

HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

*Pendulum staff questions sincerity behind
university's pursuit of free speech*

An editorial written by The Pendulum

The guise of meaningful exchange and public discourse has been ripped away to expose Elon University's true priorities when it comes to free speech on campus.

We've seen a special College Coffee, discussions and forums, the creation of a Speakers' Corner and the Elon administration make free speech and the First Amendment rights of students a matter of high importance. Yet in the last week, the university administration has bluntly put an end to this dialogue by punishing a student for speaking candidly about a serious campus problem.

The Pendulum's only wish is for the Elon administration to stick to its own word.

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, spoke at this month's First Thursday Forum and said, "Obviously we choose not to restrict free speech on campus."

Less than 24 hours later, Elon sophomore Hilary Stevenson was sent an email stating she could be charged with violating the Elon Honor Code based on her statements in last week's edition of The Pendulum. In the article, "As Tap House thrives, security issues increase," Stevenson said she had a fake ID that made it easy for her to drink underage. Stevenson was offered the opportunity to speak anonymously and chose to have her name published. Her statement was part of a larger story that focused on the lack of security at this popular nightspot and the prevalence of underage drinking at the bar.

Despite Elon's commitment to an open exchange of information and students' right to free speech, the administration has hypocritically chosen to stifle the student body's voice through a blatant act of censorship.

The Pendulum is a public forum that encourages, supports and demands honest dialogue from students, faculty and staff. The administration's decision to pursue charges against one of our sources is not only narrow-minded, but also counterproductive to its overarching goal to limit underage drinking.

Police cars from both Campus Safety and Police and the Elon Police

Department were stationed outside of Tap House Thursday, one of the bar's most popular nights. Before entering the bar, students were given a new set of rules, which included a new membership requirement for entrance. These are positive steps taken by the management of Tap House and local law enforcement agencies. Some may chalk it up to coincidences, but we strongly believe these changes are in direct response to the recent Pendulum article.

It's these positive changes the university seems to not only ignore but also devalue in its pursuit to punish one student. If the university is truly concerned with upholding the Honor Code and curbing underage drinking, then it would allow The Pendulum to do its job without interference by reprimanding students who choose to speak candidly about important issues.

"If what you want is for people as a community to come together and talk frankly and honestly about what problems exist and how to fix them, then you have to recognize punishing people who admit to violations that are over and done with will actually result in the perpetuating of the problem you're seeking to eliminate," said Adam Goldstein, attorney advocate at the Student Press Law Center.

What is just as concerning is the lack of comment from President Leo Lambert on this sudden and hypocritical turn in administrative policy, as a figure who has been at the forefront of this semester's discussions.

If the university administration truly cares and strives for free speech and an open exchange of ideas, it must drop the threat of charging students for partaking in that exchange. We are a community that must listen to one another, even when that dialogue is one not necessarily easy. The Elon administration has made a grave mistake and The Pendulum will not stand for it.

Elon must not create an environment where students are scared of repercussions and become unwilling to speak to The Pendulum or any other news organization.

Elon administration has the *responsibility to respect the integrity* of those who choose to come forward as *honest* participants in this so-called open dialogue.

Student investigated for comment published in The Pendulum

Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

For the first time in Elon University's history, a student is facing a Student Conduct investigation because of a comment published in The Pendulum. While there is no precedent, members of the administration said it should not come as a surprise.

In the Nov. 30 edition of The Pendulum, sophomore Hilary Stevenson was quoted saying she possessed a fake ID and had used it to drink while underage at College Street Tap House. It wasn't long before she received an email from Jodean Schmiederer, assistant dean of students, telling her to set up a Student Conduct meeting to address the admitted Honor Code violations. Stevenson declined

anonymity when interviewed for the article and would not comment on the potential charges.

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, was not involved in the decision to potentially charge Stevenson. But he said he thinks students should anticipate the consequences that accompany attaching their names to such charged statements. Instead, they should

more seriously consider remaining anonymous.

"If students are violating policies or laws, I think it's certainly better for them not to give their names or put themselves in these situations," Jackson said. "Would the story have had a bigger impact for me as a reader if you said 'a sophomore

See ANONYMITY | PAGE 3



In wake of fire at Crest, false alarms still frequent, costly

John Tinkelenberg
Reporter

False alarms from Elon University continue to place a bind on the town of Elon's fire response resources.

Any time Elon students pull a fire alarm or set off the smoke detectors by burning their dinners, the Town of Elon pulls out the cash register.

According to Eddie King, fire chief for the town of Elon, the combined cost of personnel and vehicles is \$575 per false alarm.

"There's no such thing as a free response to anything," King said. "We're using fuel, wear and tear on the vehicles and man-hours."

One recent incident at the Crest Apartments showed how the line between harmless cooking accidents and dangerous fires is blurred.

According to the fire department, students cooking doughnuts led to a vat of grease causing a fire.

The fire was extinguished by the apartment's sprinkler system and the apartment had more water damage than fire damage. This incident is one of the few actual emergencies the department has responded to at the university.

"As far as I know, we responded quickly and responded properly," said Scott Jean, chief of security.

At least 95 percent of the fire department's response is to the university, King said, and roughly 2 percent of the calls are legitimate emergencies.

Regardless, the fire department has to respond as if the alarm is an emergency. King said the false alarms wear down the morale and speed of the firemen.

"They get complacent," he said. "It makes a lot of volunteers wait and see what happens."

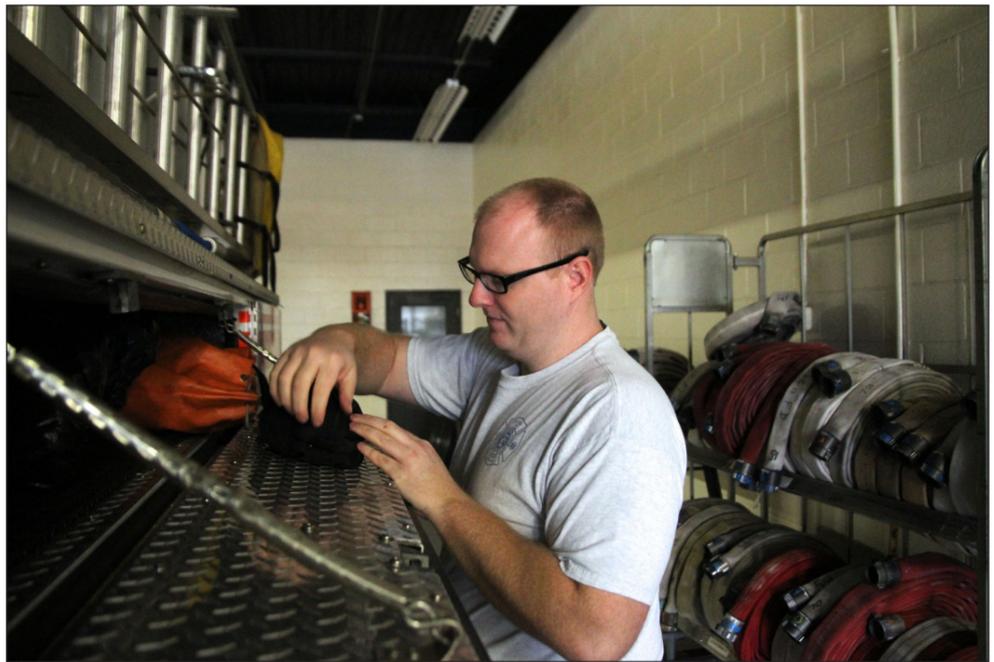
King said that it is good practice and helps the firemen stay on their toes.

"The only thing that is positive is it keeps our guys active and it keeps them in a more ready mood," he said. "But the cost of that doesn't really even out."

It takes 17 firefighters to respond to a fire. That number includes drivers, officers and volunteers.

At nights and on weekends, there is only one paid fireman at each station. Volunteers are used to supplement when available and when the alarm is sounded, the department is out of the station within a minute.

When the alarm is sounded from Elon's campus, Campus Safety and Police dispatches a responder to the scene and calls 911 to alert Alamance County Communications, who then dispatches the appropriate resources.



Firefighter Lane Watkins checks equipment on the trucks. Watkins has been a part-time firefighter for seven years, and has been with the Elon Fire Department for about six months. Watkins also works at the Gibsonville Fire Station.

The university reports all alarms to 911 and does no screening in the process.

"We automatically have to call 911 even if it is steam from a shower," Jean said.

What bothers King the most about the false alarms isn't the hassle or the cost, but the risk.

"The thing about being fire chief that I have to be concerned about is the safety of our personnel," he said. "They're putting their lives in danger, but our job is to respond as if the alarms are emergencies. There have been firemen killed on their way to false alarms."

King said the city has communicated with the university and encouraged it to take action in reducing the false alarms.

"If they can give a course on how to operate a microwave, that may be what they need to do," he said. "Other municipalities have a fine on repeated alarms. We haven't gone to that yet."

The incident at the Crest was different, according to Jean, because it is a leased apartment complex and the fire alarms are managed by an outside company meaning the alarm didn't come there first.

"You can't keep letting your dog bark and keep people up," King said. "You can't let these fire alarms get out of whack." Jean said he would rather have false alarms than poor responses.

"It's better to be sensitive than not enough and better to be safe than sorry," he said.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$575 cost per false alarm

95 percent of fire department's responses that go to the university

2 percent of calls in response to legitimate emergencies

17 number of firefighters required to respond to an emergency

THE COST OF A FALSE ALARM

the Swing

Watch The Swing at
<http://bit.ly/theswing6>

This Week's edition of The Swing explores the Tap House controversy addressed on the front page. Take a look and send us a video response via Facebook.

Pendulum Editors Interview

Managing Editor Rebecca Smith and News Editor Kassondra Cloos discuss the university's response. Editor-in-Chief Anna Johnson takes a stance for The Pendulum.

Sidewalk Talk with Julia

Julia Boyd asks students for their perspective on the story. Should students get in trouble for what they say in the media?

Grace Elkus Interview

We talk to Senior Reporter Grace Elkus about the methods she used to write the article that started all the controversy and what kind of response she has encountered.



THE STATION AT MILL POINT

ON-CAMPUS ADVANTAGES | OFF-CAMPUS INDEPENDENCE

Opens August 2012 on Williamson Avenue. Sign-up begins in February.

- Neighborhood setting with a clubhouse, outdoor pool and recreation area, fitness room and event/meeting spaces
- Exclusively for juniors and seniors
- Four-person furnished apartments with kitchen, living room, dining room, washer/dryer, single bedrooms with full-size beds and personal baths
- Sign-up to live with friends—single or mixed-gender apartments
- University maintenance and campus police security
- Access to Elon's high-speed network, Wi-Fi and cable television

University encourages anonymity

From ANONYMITY | PAGE 1

with whom we spoke said this?' That would have been just as informative to me as it would to have used someone's name."

While Elon's student handbook doesn't specify that students may be charged for comments made public by student media organizations, the Honor Code holds students responsible for every action made between matriculation and graduation, according to Elon administration. Student Conduct follows up on any potential violation of the code, regardless of the means in which the violation was brought to the office's attention.

Whitney Gregory, director of Student Conduct, said students are liable for comments made on social media websites and in public forums. Even comments about underage drinking made in front of a professor — or fellow student — are fair game for an investigation. The office has fielded numerous tip-offs on Honor Code violations from students, faculty and staff alike, Gregory said.

"Students need to be aware that if they indicate verbally an Honor Code violation, whether that's on a Facebook page, on Twitter, in a public setting or in a publication, then that is something that we will be responding to if it comes to our attention," she said.

In the past year, Jackson and President Leo Lambert have been making a visible push for open dialogue and students' freedom of speech and expression.

With the creation of the Speakers' Corner last semester and the recent developments of regular open forums between students and staff, the university has presented itself as a nurturer of honest discussion. But charging a student based on a comment printed in a student newspaper could have a highly detrimental effect on students' future willingness to take responsibility for their comments, according to Adam Goldstein, attorney advocate at the Student Press Law Center.

"If your overall goal as an institution is to reduce illegal drinking or underage drinking or drinking on campus, then you want people to come forward when they have information relevant to how

PACE program successful, plans for expansion

Grace Elkus
Senior Reporter

Elon's new work study program, Providing Aid Through Campus Employment, has had a successful first semester and will be growing in size next year, according to



SAMANTHA MURRAY

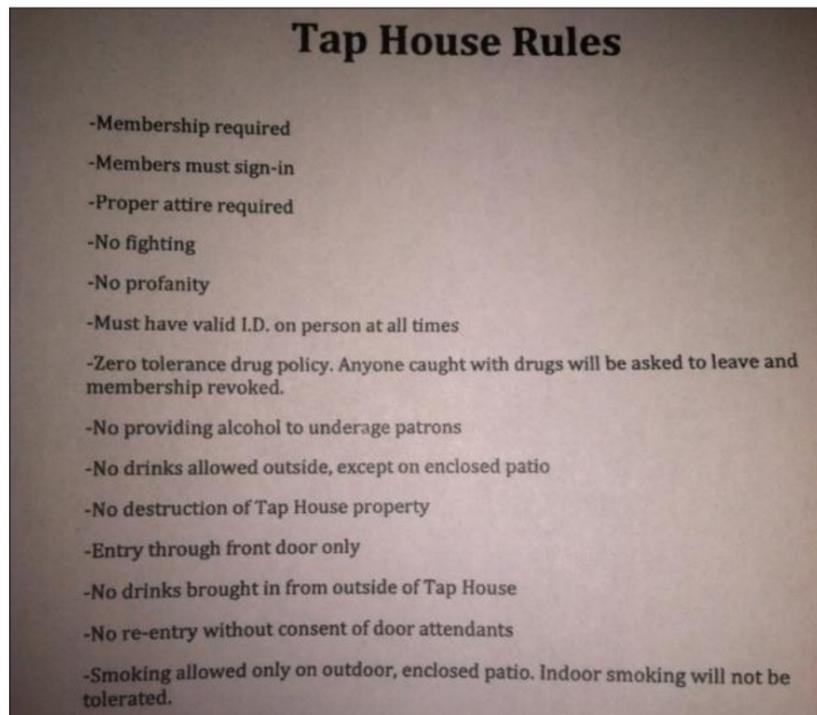
Rene Jackson, the coordinator of the PACE program. The program was designed to help students who don't qualify for financial aid but for whom a guaranteed on-campus job would assist in paying off

their tuition bill.

Currently, there are 17 student participants in the program, all of who are freshmen. This fall, 50 incoming students will be accepted into the program because of the positive response the program has received.

"We've had great experiences," Jackson said. "I know pretty much all of the people who are supervising the positions, and I always ask and I get positive feedback. These are great students. They have great attitudes, they are serious about what they are doing and they are all good workers."

The jobs that the students are placed in were created specifically for the PACE program. Jackson began coordinating with employers last June to set up positions for the current PACE students, and had most of the jobs lined up by early August, she said. She created a job registry that only PACE



Thursday, Tap House patrons were handed a new set of rules upon entering the bar. PHOTO SUBMITTED

students are acquiring alcohol on campus," Goldstein said.

Lambert would not comment on the effect Stevenson's case may have on Elon's quest for open dialogue.

Rich Landesberg, a communications professor and faculty adviser for Phoenix 14 News, said he doesn't think the university intended to stifle free speech by investigating Stevenson and he has never felt restricted by the administration. But, like Goldstein, he said the circumstances could deter students from speaking on the record in the future.

"I would be concerned about the chilling effect it might have on people speaking to the press if they fear that anything they might say could be interpreted as a violation of the Honor Code," Landesberg said.

Like Jackson, Schmiederer also advised students to speak under condition of anonymity. But she was unclear about a potential solution for the chilling effect the sanctions may have on future open discussions about campus issues like underage drinking.

"I think talking about issues and challenges and problems that exist within the student community is an important thing to have a conversation about," Schmiederer said. "I'm certainly not asking students to come forward and say, 'I violated the Honor Code in this way.'"

students were given access to and were able to look at before they reported to school in the fall. Each student then applied and interviewed for the jobs he or she were most interested in.

"It worked out beautifully," Jackson said. "Most of the students are either in their first or second choice of jobs."

Not only is the program a great opportunity for students, it is also a way for on campus faculty to employ a student worker, Jackson said. Any faculty member can create a position and submit it to the program, and if it is approved, the program will pay for the student's salary.

"It's a great opportunity for faculty in departments who don't have the funds but need the help," Jackson said. "We try to put them in places where it would benefit not just the student, but the faculty or the staff or the department who might not have the funds otherwise."

The current PACE participants are employed as faculty assistants or in various departments on campus, including the Kernodle Center, Student Life, Athletics, Belk Library and University Advancement.

Samantha Murray, a PACE student working in the Kernodle Center, said she appreciates the diversity of the types of jobs that she and her fellow participants were offered.

"I think it's really interesting, because we all have different jobs, but

Jackson said the university would not ask The Pendulum to reveal the names of anonymous sources unless a student's life were in jeopardy. But in the case of students admitting to having engaged in illegal activities, it would be a liability for the university to not interfere judicially.

If the university were to give a student amnesty for admitting an Honor Code-violating activity, such as drinking underage, in a public setting, the university could be held responsible if that student were to later endanger his or herself while engaging in the same activity, Jackson said. At the very least, he said a conversation with the student would be necessary.

Goldstein said he has never heard of a student being punished based on a comment made to student media.

"I think that the only way to really solve the problem big picture is for the university to realize what a lousy, lousy policy it is, to go after people for these things," he said. "It's like a no fly list, right? We only catch terrorists who go under their real name. If you're smart enough to lie about your name, then you're not going to get caught. There's an element of that here. Does the university want to stop underage drinking, or do they want to stop people from admitting it?"

Additional reporting by Rebecca Smith.

Elon to simplify registration for Speakers' Corner

Nick Zanetti
Senior Reporter

Elon students expressed their concerns about free speech on private campuses as part of this month's First Thursday forum. Students addressed recent censorship of a student's posters and Elon's future plans to help facilitate and promote free speech on campus.

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, said the university is discussing possible plans to create kiosks in certain areas of campus where students may put up handwritten posters.

There are also plans to make it easier for students to register events for the Speakers' Corner in Moseley.

"We don't want the difficulty of a process to get in the way of possible student events," Jackson said.

Some students expressed concerns over Elon's apparent lack of an informal place to express themselves.

"Elon doesn't

seem to have a student union area for free expression the way that other schools do. UNC has a place called 'The Pit' where students can hang up signs and stage events."

Lindsey said he is glad the administration wants to make it easier for students to hold demonstrations, but thinks getting permission to protest might defeat the purpose.

"When you protest, you are trying to shake things up," he said. "Making it so organized somewhat defeats the purpose."

Junior Dean Coots said he thought some of Elon's concern regarding the posters may be a result of the type of students Elon attracts.

"The administration makes Elon a certain way, which attracts a certain kind of person," he said. "The administration is going to be concerned if there is something that type of person finds very offensive on a tour of the school, like those posters."

Students said Elon must also appeal to parents in order to attract new students, as they are ultimately the people footing the bill for most students' tuition.

"Parents want to feel OK about where their kids are going to school," said junior Bridget Riley. "While this is important, it can stifle diversity."

As Elon is a private institution, it is not required to allow demonstrations on campus. But Jackson said the university would not attempt to hinder students' abilities to protest.

"Obviously, we choose not to restrict free speech on campus, and we plan to keep it that way," he said.

The Speakers' Corner was originally introduced last February on West Lawn in response to a visit from former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in 2009.

A committee, chaired by Pam Kiser, professor of human service studies, examined the principles of Elon's civic engagement policies, including how to address protests and guest speakers on campus.

Under the previous standards, students hoping to register an event were required to fill out a form, available at the Moseley Center desk and online, which then had to be approved by Moseley Center staff.

"It's a job I enjoy going to, and it's definitely introduced me to different aspects of campus but has given me a way to support my tuition as well."

- Samantha Murray
CLASS OF 2015

upperclassmen that I can talk to about everything. It's a job I enjoy going to, and it's definitely introduced me to different aspects of campus but has given me a way to support my tuition as well."

Students: University not doing enough to promote sexual health

Edith Veremu
Reporter

There are many resources on campus regarding sexual health, but Elon University students aren't aware of these resources because the administration isn't disseminating these tools, students said.

Sophomore Tori Walker said she doesn't think the university is doing enough to promote safe sex, sexual health and overall good decision making. Walker said these topics are glossed over at the beginning of the year and there's no follow-up.

"Elon's probably not doing a good job," she said. "There's not much talk about it after orientation."

Leigh-Anne Royster, director of Student Development, agreed there needs to be better promotion of healthy choices about sexual health for students and said that's one of her priorities this year.

"There are absolutely areas that need improvement in terms of promoting healthier sexual choices for students at Elon," she said. "I am taking some time to assess the needs of students in my new role as director of Student Development and hope to have some exciting changes in the coming year."

The R.N. Ellington Health Center buys about 1,000 condoms annually, which

is less than 5 percent of its operational budget on condoms, according to Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life. These condoms are distributed to students at no cost.

Elon students need to be more informed about their choices regardless of whether they're sexually active. One way students can be informed is through SPARKS programming and events, said Kelly Little, SPARKS team leader. The goal of the organization, she said, is to provide students resources Elon isn't giving because not talking about sexual health doesn't help either.

Royster said SPARKS peer educators created a new program promoting sexual health similar to the existing alcohol awareness and safety presentations. The program will be added to the organization's series in Winter Term. The office of Student Development is also creating similar programs that will be available for students next spring and fall semesters, she said.

Resources and tools on campus

Resources for students include one-on-one conversations about sexuality and sexual relations with a SPARKS peer educator or with Elizabeth Nelson, coordinator of violence prevention. Peer

"It's hard to want to be informed on topics like this. A lot of people already know about this. It's more of a voluntary thing. But if Elon wants to create mandatory sessions or workshops, then that's a different thing."

-Keegan Johnson
CLASS OF 2013



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer

The R.N. Ellington Health Center distributes free condoms, but most students are unaware of this service.

educators can be found in Moseley Center throughout the semester offering students condoms and promoting sexual health awareness. Little said these condoms, paid for by SPARKS' budget, are in response to what Elon students need and want. The organization does not have a set amount of its budget allocated to condoms.

Junior Keegan Johnson said he knew the Health Center offers students condoms but wasn't aware of other places on campus where students have access to them. He also said he has seen students in Moseley offering condoms but didn't know they were representing SPARKS.

Students' awareness of resources

Sophomore Colleen O'Connell agreed with Little in that students should be aware of the resources offered, but she said it's up to them to seek out existing resources.

"I think the resources are here and (students) have the ability to be informed," she said. "Whether they are informed is their problem. There are people who are

stupid and there are people who are informed and those who aren't informed will have results from that."

Some students go to the SPARKS office in Harden and take condoms there after consulting a peer educator, who are available to students and answer any questions students have, Little said. But some students may be afraid to take condoms in Moseley because of what other students may think. Sex is still a taboo topic, according to Johnson.

"It's a controversial issue to people so people are stand-offish to people and are shy if they see others talking about sex," he said. "They may not take condoms because of that."

Raising awareness

Nelson said she believes there isn't a right or wrong way to inform students about sexual health because it's a broad topic and people are at different stages of being comfortable with their sexuality. A way to approach sexual education as an institution is to understand where people are in terms of their personal education and help them make safe and healthy decisions, she

said.

But O'Connell said although Elon's making an effort to inform students, it's not the institution's job to implement education programs about sexual health. Students should be responsible for their own decisions and shouldn't rely on the school to feed them information, O'Connell said.

On the other hand, Johnson said getting out information is difficult and Elon is trying to let students know about resources.

"It's hard to want to be informed on topics like this," he said. "A lot of people already know about this. It's more of a voluntary thing. But if Elon wants to create mandatory sessions or workshops, then that's a different thing."

Talking about sex and sexual health, relationships and everything in between can be uncomfortable for some students, but Little and Nelson recommend students have those conversations with their partners and friends. Nelson's office is the only other place besides the Counseling Center that offers confidentiality to students, and she said she's found that it's beneficial for students to know that.

LabCorp under Senate investigation for fraud

Local company accused of cheating Medicare, Medicaid system through wrongful referral process

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Laboratory Corporation of America, the largest private employer in Alamance County, is currently being investigated by the United States Senate for Medicare and Medicaid fraud.

Senators Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Max Baucus, D-Mont., of the Senate Finance Committee, sent a letter to the company in early November requesting a response to allegations of cheating the Medicare and Medicaid systems. These "pull-through" practices involve LabCorp potentially offering cheaper services to managed care organizations (MCOs) like health insurance companies in exchange for referrals for laboratory testing.

"The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General has previously issued advisory opinions expressing concerns about the 'pull-through' practice, noting

that discount arrangements such as those at issue here are 'particularly suspect,'" Baucus and Grassley wrote to CEO David King.

LabCorp was given until Dec. 1 to submit copies of all its lab services agreements with its five largest managed care organizations and all correspondences between those parties, presentations and reports in reference to pull-through policies and extensive financial data, among numerous other documents. It is unclear whether the allegations have been refuted, but a staff member of the Judiciary Committee said the files had not been submitted.

Cigna, Aetna, Inc., UnitedHealth Group and Quest Diagnostics Incorporated are also under investigation.

The fraud may amount to billions of dollars, according to a report in the Times-News.

"As the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, we take seriously



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

Laboratory Corporation of America, based in Burlington, has been accused of exchanging lower-cost services for physician referrals.

our responsibility to protect the interests of our nation's Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and the federal

health care programs from waste, fraud and abuse," the senators wrote.

Despite extensive efforts

to contact LabCorp, The Pendulum was unable to reach the company for comment.

Walker connects with Elon on personal level

Mary Kate Brogan
Reporter

When Sue Walker arrived at Elon University, many of the buildings on campus didn't exist. Back then, the library was in McEwen Communications building, the student center, nurse's station and bookstore were all located in Long and there were only six buildings in Danieley Center. The Environmental Services employee has seen Elon's student population double, from about 2,500 to more than 5,000.

Walker, known to most of Virginia and West's residents as "Sue" or "Miss Sue," has been working at Elon for 26 years and in West Area for the past decade. Her job includes cleaning the bathrooms of West and the halls of Virginia, but, in addition to her duties, she also gets to know her residents.

"One of my favorite things about working at Elon is meeting and interacting with students," Walker said. "I like to think I (look out for the students). I like to think if one of them came to me and asked me for advice, I think I would try to talk to them just like they were one of my grandchildren."

During her time here, Walker's family has quadrupled in size, from her four children to nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

According to sophomore Rachel Flint, a resident of Virginia, Walker's family values show through in her other interactions at Elon.

"She is a motherly figure," Flint said. "She's got a very warm heart and she's open to everybody whether she knows you or not. She's one of those people that you remember how they made you feel more than what they said."

Flint met Walker on move-in day this year and they participated in Elon's Take a Student to Lunch program earlier this month.

There, the two talked about family, the holidays and Flint's plans to transfer back to Guilford College,

"She is a motherly figure. She's got a very warm heart and she's open to everybody whether she knows you or not. She's one of those people that you remember how they made you feel more than what they said."

- Rachel Flint
CLASS OF 2014



Sue Walker has been an employee with Environmental Services at Elon for 26 years. The best part of her job, she said, is interacting with students and fellow staff members.

where she attended school last year, at the end of the semester.

"There's a handful of people that are the best people I've ever met in my life here," Flint said. "She's probably one of those people. I told her I was going to shrink her and take her to Guilford in my pocket."

Several of Walker's coworkers can attest to Walker's kind nature. Denise Haith, fellow Environmental Services

employee, described Walker as "caring, friendly and easy to get along with."

"Sue is a kind-hearted woman who cares a lot for her students and

is sometimes misunderstood for the care she has," said Scott Hendershot, assistant director of West Area.

Flint agrees that sometimes students can be a bit too quick to roll their eyes at Walker but feels for the most part that students appreciate her.

"I think (some students) take her for granted and they think she's going to be there no matter what," Flint said. "I'm a very firm believer in (the idea that) people are all very special and they all have a different something to offer the world. (Walker's) something is a something that everybody can learn from and grow from."

Walker said she is glad that Elon has not had to cut back on employees because of the current economy and is thankful to have her job at Elon.

"I've had good experiences and some bad experiences," Walker said. "I've met a lot of professor's friends when I worked in Fine Arts. Elon's just a good place to work. They've been good to me."

Writing selected as focus of QEP, plan being developed

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

The process of developing students' writing abilities will be restructured in coming years as part of the Quality Enhancement Plan, an initiative required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A committee is being assembled under the leadership of Peter Felten, assistant provost and director of the center for the advancement of teaching and learning, to develop a plan addressing specific improvements within the area of writing. The proposal will be submitted to SACS in November of next year, which will then provide suggestions to ensure the plan is focused and doable. While the proposal has not yet been discussed, Provost Steven House said it could potentially restructure the writing course for first-year students.

"Writing is such a crucial part of being an informed citizen and making informed decisions that every institution needs to get better at it," he said, noting that he hopes Elon will eventually be recognized nationally for its writing instruction. "To put it simply, we're good but we want to be much better writers."

The QEP focus was narrowed down from suggestions submitted beginning last semester. From there, specific proposals were written by professors for the top six ideas and feedback was gathered from students, faculty and staff.

According to House, the top three QEP proposals, which were submitted to Senior Staff Oct. 18, included writing, information literacy and intellectual engagement. After discussions with faculty from the English Department, School of Business and School of Communications and the Academic Council, House said the staff decided writing was a far-reaching area in which Elon hopes to improve.

Paula Patch, lecturer in English, was involved in writing the proposal for writing and said focusing on writing at Elon doesn't mean fixing a broken process, but rather strengthening existing facilities, programs, resources, instruction and development for faculty and staff.

"The overall goal is for students to have an integrated writing experience, in which they can see and make connections between the writing they do across each level of coursework, within their co- and extracurricular activities, and throughout all four years of their Elon experience," she said.

New public health studies major offers broad view of health, national career path

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

This year, a new major in public health studies has been added to the course offerings. The program began in 2008 as a minor and the proposal for establishing it as a major was approved last semester.

"Public health has been traditionally offered at the graduate level and offering it at an undergrad level creates more opportunities," said Kristen Sullivan, coordinator of the public health studies advisory committee and associate professor of human service studies. "More and more schools are offering these types of programs because the demand is there. There's a lot of support to promote undergrad education like this."

Students' interest and the demand for the expertise in today's society pushed the process of turning the minor into a major, said Eric Hall, committee member and associate professor of exercise science. The interdisciplinary major requires 28 core hours, 16 hours within a focal area, sociocultural or biological,

and four elective hours. Some courses come from with the General Studies, economics, biology, philosophy and exercise science departments.

"I think public health studies sort of coincides pretty nicely with a lot of other majors like exercise science, possibly psychology and human services," Hall said. "All three of them work very well with public health studies and students can pick a track in what they want to do. Students can play to their strengths in what they feel most comfortable."

Some courses in the major, such as Introduction to Epidemiology, also count toward the minor. Sullivan has taught this course and Global Health since they've been offered and she said the major comes at a great time because it relates directly to the issues society is currently facing regarding health disparities and policy decisions.

"We have a big focus on health disparities, looking at how oppressed and marginalized groups tend to suffer more from health-impairing conditions and figuring out ways how to eradicate those disparities," she

said. "It's domestic and global and there's a huge intersection between public health and development."

Although she's not a public health major, senior Rachel Banner, an exercise science major, said she would have liked to pursue a degree in the new major and was on track to minor in public health but opted not to because of time constraints.

Banner said she would like a career in public health after graduation and sees herself going into the education or policy development areas of public health.

"I'm a human services minor and I originally wanted to do occupational therapy but I saw myself more working with people," Banner said. "My goal is to get communities more active and healthy. That requires knowledge of exercise science principles and the human services aspect for working with communities."

Because public health is broad, the major prepares students like Banner for graduate school, according to Hall.

"It allows students to influence the health of society and gives them jobs in local,

federal and state agencies looking into health," he said. "There's a lot of issues with our society right now when it comes to health. The job market should be pretty high for this major."

Banner is optimistic about the major and agreed with both Hall and Sullivan on the importance of

its creation at Elon.

"I'm really glad they've added public health studies," she said. "It's something that's very important currently in the U.S. just because our ways of communication and behavior have changed so rapidly in the past decades that it's having an effect in the health."

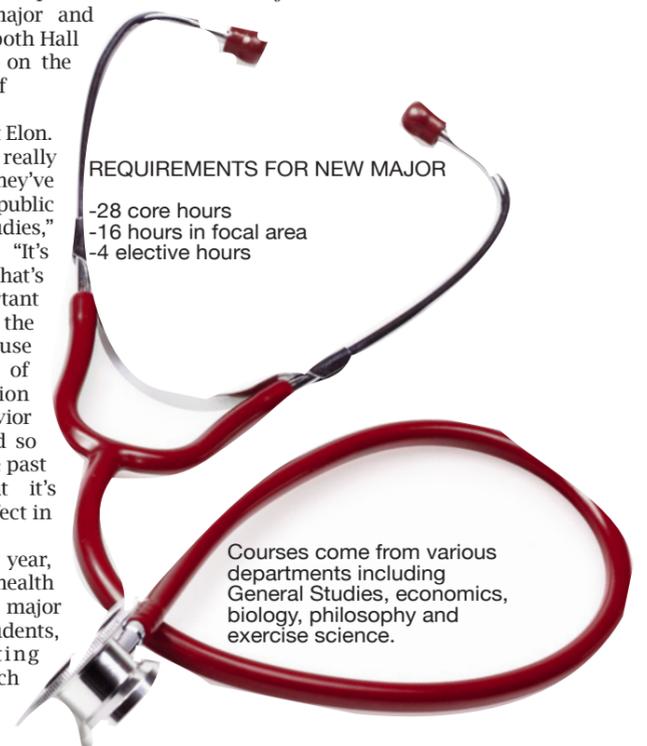
In its first year, the public health studies major has 30 students, demonstrating how much

students are interested, Sullivan said. There will be students graduating with the major this spring and those with minors will not have to add many extra classes to successfully complete the major.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MAJOR

- 28 core hours
- 16 hours in focal area
- 4 elective hours

Courses come from various departments including General Studies, economics, biology, philosophy and exercise science.



The Ranking Game: *Process of determining U.S. News and World Report classification of colleges thrown into question*

Nick Zanetti
Senior Reporter

Since the creation of the U.S. News & World Report rankings in 1983, prospective college students have looked to the rankings to navigate the myriad of opportunities available to them.

But there there have been people who disagree with the schools that are described as "America's Best" every year. Although U.S. News has continually refined its methodology throughout the years in an attempt to be as accurate and subjective as possible, many critics still dismiss the rankings as inaccurate.

Elon University has fared particularly well on U.S. News' list. Elon ranked No. 2 in regional universities in the Southeast and has also been rated the No. 1 "School to Watch," a statistic that the university showcases on its website.

"We have an amazing reputation, we keep hearing from our higher education colleagues that Elon is doing many innovative things very well," said Susan Klopman, vice president of admissions and financial planning. "We have built a pretty big national footprint rather quickly. Schools are pretty amazed at the breadth and speed and quality of what we are doing. In a time of budget cuts for most schools, we are moving forward."

Some colleges, unsatisfied with US News' method, have opted out of the rankings entirely. Schools may opt out of the rankings by refusing to fill out the U.S. News statistical survey and 78 schools opted out this year. In 2007, The Education Conservancy sent a letter to hundreds of college presidents encouraging them to opt out of the rankings, calling the rankings "misleading."

Questionable methodology

One portion of the rankings has raised a number of eyebrows in particular. New Yorker writer Malcolm Gladwell said the reputational ratings portion of the rankings was based on

"prejudices." The section, called "peer assessment," is the most heavily weighted portion of the rankings. U.S. News scores each school in this category using a relatively simple method — surveys. Every year, U.S. News sends out surveys to admissions counselors, deans, presidents and provosts at institutions around the country.

The participants are given a list of as many as 100 schools that are in the same ranking category as their own. These categories are created from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The respondents go down a list of schools, scoring each on a scale of one to five, with one being "marginal" and five being "distinguished."

Recently, U.S. News also began sending surveys to high school counselors, asking them to do the same rankings as the college administrators.

Of the 4,580 academics that were sent questionnaires, 43 percent responded. The high school counselors' survey response rate was 13.4 percent, according to the U.S. News' website.

A cursory reading of this methodology sounds an alarm to many people about its efficacy.

"We can't possibly know all these schools enough to assess them," Klopman said.

"There's a lot of room for variability among this category. To a large extent, there is a lot of opinion involved. From the perspective of many faculty, the surveys are contrary to what they would see as good methods or research."

Klopman was one of several administrators from Elon who participated in the survey last year. She said she was only able to rank just 10 percent of the schools that were on the list. For the other 90 percent, she circled "don't know."

"To a large extent, there is a lot of opinion involved. From the perspective of many faculty, the surveys are contrary to what they would see as good methods or research."

-Susan Klopman
VICE PRESIDENT OF
ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL
PLANNING

three days of releasing the rankings, the website received 10 million views, compared to the normal 500,000 views in a typical month.

The rankings, according to Klopman, have grown in importance during the last decade in particular.

"The Web exploded college knowledge like nothing else

in our history," she said. "Ten or 15 years ago, you may have known about five schools that you knew about for your interests, now you can research thousands of schools online. All this information has created the need for third party endorsements. Who says if a given school is good? Who says they're doing well?"

More importantly, the rankings have proven to be a strong influence on the quality of applicants for schools on the list. In 2009, Michael Bastedo, a professor in the School of Education at the University of Michigan, and Nicholas Bowman, an assistant professor of education at Bowling Green State University, published a study about the effect that the rankings had on students' decision making for college choices.

The authors examined the effect of a given school's ranking on the U.S. News list on each school's applicant pool for the following year. They focused in particular on the top 50 ranked schools for 1997-2004 and the effects the rankings had for the applicant pool from 1998-2005. They found some clear indications that the rankings, particularly for those schools in the top 25, had a significant impact on the types of students that applied to those schools.

The authors controlled for other admissions factors, so the effects of the rankings could be isolated.

For example, for all institutions, getting on to the front page resulted in a 2.3 percent increase in the proportion of incoming freshmen that graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. For national universities, which include schools like Harvard and Yale, moving into the top 25 led to a stronger, 3.9 percent increase in the proportion of students in the top tenth of their high school class. Moving up just a single spot in the top tier of the national university rankings also led to a 1.5 percent increase in total number of applications.

Elon freshman Grant Stimmel said he used the rankings to eliminate some schools while he was searching for colleges last year.

"If a school I was interested in was ranked really low, I would eliminate it," he said.

But Stimmel also said if two schools were both highly rated, he did not base his decision on which was slightly higher on the list.

"If one school was ranked two and the other was three, I wouldn't choose the school ranked two based only on U.S. News," he said.



Elon University has repeatedly ranked high in U.S. News & World Report lists. While some students said they look to the rankings when making their college decision, other critics have dismissed the process as inaccurate.

JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

From Happy Valley to Silicon Valley

New college-centric mobile app demonstrated at Elon

Jeff Stern
Online Editor-in-Chief

A group of entrepreneurs hope to integrate students' lives inside and outside of the classroom all on one mobile application, aptly called OneSchool.

The Elon University edition of OneSchool is now available and contains BioBus route information, building and food locations and a chat room. Academic features, such as the course listings, have yet to be fleshed out but will be improved as the app evolves.

Users select their school after installing the app and have access to all of the features available on one home screen. Schools will have the opportunity to add their own unique features to the application to reflect their students' needs.

Co-founder David Adewumi, 24, had the idea for OneSchool while studying at Pennsylvania State University. He realized that students are rarely without their phones yet there were no all-inclusive applications that integrated the college experience inside and outside of the classroom.

Adewumi was at Elon recently to talk with students and get their feedback on the product.

Sarah Kleckner, a freshman business major, said she is getting an iPhone for her next birthday and could see herself using OneSchool.

"You can get everything in one spot," Kleckner said. "It's very convenient."

Adewumi said he appreciates the positive feedback he has heard so far but is also looking for constructive criticism.

"Yes, we're here to promote it but this is more of a learning experience," he said. "We have eight critical weeks where we can really improve the product, learn what people want, go back, build it and release it in the spring of 2012."

The visit is a part of a 14-day, 26-college road trip across the country by the founding team.

This journey is reminiscent of the four founders' original trek from Happy Valley to Silicon Valley, the nation's leader in technology development, at the beginning of the summer.

"We had \$2,000 in our pocket," Adewumi said. "It was super risky."

By the end of the summer, when the OneSchool team finally got its first investment, Adewumi had just 74 cents in his bank account.

Currently OneSchool has raised more than \$500,000 dollars in venture capital, but Adewumi isn't sitting too comfortably.

"We could have a million downloads in the next three months," he said. "But we have to stay grounded and say 'Hey, this could get really bad.'"

Lynn Heinrichs, associate professor of computing sciences and business administration, said that entering the

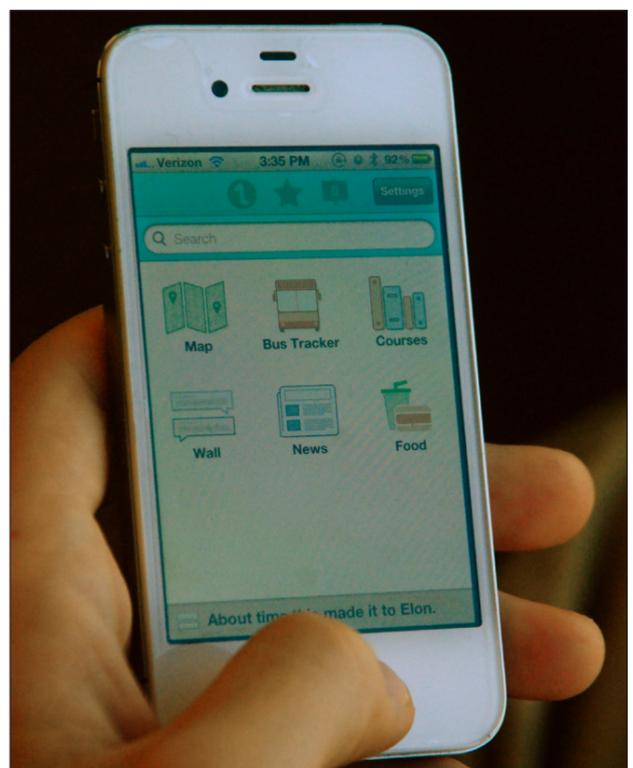
mobile app business doesn't require a lot of money and that the industry is on the rise. What's most important is having a strong idea.

"Clearly, there are great opportunities for entrepreneurs with a unique idea," Heinrichs said.

Adewumi said he has no plans to charge students or universities for OneSchool and intends to pursue alternative revenue opportunities.

"Ultimately this app will be free for students and free for universities forever," Adewumi said. "I am absolutely a fan of not charging students who are already being charged too much."

While there's no guarantee of OneSchool's success, Adewumi said



The Elon version of OneSchool has several types of information in one place.

JEFF STERN | Online Editor-in-Chief

that, like this road trip, it's about the journey, not the destination.

"We're learning, we're growing and we're having a ton of fun," he said.

OneSchool at Elon is available for download now on iPhone, Android and Windows Phone. BlackBerry and mobile versions will be available in the spring.



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY
Associate chaplain and director of religious life Phil Smith offers communion in Holt Chapel.



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO
Elon students observe shabbat led by members of Hillel during the annual Hanukkah party.

Progressive view of faith at Elon

More than a century after its establishment, the university's vision and mission have shifted from training leaders of the church to forming citizens of a diverse world

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

The founders might be surprised to see how the small Christian college they birthed from a church became a place where no one deity holds preeminence.

There was a day at Elon College when chapel attendance was a requirement, a day when college trustees were elected by the local church and professors had to be members of that church.

More than 120 years have passed since Elon was founded as a training ground for young ministers of the Christian church. The identity of a once exclusively Christian college has evolved into that of a university with acclaim for its effort to foster religious diversity.

But change didn't happen overnight. "It was the church's school," said Earl Danieleley, Elon University president emeritus. "The early documents say that this school would be owned and operated by the church. Not just related to, not just an institution with obligations to, it was owned and operated by the church."

When Danieleley took over as president of the college in 1957, the position still required traveling up and down the East Coast speaking in churches about Elon, as had Leon Smith, who became the college's fifth president in 1931.

At that point, the majority of leaders in the Southern Conference of the denomination, which became the United Church of Christ the same year Danieleley took office, were graduates of Elon College.

"We were training them and then we were sending them out to lead the Church," Danieleley said. "In Smith's time, if someone had mentioned multi-faith — no, no, no. He actually would refuse to employ a Roman Catholic to teach. It was his church college."

The institution started receiving new faculty members from other universities and new students from other Christian denominations. Though today the inclusion of Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists might fall short of constituting diversity, Danieleley said this move allowed for a gradual weakening of the institution's ties with the church.

Not long after former president Fred Young came to Elon in 1973, the college's procedure of having the church elect trustees changed. The board became self-perpetuating, Danieleley said. No longer

would the Board of Trustees have to be dominated by church members.

"We know the church is where we came from," Danieleley said. "But we have gone through an evolution from being a church college, to being a church-related college, to being a college historically related to the church."

The Truitt Center is born

When Richard McBride became the chaplain at Elon 27 years ago, he began each Fall Convocation with the phrase "Welcome seekers." That greeting, according to Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications and adviser to the university's interfaith student group, Better Together, was a simple representation of McBride's attitude toward helping students along their faith journeys.

"He was telling students that this is a place where you can seek and find yourself in a safe environment for figuring out who you are," Hatcher said. "I think the tone was set."

The tone that McBride, now chaplain emeritus, set for religious life at Elon and the vision he cast for future developments stemmed from his own interactions with students from religious minorities, who gradually began to attend the college.

He spoke with a Jewish mother who took photos of her son playing football for the Elon College Fighting Christians, only to show them to family and friends back home who didn't understand why he would attend a college that appeared to be so vocal about its Christian values. McBride soon began to question the appropriateness of having such a religious school mascot.

"That name had reflected our outlook," McBride said. "But as the college began to realize it wanted to position itself as an East Coast school beyond North Carolina and Virginia and have a national outlook, we recognized that that sports mascot didn't work anymore."

He spoke with a Jewish male cheerleader who, after cheering for the Fighting Christians week after week, came to McBride and asked if the Jewish students could have their own organization. McBride saw to it that the organization, now known as Hillel, would immediately be formed.

He spoke with a young Jewish woman who, while singing in the choir at the college's Blessing of the Christmas Trees program, pulled McBride aside and asked if he could also wish the Jewish students a happy Hanukkah when he went to the front to speak.

"Those kinds of experiences helped to

expand our awareness," McBride said. "If we were going to become an institution that really welcomes people from all over, we would have to change our behaviors, change customs, change attitudes. I think we began that process in my 25-year tenure, but it's not finished yet."

And after alumna Edna Truitt Noiles gave a \$1 million endowment and the Truitt Center for Religious & Spiritual Life was established with the goal of allowing students to "learn about their own and other faiths and to live lives of reconciliation," the face and mission of religious life at Elon changed.

Preparing students to be global citizens in a religiously diverse world

Since the 2010-2011 academic year, the population of Muslim students at Elon has risen 250 percent, growing from a few students to 14 students on campus who identify themselves with Islam, said associate chaplain Phil Smith. A part-time imam now comes in on Fridays to lead students in Jum'ah prayer.

The number of Hindu students also grew from a handful to nearly a dozen this year, he said, and the university recently held its first Diwali festival of lights celebration.

"The needs of people have changed," Smith said. "The world is global. Fifty years ago, chances were, you would graduate and the co-worker sitting beside you was probably not from another country or culture or faith tradition. So I think the nature of the education that Elon is trying to provide has changed, and our religious life opportunities are just keeping in line with that."

Numen Lumen Pavilion, Elon's multi-faith campus, which will be located in the center of campus and serve as a space for students of all religions to dialogue, worship, meditate and spend time, is a manifestation of a philosophy the university has been encouraging for the past decade: students must be prepared to live in a world with other cultural and spiritual traditions and understand and value the traditions of others.

"The university is willing to put its money where its mouth is, and resources where its ideology is," said Jan Fuller, university chaplain. "I see so many possibilities in this building. We're going to live together. There will be challenges. But what I love is that the university wants to support this, and we are a part of a place where these ideas are not just said, but done."

The UCC's own multi-faith initiatives

The congregation now known as Elon Community Church, located directly across the street from the southwest part of campus, met in Whitley auditorium from 1891 to 1959. Though Elon's historical association with the United Church of Christ has changed during the past several

decades, many of the goals and priorities the church and university have developed have remained consistent with one another, and Elon as an institution hasn't fallen too far away from the church it once housed.

ECC is also making strides to promote religious pluralism.

"Our hope is that through the years, we're going to be able to build a sense of knowing and understanding between religions," said the Rev. Randy Orwig, senior pastor of ECC. "We're very multi-faith oriented as a church, but we also understand that we are Christians first. Our Christian roots are a very important aspect to our understanding of faith."

Some university administrators and faculty members who identify themselves as Christians see the promotion of other faiths as a seamless extension of the church.

"I believe that God is very big and very powerful, and I don't pretend to understand all the answers," said President Leo Lambert. "I want to be humble enough to be open to other points of view and listen and try to understand and not judge. And I think the Christian path is a wonderful path. It's the path I try to be on — very imperfectly. But I think we have to be open to hearing other voices in our lives."

Fuller, an ordained Episcopalian priest, said she sees part of her duty as chaplain to model a Christianity in which people from all religions are respected and their beliefs seen as equally legitimate — an attitude reflective of both her religion and the values of the university.

"I think that God is powerful enough and clever enough to reach us all in our individual ways," she said.

Hatcher said a multi-faith focused chaplain is unconventional for some colleges, but has allowed Elon to become the type of school it is known to be among other collegiate religious life programs.

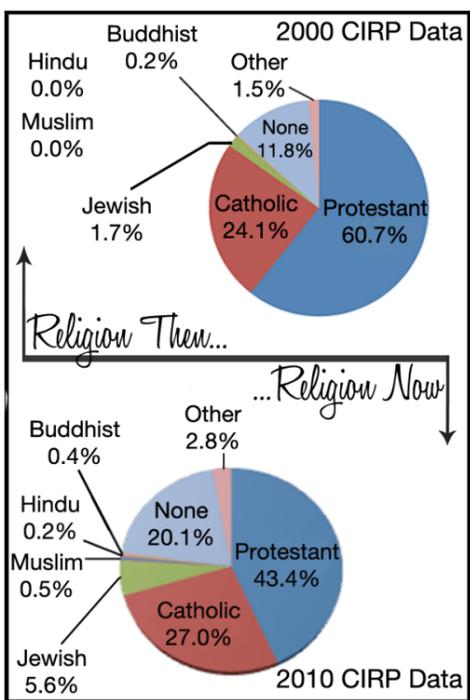
"I think our campus is going in the right direction, and I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that we have not banished the office of chaplain," he said. "But we probably have the most open-minded view of what a chaplain does of almost any university."

Lambert said his desire for a university that grew its way out of training Bible-minded Christians and into liberally educating informed global citizens is that students would find ways to live out these missions and philosophies in practical ways.

"I would hope that, in the end, we would actually be living out the dream that Edna Noiles articulated," Lambert said. "I hope that, during their time at Elon, students will explore their faiths and other faiths, and go into the world and live lives of reconciliation. That's one of the most beautiful thoughts I've ever heard in my life, and I hope we can become that place. I think we are becoming that place."



NATALIE ALLISON | Senior Reporter
Elon Community Church met in buildings on campus from 1891 to 1959.



CATE LESOURE | Graphics Editor

Stress, worry take focus off basic needs for students

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

For Tyler Bigbie, sleep takes a back seat. The sophomore said her schoolwork and social relationships take precedent over her sleep cycle.

"It never seems like you have enough time in the day for all three so usually you don't get as much sleep as you'd like because you feel you don't want to or can't sacrifice much of your social life and school work," Bigbie said.

But she is not the only college student who struggles with the delicate balancing act.

Katie King, associate director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, said having good support groups is important, but that students need to have effective strategies for dealing with stress.

"Everyone experiences stress in their life," she said. "It's not the stress you experience, it's how you cope with it, and those with good coping strategies are more resilient in the face of stressors."

Bruce Nelson, coordinator of Counseling Services, said it is when unexpected things occur in life is when

people can no longer handle their stress load, which if not mitigated can then turn into distress.

"If there are things we don't anticipate like getting sick or someone at home getting sick that can add to the stress," Nelson said. "Over time, we override our natural capacity to relax, and that might lead one to become more distressed and then it takes more time to get one back into balance."

Distress occurs when a person can no longer adapt to stress, and this can lead

to anxiety, depression or other mental and physical problems.

He said it is especially an issue for freshmen, although students of all years are affected. This is because students coming in have high expectations and a lot of demands of themselves.

Students must also revise their strategies for time management with the new course loads and social demands.

"I think freshman year will be one of the biggest times of change they will experience, and I don't know if they understand the amount of change that will occur on every level," Nelson said. "With clubs, there are like a zillion things, and I think for freshmen that can be overwhelming."

Freshman Alexis Seidel, who plays club volleyball, said volleyball does not take away from her focus on academics because she does not allow it to, but she sees how it could if she becomes more involved on other organizations or if her classes get busier.

She finds the social aspects to be more of a stressful change.

"It's harder to balance my friends here," Seidel said. "I have two separate groups that I hang out with so I have to balance my time with them."

Nelson also said stress and distress tend to pull people off their basic needs, and that is what the counselors mainly talk about with students.

He suggests students work on personal awareness so they can feel where they might be out of balance.

"If I had to pick three things that are in our control that can mitigate stress they are sleep, nutrition and something physical if that physical activity is not stressful," Nelson said. "Something that gets one outside

of their thinking mind."

There is research that shows exercising for 30 minutes three to four times a week can have a similar effect as anti-depressive and anti-anxiety medication, according to Nelson.

Another powerful mediation for stress is having safe, supportive relationships where someone is not judged and can talk about what is going on in their lives, Nelson said.

Both Nelson and King said stress narrows our focus, and that when we get inside ourselves we cannot view things in context.

"The more stressed we get the more narrow we can get, so I stress people to be on the look out for relationships or experiences that are more expansive," Nelson said. "Something that gets us outside ourselves."

King said having a wider view on life is gained over time.

"That's a huge part of development," she said. "Seeing things in context and that you have control over them."

But Nelson said the good news is that research now shows most people are very resilient when it comes to stress, and instead of focusing on the few who

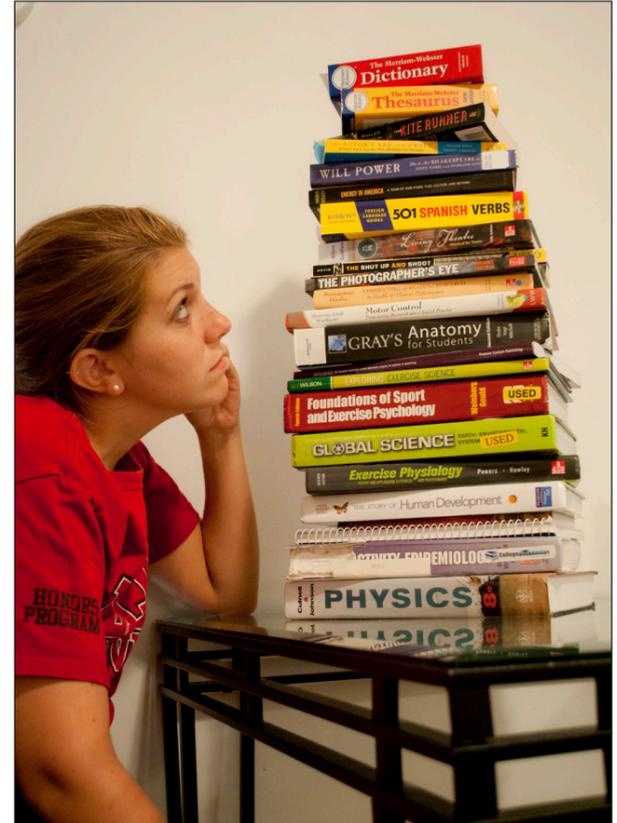


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer
Though students' responsibilities during the semester often leave little time for stress management, Counseling Services advises students to find effective ways to deal with anxiety to prevent depression from setting in.

do not deal well with stress or trauma, the new research is looking at how to strengthen resilience in people.

He advises students to be aware of the signs of stress.

"The best advice I can give is do a self-awareness check when things might fall out of balance and see what steps one might take to restore that balance before it can turn to distress," Nelson said. "Staying on top of things academically, knowing yourself, and seeking outside resources can go a long way."

THE PENDULUM
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011 | VOLUME 37, EDITION 30
www.elonpendulum.com

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"Seeing how work has affected the Elon community has been a real testament to what one person is capable of," said Kassondra Cloos, news editor. "The Pendulum strives for great diversity of..."

The Swing, a weekly webcast that serves as a supplement to the print edition. "The Swing is really ahead of the curve," said Christopher Bosak, executive producer. "Other news organizations like The New York Times started..."

Beards into Bucks: Fraternity raises more than 20K for Movember

Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

As their beards grew, so did the donations. For the newly clean-shaven brothers of Kappa Sigma at Elon University, No Shave November was a serious endeavor.

The fraternity recently took a strict no-shaving policy to the extreme to visibly demonstrate their fight against prostate cancer, raising more than \$20,000 in the process through Movember, an organization that benefits the Prostate Cancer Foundation and LIVESTRONG. For a month, no matter how itchy it may have gotten, being clean shaven was not an option.

All 54 members of the fraternity participated and received more than 300 donations from family members, friends and individuals both in and outside of the Elon community, raising more money than every other undergraduate college team.

They also ranked 38 among all other teams, raising more money than companies like Golf Magazine, General Mills and Bloomberg.

"We're extremely proud of our efforts and we hope we can do more next year," said senior Andrew Springs.

Even though he will be graduating, Springs said he definitely plans to participate next year and donate to Elon's team.

Once a week, each of the Kappa Sigma brothers posted a current picture of themselves on their personal pages on the Movember website so donors could watch their beards get longer.

"I think it's interesting, too, for people who are donating because they can keep going back every week and

check the website and see the beard progression," said junior Brian Swaney, who led a similar initiative for the fraternity last year to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

This year's campaign, which was through an international organization instead of a student-created website that used PayPal to collect donations, roughly quadrupled the amount Kappa Sigma was able to donate.

The team's top contributor, Taggart McLain, raised \$4,438, second place among student fundraisers in the United States. Five other brothers ranked in the top 100, Springs said.

"It's definitely something we're going to continue," Swaney said. "We've seen the success of it and it's definitely something unique. We've kind of established it as our event, which is very important in terms of Greek Life on this campus because I feel like each organization has their own main event that they do in terms of philanthropy, and this kind of establishes ours."

Both Swaney and Springs said the cause hits home for most people, since many personally know someone who has been affected by some kind of cancer.

"Cancer is something that we all think about," Springs said. "We're conscious of it but we don't always act on it. So I think joining the fight against cancer, whether it be a donation of \$10 or a donation of \$1,000, is something that's meaningful to us. We do obviously appreciate every donation and we're very thankful to have achieved our goal, but we know it's not enough until profound fundamental steps are taken in cancer research to eradicate all types of cancer."

Students discuss tips, challenges about study abroad

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

Many students choose to study abroad during Winter Term or a semester during their time at Elon and although it's an exciting time for students, these places and read travel books on her destinations. Caitlin Hickey, another senior who traveled to Peru during Winter Term her sophomore year and St. Andrews, Scotland, last spring, also read travel guides before leaving which she said helped her.

Senior Sarah Oldham studied in India Winter Term of her sophomore year and Dublin the spring semester of her junior year. Before departing for these programs, she spoke with upperclassmen who had also been to these places and read travel books on her destinations. Caitlin Hickey, another senior who traveled to Peru during Winter Term her sophomore year and St. Andrews, Scotland, last spring, also read travel guides before leaving which she said helped her.

A different country often means new language, but senior Shana Van Beek wasn't bothered when she spent a semester in Cairo. Before her semesters abroad, she took two semesters of Arabic and had previously spent time in Cairo and Alexandria, which made her second time in Cairo easier, she said.

"Having been to Egypt once before, I felt somewhat prepared for the climate, busyness and sounds," Van Beek said. "The most important preparation for me was advice I had heard from students who had studied abroad in the Middle East and from friends living in Egypt: be flexible."

Aisha Mitchell, a senior who spent last fall in Beijing, also had knowledge of Mandarin, the language spoken in her destination, which she said was helpful in getting around. But for programs in areas like India, Dublin and St. Andrews, there was no language barrier since English was the primary language.

Michael Bergin, a 2011 alumus

who went to Florence his junior year, traveled with bus2alps, a company that plans trips around Europe for students, and is going back to Florence to work with the company. Bergin advises students to take advantage of trips in and around their destinations from companies like bus2alps that offer discounts for groups.

"You want to spend as much time in the place you're in but you don't want to stop yourself from traveling," he said. "One of the main reasons people go abroad is they want to get out there and see a lot of places. Don't be afraid to spend money on taking day trips."

Van Beek and Mitchell said the main challenges they faced in emerged from living in a place different from what they were used to. The food, language and overall pace weren't the same as that of the United States and it was exhausting at times, they said.

"I was viewed differently than I am in North Carolina, mainly because there are plenty of blond Americans at Elon and not so many in Egypt," Van Beek said. "The littlest differences add up and because you're not expecting it, they can wear you down."

One challenge Oldham faced in Ireland was prioritizing her time. She found it difficult to immerse herself into the culture while also living in the moment. Students often want to experience everything in their time abroad but can miss out on other opportunities, Oldham said. She recommends students think about what they want to get out of their experience before departure.



Essentials to pack for a trip abroad include clothes appropriate for the weather, a passport and a travel guide.

Students can take care of logistical things like currency and health and safety by researching these aspects and others related to their destination, said Heidi White, Isabella Cannon International Centre director of study abroad. Foreign currency can be ordered at the student's bank and students can stay healthy and safe by getting the proper immunization and prescriptions and being aware of their surroundings.

A month or semester abroad can be daunting for some but once students are comfortable in the area, the experience is worth it, according to Van Beek.

"Be flexible, patient and observant," she said. "The nuances of a culture might, at first, be entirely frustrating. Eventually, you grow accustomed to the nuances and may even prefer some of the local traditions and practices to your own."

Policy changed to prevent gender identity discrimination

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

The definition of discrimination in the student handbook and staff manual at Elon University was modified earlier this semester to include gender identity. While the university previously did not discriminate on the basis of gender expression or identity, according to Brooke Barnett, faculty administrative fellow and assistant to the president, the phrase was added as part of routine updates to handbook and human resource policies.

"We update policies all the time," she said.

The change is significant, and increases Elon's chances of drawing a more diverse pool of applicants for faculty and staff positions, according to Kirstin Ringelberg, coordinator of the LGBTQ office.

Gender identity is distinct from sexual identity, she said, meaning it previously was not covered by the inclusion of sexual orientation.

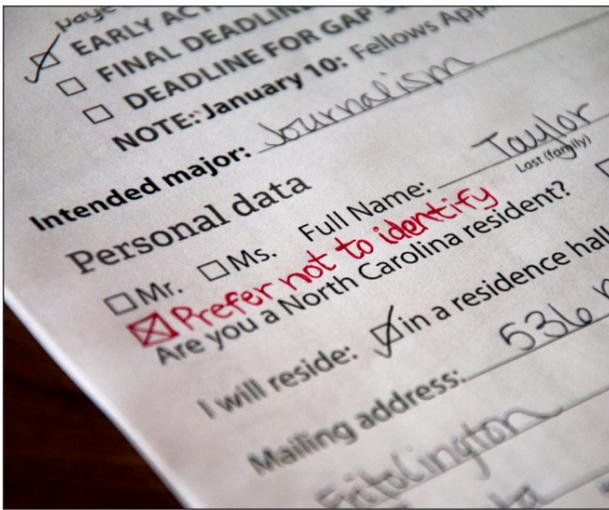
"I think we tend to live as if those things are equitable but they're not," she said. "So adding the idea of gender identity and gender expression to the anti-discrimination language makes it clear that we're presenting a more complex and intellectually valid view

of the distinctions between sex and gender and sexuality."

The new language in the student handbook notes that the policy will be "equally applied to behaviors based on an individual's actual or perceived identity."

Some people on campus may perceive their gender identity to be different from what would be assumed of them based on their sex or appearance, Ringelberg said, and the addition of gender identity to the nondiscrimination clause offers support for these individuals where it may not have previously existed.

"I think that is something meaningful," she said. "We certainly want to draw faculty and staff who are open to these ideas, but one of the crucial things is that it does is put



Biological sex and physical appearance aren't always indicators of someone's preferred gender identity, according to Kristin Ringelberg, coordinator of the LGBTQ office.

into place policies that would support individual gender identities that may already be present on campus. There may be discrimination occurring on campus that people aren't even aware of because they think they can make assumptions about gender identity based on things like biological sex or physical appearance."

Dec. 7 - Dec. 13

Dec. 7

- Cram Jam: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- Cookie Walk: 7 p.m.

Dec. 8

- Final exams

Dec. 9

- Final exams

Dec. 10

- Final exams

Dec. 11

- Final exams

Dec. 12

- Final exams

Dec. 13

- Final exams

For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.

NEWS BRIEFS

New student-produced publication displayed across campus

Students, faculty and staff were greeted Monday morning with copies of "Phoenix Underground." The newsletter invites anonymous submissions of articles and photos.

Provost Steven House said the profanity-laced publication has not been discussed by the senior staff at Elon University, but at this point he said he does not see how the university could remove it from locations across campus.

School of Communications marks transition to high definition

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Dec. 2 to thank those involved in the transition of the School of Communications to high definition and tapeless video recording and editing.

On hand was alum Troy Senkiewicz, from the class of 1998, who worked closely with Elon University during the rewiring process. He was joined by Dean Paul Parsons and Christopher Waters, Elon's assistant chief information officer.

Elon Dining hosts Angel Tree

Dining Services at Elon University is sponsoring an Angel Tree that will provide toys and clothes for needy families this holiday season.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to take an angel from the tree, which will include information about a family in need of donations.

Unwrapped toys and clothing can be returned to the Colonnades Dining Office by Dec. 14.

Moore named to new position

Kurt Moore has been named Elon University's new director of foundation relations. As part of the position, Moore will be responsible for forming partnerships between faculty working on large projects and foundations able to financially support them.

Prior to this arrival at Elon, Moore worked at Florida Atlantic University as assistant vice president for research and director of technology transfer.

Belton, Miller lead campaign to encourage faculty, staff giving

With a goal of 65 percent participation, the faculty and staff giving campaign has currently reached 48 percent participation.

Led by co-chairs Rhonda Belton and Paul Miller, the campaign allows for donations through payroll deduction, with most donors opting to designate their funds to a specific organization or department.

Last year, employees contributed \$313,000, including \$150,000 to support scholarships specifically.

Alumna named teacher of the year

Molly Ellington, a 2008 graduate of Elon University's Master of Education Program, was recently named Teacher of the Year in the Alamance-Burlington School System.

Ellington teaches third grade at Alexander Wilson Elementary School. It is the second year in the row a graduate student from Elon has been recognized by ABSS for their work in the classroom.

As the Teacher of the Year, Ellington receives \$2,000 and the school receives \$1,000.

Nominations for Young Alumni Council now available

The Elon Alumni Association is soliciting nominations for young alumni to join the Young Alumni Council, which is charged with strengthening the connection between current students and recent graduates of the university.

Nominees must have graduated between 2005 and 2011 and can be submitted to Kiley Moorefield at kmoorefield@elon.edu.

Opinions

Excessive photo editing dishonest, misleading

As if the annual Victoria's Secret Fashion Show weren't enough, creating the perfect body image has become



Kate Riley
Columnist

a part of everyday life for so many women, and billboards, television shows and photographs have skewed what beauty really is.

Retouching. Altering. Changing. All of these words point to the overarching goal: improving. The lighting and setting may be fine,

but photographers and editors often seem to find something wrong with the subject of a photo, often a person.

So, why not just erase a few pounds in a few seconds? What about adding shimmer to an eye or height to a model — what's the harm in that? The answer is simple: everything.

There is a reason I always wanted to be a photojournalist — to tell the truth. To capture a moment that often cannot be described adequately in words. But too often a moment has been "made better" through smoothing over a person's face, brightening their hair color or removing an unwanted item in the foreground.

But what good does this really do? This doesn't show the moment that actually happened. It makes it fake. And this is what makes women today believe they aren't good enough. I am a victim of it. At some point, I'm sure that most women, let alone college-age women, have fallen victim to it. We all want to be as pretty as the girl on television. Or in a magazine. Or on a billboard.

"Fix one thing, then another and pretty soon you end up with Barbie," said Hany Farid, a professor of computer science and a digital forensics expert at Dartmouth in an interview with The New York Times.

It's true — once the software is learned and used, it's hard to quit, to suppress the desire to make the girl that much skinnier or to make the subject look a little bit more like you want in order to convey a certain message. Take TIME magazine's 1994 O.J. Simpson cover. TIME used Simpson's mug shot as its cover photo, and it probably would have been OK — if Newsweek hadn't run the same photo in its original form. TIME darkened Simpson's mug shot, making him look more sinister and, in turn, guilty. This is a prime example of photo manipulation, an example of why it should never be done.

A news publication is supposed to be unbiased and tell a news story as it is, without offering any opinion or advice. Yeah, a lot of people thought Simpson was guilty, but that doesn't mean a news organization gets to publicly announce its view. Why do you think so many people don't trust the media anymore?

So please, keep the photo retouching to a minimum. I admit I alter the brightness and contrast sometimes, but this is to better show the action of the photo and bring clarity, not to make up what is not there. Just watch what you do.

It's not worth it to lose your reputation as a photographer just to look 10 pounds skinnier.

Let's stick to the facts instead.

Students: The Pendulum needs you

Past year has been challenging, but not without rewards

It's not often a 15-year-old girl determines her life course while stuffing JCPenney inserts into a small



Anna Johnson
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief

eight-page weekly newspaper at the crack of dawn. But then again, I consider myself one of the lucky ones.

I based my entire college decision on finding a journalism program and newspaper I admired.

I remember visiting Elon and pressing my nose up to the glass door of the old office of The Pendulum, an actual bank building, and imagined what it would be like to be on staff, wondering why they had a vault.

Now I'm facing an all-too-real reality. It's my last edition as The Pendulum's Editor-in-Chief. It might be the most bittersweet moment of my life.

I never thought in my two and a half years on The Pendulum staff that I would organize our 2010 midterm election coverage or fall in love with crime reporting. I didn't expect to move offices twice or conquer my fear of public speaking. And I couldn't have imagined finding some of my best

friends and a second home.

The staff I've had the privilege of working with this past year has continued to amaze and surpass all of my expectations. There have been many occasions when I've sat back just to marvel at the passion and level of dedication that resonates with these Pendulum staffers.

There've been countless sleepless nights. Yet, regardless of the hours sacrificed, this staff has been able to produce quality news and entertainment for the student body and greater community. A vibrant free press is necessary for the health of this community and I've enjoyed seeing this news organization take stronger stances on issues deemed important by the student body.

These changes couldn't have occurred without the help and devotion of so many staff members. A particular thanks goes out to our seniors: Rebecca Smith, Lauren Ramsdell, Justin Veldhuis, Sarah Carideo, Nick Zanetti, Eva Hill, Brian Allenby, Elizabeth Everett, Julia Murphy, Julia Sayers, Amanda Bender, Sam Calvert, Jack Rodenfels, Bonnie Efirid, Jack Dodson and Ashley Jobe. The Pendulum will hate to see you go and I wish you all the

best in your future endeavors.

During the past year I've also worked closely with The Pendulum's adviser, Colin Donohue, who has provided constant support, feedback, advice and encouragement on our constant pursuit of perfection. Our webmaster, J.D. Parsons, has also worked with our staff as we continue to become a web-first

publication and we appreciate all of his efforts.

The gains this year will not be lost with the incoming staff. Caitlin O'Donnell, the incoming Editor-in-Chief, is a talented journalist that consistently and continuously leaves me in awe. She's picked a vivacious

staff that will continue to push the administration when it is in the wrong and challenge the status quo. I am so excited to see what they accomplish and how they continue to improve.

But they will need your help. This is your newspaper. The Pendulum needs your voices. Give us your story ideas and what you want to see in your news organization. Tell The Pendulum staff when they're right and when they've missed the mark. You can shape the future of this organization and your perspective is vital for its continued success.

A vibrant free press is necessary for the health of this community and I've enjoyed seeing this news organization take stronger stances on issues deemed important by the student body.

Elon is our school, but are we our school's keeper?

The Elon University honor pledge states, "On my honor, I will uphold the values of Elon University: honesty,



Zachary Horner
Columnist

integrity, responsibility, respect." The university's website states this applies not only on campus, but "in locations and at events not occurring on campus," "in locations abroad" and "in situations involving technology as a means of recording or

communication."

Essentially, wherever you go, you represent Elon. Every first year student is supposed to attend the Call to Honor ceremony during the fall of their first year and sign said pledge.

On the other hand, it states if you go to a school and something bad at that school happens, you are also associated with that unfortunate event.

Take the recent scandal at Pennsylvania State University. Emily Kaplan, a columnist for The Daily Collegian, Pennsylvania State's student newspaper, wrote a piece titled "Our pride should not change, we are Penn State." She writes about going home for Thanksgiving break and being pestered by family members and friends searching for a thought on the incident and that she got strange looks when she wore a Pennsylvania State football shirt to the grocery store.

She writes, "We've been thrust into the roles of ambassadors for Penn State. That doesn't mean

we always have to defend the university. I don't know about you, but I'd have a hard time doing that wholeheartedly. Instead we must prove that this scandal and these men aren't what Penn State is all about. We are so much more than that."

Kaplan may think that and want to preach. It is an admirable plan of action in the face of this horrible tragedy. But, I wonder, is it realistic? The actions of Jerry Sandusky have placed a black mark on that university forever. Whenever anyone thinks Penn State, they will now associate it with sexual abuse gone unreported for way too long.

Here at Elon, students are reminded that all of their actions reflect not only themselves, but the university and all the organizations with which they are involved.

The reason? Because we are Elon students. When people who know us look at us, they will think we are an extension of Elon. That includes everything from academics, values, beliefs. When an Elon student does something, it reflects on the university. That is the point of emphasizing our

connection with Elon no matter where we are in the world. But, as evidenced by the Pennsylvania State incident, as Kaplan described, what our university does reflects on us, as well.

The matter at stake here is this: we are our school's keeper just by signing up to take classes and live here. Is it fair? Unfortunately, yes. By attending this institution, we allow ourselves to be made statistics on the website and happy students in brochures and admissions videos. Does it take away some of our individual diversity? Sure. In the "real world," if you don't count college as that, we can be fired from our companies from how we reflect on them, even if it does not break the law or offend the majority. Elon senior running back Jamal Shuman, for instance, was suspended from the team for the last two games for comments he made on Twitter.

It may not be fair to us as individuals, but it is a fact of society. So we sit here in our classrooms and dorms, representing Elon as one student body because that's the deal we signed up for. The way we do that, though, is entirely up to us.



At the Pennsylvania State-University of Nebraska game, students show they still have pride in their institution. In recent weeks, many students have reported being repeatedly asked about the scandal, although no undergraduate students were actually involved at all.

COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

International



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Carmen Lapaco, one of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, was one of the relatively few of the disappeared who was able to return home after being detained. While the Mothers maintain 30,000 people are still missing, the Argentinian military claims less than 10,000 of those originally detained to remain unaccounted for.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Alejandra Lapaco, Carmen's daughter, remains missing. There are many memorials and photos dedicated to the disappeared around Argentina, like this one in Memory Park. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo are far from giving up.

Argentinian mothers search for lost children

Genevieve D'Cruz
International Reporter

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA - Their children have been missing for more than 30 years, but the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have not stopped searching. Every Thursday afternoon since 1977, they march in the Plaza de Mayo, in front of the Casa Rosada, the Argentine executive branch and office of the president, armed with posters and photos of their missing children.

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Founding Line, was established during the dictatorship in 1977. During the last military dictatorship, the government had a hand in "forced disappearances" of those who did not support the dictatorship. Up to 30,000 citizens "disappeared" under the rule of the dictator, Jorge Rafael Videla.

The organization is composed of women whose children disappeared during the dictatorship and who are working toward recovering their children's bodies. They do not recognize that their children are deceased, only that they have "disappeared," since records and bodies have yet to be found.

Carmen Lapaco, one of the mothers, has a unique story. She was missing and had been detained with her daughter, but she survived and was allowed to return home. She is the Mother that worked directly with CIEE-FLACSO students. Alejandra Lapaco Aguiar, Lapaco's daughter, remains missing.

The mothers continue to work to spread the information about disappearances.

"It was a time of living in fear," Lapaco said. "We lived with love. We overcame this fear."

D'Cruz volunteered with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo fall semester.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have marched every Thursday afternoon since 1977 in front of the Casa Rosada. Part of the work they do includes finding information about the individuals who have not been recovered since the dictatorship. Often, this involves searching for and collecting newspaper clippings and memorials.

MORE ONLINE

Read about Genevieve's experience as a volunteer and see more photos

<http://bit.ly/EPmpdm>

GENEVIEVE D'CRUZ
International Reporter

Correspondent's Corner

Tips for a successful term studying abroad

Talk to other students that went on the same program, see how much they spent and places they traveled to. Then force yourself to budget and plan ahead of time where you want to travel during the semester. Also tell your parents and friends from the United States that you will set aside specific times to call or Skype them throughout the week or month. But there should be limits.



-Amy Kenney
PARIS, FRANCE



Save lots of money, plan trips early and don't feel like you have to see every attraction in your city at once. You have plenty of time. Meet locals, too — don't limit yourself to just Americans.

-Kristen Olsen
DUBLIN, IRELAND

You can wear your clothes over and over again, especially in cold weather, but bring lots of underwear so you don't have to do laundry too often. If you prefer a certain food, like peanut butter or Hershey's, bring it with you, because chances are your country doesn't have it. If they do, it probably won't be the same. If you're an over packer, bring toiletries and snacks in your suitcases so you'll have more room for gifts and souvenirs on your way home.

If you're going to South America, get ready to throw your clock out the window, because everything is relative, especially when you are relying on public transportation for everything.



-Genevieve D'Cruz
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Memorize the basic exchange rate for your country's currency so you don't have to hesitate when buying things or overpay cab drivers! Also learn how to say "please" and "thank you" in the native language right away. You'll use these things the most. And smile as much as possible. When you're lost or confused, people will be much more willing to help you out.



-Millie Rosen
HAIFA, ISRAEL

Style



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

The annual Festival of Holiday Lights held Dec. 1 was attended by many community members. More than 30,000 light-emitting diodes (LED), energy-saving bulbs were used in the Christmas display.

Annual lights, luminaries bring community together

Chelsea Wingo
Reporter

Drinking hot chocolate, hearing joyous music and seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus on campus brings community members together. But what really catches people's attention each year are the lights and luminaires that span from Alamance to Moseley Center.

"Looking at the lights themselves is the best part of the celebration," said President Leo Lambert. "That night, Elon's campus looks absolutely beautiful and everyone should stand and appreciate its beauty."

The Festival of Holiday Lights, started in 1984 by former chaplain Richard McBride, is a time when people come together to begin celebrating the holiday season.

This year, the festival began Dec. 1 at the Scott Plaza in front of Alamance.

More than 1,500 luminaires covered the brick pathways and the numerous lights for the trees. The event also provided hot chocolate, apple cider and music from Dickens-style carolers. And who could forget Santa and Mrs. Claus?

"It's a really awesome tradition," said sophomore Rebekah Hackney. "It's kind of like College Coffee, except the Christmas version, and instead of coffee, it's hot chocolate."

But the event doesn't just celebrate Christmas. The event now includes other religious traditions, such as Hanukkah for the Jewish community of Elon.

"Twenty years ago, it was very much more associated to religious aspects of Christmas," said Phil Smith, director of religious life. "Whereas now, it's about coming together and celebrating the season and the winter holidays in general."

University Chaplain Janet Fuller said including other holidays is important for bringing others together, which McBride did when he first added Hanukkah traditions to the ceremony in 1985.

"We think of Christmas as everyone's holiday, but it's not," she said. "That's the sticky part of it."

The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life sponsors and organizes the event, from setting up the lights in the trees to providing hot beverages. It had numerous volunteers helping out.

"There are a huge number of volunteers and it takes more every year with the great number of luminaires," Fuller said. "I think that it's a great and long labor of love."

The festive music and holiday spirit are present, but the lights remain memorable part of the event.

The beauty making people stop and stare is a good thing, according to Fuller.

"I do think that beauty is good for the soul," she said. "It feeds the soul. It feeds that other non-technical part of us and stimulates that other part of our brain that keeps us whole."

Smith said the lights are his favorite part because of the reactions. He said it gives him such a good feeling to see people enjoy the beauty that he doesn't mind the hard work.

"It's a whole lot of work for a whole lot of people and the actual event is very brief," Smith said. "But it just seems to mean a lot to the community."

How will the event look in 10 to 15 years? Although Fuller is new to Elon, she is certain that even though some things may change, the spirit of the event will stay the same.

"Change is inevitable," Fuller said. "We'd like to make this both a meaningful Christian holiday and at the same time, make it more meaningful to others who aren't Christians."

Even Lambert hopes the festival will remain the same.

"It will always adapt within time," he said. "But I hope the major tradition will continue."



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

Seniors Brenna Lakeson, Jessica Zollinger and Kristin Pinder pose with Santa Claus at the event.



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

Elon students dress as Dickens carolers for the annual Festival of Light Celebration, where students gathered to celebrate the holiday season.



Holiday Magic

a Victorian Christmas

Emma Kandel-Krieger
Reporter

Christmas spirit is not just for children this year. The Burlington Parks and Recreation department is bringing a Victorian-themed Christmas festival to the downtown Burlington area.

From 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 9, Downtown Burlington will be transformed into a scene straight out of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Attendees are encouraged to dress in Victorian finery and children can win prizes for best dressed.

Mary Faucette, special event supervisor within the department, explained that there will be many different forms of entertainment at the festival, including hand bell ringers, carriage rides, mimes, jugglers and stilt walkers.

This year, carolers will kick off the event with Christmas songs.

"The idea is to have strolling carolers at different spots around the festival," Faucette said. "There could be trios, quartets or even up to an octet."

There will also be a band performing in the amphitheater.

"Music brings a lot to an event," Faucette said.

For authenticity, the festival will feature roasting chestnuts and Santa and Mrs. Claus dressed in Victorian attire.

"The streets of downtown Burlington will be filled with the sights, smells and sounds of a Victorian Christmas," said Dennis Littell, Burlington business owner and co-chair of the event.

"(Visitors can) see the characters of 'A Dickens Christmas' come to life, smell the chestnuts roasting and hear the music, street performers and horses clopping through the streets of our Christmas Victorian Village."

The event is a town pastime and encourages people to support local shops. A Dickens' Christmas passport will be given to everyone who attends, and people will receive stamps from the business where they purchase something. The passport will go into a drawing for awards and prizes.

"(Visitors can) see the characters of 'A Dickens Christmas' come to life, smell the chestnuts roasting and hear the music, street performers and horses clopping through the streets of our Christmas Victorian Village."

-Dennis Littell
BURLINGTON BUSINESS OWNER
AND CO-CHAIR OF THE EVENT

"Christmas is my all-time favorite holiday," he said. "It's all about the spirit and I definitely plan to attend the festival this year."

In previous years, the festival has drawn a large crowd.

"(The Dickens Christmas) is a big event," said Acorn Coffee Shop employee Karen Hall, "Some vendors would be selling hot chocolate. Sometimes they have performers come sing. It's real festive."

Kathryn Thompson, another Acorn employee, said that she had heard a lot about the event.

"I have never been on a carriage ride," she said. "I would love to. It sounds neat."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Business owner and co-chair of Holiday Magic: A Dickens' Christmas, Dennis Littell shows off his Victorian outfit for this year's festival, which runs from Dec. 9 in downtown Burlington.

Senior gains accolades for fiction writing

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

Kasey Thornton has known she was going to be a writer since seventh grade. Now, as a senior majoring in English, Thornton has a big future ahead and she has already made a name for herself.

While looking at North Carolina State University's Masters of Fine Arts graduate program, Thornton found the NC State Fiction Contest. Her junior year, she submitted a story titled, "I Shall Not Want." It made the top 20 of 300, earning her a position as a semi-finalist.

This year, she gave it another try, entering a story titled "Took Up." She said she had hoped to revise it more, but that it is hard to ever be truly finished with a story. For her efforts, she was awarded one of 11 finalist positions.

"Writers everywhere will understand that there is no such thing as a 'finished' story," Thornton said.

Thornton doesn't write only for competitions. She writes every single day she possibly can, including Christmas Day, Thanksgiving and her birthday.

"As far as my experience with writing in general, it's an obsession," Thornton said.

She said that too much of a good thing can sometimes be bad. At times, she will get so

caught up in her writing she bypasses eating, her social life and homework.

Most of her writing concerns motherhood, and what it means to be a mother. Other works ponder how people depend on one another in order to overcome hardships. She comments on the formation of friendships, loyalty between people, how people support one another and sometimes use others to move forward in life.

Thornton has also excelled in professional writing. She co-authored a paper with Elon University professor Rebecca Pope-Ruork that was published in an academic journal. She has worked as an assistant editor for a magazine, freelanced for newspapers, copy edited a novel and helped write a book for a nonprofit organization in Mebane.

Thornton's love for writing began at an early age. In middle school, she filled spiral-bound notebooks with her works. When her family bought a computer, she moved to that.

"Then, I would stay up writing stories as late as my mother would let me and wake up two hours before I had to leave for school to write," she said.

In high school, she said she was lucky enough to have good English teachers, but wrote fictional stories on her



MERRISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Senior Kasey Thornton was recently named one of 11 finalists in the North Carolina State Fiction Contest.

own time.

"I probably wrote more between sixth and 12th grade than the average person reads in a lifetime," Thornton said.

All this work taught her the technicalities of good writing. Thornton mastered grammar, syntax, vocabulary as well as description. When she arrived at Elon, she learned more about crafting sentences, plots and stories in appealing ways.

Aside from writing stories,

Thornton also enjoys music. She plays the piano and guitar, to name a few, and teaches percussion at her hometown high school.

"I joke with people that I'm happily married to my writing, but music is the passionate love affair I'm having on the side," Thornton said.

Planning on getting her MFA in Creative Writing, Thornton said she hopes to get into UNC Wilmington because

she spent a lot of time there as a child. Thornton aims to combine her professional editorial experience with her creative writing experience to become an editor for a publishing agency.

"As a child, whenever someone would ask me what I wanted to do when I grew up, I would always answer, 'write.' When they said, 'Write what?' I would say, 'Everything.' So that's what I'm doing," she said.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Peacehaven Farm includes a garden and an orchard, where volunteers farm seasonal crops.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

There is an abundance of farm animals at Peacehaven Farm, including goats, chicken and a llama.

Peacehaven Farm inspires hope for volunteers, community

Whitsett farm gives individuals with special needs a place to 'work, live and grow'

Libby Dean
Reporter

Peacehaven Farm is located in the agrarian community of Whitsett on 89 acres of sprawling land. The farm is on a quiet street, with the neighboring houses, mostly farms, few and far between. A feeling of calmness is in the air, except for gusts of wind and the occasional sound of rooster crows off in the distance. The farm feels so far removed from modern city living, it's surprising that it's only a ten-minute drive from Elon University.

The farm is fully operational, complete with acres for farming seasonal crops, such as corn, small gardens and farm animals. The farm is home to goats, chickens and ducks, sheep, pigs, dairy cows, goats, one llama and one guard dog, an affectionate St. Bernard and Great Pyrenees mix named Jake.

On the surface, Peacehaven Farm appears to be similar to the other farms in the community. But one aspect sets Peacehaven apart from the others: The farm is run, operated and was created almost completely by volunteers and donations.

Buck Cochran, executive director of Peacehaven Farm, said the concept of the farm is an expanded idea of a community garden, where people can come and care for the crops and animals and make it a true community-supported farm. In addition, the farm serves as a haven for people with disabilities who come to work and volunteer.

"What Peacehaven Farm does is give people the opportunity to help," Cochran said. "It gives them a sense of purpose when they work together to harvest healthy food. There is a dual purpose here around the food that we are growing and also how the farm brings people together."

Peacehaven Farm was inspired by children of Cochran, as well as Tim and Susan Elliott's children. The Elliots and Cochran are parents of children

with special needs. The families became passionate about finding and creating a place for their children to feel accepted and at a peace. Cochran had a long-held dream to create a housing community for people with disabilities, and the Elliots wanted to create a farm. The families began translating Peacehaven farm from an idea into a reality.

"Susan Elliott was instrumental in bringing the farm to life," Cochran said. "She came up with the name 'Peacehaven,' which really represents what we do here. We wanted the place to be peaceful, a place where people come to work, live and grow."

Peacehaven Farm hosts farm workdays most Saturdays from March to October, where volunteers and community members come to work on the farm.

Alyssa Drosdak, senior and service chair for Epsilon Sigma Alpha service sorority, said volunteer duties include hands-on activities, such as seeding the pastures, caring for the animals, planting and harvesting crops, among other farming duties.

"Peacehaven Farm has been one of my favorite volunteer experiences at Elon," Drosdak said. "It's a nice change after focusing on academics during the week to go out there and work with your hands as a team and see things from the start to the finish. Whenever I go out there I'm reminded of the fact that yes, I'm a college student but I have other things to offer too. Peacehaven especially has made me realize how important it is for me to keep volunteering."

Volunteers at Peacehaven Farm are split up into groups, so each person is paired with a community member. People with disabilities are paired with other community volunteers to provide the opportunity to meet new people, work together and share experiences.

"It's amazing to see all the different kinds of people working together and learning from one another," Cochran said. "There's no way their paths would have



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Buck Cochran was inspired to start the Peacehaven Farm by his son, who is autistic.

ever crossed if it wasn't for this farm."

The volunteer workdays usually run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., including a potluck meal for the volunteers at noon. The sense of unity is evident on the farm, with numerous picnic tables grouped together so the volunteers can be near each other.

"The most interesting and friendly people volunteer here," said Liz Bailey, health and human performance lecturer at Elon University. "You see children and adults with disabilities, to community members to college students, but

everyone interacts on the same level. It's a wonderful atmosphere to see everyone comfortable and accepted."

Cochran said another goal of the farm is sustainability. The purpose is to provide a healthy environment.

"At its core, this is a project of the community," Cochran said. "If it wasn't for the volunteers, there would be no Peacehaven Farm. This farm belongs to the community. This project is alive and well because of the people who come out to be a part of it."

Satisfying late-night munchies: Midnight Cookie Craving delivers cookies to students

Audrey Horwitz
Reporter

Every Elon University student has had a late-night craving, but not everyone has figured out a way to craft a business around quenching it.

Fortunately for Elon's late-night munchers, sophomores Maritza Gamboa and Leah Hayes have.

"We had been looking for jobs for a while and were talking about what things we could do on campus to make money," Hayes said. "We talked about how college students get hungry early in the morning so we were thinking what if we sell cookies? So we just went with that."

The pair delivers freshly baked cookies to Elon students on and off campus. The large coffee shop-sized cookies are either sugar cookies or chocolate chip cookies and cost

a dollar. All the customer has to do is email the order and the cookies will be delivered to his or her door.

For Gamboa and Hayes, a typical Saturday night means catering to the appetites of hungry Elon students from 11 p.m. until 3 a.m.

"What are the chances we'll go to bed before 2 a.m.?" Gamboa asked Hayes around midnight.

"Zero percent," Hayes said.

They haven't been at it for long, but are already stirring up business. The suitemates started four weeks ago, primarily in Danieley, where they live. Since then, they have reached out to more of their hungry classmates.

Their weekends may be booked, but they're not complaining.

"We try to look at it as a job," Gamboa said. "And I just like

making people happy."

The pair may be giving up their Saturday nights, but their sacrifice is not going unnoticed.

"After a long night, there's nothing better than getting back to my dorm and smelling those delicious cookies," said Alex Terajewicz, a freshman. "It's the perfect treat."

Terajewicz lives next to Gamboa and Hayes. As he left, he joked that he would be back soon. Not five minutes passed before he was back.

"He's one of our loyal customers," Gamboa said.

For now, the pair is looking to expand the business by also delivering on Thursday and Fridays. They receive about 20 to 30 orders a night, but want to be busier. So far, they have managed to make a profit every night, but want to ensure they will have enough customers before deciding to expand



ELIZABETH EVERETT | Staff Photographer

On Saturday nights, Midnight Cookie Crave delivers treats to students.

business hours.

The pair insists that they are not tempted to eat the cookies themselves.

"Honestly, by the end of the night, the smell of butter and sugar is so overwhelming," Hayes said.

For the Elon students who haven't been exposed to enticing cookie aromas, Midnight Cookie Crave is here to help.

As for their recipe, that will remain a mystery.

"That's our secret," Gamboa said.

MORE ONLINE

Meet the people that are making your cookies all Saturday night long in this video.

<http://bit.ly/EPcookies>

KATIE PULLMAN
Multimedia Editor

Alumni, students rock toward record deal



Jake Valente, Michael Lobacz, Frank Hurd and Ben Soldate plan to release their self-produced first EP on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Fat Frogg.

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

Studying for exams, purchasing textbooks and scrambling to finish papers are typical parts of a college student's life. But for some, additional responsibilities include writing songs, recording music and playing gigs.

Phoenix Highway, an eclectic ensemble formed on Elon University's campus, has been preparing for the release of its debut album, "American Blend," available Tuesday, Dec. 13.

"We're excited about it," said senior Frank Hurd. "What we think is really cool is that it encompasses a lot of styles, like rock, acoustic, soul and country."

Hurd met Jacob Danieleley, class of 2010, and Michael Lobacz, class of 2011, in 2009, when the three were part of the Elon Electric Ensemble. After playing together and exploring interests, the musicians discovered common sources of inspiration, including The Beatles and The Eagles.

"We really respect what they do so much," Lobacz said. "That's where a lot of our music comes from, trying to emulate their work, but not imitate it."

Influenced by the harmonies and songwriting of what Hurd calls "great bands of the past," the three teamed up with junior Ben Soldate in spring 2010 and were joined most recently by freshman Jake Valente.

With a solid foundation, the group is moving on to bigger things. Hurd said the band has been looking to play more venues outside Elon, expand its fan base in number and location and talk with Redlight Records about a management deal.

Phoenix Highway has been talking about commercials, TV shows and movies, hoping to build a following that can support its passion.

"When we get enough momentum to get rolling and get the CD out there, we're going to be looking at something great," Hurd said.

The men of Phoenix Highway have a lot to be proud of.

"As music technology majors we did everything for this album ourselves," Lobacz said. "We put in a lot of time, which helps with the end product because we were exposed from beginning to end."

Hurd said he believes the band's role in producing, writing, mixing and performing its music commands

a certain respect that will hopefully translate into fans.

"There's so few people that write their own music and do it all themselves," Hurd said. "We did it all, and maybe people will be encouraged to support us and come see us live."

Although the bandmates are welcoming success, they have faced challenges balancing responsibilities as students, family members and musicians.

"Some of the guys are still in school so it's hard to find time to practice," Lobacz said. "Jacob is starting a family but when we're on the road with the band, it's hard."

Despite obstacles, fans continue to support the band's work and look to the future.

"This band is made up of some very talented musicians from the drummer all the way to the lead singer," said fan and senior Ned Cuthbertson. "I would definitely recommend seeing them perform before you graduate, so in a few years when they get big, you can say you watched and listened to them before they got famous."

Phoenix Highway will be performing Dec. 7 at College Taphouse, and Dec. 13 at the Fat Frogg.



FILE PHOTOS BY BRIAN ALLENBY
Top: Senior Frank Hurd sings and taught himself to play both guitar and piano. Middle: Singer and guitarist Jacob Danieleley performs at the Fat Frogg. Above: Michael Lobacz performs on the guitar and graduated in 2010.

Senior saxophonists prepare for careers in music

Samuel Davis
Reporter

The smooth sounds of saxophone notes are familiar to two seniors concentrating in the woodwind. Jon Moore, a performance major, and Nathan Thomas, a music education major, have been coaxing jazzy tunes out of their horns since before they enrolled at Elon University.

Their first encounter was four years ago in Elon's marching band, the Fire of the Carolinas, when Moore played tuba and Thomas played euphonium.

"We met each other outside of what we usually play, in the low brass section of marching band," Thomas said. "But as we talked we quickly discovered that we both were actually saxophone players. We've been friends ever since, being together in the studio."

In middle school, Moore and Thomas both began their band careers. Moore started on tenor sax and Thomas on clarinet. Moore played in his high school's saxophone quartet called Sax in the City.

"What is really cool about

that is that every person who played in that quartet went on to major in music in college," Moore said.

He went to his state's governor's school his junior and senior year, where he and several others formed a ska band, Corporate Fandango, that has lasted to this day. The band has made a name for itself in the underground ska scene, performing with groups such as Holy Ghost Tent Revival. At Elon, Moore is involved in a saxophone quartet, a touring ensemble, jazz ensemble and marching band, along with Corporate Fandango.

"My days are always very full but it never really seems like that much to me simply because I very much enjoy everything I'm doing with music," Moore said.

Thomas is also heavily involved, performing in sax quartet, jazz ensemble, marching band, percussion ensemble, chorale and orchestra.

An important experience Moore and Thomas shared was the European tour the jazz ensemble took two years ago. It was an 11-day journey through

Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The group acted as jazz ambassadors, bringing American music to European countries.

"There really isn't very much music that we can call completely American, but with jazz, it really is like we are bringing our own national culture to people with a limited exposure to it," Thomas said.

The ensemble played in many different locations, ranging from a gazebo by the street in Germany a crowd of 5,000 in Scheveningen.

After college, both Moore and Thomas anticipate going to graduate school. Thomas hopes to teach high school music, getting his foot in the door to eventually study music therapy in graduate school.

"I hope to help children with disorders," Thomas said. "Down's, Asperger's, it doesn't matter what. I just know music has a power that can help struggling kids in so many ways."

He said he hopes to continue playing the saxophone in community bands wherever he goes.

Moore plans to continue

playing with Corporate Fandango, which is planning some big upcoming tours, bringing in money to help with the costs of grad school.

"Everyone wants to play for a living," Moore said. "You have to expect things to not go, as well as you would like while still remaining optimistic that things might just go well."

They both said their personal inspiration is listening to other students. Whenever they get discouraged they will listen around in the practice area



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer
Nathan Thomas performed his senior recital Wed., Nov. 30.

where they can hear at least one other student continually working hard. They said this brings them motivation to keep playing.

Freshman uses personal tragedy to help others

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

Yasmine Arrington calls herself different and lucky — and she is quite lucky. The freshman strategic communications major from Washington, D.C., is a published poet, recipient of numerous scholarships — including a \$25,000 award from the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation and a \$30,000 scholarship from The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation — and has traveled abroad to Zambia. Arrington is also the founder of scholarCHIPS (Children with Incarcerated Parents), a nonprofit organization based in the District that offers scholarships to students in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., with incarcerated parents.

Overcoming family tragedy

Arrington has a deep personal connection with scholarCHIPS. Her father, a North Carolina native, had been incarcerated in Georgia for most of her childhood and was released a month ago.

"I never got to know him as a child," Arrington said. "He was in and out of prison all my life. Recently, he was in jail in Georgia. I went to see him when he got out and for Thanksgiving. It's hard for us to get to know each other because I'm an adult and he's still looking for that 4-year-old girl."

Arrington and her siblings grew up with their grandmother, her mother's mother, for most of their lives. Arrington's mother passed away from complications of gastric bypass surgery during Arrington's freshman year of high school. Her mother also suffered from depression and an addiction to painkillers.

"I was 8 years old when she

got the surgery," Arrington said. "Her depression was difficult for my brothers and me because we were just watching it. It was this constant downward spiral. She got really skinny and she would drink all day and did nothing when we were at school. Then she got addicted to painkillers and had at least 15 different prescriptions. My grandmother had her move out because she would pass out or have something on the stove and it would burn."

But two months after her mother's death, Arrington found love in Tino Monroe, also an Elon University freshman, and they've been together ever since. The couple decided to attend Elon together since the school offered both their majors.

Starting and developing scholarCHIPS

Through LearnServe International, a nonprofit organization that promotes social work in Washington, D.C., Maryland and abroad, Arrington traveled to Zambia the summer after her junior year after receiving a grant and raising money for the trip. ScholarCHIPS began in Arrington's junior year of high school, and LearnServe awarded the freshman a \$1,000 grant to start a scholarship. Arrington also received a seed grant from Ashoka's Youth Venture to kick off her nonprofit.

"At scholarCHIPS, we raise college dollars for high school seniors who wish to prolong their education — that could be at a trade school, any of those kinds of schools," Arrington said. "Last year, we raised almost \$10,000 and we haven't given out any scholarships yet."

In October 2010, scholarCHIPS was officially launched through its kickoff

event that attracted many donors, interested students and members of the press, according to Arrington.

"The kickoff brought in a lot of money and the Washington Post articles brought in a lot of money," she said. "I want to do a dance fundraiser and things like that but we haven't gotten to do that because it's still new."

Mary Evangeliste, a consultant for Fearless Future, the agency that helped plan and promote scholarCHIPS and the kickoff, said she contacted Arrington after she heard of the nonprofit on NPR while in Washington, D.C.

"I've worked in higher education for 14 years and when I heard about this, I thought, 'This is a brilliant solution for a vexing problem,'" Evangeliste said.

She and her business partner Jonathan run a Web design company and chose scholarCHIPS as the organization for their pro bono work. They did the branding for scholarCHIPS, which included brochures and information packets for students and donors.

Evangeliste received a \$7,000 grant for scholarCHIPS, which she said will cover the costs of printing promotional material for the organization. Arrington is a visionary and her work should be commended, according to Evangeliste.

"Yasmine is smart, ambitious and above all, just really smart," she said. "She's been really easy to work with and Jonathan and I really appreciate it. We think scholarCHIPS is a tiny way to create a solution to a growing problem."

ScholarCHIPS is currently under LearnServe, but Arrington and Evangeliste said they're working on getting the organization an official 501(c)(3) status, which will classify it



Freshman Yasmine Arrington founded a nonprofit, called scholarCHIPS, which gives scholarships to students with incarcerated parents.

as a nonprofit.

"This isn't just talking about how much the prison system is unfair," Evangeliste said. "This is a solution to prevent it from affecting the most vulnerable."

Achieving before, at Elon

Before she got to Elon, Arrington received multiple grants from different organizations. She said she worked long hours during her senior year and that the hours were worth it.

"All senior year I was up all night doing homework and scholarship applications," Arrington said. "And I just got so many. I've been a Jack Kent Cooke scholar since junior high but have to reapply to be a college scholar."

She also received one of 10 national AXA Achievement scholarships. In late May, Arrington was called to the principal's office and spoke to Dan Snyder, Redskins owner, on the phone to award her a \$25,000 grant. Snyder awarded her \$5,000 for scholarCHIPS,

which helped in reaching the organization's goal of \$10,000.

Arrington also received a scholarship from McDonald's and the Washington, D.C. chapter of sorority Zeta Phi Beta. She said she didn't directly receive the money from the scholarships. Instead, the money was given directly to Elon to finance her tuition.

"I decided to divide it over four years so I could have money throughout the years," she said.

On campus, Arrington is a soprano in Gospel Choir, a SMART (Student Mentors Advising Rising Talent) mentee, where she has been awarded Mentee of the Week and Guide Event staff member. Arrington said she plans on applying to be a Lumen Scholar and for graduate school when the time comes.

"I've made up in my mind that's what I have to do and that's what I want to do," she said. "With this economy and society, it's not unique or special to have just a college degree. You need something else to make yourself valid."

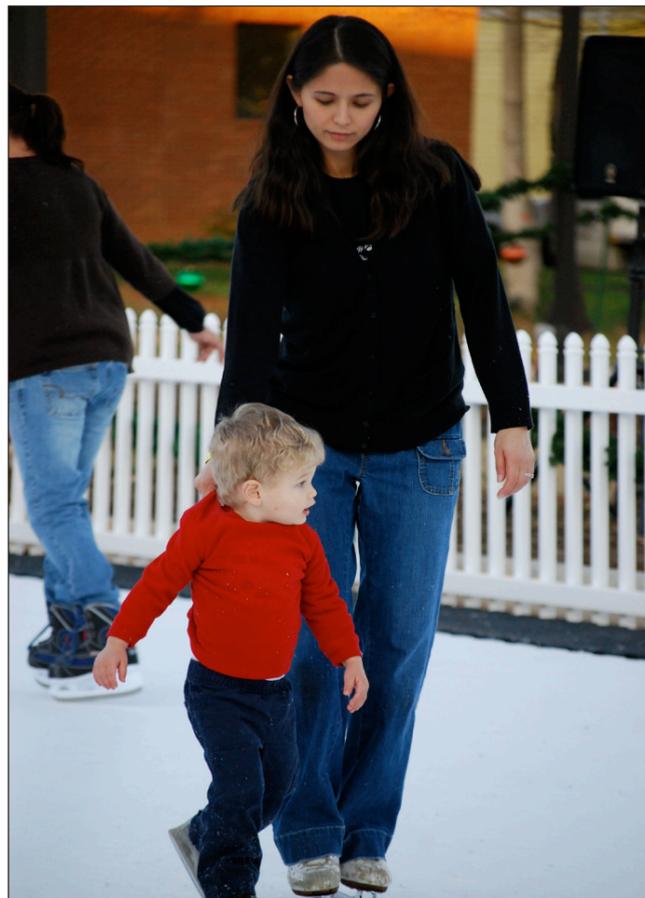
Ice rink provides fun, raises money for children's museum



The rink is made of 50 plastic panels in the lot of the Children's Museum of Alamance County.



Junior Ali Miller, junior Jacob Branchaud and senior Alli Brewer volunteered at the synthetic ice skating rink to earn service hours for Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity.



PHOTOS BY JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

The Children's Museum of Alamance County opened a synthetic outdoor ice skating rink in Graham to help raise money for the museum. The rink was constructed in the parking lot of the museum and will be open from Nov. 27-Dec. 10. It costs \$7 per half-hour session, which includes skate rental. Since the rink is synthetic, and not made of real ice, skating will not be affected by any change in temperature.

Eco-driving is an economical choice

There are several ways driving habits can be altered to have less of a negative impact on the environment. These changes can not only make you more eco-friendly, but are also better for your car and gas fund.



Sarah Carideo
Columnist

Be a safe driver. Obvious right? In addition to preventing accidents, being mindful of your driving habits can save you fuel. For example, driving at the posted speed limits like 55 mph instead of 65, can improve your fuel economy by 10 to 15 percent, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, accelerate smoothly and brake gradually. Fast acceleration, weaving in and out of traffic and other aggressive driving moves don't save time but do waste fuel and wear down brakes and tires faster, according to Drive-eco.com.

Similarly, check your tires. Under-inflated tires can reduce fuel economy and wear tires down faster. By checking the recommended pressure, the average amount of fuel used can be reduced by 3-4 percent, according to DrivingSkillsForLife.com.

Don't idle. Every moment behind the wheel with the car on creates excess emissions and needlessly wastes gas. Overall, Americans burn 2.9 billion gallons of gas a year while idling, worth around \$78.2 billion, according to a recent report from Texas A&M University.

Be more aware of your fuel mileage. This will help show the changes you make are actually having an impact and will encourage you to improve further, according to FuelClinic.com.

Using heating and air conditioning selectively can help you save 10-15 percent of fuel. Naturally heat and cool your car by parking in the sun or shade to reduce the need for heat and air conditioning.

As fuel costs continue to increase, it is more important than ever to be aware of simple ways to adjust your driving habits to prevent accidents and frequent re-fueling. These measures will also help maintain your vehicle and limit emissions.

Music

crafted from natural sound

Time arts class creates soundscapes from variety of noises

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

Claps of thunder and cracks of lightning, coupled with the patter of a gentle rain were heard next to McCrary Theatre Nov. 28-Dec. 2, but the weather outside Elon University's Center for the Arts was warm and bright.

Students in associate professor Samantha DiRosa's Time Arts course created compilations of natural and artificial sound as part of a student soundscapes exhibition.

"Students engage in field recording activities and then use them to weave together a sound tapestry to explore the nature of place from a metaphorical, auditory perspective," DiRosa said.

The assignment, typically completed at the end of the semester, challenges students to discover the impact of sounds and their role in society.

Similarly, the course explores the fourth dimension in art: time and space. DiRosa said the course investigates the potential for art in unexpected spaces and explores processes that unfold over time, using media such as video, audio, installation art, photography and performance art.

"The course draws a mixture of students from art majors and non-art majors looking to satisfy expression credit as well as students exploring the art or digital art minor," she said. "It dovetails nicely with disciplines like communications, theater, philosophy and environmental studies, among others."

Exploring the depth of sound in everyday life was a major component of the class.

"The first step was just observing, which we did in the beginning of the year," said freshman Morgan Mayer. "Going out into the world and really listening is something that when you put focus on it, it becomes an identity in itself, it's something that we take

"The first step was just observing, which we did in the beginning of the year. Going out into the world and really listening is something that when you put focus on it, it becomes an identity in itself, it's something that we take for granted so much, the sense of hearing."

-Morgan Mayer
CLASS OF 2015

if you hang a slinky from the ceiling and you hit the bottom with a pen, you get a 'woosh' sound that was used when the spaceship took off,

and was the same sound for the lightsabers in 'Star Wars.'

By learning to generate sounds using nontraditional media, students were able to create their own unique soundscapes.

"We went out and recorded a lot of sound," she said. "Everything from College Coffee, to buses, to bicycle chains and we created our own sounds. I took a glass of water and moved it from one cup to another and looped it. I also recorded a sink dripping in Danieleley Center."

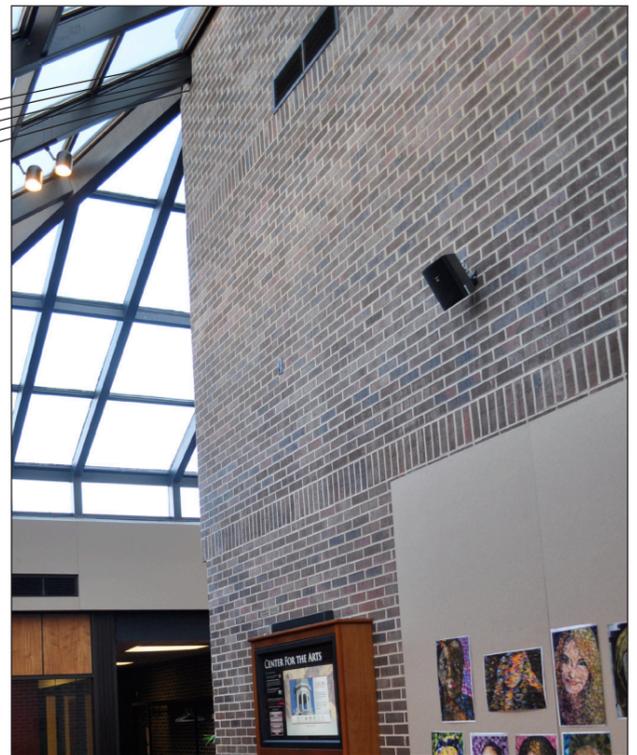
Mayer's sounds of moving water evolved into the full-fledged thunderstorm she showcased last week.

"In the same way I realized I had taken sound for granted," Mayer said. "When people hear the thunderstorm, the first thing they're going to do is look outside, and when they see it's sunny out, people will really think about what they're hearing and how it doesn't correspond to what they're seeing."

All of the soundscapes were created differently. Junior Alexa Behar created a nontraditional piece featuring screams, screeching sneakers and keyboard clicks.

Both natural sounds and unconventional pieces were played in the Center for the Arts, with the help of DiRosa and Rick Earl, technical director for cultural and special programs.

"It engages the space and the speaker system in ways other than it was originally designed," DiRosa said. "Ideally it gets people to disrupt their usual autopilot ways of moving through the space, and inspires them to stop and listen."



Speakers in the Center for the Arts greeted visitors with soundscapes by the Time Arts class.

MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

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Philosophy class asks: 'What can we know?'

Debunking ghost myths in and around Elon reveals theories, knowledge

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

Deep in the woods near Bennett is a 40-foot circle where nothing will grow. According to locals, this spot is the Devil's Tramping Ground, where Satan silently paces, plotting and planning.

Senior Brooke Kassner spent a night at this haunted spot to test the validity of myths associated with the Devil's Tramping Ground, along with other students, in 'What Can We Know,' a philosophy course led by Anthony Weston.

"The spookiness of this spot is perpetuated by itself," Weston said. "Kids have made it scary by looking for it to be scary. We wanted to test how true it really was."

The group kept an open mind, which Weston said was a crucial part of the research process. They made two camping expeditions to the site, collecting data and observations to decide whether the claims of haunting and spiritual activity were true.

With Weston's guidance, the students established a scientific methodology to test five myths associated with the site.

"We camped out for a whole night, which was a lot of fun, but we also did some real investigations," Kassner said. "We disproved a few of the premises by making observations and trusting our senses."

According to Kassner, the group was able to prove that a distinguishable circle exists in the forest, but other claims remain false.

"One myth is that all objects within the circle are moved out overnight," she said. "We chained cinderblocks together inside the circle to see if they would move and marked their

location, but nothing happened."

Students also noted that a substantial amount of grass was growing within the circle. Weston collected samples and successfully grew plants in the campground's supposedly barren soil.

By applying theories of knowledge and truth, the philosophy students were able to analyze the adopted myths of the region. To further understand the impact of such legends, they questioned the source of such stories.

"We asked people at local places and the stories have been passed down from generation to generation," Kassner said. "I think a possible explanation for the devil stories is that this is the Bible Belt."

The course also focused on more local myths by analyzing the claims of Elon legends, including the ghost of West dormitory.

Sophomore Sarah Wells investigated the story of Mary, a victim of the fire of 1923.

"We found that apparently no one died in the fire, but it was hard to find one streamlined truth regarding the ghost," Wells said. "We broadened our project to paranormal activity in West."

The class created two surveys, one biased and one neutral, to study the impact of leading questions on initiating paranormal beliefs.

The difference between asking "Do you feel West is haunted?" and "Do you feel comfortable living in West?" encourages different responses, according to Wells.

"We're still looking over the results now, but we've found that people are more likely to talk about Mary when they were asked leading questions," she said. "We can see that the story is



The philosophy class 'What Can We Know?', taught by Anthony Weston, attempted to debunk the ghost story of Mary, who reputedly died in the 1923 fire, and haunts the halls of West dormitory. MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

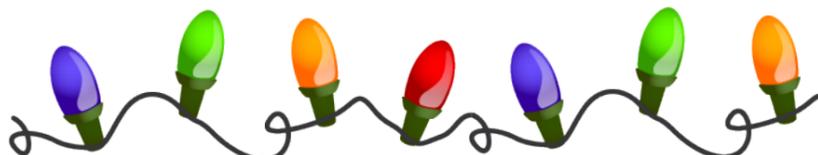
being passed on from upperclassmen somehow."

After completing the projects, Kassner and Wells agree that urban legends are used as a means of establishing community.

"It's a bonding thing," Kassner said. "It gives people something to talk about, and that's important for people coming together."

From Bennett to Elon, urban legends continue to perpetuate superstition, an interesting concept for philosophers.

"We made a serious effort to be fair," Weston said. "We're skeptics, but that's philosophy. The question is: What's the best explanation for the spooky things we experienced? And we may never know for sure."



Decorating with a cause

Holiday display raises money, awareness

Ashley Fahey
Features Editor

Some of the most prominent symbols of holiday celebrations are Christmas lights strung through bushes, trees and around doorways. Most people stick to conventional decorating to enhance the beauty of their home.

But Jimmy Curiazza, plumbing supervisor at Elon's Physical Plant, has created a Christmas lights show at his Gibsonville home, complete with music synchronization. The display is meant to be a fundraiser in memory of his brother, Dean, who passed away as a child from leukemia.

Curiazza will be raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), which is a nonprofit health organization that conducts researches and provides resources to those afflicted with blood cancers.

"My wife and I always talked about what we can do in my brother's honor," he said. "That's where the idea to contact the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society came in. The society was excited about the idea and from there, it kept snowballing downhill."

Curiazza started coordinating holiday lights with music last year, but he said this is the first time his show has acted as a fundraiser.

"What started out as me goofing around with Halloween decorations this past Halloween led to this," he said. "While the Halloween decorations were up, my wife Tracy kept joking with people, saying 'If only he'd use his powers for good.' After the displays were recorded and hit YouTube, they got a little popular. What started out as joking with Linda Lashendock (manager of video services and event production) led to the idea of a Christmas display."

Setting up the Christmas lights

requires a lot of time and energy.

"It's insanity," Curiazza said. "Setting up includes computer programming, steel fabrication of the displays, attaching lights to the displays, music synchronization, assembly of digital output controllers, mounting displays to the house, testing circuitry — did I say insanity?"

He said in the display, there are three Christmas-themed heads — Rudolph, Santa and a snowman — in addition to about 20 other yard displays that will flash with the music. The heads will sing the songs.

"It takes about eight hours to synchronize a song," he said. "It takes about 20 hours to fabricate, paint, mount lights and hang each head. Getting the bugs out can be anywhere from minutes to days, just depending."

Curiazza's Halloween display had been more popular than he had anticipated.

"I heard people from blocks away yelling to their friends, 'Come see this,'" he said. "It was fun. Nobody knew what I was up to until it was too late. It turned out better than I had planned. Hopefully, Christmas will surpass that."

Curiazza has a fundraiser goal of \$5,000 and a page on the LLS website that tells his brother's story and encourages people to donate.

"To date, and it really hasn't been pushed yet, the fund has raised over \$1,000," he said.

Christmas has been traditionally viewed as a season of giving, and Curiazza's fundraiser is something he hopes will make a difference. He said he has always wanted to do something in honor of his brother, and this seemed perfect.

"My brother, Dean, passed away Dec. 5, 1967," Curiazza said. "Christmases haven't been the same since. Perhaps that's why I enjoy doing this for the little ones."

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Catching up with Aaron Mellette following his record-breaking year

Justin Veldhuis
Sports Editor

Q: How would you describe your first year playing for Coach Jason Swepson and his staff?

A: It was a great experience. I learned a lot from all of the coaches during the good and bad of the season. At times I felt like a freshman again learning new schemes and new policies for the program.

Q: What are your thoughts on being voted fifth for the Walter Payton Award?

A: It's a blessing. I feel like it's an honor I can share with my teammates because without them it wouldn't have been a reachable feat.

Q: How does it feel to break Terrell Hudgins' Elon University and Southern Conference records for receiving yards?

A: It's an accomplishment I only dreamed about. I'm still a little shocked that I was able to break it. My teammate, (senior running back) Jamal Shuman, had told me the day before the game that I would break it, but

of course I didn't believe him.

Q: You were the focus for a lot of defenses this year. What kinds of different coverages did defenses throw at you and how were you still able to get open?

A: Each week it seemed to be something different. For the most part it was quarters and cover two. So when I did get a man-to-man look I made sure to take advantage of it because I might not get that coverage again throughout the game.

Q: What's it like playing receiver in a system like Elon's that throws the ball so often?

A: A receiver's dream. Knowing your team is going to throw around 40 passes a game can't do anything but have you looking forward to a game. I was just fortunate to get as many passes as I did this season.

Q: What are your goals for next season? Any individual goals?

A: I just want a winning season first, compete for a conference championship and make the playoffs. These are goals I will



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Elon University junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette led the Football Championship Subdivision in receiving yards.

make sure my teammates know we are going to reach. And individually I wouldn't mind having a similar type of season,

but I know that will be harder because of defenses keying on me and the other playmakers we have at wideout. Lastly I

want to win the SoCon Player of Year. It would be an award I would love to win for Elon and my teammates.

Women's basketball defeats Samford for Smith's first Southern Conference win

The Elon University women's basketball team defeated defending Southern Conference champion Samford University 69-44 Monday, Dec. 5, in Alumni Gym.

The Phoenix improved its record to 3-4 on the season, and gave new head coach Charlotte Smith her first SoCon win since taking over the program.

Freshman guard/forward Sam Coffey scored a career-high 20 points on 6-10 shooting from the floor, including 4-7 from three-point range.

Junior guard Ali Ford and senior guard Aiesha Harper (right) each added nine points in the victory.

Elon led 28-26 at halftime before it went on an 18-0 run during an eight-minute stretch in the second half. The Phoenix led by as many as 27 points at one point in the game.

Elon now has a break before retuning to action 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 when it will host Campbell University.



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer

SPORTS BRIEFS

Track and field begins season at Liberty Kickoff

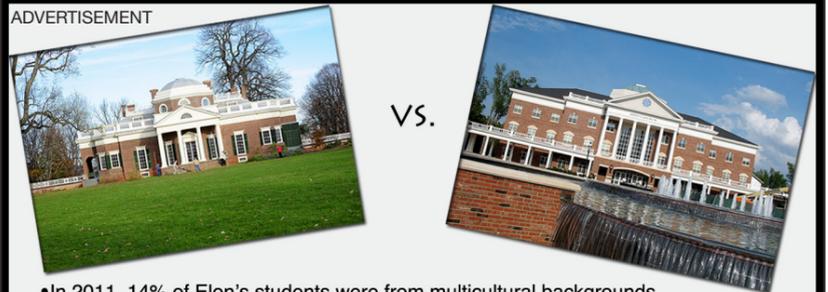
The Elon University track and field team started its 2011 season at the Liberty Kickoff Dec. 3, bringing home two titles. Senior Amy Salek won the 400-meter dash and sophomores Bria Bell and Veronica Luedke finished second and third in the event, respectively. The Phoenix 4x400-meter relay team consisting of Salek, Bell, Luedke and freshman Abigail Steinseik also came in first place out of 16 teams.

The team will compete next at the State Farm Games in Morgantown, W.V. Saturday, Jan. 21.

Volleyball inks three recruits for 2012

The Elon University volleyball team is taking steps to fill the holes left by the departure of seniors Nickie Halbert, Caroline Lemke, Traci Stewart and Megan McMahon. Head coach Mary Tendler announced Megan Gravey (Apex High School, Cary), Catherine Head (Glenn High School, Kernersville,) and Ana Nicksic (Andean High School, Valparaiso, Ind.) as the incoming freshman class.

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- In 2011, 14% of Elon's students were from multicultural backgrounds
- In September, when Elon held open forums about racial diversity and recent incidents on campus, only 35 students, faculty, and staff attended
- Within the last decade, Elon has opened a number of new buildings styled after the architecture of Thomas Jefferson, like the Monticello plantation above on the left
- Of the 41 members on the current Board of Trustees at Elon, only 2 are non-white
- Of the 24 named structures on Elon's campus that information was available for none of the namesakes were of non-white race.

Think about Elon's architecture and those whose names we recognize from our buildings...

What does your school value regarding race?



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Athletic trainer Elly Shearman worked with then-sophomore Traci Stewart when she tore her ACL.

Injuries take a toll, help prevent future pains

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

When senior co-captain right side hitter Traci Stewart tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) her sophomore year during a volleyball match against rival UNC Greensboro, she had to be pulled from the game. An MRI the following day confirmed the injury. It was her ACL. The three letters that no athlete wants to hear.

Stewart described the injury as more shocking than painful when it occurred.

"I remember the exact moment it happened," she said. "It was Nov. 4 and I was going up for a slide. I'm a right side hitter so I go off of one foot, and I just reached for it and came back down on my right foot. I heard a snap and pop and all of a sudden, I was on the ground."

Stewart also experienced an osteochondral defect, meaning her two bones came together and created an indentation in her knee.

But Stewart isn't the only Phoenix athlete to have sustained an injury during his or her time on a team and have to sit out the rest of the season.

From participation to rehab

Men's cross country sophomore Sean Magee suffered a stress fracture in his femur in late September last year and like Stewart couldn't

practice or compete with the team. Stress fractures result from repetitive motion and tend to be more common for endurance athletes, especially females, according to Running Times Magazine.

"When you get to college, you run more miles at a harder pace," Magee said. "What happened to me was that I increased my mileage and how hard I was running those miles and just the constant overuse of my legs."

Although Stewart's injury occurred instantly, Magee's occurred over time. Magee and the cross country athletic trainers initially thought he suffered some sort of muscular pain, but a bone scan a few weeks later revealed the injury was a stress fracture.

"I knew it was a big time injury," Magee said. "I was still keeping hopes I'd be back at the end of the season and I didn't really recognize how serious it was. It didn't really hit me. I just knew I was hurt and was going to do what I needed."

The rehabilitation process varies for different injuries and ranges from a few days to a full season, according to A.J. Lukjanczuk, associate athletic trainer and head football athletic trainer.

"I've had guys in here for all season and I've had guys here for two days," he said. "All our facilities are open between 6 and 7 a.m. and we're in here sometimes until 8 or 9 p.m. The guys will come in whenever they see fit. I have guys sometimes here three to five times a day."

Stewart and Magee worked with the respective athletic trainers for their sport. After having surgery, Stewart worked with volleyball trainer Elly Shearman for a full year to regain her range of motion, strength and conditioning in her ACL. She described Shearman as her "saving grace." Stewart did leg lifts with weights around her ankles to strengthen her legs and knees.

"Definitely after I tore my ACL was the hardest part of my life, but being with my teammates made it a lot better because I definitely couldn't have done it without them or Elly,"



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Senior Traci Stewart started 28 of 31 matches for the Phoenix this year.



WILL SIMON | Photographer
Sophomore cross country runner Sean Magee suffered a stress fracture but returned this year.

Stewart said.

For Magee, healing simply meant rest and he wasn't allowed to run. He began swimming, aqua jogging, biking and elliptical exercises. His trainer told him when he was strong enough to start biking and when he could exercise using the elliptical machine.

Injured players don't practice with the team at designated practice times so they use that time to nurse their injuries back to health. Magee would stretch and do core exercises with his team but when his teammates ran, he would do his cross training or watch them if they were doing a specific workout.

"I was happy to cheer the team on but as it went on, it was more and more depressing because I wasn't there," Magee said. "They would do their practice and I would still have to do my own. A lot of time when you're hurt, you have to do your own training."

Just a part of the game

Although injuries vary based on the sport, they're just as much a part of the game as winning or losing. Baseball players are more likely to suffer shoulder injuries, football players sprains and some shoulder injuries, according to Lukjanczuk.

"When you play athletics, you're gonna have injuries," he said. "When you're playing in Division I athletics, they're just part of the game. Our job is to recognize the injuries, refer them properly and get them (players) back on the field."

There are team physicians present at each home game and they assess players' injuries if athletes are hurt during the game. There can be between zero and 10 injuries per game that aren't limited to certain parts of the body, Lukjanczuk said. There are three training facilities on campus for athletes: the Alumni Field House, Alumni Gym and the Koury Field House. At these locations, there are various physical therapy modalities to heal injuries and workouts catered to specific injuries, according to Lukjanczuk.

"We're going to do something different with a guy who has an ACL tear than with a guy who has tendonitis in his knee," he said. "The two things we're looking at are the injuries that have already happened and preventing the ones that could occur."

Preventing future injuries

All athletes are required some sort of protection against injuries and that differs based on the sport and the history of injuries for the players. For example, all offensive linemen are required to wear knee braces and each player is taped before practice and competing, Lukjanczuk said. Some football players have helmets designed to provide extra protection against concussions.

Runners don't have as much protection as football players, but Magee recommends changing one's shoes after 300 or 400 miles.

"You have to be very on top of trading out your shoes," he said. "This year, I got orthopedics made. That's one thing runners do."

When the season's over, athletic trainers perform an injury evaluation

"I knew it was a big injury...I was still keeping hopes I'd be back at the end of the season and I didn't really recognize how serious it was. It didn't really hit me."

- Sean Magee
SOPHOMORE CROSS-COUNTRY
RUNNER

on all the players who were hurt during the season and make sure the injuries won't affect the athletes anymore, Lukjanczuk said.

After her injury, Stewart remains cautious about her ACL and takes measures to land correctly without aggravating the injury. The volleyball coaching staff worked with training, strength and conditioning staff to implement plyometrics to prevent future injuries. Stewart and Magee returned to practicing and competing with their teams the season after their injuries.

"After I got injured, the strength and conditioning team is much more aware of the emotional, physical aspect being injured brings forth," Stewart said. "Having gone through the experience of being an injured athlete in college made me realize how grateful I was and be thankful to be a part of it and just walking. I realize how important the little things are in life."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Former track and field standout Veronica Day is currently attempting to make the U.S. Olympic Team for the Winter Games in 2014. She set five Elon University track and field records during her career.

Day's skeleton dream becomes reality, shooting for Olympics

Adam Lawson
Reporter

For four years, Elon University alumna Veronica Day mastered her craft as a jumper and sprinter for the track and field team. Now she's in a new place learning a new sport.

For Day, her new journey started in the winter of 2010. Watching the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games on television with roommate and teammate Justine Robertson, the two athletes struck up a plan to one day become Olympic bobsledders.

But after further investigation, Day found out that dream would be impossible, and that's when she discovered her current passion.

"One day we got bored and looked up what the qualifications are for being a bobsled athlete... and I couldn't do bobsled," Day said. "I wasn't tall enough. But I could do skeleton. I met all the qualifications for that."

Day, a three-time Southern Conference champion who holds school records for indoor and outdoor long jump, indoor and outdoor triple jump and the outdoor 4x100 meter relay, describes herself as a go-getter. So it was only natural that she followed through with the process and sent her athletic resume to the USA Bobsled and Skeleton Federation (USBSF).

"I talked to Coach (Mark) Elliston

about it. He's always for athletes growing and continuing their athletic career. He was like, 'go do that V-Day, I'm proud of you.'

When told of Day's plans, the Elon athlete's friends and family didn't know what to think.

"I'm pretty sure my mother didn't know what it was," Day said. "My dad kept saying 'It's like a Flexible Flyer on ice.' I still to this day don't know what a Flexible Flyer is. I think it's a toy kids used to play with."

Some weren't sure if Day was even serious.

"When they realized that's what I was actually doing, (my teammates) were like, 'I thought you were joking,'" she said. "They know I'm a competitive person. It's not an ideal situation to be going 75 miles per hour four inches above a sheet of ice."

Upon receiving her resume, the USBSF invited Day up to Lake Placid, N.Y., for a three-day combine this past August. The event challenged Day with four running events (15-, 30- and 45-meter dashes and a 30-meter fly) and four strength tests: a standing broad jump, a shot toss, a power clean and a three-rep squat max.

Day passed the USBSF's expectations. The federation required a score of 625 out of a possible 800 points to get an invite back. Day scored 727, the highest of any new recruit.

This meant that Day, who double-majored in international business and international studies, would extend her athletic career past college. Her plans to either teach English somewhere in Southeast Asia or work in marketing or graphic design would have to wait.

Day spent the summer working for Beautyscope, a company based in Virginia, to supplement enough of an income to survive in Lake Placid. While her coaching, training, housing and food are paid for by the USBSF, eventually Day will have to spend \$5,000 to \$10,000 on a new sled.

"I'm still trying to figure that (getting enough money for a sled) out, to be honest with you," Day said.

Since arriving at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in October, her days have been consumed by skeleton. Day starts her routine by waking up early in the morning, five days a week, and eating breakfast.

Day then goes to the gym for sprint workouts before lifting weights for an hour and a half. After taking a lunch break, Day leaves for Mt. Van Hoevenberg, where she spends five hours working on her sled and making practice runs. Those runs can be tough, as Day learned soon after arriving in Lake Placid.

"I fell off my sled the first week," Day said. "But it didn't hurt. I was told I'm graceful at falling off the sled."

But Day's goal of making the Olympic team won't be easy. With Katie Uhlaender and Annie O'Shea likely cinches to make the Sochi Games, Day is one of 22 girls competing for perhaps one vacant ticket to Russia in 2014 (world rankings determine the number of racers each country gets). Day remains determined, eager to make her dream a reality.

"No one is going to spend this amount of money, put a career on hold and invest this amount of time in this if they didn't think that they had a real shot at making it big time, of making it onto the Olympic circuit," Day said.

While most of her friends from Elon's Class of 2011 are starting their careers, Day is still making the most of her athletic abilities. Even so, Day says she wouldn't change anything if given the chance.

"No regrets," Day said. "Not at this point. Nope. I'm confident in the decision that I made and if I decided not to do this and give it a go, I think I would regret it. I meet all of the requirements they're looking for. It's just a matter of learning the skills. I don't know if I can learn these skills efficiently, quickly or even do them well until you try them."

Check out Veronica Day's blog about her journey at www.frostbittenfollies.wordpress.com.

Phoenix mascot hopefully to get name, new uniform soon

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

After receiving plenty of submissions for its Name the Phoenix campaign at the end of last spring semester and then halting the event, Elon Athletics is reinstating the campaign. There were five top names, but these names weren't representative of the student body, said Michael Jacobs, assistant athletic director for marketing and ticket operations.

"We ended up having so many respondents," he said. "Everybody gave us their names. At the end of the day we had over 14,000 entries and between the top five there wasn't a clear winner."

This semester's campaign will pick up with the five names and will let students, faculty, staff and community members vote for their favorite name among the submissions, Jacobs said. Like with the "Live the Maroon Life" campaign, Athletics is using Old Hat Creative, a consultant agency, to help craft the second portion of the mascot naming campaign.

"They have finished a formula to where we can take it back to the people," Jacobs said. "Part of the process is if everybody understands clearly that the winner is going to be the winner."

The university committee created last semester to promote the contest has

been disbanded, but student members of that committee are still key in getting word out about the movement and also providing feedback to Athletics on how other offices and students perceive the campaign. Laran Gregory, a junior and Athletics officer employee, said finding a name for the mascot is crucial and the amount of student feedback simply reflects that.

"We've still been getting feedback, emails from people asking when we're going to unveil it," Gregory said. "We want our students to be involved with it because this is something that'll last forever with our university until we're ever renamed, if that happens. This is what will be the name."

Athletics had planned on giving an official announcement about continuing the campaign at the football game against Appalachian State University Nov. 19, but no announcement was made. The planned date of announcement is currently unknown.

Junior Sarah McDowell said she doesn't understand why the Phoenix didn't receive a name last semester and why it's taking so long for Athletics to decide on a final name.

"I thought there was so much buildup about it and then we get an email about it saying 'just kidding,'" she said. "I don't understand why they just couldn't pick one of the names."



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer

The athletic department is in the second stage of the naming process for the Phoenix mascot.

The mascot's name must be something significant that will last for a while, Jacobs said. He said he would want a name that students can express their school spirit through.

"We're not going to do a little kid name like Barney," Jacobs said. "We want something students will be proud of."

But a name isn't the only thing the Phoenix is getting this year. A new uniform is also in the works. This change comes after much discussion

within Athletics, according to Jacobs.

"We're taking the mold from the old one and we're not changing it, just upgrading it," he said. "We want a uniform to look the same regardless of who's wearing it. Even if I'm a little guy, it'll look like I have muscles."

The goal is to make the mascot more a part of the teams and games. This could include things like doing cartwheels at the games or wearing team uniforms at events, Jacobs said.

Fast start for Phoenix hoops continues into December

Justin Veldhuis
Sports Editor

Despite facing a challenging nonconference schedule of games to start the season, the Elon University men's basketball is off to its best start through eight games since the 1991-1992 season. After freshman guard Austin Hamilton hit a deep-three with two seconds left to sink the Naval Academy Nov. 3, the Phoenix's defeat of UNC Greensboro Monday improved its record to 6-2.

With two SoCon games under its belt, Elon will play another set of nonconference games before returning to the grind of conference play Jan. 5 against Georgia Southern University. The Phoenix host Lynchburg College 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 and will then play Dartmouth College, San Diego State University and the University of North Carolina.

These games are designed to test the players and help prepare the team for situations it will likely see later in the season, head coach Matt Matheny said.

"Our nonconference schedule has done a tremendous job preparing us for SoCon games, which are very difficult," he said. "What I like about this (Navy) game is that we lost the lead. In the South Carolina game, in the second-half we held on to the lead. Our backs were up against the wall in different ways from the South Carolina game or the Furman game because we were playing from behind. Yet another experience that does prepare us."

Players like to see how they stack up against good teams, sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger said.

"That's why Coach Matheny schedules games like Navy, like UMass, like South Carolina, to see the best competition there is so that going into conference play we feel more prepared than our opponents,"



Freshman guard Austin Hamilton hit the game-winning shot Dec. 3 against Navy. The Phoenix is 6-2 overall, 2-0 in the Southern Conference. MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

he said.

Isenbarger also said each team has "unique styles" and that the coaching staff schedules some games because they play similar to SoCon opponents. For example, Princeton University plays a lot like Samford University, Isenbarger said.

"We schedule nonconference games for a variety of reasons," Matheny said. "One is to prepare us for teams we're gonna see in our conference. Navy is tough. They compete, battle for rebounds. There are a lot of teams in our conference like them." He cited The Citadel, Davidson College and Wofford College as examples.

The Phoenix was able to beat Navy despite a poor shooting night in which the team shot just 33.3 percent from the floor and 25 percent from three-point range. Navy was worse, though, as it shot 27.5 percent overall and only 19 percent from behind the arc.

Credit those numbers to Elon's defense, something Matheny has often preached this season.

"As much as we shoot the three, there's gonna be nights when we don't make a lot of perimeter shots," he said. In that situation, we have to be consistently good defensively to give ourselves a chance to win the game."

That's exactly what happened Dec. 3 against Navy. With the score tied at 48 with about 30 seconds remaining, Elon decided to hold the ball for the last shot. Hamilton found himself with the ball after the designed play wasn't there, and launched a deep desperation three that hit backboard, rim and net to defeat the Midshipmen from Annapolis, M.D.

"I had to throw it up and it went in," said Hamilton, who was rewarded by fans chanting his name and throwing fake \$10 dollars bills into the stands. "Somebody asked me after the game did I call backboard but I didn't," he said with a laugh.

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Sports



Top-10: Sports moments of 2011

Compiled by Zachary Horner, Justin Veldhuis and Adam Lawson
Executive Editors

Alumni Field House opens

Dedicated April 16, Alumni Field House stands at one end of Rhodes Stadium overlooking the football field. The field house, a 30,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, houses seven Elon University athletics teams, including football and men's and women's soccer. The field house construction was part of the Elon Commitment to enhance the campus.

Volleyball rallies to make SoCon Tournament

Struggles on the road had the Phoenix volleyball team sitting at 4-9 in SoCon play and on the outside looking in at making the conference tournament. Elon won its next three games at Alumni Gym, capped off by a three-set victory over The Citadel that punched the Phoenix's ticket into the SoCon Tournament.

Women's basketball makes Basketball Invitational

The women's basketball team finished its season with a 20-13 record and played in the Women's Basketball Invitational. The Phoenix beat No. 6 seed University of South Carolina Upstate 103-72 in the first round before losing to No. 2 seed University of Alabama Birmingham in the next round.

Track and Field places third at Outdoor SoCon Championships

The Elon University track and field team won two Southern Conference titles and set five school records on its way to a third place finish at the SoCon Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Then-senior Veronica Day was named the SoCon Women's Most Outstanding Field Performer of the Year and won the triple jump as well as running on Elon's third-place 4x100 meter relay team.

Mellette's monster year

Aaron Mellette was a shining star in an otherwise dim season for the Elon football program. The junior's accolades included regular season Football-Championship-Subdivision highs in receptions (113) and receiving yards (1,639). Mellette finished fifth in the Walter Payton Award balloting, an award given annually to the best player in the FCS.

Men's tennis SoCon regular season champions

The Elon men's tennis team won the regular season SoCon championship for the first time since 2007. The team earned the top seed in the SoCon tournament as well. The doubles team of Chase Helpingstine and Philip Nemeč completed a perfect season, as they won 17 straight matches and went 10-0 in the SoCon.

Football's win against Furman University

Head coach Jason Swepson picked up the biggest win of his Elon career by beating No. 21 Furman University 41-34 Nov. 12. Senior linebacker Joshua Jones made the biggest play when he intercepted Furman senior quarterback Chris Forcier's fourth-quarter pass and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown with 3:59 remaining to make the score 41-27.

Baseball wins SoCon regular season

By defeating Furman University 14-0 May 20, the Elon baseball team clinched the Southern Conference regular season championship for the 2011 season, marking its third crown in four years. Led by then-seniors John Brebbia and Neal Pritchard, Mike Kennedy's squad finished the season with a 36-19 overall record, 23-7 in the SoCon.

Men's basketball defeats University of South Carolina in Alumni Gym

Men's basketball made ESPN's SportsCenter Top 10 by upsetting the University of South Carolina 58-53 Nov. 15, marking the first victory for the Phoenix against a Bowl Championship Series basketball team at home. Sophomore forward Lucas Troutman scored 14 points and freshman guard Austin Hamilton had 12 points in his first collegiate start.

Men's soccer SoCon Championship/ NCAA Tournament appearance

After struggling through a 2-5 conference season, the Phoenix responded strongly in the Southern Conference Tournament, taking down the top three SoCon teams en route to winning the program's first conference title. The championship earned the Phoenix a trip to its first-ever NCAA Tournament, in which Elon fell at Coastal Carolina University, 4-3.



FILE PHOTOS BY AL DRAGO, BRIAN ALLENBY, JUSTINE SCHULERUD, MOLLY CAREY AND HEATHER CASSANO