writing, rather than learning broad strategies to write across any curriculum, any subject matter," she said.

To increase the ability of students to prepare for the SAT, the College Board also announced last week a partnership with the Khan Academy to provide affordable online preparatory work to all would-be test-takers.

The partnership, criticized by the pro-ACT camp for not doing enough to prepare students, should serve as a complement to the existing preparatory system brought to students from the school system, nationally.

"Our school systems are not preparing our students as well as they could for writing because of the state-mandated testing and curriculums, but I think that they're doing as well as they can within the limitations that they have," Moore said.

Do you want to take the essay portion of the SAT?

- A** Yes; writing is one of my strengths.
- B** No; it's optional. Why would I want to take it?
- C** No; I'm planning on taking the ACT instead.
- Wait, I have a choice to not take it?**

ELON DAY

from cover

into a national model for residential liberal arts colleges,” said Bishopric.

Lambert has added more than 100 buildings to Elon’s campus and created the Elon University School of Law and the School of Health Sciences.

“Elon has grown four-fold in enrollment and much more than that in terms of academic rigor, experiential value and significance,” said Bishopric. “It is largely due to the leadership of these three presidents that Elon has and will continue to define the education of each of its students.”

To conclude College Coffee, the three presidents planted two oak trees dedicated to Lambert and Young in the Academic Pavilion. A magnolia tree dedicated to Danieley was planted in spring 2012.

“We couldn’t have picked a better time to plant an oak tree here,” Bishopric said, referencing the ice storm last Friday that brought down a large oak and damaged several other trees in the pavillion.

Founders’ Day is a time to celebrate Elon University through Phoenix pride, donations and memories. Alumni gathered at the commons to reminisce about their time at Elon.

Carrie Ryan, an Elon alumna who works in Elon’s Center for Leadership, said she is



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Student body president Welsford Bishopric spoke to the Elon community on Founders Day, honoring former and current presidents of the university.

happy with how Elon has expanded, and she looks forward to the seeing the university implement its slow-growth model in the coming years.

“It’s the history of where we’ve come and where we’re going,” Ryan said.

The majority of attendees were students who stopped by between classes to witness the historic celebration. Sophomore Allison Forhan said she was excited to see so many students at College Coffee.

“This is a lot of students that came out to College Coffee. I come every week and I don’t think I’ve ever seen it this packed,” Forhan said. “A lot of people came out to support Elon and wish the university a happy birthday.”

Danieley said Founders’ Day is a celebration he holds dear to his heart. He hopes students will walk away from the day’s festivities with a new appreciation for how far the university has come in the past

50 years.

“I have a thesis that I tell everybody: that there’s no more remarkable story in the history of American higher education than the story of Elon University’s growth and development,” Danieley said. “Although there are 4,000 colleges and universities in this country, nobody has a greater story than we have. I’ve been here 72 years watching it grow and develop, and I’m so proud.”

HOPE opening weekend success defies dangerous weather

Morgan Abate
Senior Reporter

Helping Other People Eat (HOPE), a partnership between local businesses and charities, had its official opening this past weekend despite the power outages, ice-coated roads and fallen trees left behind by winter storm Titan.

Mosca’s Restaurant and Cork & Cow opened their doors to customers Friday and Saturday nights for the first time as official HOPE-certified restaurants.

Mosca’s in downtown Burlington and Cork & Cow in Alamance Crossing displayed small blue and orange info sheets about HOPE’s efforts to combat hunger in Alamance County. At the end of each meal, the server asked if the customers would donate a dollar to HOPE. Mosca’s Manager Julie Mendez said most tables happily par-

ticipated.

“Every table I took care of gave donations of different amounts,” she said.

Even during the lunch rush, when it became too busy to keep track of which tables were asked, customers still asked about it, according to HOPE Financial Director and Elon sophomore Steven Cobb.

“It’s kind of cool,” he said. “People are seeing it and are interested in it.”

Mendez said the weekend produced a good turnout of Elon students, but she hopes more students will continue to come to Mosca’s because of HOPE.

“We don’t usually get a lot of Elon students unless they’re going to a show next door,” she said.

Junior Peter Walpole said the organization provides a more personal link to downtown Burlington.

Walpole dined at Mosca’s on Saturday

for HOPE. Having events off-campus will make more students come simply because it is an opportunity for students to leave Elon, he said.

“It’s a mindset. This is where you live,” said sophomore Olivia Robin. “Why not give back to the community you live in?”

Robin said HOPE and other organizations in the Elon and Burlington communities forces the two communities to merge as one. Burlington residents get to know Elon students, and Elon students get to interact more with the people outside of the “bubble.”

“I would not have known these businesses existed without HOPE,” Walpole admitted.

Unfortunately for HOPE and Elon students, two of the four HOPE-certified restaurants were closed this weekend because of winter storm Titan. Robin, who is in

charge of web design for HOPE, said the closings definitely affected HOPE.

“People will be less inclined to go [to Dotty’s Diner and Hursey’s Bar-B-Q] because they were closed,” she said. The HOPE members plan on increasing their marketing efforts so students know they are still affiliated with HOPE.

The founder, sophomore Jensen Roll, said despite the weather, the weekend was successful. The closing of two restaurants allows HOPE to have two opening weekends, he said.

“This week will have a huge focus on Dotty’s Diner and Hursey’s Bar-B-Q to help spotlight them,” Roll said.

Robin said HOPE has grown quickly and will continue to grow.

“I don’t see any reason to stop,” she said. “Jensen is a good leader and a good manager.”

Republicans likely to dominate in North Carolina midterm elections

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

In May, North Carolinians will vote in the primaries for 21 North Carolina Senate seats and 54 House of Representatives seats, as well as the primaries for Sen. Kay Hagan's, D-N.C., U.S. Senate seat.

Republicans held a supermajority in the General Assembly for the past session, and this election is unlikely to break the pattern. Holding 77 of 120 House seats and 33 of 50 Senate seats, Republicans will likely dominate the legislature for another session.

"The best-case scenario for Democrats would be to only use a few N.C. Senate seats," said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and assistant director of the Elon University Poll. "Midterm elections are largely based on the economy, so if the economy improves, Democrats may fair better."

Many candidates are running unopposed. Filing for the May 6 primary election ended

Feb. 28, with more than 44 House and 12 Senate seats left uncontested.

Husser said incumbents who choose to run are re-elected close to 90 percent of the time.

"It's not that unusual for a member of the house to run unopposed. The golden rule for strategic politicians is 'don't run against an incumbent,'" Husser said.

In the U.S. Senate race, Hagan has been fighting a difficult re-election campaign. Hagan's approval ratings have reached a low point this year among both Democrats and Republicans. An Elon Poll survey found only one-third of registered voters approve of Hagan's job performance, and Hagan's approval rating has declined for the last four years.

Americans for Prosperity, a conservative political advocacy group, is running ads against Hagan that focus on her support of the Affordable Care Act, which Elon Poll data suggests a majority of North Carolinians disapprove of.

"The Affordable Care Act will hurt her in some circles, but if she, as someone who voted for the law, can explain it well and do her job, it could possibly help," said Bobby King, a sophomore and member of Elon's College Democrats.

Hagan is facing eight Republican candidates. The most high-profile candidate, current Speaker of the House Thom Tillis, a Republican, has struggled with name recognition since the start of his campaign. The Elon Poll found almost 60 percent of the people they surveyed did not recognize his name, and only 18 percent of those who knew of him had a favorable opinion.

Tillis is relatively new to the political scene in North Carolina. Husser said Tillis has the money and the support from the party to become the Republican nominee, even if his name recognition is relatively low.

"His lack of favorability could mean that he is a weak candidate, or it could mean the people who aren't sure about supporting him might be partisan voters who haven't made up their mind yet about supporting Tillis or another Republican candidate," Husser said. "The other group who disapprove of Tillis are the liberals who have heard of him in a negative light through the Moral Monday movement and their pushback against

the historically extreme productivity of last year."

Republican Greg Brannon, an OB/GYN from Cary, is also running for Hagan's seat. In a Public Policy Polling study conducted mid-February, Brannon trailed Tillis by just seven points.

Senior Natalie Cuzmenco is the campus coordinator for Brannon's campaign. Brannon visited Elon Feb. 16 and had dinner with College Republicans and Young Americans for Liberty (YAL).

"It was predominately people in YAL, and we don't believe that the government should have a role in marriage, so we spent a lot of time talking about his views on gay marriage," Cuzmenco said. "Our younger members were really pushing back on him for it."

Brannon has received endorsements from Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Ann Coulter

and other prominent names in the Libertarian and Republican parties. However, with more than a million dollars in donations already, Tillis has raised considerably more campaign funding than any of the other Republican candidates.

"I would say Tillis is the most ominous threat to Hagan's seat now, even with the insurgent libertarian wing embodied by Brannon," King said. "The funding Tillis has raised gives an air of inevitability to Tillis."

Challengers to an incumbent don't necessarily have to run on a strong platform or strong favorability — they just need to seem like a better alternative than the status quo.

"Right now, every candidate is running against Kay Hagan, and that will stay the case through the election," Husser said. "It doesn't matter if Tillis is unpopular if he's less unpopular than Hagan."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Senator Kay Hagan faces a tough re-election campaign. The Republican Speaker of the House, Thom Tillis, is likely to win the party's primaries in May.

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Going digital: Bitcoins redefine traditional currency

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

For many people, the first time they saw or heard the term “Bitcoin,” it was on the pages of the business section or on CNBC or Fox Business as analysts reported that large quantities of the digital currency went missing.

While there are only around 200,000 registered Bitcoin addresses with at least one bitcoin, what made the news of this relatively underused digital currency grab headlines is that the disappearance of these bitcoins represented a loss of around \$460 million.

Bitcoin was the first “cryptocurrency,” created in 2009 as an all-digital form of money that can be spent between individuals using a peer-to-peer public ledger that keeps track of all transactions.

While many other forms of digital currency have come since Bitcoin was unveiled, including the Canadian government-backed MintChip, Bitcoin has remained the most widely used cryptocurrency.

Megan Squire, associate professor of computer sciences at Elon University, said this is because of the creators of Bitcoin overcoming programming issues early on, as well as a more sociological reason.

“It’s hard to understand, but there might be a first-users benefit,” Squire said.

Bitcoin is viewed as a possible alternative for those who feel the dollar and other government-backed currency is in decline, like Natalie Cuzmenco, president of Elon’s Young Americans for Liberty.

“I think it’s awesome, especially for young people, because we grew up with so much technology and advancement, and we are really good at adjusting to new technologies,” Cuzmenco said. “I think that any kind of progress forward to replace the failing system that we have now is good.”

On the other side, Stanley Black, Lurcy distinguished professor of economics at the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, said currency needs to be a means of payment, a store of value and a unit of account — all of which Black said do not apply to Bitcoin.

“The more widely a currency is used, the better the quality of the currency. The dollar is widely accepted, so it’s more useful as a currency. Bitcoin is not widely accepted,” Black said. “And you’d want something with a stable value if you want to store your wealth in [it].”

Mechanics of Bitcoin

Unlike the dollar, which has a central bank and regulatory agency, Bitcoin is essentially run by the users of the Internet.

The public ledger gives anyone access to information about inflation rates, quantity and who sells to whom. Squire said the power of minting or “mining” bitcoins is also put in the hands of the people.

“You assign your computer to do some hard math problems in its spare time and when it’s done, you’ve mined one bitcoin,” Squire said. “They’re so hard and take such a long time that it creates a cap on the number of bitcoins that can be created.”

Black said this could create economic issues similar to when the dollar was limited in quantity and value by the gold standard.

“Every year, there was a drain on money supply around August time, which was the ‘Christmas-time’ of the 19th century when people did a lot of buying and selling. That led to recurrent financial crises every fall,” he said. “Bitcoin cannot handle that kind of issue if it were ever to be widely used.”

However, Libertarians like Cuzmenco do not find the way the Federal Reserve regulates and changes the dollar’s supply to produce any better effects.

“Whenever they’re trying to manage inflation and manage unemployment, inflation is actually higher than what they report,” Cuzmenco said. “I think it’s due to the fact that our Federal Reserve is constantly printing out money and is

sending our economy down the tank.”

As more people mint and use bitcoins, the value of the currency can change drastically. Based on data from BitcoinCharts, one bitcoin was worth about \$10-20 in December 2012, but grew to \$600-800 in December 2013.

“If the demand for bitcoin were to rise, then the prices would have to rise as well, which means that the value in terms of other things would go down,” Black said. “That’s not a virtue in a currency if you want your economy to grow. People are going to need more money, unless you want price levels to fall over time, and it’s not clear that we want that.”

Black added that stability is more important than inflation or deflation and, in an economy where there is a set number of bitcoins that can exist, the economy would be subject to “serious deflation.”

Headline grabber

Bitcoin has become a recent topic of discussion because of the recent bankruptcy of Bitcoin exchange company Mt. Gox. While many companies exist to facilitate bitcoin trades for goods and services, Squire said Mt. Gox managed write better programs to be one of the top players in the emerging market.

“Mt. Gox found a way to quickly write to the public ledger,” Squire said.

But over the past weeks, Mt. Gox, which comes from the acronym for the company’s original intention, “Magic: The Gathering Online Exchange,” revealed that millions of bitcoins worth more than \$400 million were gone. While some news outlets have reported that hackers took the cryptocurrency, Squire is not so sure.

“Some security people are saying it was an error within Bitcoin itself,” she said.

That problem is that each bitcoin transaction that gets recorded to the public ledger sometimes misses the accompanying identification number, which means there is no evidence the sale took place.

“That vulnerability could have been

taken advantage of, but if it had been hackers, they would have been quicker to say so,” Squire said.

Cuzmenco said the controversy with Mt. Gox does not affect her outlook on Bitcoin’s potential future.

“It’s a new innovation, and it needs to find out what’s going to work best for it, and I think that there are going to be failures along the way,” she said. “If the idea of digital currency came about with absolutely no failures and nothing going wrong, I’d be really surprised.”

Squire said Mt. Gox was one of the companies that tried to make Bitcoin use easier, and its problems do not affect the currency as a whole.

“Email doesn’t need Gmail,” she said. “But what Bitcoin needs is to fix the transaction problem.”

The
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EXAMINING GREEK LIFE ON CAMPUS

Elon Poll finds NC senate candidates losing support in state

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

While politicians like Gov. Pat McCrory and President Barack Obama rose in voter support over the past four months, the latest Elon University Poll shows Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., and Speaker of the House Thom Tillis, R-N.C., are less popular among North Carolinians.

Forty-eight percent of poll respondents said they disapprove of Hagan's job performance, compared to 43 percent in the November poll.

Similarly, 33 percent of respondents had an unfavorable opinion of Tillis, compared to 31.9 percent in November.

At the same time, Obama and McCrory now have 38.9 and 35.6 percent approval ratings respectively, up from 37 and 33.3 percent in November.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., also saw

his approval rating rise three points to 33 percent since the last Elon Poll.

The election increases the visibility placed on both candidates, hypothesizing that many voters may not even be able to name Burr right now because he is not running for re-election.

Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll, said the swings in Hagan and Tillis' support will increase when the Republican primary is over. He attributed Hagan's drop in approval ratings to campaigning that has started against her.

"Obama gets negative ads too, but he can give a speech and get on any network he wants," Husser said. "It's not as easy for Hagan to get press."

While Tillis' support dropped, the poll found that more voters — now 38 percent — recognize him by name, up 10 points from November.

Fernandez said early name recognition is key for a candidate because it allows

him or her to build a narrative with voters.

"You have to define who you are or your opponent will," he said. "McCrory did a good job of that. He talked about how he was a business leader, the mayor of a Democratic city and a pragmatist. And a lot of Democrats voted for him."

Husser said that while incumbency rates for House of Representative members are very high, it's harder for a senator to keep a seat.

"As a body, the House of Representatives is more powerful than the Senate, but each senator is more powerful than most individual House members," Husser said. "Add in the [filibuster] and the seat is even more prestigious."

Both Husser and Fernandez said Tillis is the likely winner of the Republican primary, and he will start working to downplay or redefine his relationship to the General Assembly, which has a 45.5 percent unfavorability rating in the latest Elon Poll.

"My prediction is that we will see a toned-down General Assembly this year because they want a Republican to win the senate seat," Fernandez said.

In addition to asking North Carolinians their opinions on various political figures, the Elon Poll asked voters if they support or oppose the legalization of marijuana, with 51 percent opposed.

While 54 percent of those aged 18-30 support legalization, compared to 30 percent aged 41-50, Husser said this does not mean marijuana will eventually become legal in North Carolina.

"A lot of those middle-aged people are children of the 60s — pot smokers," he said. "But these are people who changed their mind, so it's hard to predict what happens in the future."

He said that, with anything new, the default reaction by the public is "to say no," but the future of marijuana will be determined by what data comes out of the states where the drug is now legal: Washington and Colorado.

"If there's a lot of irresponsible use in Colorado, it could affect the whole country," he said.

In the February 2013 Elon Poll, 76 percent of respondents said they supported allowing doctors to prescribe medical marijuana, but Fernandez said the example of "cancer" as one of the diseases a doctor would prescribe marijuana for could have affected responses.

"Once you start throwing cancer out, it changes people's responses," Fernandez said.

He also hypothesized if the poll had asked if voters supported decriminalizing marijuana, which would not give jail time to possession of small amounts of the drug, a majority of North Carolinians would have supported that as well.

Fernandez also noted that North Carolina has different laws and policies than states like Washington and Colorado when it comes to alcohol.

"The East and the Midwest are very different than the West when it comes to alcohol. You can imagine if there are issues with alcohol, there are issues with marijuana," he said.

The poll shows 50 percent of voters oppose same-sex marriage with 40 percent supporting, an increase from the last poll to ask about this topic April 2013. Fernandez said this could be because of the six states that have legalized same-sex marriage since then as well as the various court rulings against same-sex marriage bans.

"When the world is changing, people can hold onto their beliefs more firmly," he said.

Fernandez also said the passage of Amendment One, a ballot initiative that included a ban on same-sex marriage in the state's constitution, could have communicated to people are against same sex marriage that "it's an acceptable way of thought."

Over the course of years of polling, Husser said North Carolina is moving toward same-sex marriage, though the state itself is far from ready to legalize those marriages any time soon.

"There may be a lagged effect, but our political system tends to change with public opinion," he said. "On gay marriage, it's not a matter of 'if,' it's 'when.'"

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Cheat Sheet: Shifting NC political scene



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By the News Editors

Midterm elections are never as highly attended as presidential elections — a 42 percent turnout in 2010 compared to 59 percent in 2012 — but their results determine the political makeup of Congress and thus, the direction of the country.

Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., is up for re-election and is likely to face the state General Assembly's House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-N.C. While the primary is not over, political analysts and recent polling show Tillis has the lead.

Tillis' campaign website criticized Hagan for increasing taxes and joining the Democratic caucus in the Senate for pursuing legislation, which Tillis said goes against the Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

In the 2010 midterm election, Republicans won a majority in the state House, and Tillis was elected speaker. As speaker, Tillis oversaw the passage of Gov. Pat McCrory's first budget, changes to the state's policies and guidelines on voting and a flat income tax.

Hagan was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2008, defeating Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., marking the first time in U.S. history that a female candidate defeated a female incumbent for a Senate seat. During her time in the Senate, Hagan voted for legislation such as the Affordable Care Act, the 2009 stimulus and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Across North Carolina, 13 seats in the House of Representatives will be on the ballot for voters Nov. 4. Among them is North Carolina's 12th, which holds Charlotte, Greensboro and other large cities and has been without a representative all year. Rep. Mel Watt, a Democrat, stepped down Jan. 6 to become the head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. McCrory decided to hold the replacement election along with the general election.

In the state's Sixth congressional district, which holds Alamance County, Rep. Howard Coble is retiring, opening the seat he has held since 1984 to prospective candidates.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Get to know the races going on in North Carolina in the 2014 midterms, from the U.S. Senate and House to the state Supreme Court to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners.

Among the Republican candidates are Rockingham County District Attorney Phil Berger, Jr. and former Guilford County Agriculture Advisory Board member Mike Causey.

Among the Democratic candidates are former University of North Carolina system Vice President Laura Fjeld and Guilford County Commissioner Bruce Davis.

Representing Alamance County in the General Assembly, State Sen. Rick Gunn, a Republican, has filed for re-election and does not have any challengers.

Alamance's two representatives in the General Assembly, Dennis Riddell and Stephen Ross, both Republicans, are running for re-election. Elon University alumnus Ian Baltutis, who previously ran for mayor of Burlington, is running against Ross as a Democrat. Riddell is running unopposed.

Four of North Carolina's seven Supreme Court seats are up for election in 2014, in-

cluding the chief justice position. Current Associate Justice Mark Martin is running for the seat, as well as Superior Court Judge Ola Lewis. Supreme Court elections are non-partisan.

Three of Alamance County's five County Commissioners are seeking re-election, including Vice Chairman William Lashley. Commissioner John Paisley, Jr., who was appointed after former Commissioner Tom Manning stepped down to be county finance officer, will be running to keep his position on the board.

This will be the last national and state-level election in North Carolina before the new voter ID requirements are instituted in 2016. Voters at the polls will be asked if they have the proper identification in order for the state to compile information for the new requirement's rollout. Despite this, voters without a photo ID will still be permitted to vote.

News Briefs

History of Elon exhibit open to public

An overview of Elon University's history is open until April 8 in Elon's Center for the Arts. The exhibit, open in honor of Elon's 125th anniversary, has comparative photographs of the university at different stages in its history.

The photographs and information in the exhibit were curated as part of the research for university historian George Troxler's book on Elon, "From a Grove of Oaks: The Story of Elon University."

The book was released yesterday, March 11, Elon's Founder's Day.

Storm results in area school closures

After the March 7 ice storm knocked out power for more than 56,000 Alamance county residents, schools remained closed in the Alamance-Burlington school system.

As of March 8, the Alamance-Burlington school system said one-third of area schools are without power, with phone and Internet access out in more. Perishable food had to be moved to schools that had electricity.

Schools closer to Alamance's larger cities are largely ready to open up again, but the system's board chair said rural schools will take more time to get their utilities back in working order.

Supreme Court will not hear arguments in free speech case

The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear a free-speech case involving middle school students being allowed to wear bracelets that read "I [heart] Boobies."

The principal in a Pennsylvania school ordered students to remove the bracelets, which are meant to promote breast cancer awareness, and then suspended the students when they did not comply.

The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the bracelets were not disruptive or "plainly lewd," and with the Supreme Court declining to hear the case, the federal appeals court's ruling stands.



Title IX making strides but needs improvement

Forty-two years ago, a familiar piece of landmark legislation, Title IX, was passed to ensure gender equality at educational institutions. Widely known as the law that bolstered female athletics, its positive effects extend far beyond the playing field, as Title IX has helped women solidify a more prominent place in academia as a whole.

Over the past four decades, the landscape of the American university has drastically changed, and Title IX's policies have come under increased scrutiny for failing to account for that changing environment. By not evolving with the times, the strict enforcement policies of the law now pose a threat to an increasing number of men's athletic teams. As Elon University welcomes a women's lacrosse team, the question remains if we will see any new men's sports in the near future.

Between 1980 and 1999, 40 percent of NCAA and NAIA wrestling teams were eliminated. In 1980 there were 80 college men's gymnastic teams. Today, fewer than 20 remain.

The law set out to increase participation

of a historically underrepresented gender but questions are now being put forth regarding the fact so many male athletes are watching their opportunities dwindle as a result of Title IX enforcement.

Sports programs such as men's gymnastics, men's track and men's swimming have been cut at campuses across the country in order to make sure the school complies with the NCAA.

Title IX is by no means the problem. It has benefited women both on and off the athletic field and increased female participation across educational institutions nationwide. The problem is the NCAA's compliance standards and the way schools go about meeting these standards.

When Title IX was established, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights created three paths that a university can take to show compliance.

First, a university can show that it is demonstrating a continual expansion of athletic opportunities for the underrepresented sex (historically female). Second, the school can show that it is accommodating and

meeting the interest level of the underrepresented sex. Finally, the third and most common path to show compliance is to provide athletic opportunities that are substantially proportionate to the student enrollment at a university.

Universities are constantly seeking to expand their athletic departments in order to provide and renew athletic interest from both current and future students. Since women now outnumber men, athletic programs struggle to find a proportional number of female athletes to balance out the ratio.

More often than not, it is easier and cheaper to cut a male team than add an additional female team in order to create a proportion that complies with NCAA standards. The third path remains the most troubling, and consistently gives way to the unfortunate practice known as roster management, in which many universities are padding women's rosters with under qualified athletes and trimming the rosters of men's teams in order to comply with NCAA standards.

Outside of simply cutting men's teams, universities meaninglessly inflate female rosters and sometimes count men on their practice squads as female athletes. That is not real progress, for it encourages cheating the system to avoid sanctions and lawsuits.

This unintended consequence is at the root of the problem for Title IX. The enforcement of the law must be revised, and the language must be changed to reflect the student bodies of educational institutions.

Title IX came into existence to give opportunities for both sexes — to provide participation for both men and women. It was never meant to limit the opportunity for men nationwide.

The current system of enforcement is not suitable for the modern college environment, and, if it is left unchanged, we will continue to see the elimination of men's sports around the country. Eliminating men's sports just to meet a certain proportion of a student body is not in the spirit of Title IX. The college landscape has changed, and the implementation and enforcement of the law should change with it.

Homeless, not hopeless: when financial aid runs out

Being homeless is not something you usually want to admit. For most people, it's not even on their radar, but it is an issue that needs more awareness on the Elon University campus. It seems strange to think of students sleeping in cars, but the truth is that it happens, and it's a more widespread problem than you might think.



Rebekah Hackney
Columnist

Homelessness doesn't happen all at once. It's a process. For me, the process started late last August when I received an email from the Bursar's Office informing me I needed to write a huge check if I wanted to return to Elon in the fall. I've received this email every year, but while Elon's cost of attendance rose every year, my financial aid package slowly shrunk. At the beginning of my senior year, I was out

of money and options. After being tossed between the Office of Financial Planning and the Bursar's Office for days, they told me in order to stay at Elon, I would need to find a place to live off-campus, which for me meant finding a job.

Taking seven classes and working a part-time job wasn't easy, so I was relieved in a way when I lost that job due to my limited availability. I wasn't as relieved when I realized this meant I had to move out of my house. With nowhere else to go I found myself, at the end of October, moving back home to Raleigh.

I knew trying to finish the semester would be difficult with a two-hour commute every day, but I didn't have any choice. I woke up early to make it to Elon for my 8 a.m. class and drove back to Raleigh late at night. To save gas, I slept on friend's couches or in the library. The back seat of my car was my closet, bookshelf and cupboard.

I attended events with free food, found faculty lounges with coffee makers and

made friends with dining hall workers who occasionally gave me leftovers. I made being homeless a science.

I finally found a place to stay at Thanksgiving Break. My church has a program that allows families to "adopt" college students so they can have homecooked meals and a place to stay during holidays — I was in need of both. When they learned of my situation, my adopted family invited me to rent out their spare room for the rest of the year, an invitation I accepted gratefully.

Along with the physical and psychological effects of this homelessness, my academic performance suffered. It should come as no surprise that students can't do well when their basic needs are not met.

A home isn't just a place to stay. It's a foundation that students need. I know I have not been the only homeless student at Elon. I wasn't homeless for long — only about four weeks. I can only imagine how much more difficult that semester would have been had

I been homeless the entire semester and not able to commute to Raleigh for a time.

Where are the resources on campus for those students that struggle to find affordable housing? Where could I have gone for guidance and support when I saw this coming? If you admit a student with financial need, which Elon wants to do more in the future, you should see them through and make sure they receive enough financial and academic support to graduate.

Elon prides itself on being a residential campus. It's spent millions of dollars creating one. If it has the facilities but not the resources to provide access to those facilities, that's not something to be proud of.

There are students at Elon who are homeless and need the support of this institution in order to finish their educations. Elon should pay attention to its students and care about where they sleep at night. If students are here, but are not set up for success, the university is doing them a disservice.

Elon community empowers each other through ice storm

This past weekend, Elon University fell victim to widespread power outages. The power outages were due to winter storm Titan that struck Alamance County. These blackouts affected the majority of its on-campus (and later off-campus) housing neighborhoods. Many students across the Elon campus were thrown out of their usual day-to-day routine as a result of these outages. Despite being without power and heat, the strong community feel of the Elon campus made sure all students were taken care of during the storm.



Nick Foley
Columnist

Some may question the strength of our athletic teams, academic climate or lack of diversity on campus, but after the recent power outages it would be hard for anyone to argue that our campus is not a community. As soon as the majority of students lost power, residential advisors sprang into action to make sure their residents were safe. Once residents

of Colonnades, the Global Neighborhood and Danieley were ordered to evacuate their residence halls, several students helped one another pack and moved their belongings to locations on campus that had power.

Smith Jackson, vice president of student life, attempted to keep students informed while directing them to locations with power, but at the end of the day it was the students who played an integral role in making sure everyone was safe. A university can flaunt a student body's academic and athletic success, but what can't be printed on an admissions pamphlet is the strong community ties a student body feels. If we are to take away one lesson from this weekend's power outages, it is the community is stronger than ever.

Wicked snow storms, cold temperatures and freezing rain have made this winter a tough one for the Elon community. Physical Plant has been working tirelessly since the start of the new year to keep the campus safe and accessible, but they have been fighting an uphill battle against Mother Nature.

A few days removed from the power outages, our campus should continue to strive to be a community, both in times of struggle and



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

The sudden onset of the ice storm caused substantial damage to Elon's campus from falling trees.

times of triumph. We often get caught up in our busy schedules and fail to take the time to look up and see what is around us. Coming from Massachusetts, I know I'm guilty of always being in a rush and often find myself being caught off guard when someone asks me how my day is going or says hello.

The power outages provided an excellent opportunity for me to step away from classes, my phone and any other commitments so that I could get to know a few new people around me. Losing power and heat is never fun, but I am glad to have had the chance to break away

from the monotony of my daily schedule.

As we return to classes, practices and other commitments, we should take a moment to reflect on this weekend's events. It's impossible to quantify discomfort, but our campus did an impressive job persevering through the cold without electricity. The Elon community pulled through the ice storm of 2014 because we stuck together and helped one another. Moving forward, we should take comfort in knowing our campus is strong and can handle anything if we embrace everyone in our community.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTIAN SEITZ.

Students pose for a group photo in front of the city of Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic on the Winter Term 2014 trip "World War II in Europe: Life in a Time of War." The class explores the Czech Republic, France and Germany.

Opportunities await as Winter Term 2015 study abroad programs open

Kaitlin Dunn
International Editor

Every year, hundreds of Elon University students travel around the world during Winter Term. In 2015, the Global Education Center is expanding their Winter Term programs so that more students than ever will have the opportunity to go abroad. Along with many popular programs that are being offered again, several new programs are being introduced as well. Thirty-three total study abroad classes will be offered along with two Study USA options in Park City, Utah and Hawaii.

Burruss said he is very excited about the

variety of programs being offered this year.

"We have so many great courses this year," Burruss said. "With the new courses and the number of courses, I think we are providing a lot of good opportunities for students."

New programs

One new class will take students to Africa to volunteer in Malawi. Students who sign up for "Malawi: The Warm Heart of Africa" will spend the first two weeks of the program exploring the country and learning about its culture. Students will spend the third week tutoring children at an elemen-

tary school and teaching them peer-tutoring strategies.

TElon has partnered with an overcrowded school to create sustainable reading strategies for Malawi students. With a ratio of one teacher to 300 students, literacy is one of its biggest problems, according to the headmaster.

Terry Tomasek an associate professor of education, who is leading the program, said she is excited about making a difference at the school.

"If we were to just tutor the children for a week, they wouldn't have any tutors when we leave," Tomasek said. "By teaching them peer reading strategies, they will be able to

help each other long after we leave. We're leaving them with something."

For students wanting to explore multiple countries in Europe, Rich D'Amato, director of Elon's engineering dual-degree program, will be heading a program called "Great Structures of Europe: Technology and History." The class will focus on the history and society around the great structures of Europe, including long-standing wonders, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Roman Coliseum, as well as modern marvels like the Erasmus Bridge in Rotterdam.

"The class will go through five countries, four languages and two currencies," D'Amato said. "It's going to be a great time."

For the first time, Elon is offering an upper level GST in the form of a study abroad class. The course is “Austria: Sex and Violins: the Lives of the Great Composers” is only open to juniors and seniors.

Victoria Fischer Faw is one of the instructors leading the program. She said it is an incredible opportunity for independent research.

“It’s a unique course,” Fischer Faw said. “There are a lot of opportunities for students to reflect on the musical heritage of Austria and how it relates to other topics they personally are interested in.”

Past programs

Along with new programs, many programs that have been popular in the past are also being offered in 2015.

Sophomore Allie Roteman was on the program “Costa Rica Jungle: Community, Conservation, Service” last year and said she is excited the program is being offered again. She said the class was “active and adventurous,” and she would recommend it to anyone.

“We got to explore the true environment of Costa Rica,” Roteman said. “I got

to see and experience so many things that I wouldn’t have been able to if I had gone with my family.”

Another previously popular program being offered is “World War II in Europe: Life in a Time of War” which has been offered for many years. The program focuses on the lives of the people in Europe at the time of World War II, as opposed to the battles that took place during the war.

Michelle Kleckner, a senior lecturer in computing sciences is teaching the class for the fourth time, and Elizabeth Bailey, a lecturer in health and human performance, is teaching it for the second time.

“This course really gives students an idea of what it was like to live in Europe during the war,” Bailey said. “The guide really tries to immerse students in the environment and give them a perspective they wouldn’t get otherwise.”

General information

Students, including many freshmen came to the Winter Term Study Abroad Fair March 4 to check out the programs.

Freshman Brianna Birchett is considering applying for the course “India’s Identi-

ties: Religion, Caste and Gender in Contemporary South India.”

“I’m an International Studies major, and it fits in with my concentration,” Birchett said. “It would be a really interesting trip.”

Freshman Elena Sparacio also came to the fair to explore her study abroad options.

“I think it would be pretty cool to go to Ireland,” Sparacio said. “It looks like it would be a lot of fun.”

For more information and a complete list of all the programs being offered, students can log on to elon.edu/studyabroad to find more detailed descriptions of all the classes including costs, itineraries and prerequisites.

Burruss said he wants to urge students to apply as soon as possible.

“We want everyone to have the best chance to get into the program they want,” Burruss said.

The priority first deadline for applications is March 20. Students accepted during this time will be notified starting April 3. After that, the application period will be reopened April 17. Students who apply then will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The final deadline is Sept. 8 §

International Briefs

Kim Jong-un wins North Korean election unopposed

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea held its first parliamentary elections under the rule of Kim Jong-un March 9.

This election is not different from the last election under Kim Jong-il five years ago. One candidate ran in each district, and every candidate was elected with 100 percent support.

Jong-un himself ran unopposed and was elected as a representative in the Mount Paekdu district.

Holloway murder suspect to be extradited to US in 2038

LIMA, Peru — According to the Peruvian news agency Andina, Peruvian government officials have agreed to extradite Joran van der Sloot to the United States in 24 years.

Van der Sloot is a suspect in the murder of American teenager Natalee Holloway in 2012. He has been indicted in the U.S. on charges of extortion and wire fraud.

Van der Sloot will be held in Peruvian prison until 2038 for the murder of Stephany Flores.

Iraqi suicide bomber kills 45

HILLA, Iraq — More than 45 were killed and 140 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a minibus packed with explosives at a police checkpoint.

More than 40 cars were set ablaze when the explosives went off. Many of those killed were drivers and passengers trapped inside.

The attack killed security officers, civilians and two reporters for the television station Iraqia.

Hilla is a largely Shia Muslim city, and the bombings are believed to be the work of a Sunni Muslim group although nobody has claimed responsibility at this time.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JACKSON EDWARDS.

Students on the Winter Term 2014 trip “Holocaust Journey” explore the city of Prague in the Czech Republic. The class is being offered again Winter Term 2015.

Elon alumna's business venture boosts self-confidence for 'well-dressed' women

Kyra Gemberling
Senior Reporter

For many women, there is nothing more frustrating than having a closet full of clothes but nothing to wear.

Kim Giles, resources and communications coordinator for Career Services at Elon University, is no exception.

A couple years ago, Giles found herself in a fashion rut. She wore the same outfits every week, she said, and her wardrobe had become stagnant. Her daughter, Jessica Pasion, a Class of 2005 Elon alumna who now works at Elon as assistant to the president, decided to help Giles sort through her closet to find new, interesting outfit combinations.

But what began as a simple favor soon became the inspiration behind Pasion's idea for Well Dressed, a wardrobe consulting company that helps women find figure-flattering outfits from clothes they already own. "The idea had been on my mind since helping my mom," Pasion said. "I always thought it would be really cool to pursue."

The idea for Well Dressed went from a

notion to a potential reality when Pasion and Giles, who are both pursuing MBAs at Elon, participated in a business startup competition offered for the first time at Elon in November.

"Originally we wanted to go just to see how a business plan unfolds and just to observe, really," Giles said. "But about an hour before the startup weekend began, I said, 'Jess, you should really pitch your idea.' So we brainstormed what we would do."

Pasion placed third in the competition out of about 70 participants. As her prize, Pasion was rewarded the chance to consult with industry experts about Well Dressed, and her idea continued to the next round of the competition. It did not place high enough for the final round, but Pasion said she was thankful for the opportunity nonetheless.

"[Getting third place] was really exciting," Pasion said. "It proved to me that it's important to take risks because you never know what will come of it."

Between pursuing her MBA and working a full-time job, Pasion said the biggest struggle is going to be finding time to focus on launching Well Dressed. Fortunately, her participation in the startup weekend gave her ideas for how to begin developing and marketing the company, she said.

Pasion's startup weekend team gave her the idea to have Well Dressed take the form of a digital closet that serves two distinct client bases. The first group of clients, individuals who desire assistance with their wardrobes, will upload photos of their clothing to Well Dressed's website to be paired together. The second group of clients will be fashion consultants who view the images from each individual's wardrobe and create fashionable outfits for them to choose from.

"The idea is to create a platform for these two groups of people in need to meet



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA PASION

When Pasion got married, she weighed more than 300 pounds. She has lost nearly 200 pounds since — something she said has helped her understand the importance of self-confidence more than she did before.

each other," Pasion said. "To maintain low startup costs, I will serve as a fashion consultant until I have reached my client capacity. The next challenge is determining who can be new fashion consultants — fashion students? Personal shoppers at retail stores? Etc."

But Pasion's aspirations for Well Dressed don't end there. She has also developed ideas for two additional revenue streams once it becomes a profitable company. First, she would like to see Well Dressed have its own clothing line.

"There's a company I shop [with] all the time where they have my measurements on file so I can order clothing and have it personalized to fit my body," she said. "The idea for our line would be to do something similar, so people not only learn how to dress themselves, but also learn that fit is more important than anything else."

Second, Pasion said she would like to create an online consignment store for unwanted clothes from clients with digital closets. These clothes would be sold inexpensively to college students. Giles said she likes this plan in particular because it is a win-win situation for both parties.

"For clients like me who have all these clothes they don't need or don't fit or aren't stylish, who better to donate them to than

students about to start their professional careers who may not have a lot of money yet or aren't used to dressing professionally?" she said. "The person who's donating feels good too because it's going to a good cause."

But for Pasion, launching Well Dressed is about more than creating a profitable business — it's about building self-esteem among women by giving them the opportunity to feel confident about their style. Since losing nearly 200 pounds after undergoing gastric bypass surgery in 2008, Pasion said she understands the importance of self-confidence better than ever.

"I considered weight loss surgery when I was more than 330 pounds," she said. "Although my husband, family and friends loved me and told me I was beautiful, I struggled with my appearance. It's important for women to like how they look — it effects confidence and impacts how you live your life."

Knowing how to dress properly is a guaranteed way to boost self-esteem, Pasion said, and she's excited to eventually see clients using Well Dressed for this exact purpose.

"You can be a 300-pound woman and still look good and dress appropriately," she said. "You eliminate insecurities when you know that you're dressing your body the best you can."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA PASION

Jessica Pasion, a Class of 2005 Elon University alumna, won third place at a startup competition hosted at Elon University in November.

Swan song: Lake Mary Nell's lonely long-neck paddles on

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

Lake Mary Nell's swan is a familiar presence. Her grace and beauty have charmed many who pass the lake. She dominates the area with her majestic features, and people are often compelled to stop and take a picture. Whether your interaction was limited to a picture, or if it extended to several minutes of swan-watching, you might have wondered, "Why is she alone?"

Though her lineage is uncertain, according to Tom Flood, director of landscaping at Elon University, her story began 10 years ago when two swans were brought to Lake Mary Nell to chase migrating geese off the lake.

One of these two swans was her mother. The second swan, her mother's first mate, was known to venture beyond Mary Nell's boundaries to look for nesting grounds. His search was cut short one day when he was killed by the swan's greatest predator: the automobile.

After his death, Elon brought in a second male to Lake Mary Nell, which, according to Flood, is presumably the current swan's father.

"It was really hard finding an adult 'replacement swan,' but we asked around and eventually found one," Flood said. "We were still concerned for their safety though. The two swans would wander around in the spring and cross roads to look for nesting sites. We have had many swans over the years get injured or killed by cars."

According to Flood, although the swans get their wings clipped as required by domestic law, their inability to fly has not stopped them from wandering — an activity characteristic of pairs.

"They can't fly, but they sure can walk. You can't really fence them in a pond. So if they get a notion that they're going to go explore, they'll do that. It tends to happen when there's more than one in the pond," Flood said.

Despite the threats posed by wandering, Flood said many swans have been successful in raising cygnets (baby

swans).

"Typically, if swans have nested and have successfully hatched eggs, it's a little difficult for them to raise a cygnet to adulthood," he said. "Many of the cygnets would be killed by natural environmental conditions like the snapping turtles in the lake."

The swan currently inhabiting Lake Mary Nell is one of the few cygnets who were raised to adulthood. Flood claims that even the cygnets who survived to semi-adulthood were often chased off the lake by the parent swans and were thus relocated to various areas, which include Danieley Center's Lake Verona and Twin Lakes.

While many of the relocated swans wandered away from their new homes, the current swan is one of the few who have stayed — perhaps because she was kept where she was raised.

The turmoil brought by having pairs of swans on the lake helps to explain why there is only one swan in Lake Mary Nell today.

"It's just much more peaceful now for everybody. There is less aggression going on in the lake, it's safer for the swan because she doesn't wander off, we're not having cygnets that are succumbing to the rigors of nature," he said. "Though the swan doesn't chase the migrating geese, which was its intended purpose, it just became a tradition to have a swan on the lake."

Though it appears that the swan and the geese live harmoniously on the lake, a rumor has emerged suggesting that perhaps the creatures are too content; many people have discussed the possibility of the geese mating with the swan and producing baby "sweese."

According to Dave Gammon, associate professor of biology, the rumor is questionable.

"I'm skeptical of a swan hybridizing with a goose. Even if courtship behavior occurs, I have a hard time believing offspring would be produced, or that the offspring would be fertile," Gammons said. "Each species is from a different genus, so it would be sort of like a dog

hybridizing with a fox."

Flood, who said he agrees with Gammon, urged students at Elon to realize that even though the swan isn't nesting, she can still show territorial and aggressive behavior.

"I worry every time I see a family with little kids trying to feed the geese and the swan. They can get quite aggressive and their bite can really raise a good welp," Flood said.

Sophia Spach, a junior at Elon, has experienced this herself while trying to feed the swan.

"She looks so beautiful, gently floating on the lake until she steps her huge webbed feet on the land, and then it's like, 'bam!' in your face: 'hello swan,'" Spach said. "She bit my leg a few times and my chest one time."

Flood assured the public the waterfowl on the lake are definitely not starving and suggests that students avoid feeding them, as it can provoke aggressive behavior.

"The swan is fed chicken pellets every day, and, in the process, the ducks and geese are inevitably fed as well," Flood said.

Flood said he is always amazed by the variety of rumors that have emerged over the years regarding the swan.

"It's been 11 years since I came to Elon, and the swans came a year before I did," he said. "Right now, I don't see a lonely swan that's planning to get away from Lake Mary Nell. I see a swan co-existing with all the other waterfowl on the pond and keeping safe from threats to her safety."



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
The university initially brought in two swans to chase away migrating geese around Lake Mary Nell. The swans have since stopped chasing them, but have become on a tradition on campus.

Musical Theater Class of 2015 to hold Disney Cabaret

Meghan Mahoney
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Elon Musical Theater Class of 2015 (MT '15) is channeling its inner child with its upcoming cabaret. The Disney cabaret, "Anything Can Happen," will take place at 6:30 and 8 p.m. March 19 and 20 in the Black Box Theatre.

Junior Musical Theater majors Savannah Sprinkle and John Barsoian said that they chose to have a Disney-themed cabaret because Disney is able to reach audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

"The music speaks to many different generations, and it was something we could connect with as a class and as performers," Sprinkle said. "We wanted to share that."

The cabaret will have around 16 numbers from movies such as "The Lion King," "Cinderella," "Hercules," "Aladdin," "Aristocats," "Pocahontas" and "Frozen." MT '15 will sing three pieces as a full class. Each song will be arranged or choreographed by a member of the class.

The performances are donation based, and tickets are not needed. The profit will go directly to the MT '15 funds for senior year when they will fly in casting directors and agents who provide opportunities for students to potentially secure jobs before they leave school.

"These funds also go to putting together our senior show, which will be similar to this cabaret but on a larger, full-production scale," Barsoian said. "Because we are a class of 30, which is large for the music theater program, it is important that we get as much outside help as we can so that each person can get an equal opportunity with the casting directors."

Sprinkle said the cabaret isn't just about raising money.

"We just want to share this music and our experiences with everyone," she said. "Disney is special to everyone, and it gives us the opportunity to perform together before senior year."

To donate online visit the class fundraising page at Fundly.com/anything-can-happen-a-disney-cabaret.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

MT '15's "Anything Can Happen" will take place at 6:30 and 8 p.m. March 19-20 in the Black Box Theatre.

Irish dancers hope to create official Elon organization

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

Practicing in building lobbies and empty classrooms and getting together in spare moments between other club meetings are current realities of the Irish Dance Club, which is in the process of becoming an official organization at Elon University. Juniors Katie Caler, Catherine Falvey, Kerry Kurkjian, Ellen O'Neill and Kaela Wnorowski have been Irish dancing all their lives. After they connected on Elon's campus two years ago, they decided it would be fun to dance together.

The decision to become a legitimate organization was solidified after their freshman spring, when the group performed for Elon's Got Talent and Elonthon. Since then, the core five girls have been working to become an official organization.

While there are plenty of dance groups on campus, there are none dedicated to Irish dance. O'Neill said she knows introducing an Irish dancing club could provide a unique opportunity to learn for experienced and new dancers alike.

"I want this club available for dancers who want to continue Irish dancing in college," O'Neill said. "I hope that it will attract students who want to maybe get involved in the Irish dance. It is such a unique dance form that a lot of people don't know about. To them, Irish dance is just 'Riverdance' and curly hair, but there is so much more to it than that. It offers a unique part of Irish culture to campus."

While the group knows the benefits of a club like this, making that dream a reality hasn't been easy. Kurkjian said they have faced a number of roadblocks in their pursuit so far.

"It's been challenging with the four or five of us studying abroad [at different times]" Kurkjian said. "We're also trying to create a club with four or five peoples opinions, and it's difficult trying to fit into Elon's organizational mold. Elon has different categories for clubs and organizations. Irish dance can fit in a lot of these categories, so it makes it tricky."

One of the hardest things for the group thus far has been recruiting. Wnorowski said that, without being official, the group has to rely on untraditional ways to spread the word.

"Recruiting people has been very word-of-mouth," Wnorowski said. "It's been hard because that's the only way we've been getting people involved. Being part of organization fair eventually will really help that, because people will actually see [the] table."

Under Elon's rules the Irish dance club

has 10 girls on its roster, which is 10 less than it needs to be considered an official organization. Caler expressed how troublesome waiting can be.

"It's frustrating wanting it all to happen within the span of a week, but it doesn't happen like that," Caler said. "You have to find an adviser and stay on top of paperwork. It's a lot, but in the end, it's worth it."

Despite the hoops the girls have to jump through, they are optimistic about becoming official soon enough. Caler said Irish dance could become a longstanding tradition and organization on campus.

"Ten years down the road, it would be nice to come back and see the Irish dance team perform," Caler said. "Other universities have more established teams and host competitions. I would love to see it progress to something bigger and [know] it was our brainchild."

Elon Dance Company prepares for spring show

Kelsey Higgins
Senior Reporter

Although it still feels like winter outside, the Elon University Dance Company is hard at work preparing for this year's spring dance concert, titled "Looking Back to Spring Forward."

The show will run March 13 to 15 in McCrary Theatre. The program will include five original works by the Elon University dance faculty with one piece by guest artist Diane Coburn Bruning.

Artistic director Lauren Kearns said she often uses autobiography as a creative springboard and is inspired by how investigating reflection and memory can lay the groundwork for personal, social, cultural or political evolution.

"I thought designing a concert around this theme would be a creative, challenging and thought-provoking experience for the artists, dancers and audience," Kearns said.

Bruning's piece, "torrid zone," was originally commissioned by the Five Colleges Dance Department a few years ago and has been performed by the Skidmore and Bucknell Dance Departments.

Senior Jennifer McAllister has been in-

involved with the spring concert every year since her freshman at Elon.

"I feel like it's a culmination of all of my dancing experiences at Elon. It's my final hoorah before I go out into the real world, where I don't know when I'll get to perform again," McAllister said. "I guarantee I will be sobbing by the end from excitement and sadness combined."

McAllister will dance as lead soloist in Kearns's piece and will also appear in adjunct assistant professor of dance Natalie Marrone's piece, which was altered for the concert.

"In the fall of 2012 my dance company and I were awarded the NC Dance Alliance Choreography Fellowship, which supported the creation of this work," Marrone said. "I re-worked the piece in collaboration with the Elon students."

Her work, "The Sisters of Sardinia," is a trio inspired by the story of Celeste Noli who, after witnessing the drowning of one of her sisters, seeks the assistance of a traditional Sardinian healing woman.

Marrone said she has been researching vernacular healing traditions from Southern Italy and incorporating them into dances since 2007.

"The dance is complicated by its chal-



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Dancers in Sara Tourek's "passing platforms" practice on stage during dress rehearsal.

lenging and athletic contemporary movement that fuses vernacular healing dance movements with traditional techniques such as modern dance, ballet and jazz," Marrone said. "The Elon dancers have worked tirelessly to rise to the challenge both emotionally and physically."

The program will also feature works by staff members Jen Metcalf, Sara Tourek

and Jason Aryeh.

"Overall, I feel like this concert is very reflective for the choreographers, the dancers and the dance program as a whole," McAllister said. "We've grown so much as a program just over the past few years, and I feel like we need to take the time to appreciate how far we've come and get excited for the future."

New all-female a cappella group takes stage

Xanthia Saganis
Reporter

Every semester, Elon University students flock to auditions to try their hands at a cappella. Group singing without instruments has become increasingly popular, so landing a spot in a group is no easy task.

According to sophomore Alexis Paul, hundreds of students audition each semester, but fewer than ten are chosen for each group.

Seeing that the demand for a cappella groups drastically outweighed the supply, Paul took it upon herself to create a new group, Shirley Tempos.

"There is always a demand for more a cappella groups on campus with the popularity of interest," Paul said.

Paul created the all-female group to give girls a greater opportunity to be involved in a cappella. Elon has two co-ed a cappella groups, two all-male and only one all-female group. Paul said it seemed natural to create another all-female group to even out the playing field.

"The length of this process has been hard, but it has only reassured the dedication of those still involved in getting this group started," said Josie Sornson, junior and vice president of The Shirley Tempos.

This semester has presented extra

challenges for Paul and Sornson in jump-starting the organization. Paul said they were unable to attend the Organization Fair after it was rescheduled. In addition, the disruptive weather prevented many girls from auditioning.

Despite this, Paul said she remains positive.

"Our group may end up being smaller this spring than the other a cappella groups, but that's so that there are more spots open for next fall's auditions," she said.

After dedicating time and effort into the formation of the Shirley Tempos, Paul said she does not want the group to be just another voice in the background.

She plans on making her group stand out by singing a wider variety of songs, some popular and some she expects many people will not know.

"Though we will still be doing popular songs, we want to throw a twist into the mix so that people aren't comparing our group to the original singers," Paul said.

The Shirley Tempos have not set any performance dates, but they will have at least one this semester as the group develops.

"[We want] to bring together a great group of girls with a common passion for singing so that we can all grow together through our experiences and build each other up," Sornson said.

Elon's season ends sooner than expected

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — In a season with many high hopes, it was a sudden, disappointing end for the Elon University men's basketball team.

Predicted as Southern Conference champions in the preseason, Elon's season ended far short of that. With three straight losses, the final one being a 66-64 heartbreaker to Western Carolina University in the SoCon quarterfinals, the Phoenix finished the 2013-2014 campaign on a low note.

"It stinks to lose," said senior guard Jack Isenbarger. "No one likes to lose, especially when you have an opportunity to play in the NCAA Tournament. That was the goal. To lose here, it hasn't completely sunk in yet."

Elon led by as many as 12 points in the second half, but Western Carolina reeled off a run of four 3-pointers within three minutes to claw back into the game and eventually pull ahead.

The Phoenix trailed by four with 12.9 seconds left but cut the lead in half after a Western Carolina travel and a bucket underneath by senior forward Ryley Beaumont. The Catamounts lost the ensuing possession out of bounds, giving the Phoenix a chance with 6.6 seconds on the clock.

Isenbarger took an inbounds pass at the top of the arc and came off a pick from senior forward Lucas Troutman but saw his 3-pointer clank off the right side of the rim in the waning moments of the game.

"We got the shot we wanted," Isenbarger said. "It was relatively open. It felt good coming off. It just kind of sailed to the right a little bit."

The loss ends an era of the proclaimed "Core Four" senior class of Isenbarger, Troutman, Beaumont and Sebastian Koch. The four helped produce 68 wins in their four years, the most for one class in Elon's Division I history.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Junior forward Ryan Winters will be a key asset to Elon's success next season in the CAA.

They led Elon to its first-ever postseason tournament, earning a bid to the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament in 2013. All four players scored more than 1,000 points during their careers.

"This is a special class, one of the best classes in the history of Elon basketball," said Elon head coach Matt Matheny. "I've said this before, their legacy's already cemented as one of the best of all time."

Not only was it his last of 22 consecutive Southern Conference tournaments — he was an assistant at Davidson for 16 years prior to coming to Elon — it was the first time in Matheny's five-year tenure at Elon that the team did not advance

to the SoCon semifinals.

"The finality of conference tournament play, it's like a dagger in the heart," Matheny said.

After beating Furman University by 31 points Feb. 24, Elon lost its final three games. The Phoenix lost by four to Wofford College at home Feb. 27 before getting blown out by Davidson College on senior night and finally losing to Western Carolina.

The season saw its highs and lows, with the peak being an 87-85 overtime win at Davidson Jan. 16. The Phoenix had big crowds in Alumni Gym when the University of Massachusetts and David-

son came to town but failed to win either contest.

Early on, excitement was flowing at "Late Night with the Phoenix" and a season-opening blowout of Washington and Lee University. But that was kept at a brim with one-point losses to Canisius College and Division II Metropolitan State University.

Elon now sets its sights on the Colonial Athletic Association, which it will be joining officially July 2014. Teams that the Phoenix will be facing include the University of Delaware, Towson University and College of Charleston.

With the heightened competition in the CAA, next year could bring bumps and bruises for Elon. Only one starter returns, and more than 60 percent of the team's scoring production graduates.

Leading the charge will be junior guards Kevin Blake and Austin Hamilton along with sophomore sharp shooter Tanner Samson. In the post, junior forward Ryan Winters and freshman forward Brian Dawkins will be looked toward to fill the void of Troutman and Beaumont.

Blake averaged just 4.7 points for the year but showed a knack for aggression in his 10 starts this year. Hamilton started early on and will likely play the point guard position, while Samson will continue to be a lethal 3-point shooting threat.

Winters and Dawkins each saw increased playing time late in this season, with Matheny saying after a number of games how impressed he was with their play. Freshman guard Luke Eddy and freshman forward Christian Hairston will also take on bigger roles next season.

The problem facing Matheny will be how quickly it takes these players, who accounted for less than half of Elon's total minutes this year, to adjust to their new roles and more playing time.

With new opponents and new faces awaiting, it will be a year of change in 2014-2015 for the Elon men's basketball team.

'Like a Movie': Phoenix reflects on roller coaster season

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Five months ago, questions surrounded the Elon University women's basketball team.

The Phoenix had to replace 1,000-point scorer Kelsey Evans and 2,000-point scorer Ali Ford.

Kelsey Harris was the team's lone senior and was being thrown into a leadership role.

High expectations surrounded all four freshmen.

With the 2013-14 season now in the rearview mirror, Elon has been through what head coach Charlotte Smith called "a movie."

"I am incredibly proud of this basketball team," Smith said after Elon dropped its Southern Conference semifinal game against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga 77-44 March 9. "I could tell stories about everything this team has had to endure throughout the entire season. I'm proud of the fact that we have done a great job of persevering through a lot of difficult things."

The difficulties began in the preseason when sophomore guards Nicole Razor and Jessica Farmer suffered injuries that kept them out until December. Freshman forward Mackenzie Darrah was next, tearing her ACL and forcing the 6-foot-4-inch recruit to take the year off.

The team withstood so many injuries that it was unable to partake in a scheduled intrasquad scrimmage at Elon's "Late Night with the Phoenix" event Oct. 18 in Alumni Gym. Junior forward Sam Coffey and freshman forward Jenifer Rhodes also missed action in the team's exhibition and regular season opener, respectively.

A challenging start to the regular season included losses to talented teams such as Virginia Commonwealth University, East Carolina University, Vanderbilt University, North Carolina State University and West Virginia University. The rocky start continued in Southern Conference play as the Phoenix dropped a

game at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who went on to finish the season 3-15 in conference.

"The Southern Conference is an outstanding conference," Smith said. "It's a very competitive conference, and you see that from just the standings this year. Every night you had to be prepared to fight. No games were easy."

Elon was able to finish with a 10-8 conference record, partially because of the breakout performances of freshmen Rhodes, Lauren Brown and Lenaira Ruffin. All three won SoCon Freshman of the Week honors at least once during the season. Rhodes, the SoCon Freshman of the Year (as voted by the league's coaches), averaged 9.4 points per game and snared 5.3 rebounds per game. Brown, the team's starting point guard for a majority of the season, averaged 8.1 points per game. There were moments of adjustment. But overall, the Phoenix freshmen proved the future is bright.

"Our youth played a big part in a lot of things today," Smith said after the Chattanooga loss. "But we're going to get better. We're excited about the future of this team."

Harris echoed her coach's sentiments. "Our youth showed today in a lot of areas," she said. "It's just another game for us to get better."

Adversity struck again when Smith was forced to miss a game against UNCG on Feb. 1 because of two deaths in her family. Elon carried on and scored 80 points in a 23-point triumph under interim head coach Cristy McKinney.

Harris, the lone senior on the team, will be the only loss heading into the 2014-15 season and the team's first year in the Colonial Athletic Association. Elon will have three key seniors — guard Zora Stephenson and forwards Shannen Cochraham and Coffey — along with an established junior class and an experienced group of sophomores.

As the lack of experience turns to veteran talent, the sky is the limit in a new league for the Phoenix, one devoid of perennial power Chattanooga. Even as

Elon enters a new conference, the team will not be the same without Harris.

"It's been a great four years," she said. "Great coaching staff, great teammates, so I'm just trying to take it all in. We've had a lot of difficulties this season, a lot of injuries."

The season has come to a close, and

Harris is on her way out, but one thing is in place for the future: a foundation. Elon women's basketball will return in November with a new league and a bright future.

For a photo gallery and coverage of the SoCon Tournament, please visit elondependulum.com



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
Injuries troubled Elon early in the season, but the leadership of senior Kelsey Harris helped the team earn the No. 5 seed and advance to the SoCon Semifinals before losing to No. 1 Chattanooga 77-44.

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Danny Lynch taking on

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

As his teammates chat, tell jokes and do anything to forget about the chilly weather, Elon University sophomore Danny Lynch stands alone.

Waiting for his turn in batting practice, Lynch takes some practice swings. He's quiet. He smiles occasionally. More than anything, he looks focused. He

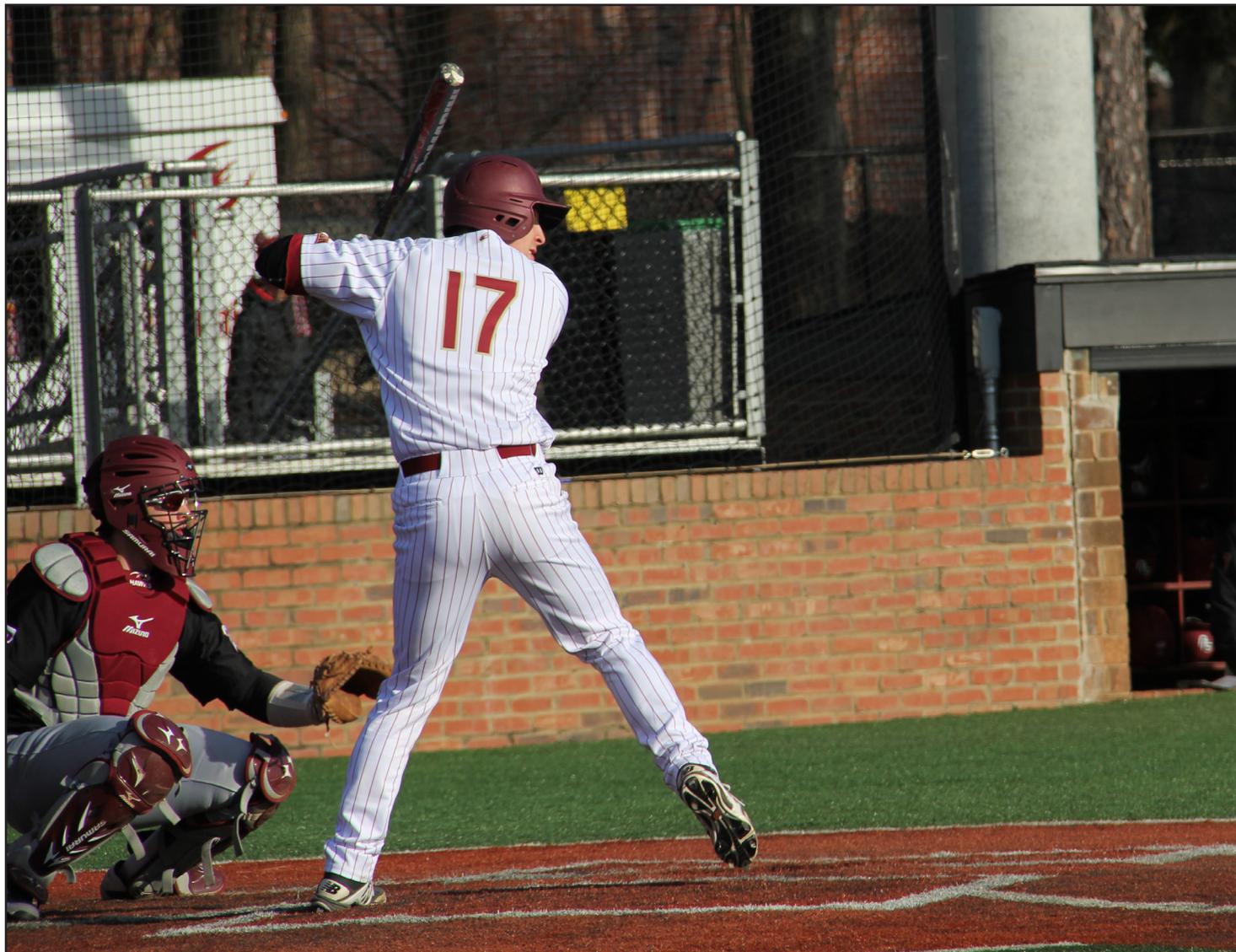
speaks when spoken to — that's just who he is.

Elon head coach Mike Kennedy knew that, but he still chose Lynch to take over one of the most important positions on the field and play a pivotal role in a rebuilding year for the Phoenix.

Last summer, after losing star catchers Alex Swim and Ryan Kinsella, Kennedy and his staff decided to switch Lynch from his primary positions of first base-

man and third baseman to taking over the backstop as Elon's catcher. The same quiet, soft-spoken person who loves to be in the weight room would now be looked to for leadership on the field.

"That's the one area we don't like about him," Kennedy said. "He's so quiet. To play that position, you really need a guy who's a voice back there and is energetic. It's hard to change a kid when that's just who he is."



Danny Lynch was primarily a corner infielder when he arrived at Elon, but began taking reps at catcher this past fall and has started 11 games there this season.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

catching role for Elon baseball

During his baseball career at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Lynch pitched a total of six innings. His primary position was in the infield, but he threw on the mound a bit during the summer.

He came into Elon as an infielder, but Kennedy also wanted him to be a pitcher. Although the pitching didn't work out, Lynch hit .242 in 46 games, scoring 15 runs and driving in 17 his freshman year.

Elon lost 16 players to graduation or the Major League Baseball draft after winning the Southern Conference Tournament Championship in 2013, sparking Kennedy to make some changes with his players. Lynch was an ideal athlete to change positions, though it was something he had never thought about himself.

"Once they told me, I started watching some big league guys play," Lynch said. "What makes them the best is that, defensively, they control the game. They're great leaders. Hopefully, I can do that for us."

Kennedy picked Lynch over other players due to his flexible talents on the field and his work ethic.

"We knew we'd be getting someone without a lot of experience," Kennedy said. "He's flexible and good in the weight room, so we figured he could handle it. He's got arm strength."

From the first pitch of fall practice, Lynch had his work cut out for him. It became a long, grueling preseason filled with bullpens and extra workouts.

There were days of rough patches and bumps in the road, but Lynch persevered.

"In the fall, he struggled a bit," said Elon senior relief pitcher Ryan Pennell. "He'd be dropping balls, but you had to give him the benefit of the doubt."

Lynch's work ethic set in, helping him move at a faster pace than expected.

"He'd be out here early every day just catching off the machine, doing extra blocking," Pennell said. "Basically, any-

thing to get him better, he was doing. A lot of people don't see it, but he does it. He works hard."

Pennell said Lynch's work goes beyond the baseball diamond, as Lynch is a "freak" in the weight room. Lynch will stay long past the time the team is required to be in there, gaining any possible edge he can.

He needs it to make up for the one quality he lacks: vocal leadership. His quiet demeanor holds him back from be-

**"IT WAS
JUST AN
EXPERIMENT,
BUT I'M GLAD
IT WORKED
OUT."**

DANNY LYNCH
ELON BASEBALL TEAM CATCHER

coming the best he can be, according to Kennedy.

"He needs to get a little more lively," Kennedy said. "When he does, you're going to see a guy who can really handle it back there. The team needs it. That's your leader."

While he seems introverted off the field, Pennell suggested he has the ability on the field when it's necessary.

"You want your catcher to be a leader," Pennell said. "Once the game starts, he's pretty good. He'll be vocal when he has to. But off the field, he doesn't talk much."

Behind the plate, Lynch has excelled

in his newfound role. Elon beat the University of Cincinnati in extra innings to begin the season, and Lynch had the game-winning hit.

Kennedy raved about Lynch not for his plate presence, but for his defensive play in his first-ever game as catcher.

"I'm more impressed with that than that big hit," Kennedy said. "He'll get more of those. But for the first time he's ever caught a game and be that good back there and stick pitches and do a good job, he was outstanding."

That game has been used as a building block for Lynch, who has struggled at times in more than one aspect of the game.

"I always have that in the back of my mind," Lynch said. "I always use that when I'm feeling down and just remember how good that felt. That'll drive me."

Lynch has started 15 games this season, 11 of them behind the plate. He's hitting .255 with seven runs and seven runs batted in. His teammates say there's been a clear improvement from the fall.

"Where he's come from in the fall has been pretty amazing," Pennell said. "Especially for a guy who's never caught. He's pretty athletic back there. He's calm. He has a good head on his shoulders."

There's still a lot to work on, though. Lynch emphasized framing pitches and pinpointing his throws to second base as two areas of emphasis.

"It's tough to get in the practice we had in the fall," Lynch said. "We have two or so days each week, and I try to get as much as I can in to stay sharp back there."

For Kennedy, it's all about finding that outgoing source of energy. But there are some more specifics that he wants Lynch to work on, too.

"We're happy with where he's going," Kennedy said. "But there's still room to improve. His concentration lacks at times. If we iron some of those things out, he could be a really good catcher.

He's cutting his teeth right now. He's like a little baby."

It was something Lynch never expected to do. He said he enjoys working with the pitchers — who have performed well early, making his job easier — and his hard work of catching 4-5 bullpens per day in the fall is paying off.

"It's been fun," Lynch said. "It keeps you in the game every play. You're not thinking about that bad at-bat you just had because you have to go out and catch. It was just an experiment, but I'm glad it worked out. I'm enjoying it."

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Top Photos

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CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
Senior Ryley Beaumont attempts to block a shot by Western Carolina University senior Tawaski King. The Catamounts beat the Phoenix 68-66 March 8.

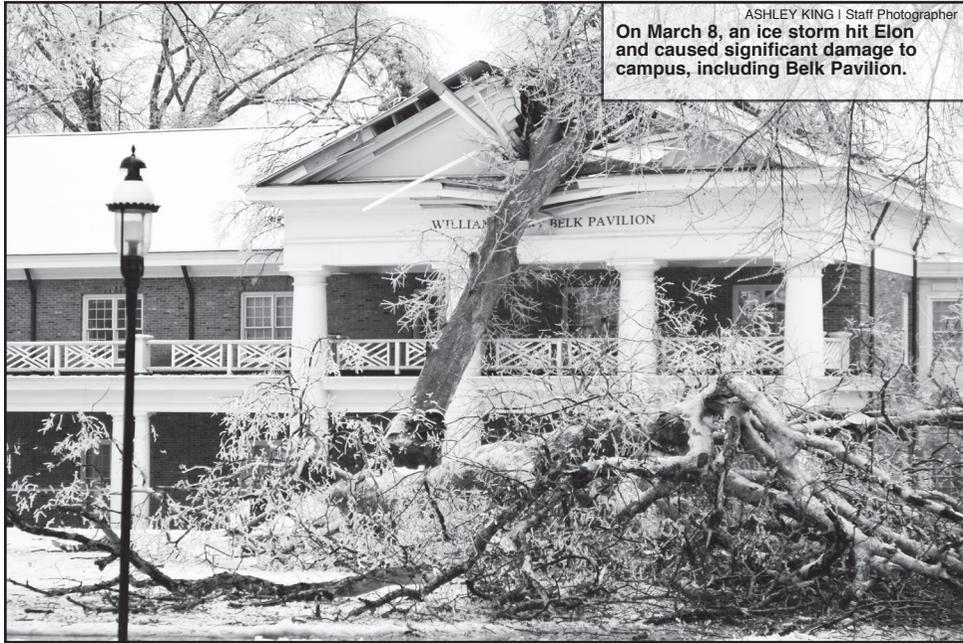


MEAGAN CASAVANT | Staff Photographer
Ice and snow coated trees and walkways around campus March 8, causing massive power outages that lasted through the weekend.

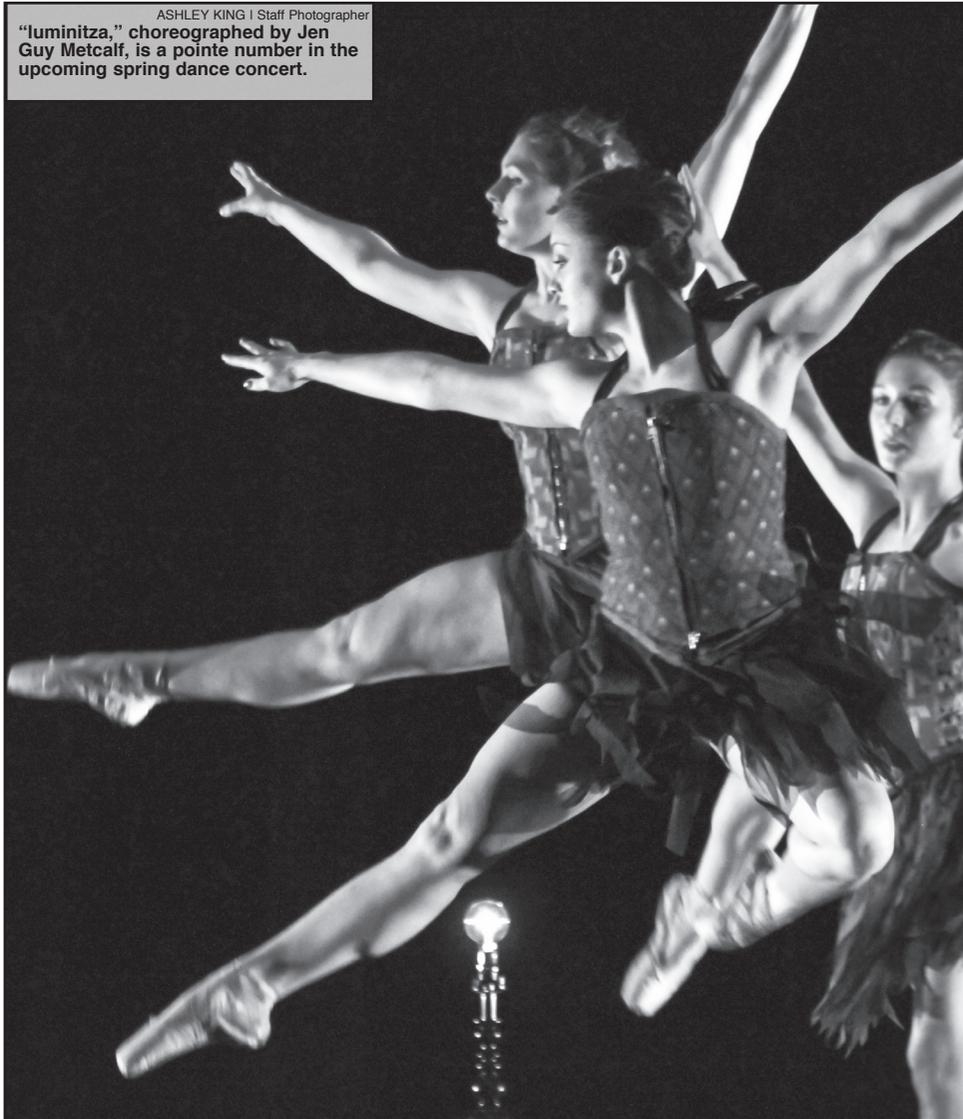


CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
Dance number "Sankofa," choreographed by Jason Aryeh, reflects traditional African dance.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
On March 8, an ice storm hit Elon and caused significant damage to campus, including Belk Pavilion.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
"Luminiza," choreographed by Jen Guy Metcalf, is a pointe number in the upcoming spring dance concert.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
Elon sophomore Josepha Mbouma (13) and junior Sam Coffey (24) fight for a rebound during the Phoenix's 77-44 loss to Chattanooga March 9.

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