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Elon welcomes newest admit, Inman

Inman Admissions Welcome Center opens its doors to current, prospective students



JANE SEIDEL AND LANE DEACON | Photo Editor and Staff Photographer

Clockwise from left: Sophomore tour guides Jenny Fukunaga and Justin Morin speak with prospective student Emily Freirich in the lobby of the recently-opened 32,000-square-foot Inman Admissions Welcome Center. The building was funded largely by donors and is expected to welcome more than 12,000 prospective students and their families to campus each year.

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

The opening of Elon University's new admissions center, The Inman Admissions Welcome Center, provided the opportunity for offices to merge in one central location.

For the past few years, the Office of Admissions and Financial Planning — which includes Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate Admissions and Financial Planning — has been scattered across campus. The Office of Financial Planning has been situated in a building on South Campus since January

2013, while many Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions offices were housed in the Powell Building. The Inman Admissions Welcome Center consolidates the offices of undergraduate admissions, graduate admissions and financial planning under one roof.

Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning, said the new building provides the department with space and centralization.

"[Inman Admissions Center] consolidates our services and department, which is really important to our prospective and current students," Zaiser said.

The building, which includes 38 meeting spaces and offices as well as two presentation theaters, increases the number of people that can be accommodated at one time. The previous room for admissions presentations in Moseley Center seated 120 people, while the new Clohan Theater in Inman seats 165 people.

"We have over 12,000 students, plus their families come to visit a year," said Zaiser. "[In the past,] families [would] try to schedule visits, and we have been full. We've given them self-guided walking tours because we didn't have the space for

an information session."

Seventeen spaces in the building were named after donors, all of whom are Elon alumni or parents.

William and Patricia Inman, parents of 2000 alumna Jacklyn, made the lead gift toward the construction of the building in 2013.

The Inmans made gifts to Elon before the admissions center project was proposed, supporting for Rhodes Stadium, Koury Business Center, Lindner Hall and Numen Lumen Pavilion.

See **ADMISSIONS** page 4

Preparing for the real world means working in college

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

For many Elon University students, maintaining a job is an integral part of the college experience. Students face a wide variety of choices, ranging from on-campus employment opportunities to employment outside of campus. Students at Elon have options — it's ultimately what works best for them, given their interests and schedules.

In August 2011, Elon established the starting minimum wage as \$9.00 per hour. One of the pri-

mary objectives of the policy was to attract students to seek employment on campus rather than off.

Tom Brinkley, executive director of corporate and employer relations at Elon, believes the higher minimum wage rate contributes to the competitive nature of on-campus jobs, which are often filled soon after being posted to the Elon Job Network.

"I think the wage rate is very appealing to students," Brinkley said. "The jobs off campus... are not going to pay that rate, so students are more inclined to seek these jobs if they are looking for

Elon's Minimum Wage

\$9.00

National Minimum Wage

\$7.25

employment."

Typically, students interested in on-campus employment submit a resume and a cover letter and then complete an interview, a practice intended to mimic the job application process after graduation and prepare students for their careers.

"It is a competitive process, so [when] they are interviewing for jobs, they are required to have a resume," Brinkley said. "It's just like having a job outside. They are employed and evaluated and subject to expectations."

As a result, students with on-campus jobs are constantly

honing their professional skills. Brinkley said students' professional growth is facilitated faster when they are employed during college. According to him, on-campus employment complements student development.

Nancy Carpenter, Elon's on-campus student employment coordinator, agreed. She noted students who have a job listed on their resume are more attractive candidates for internships and jobs after graduation. She believes the train

See **JOBS** page 5

Construction underway on new Danieley Center facilities

Tanza Loudenback
Senior Reporter

Danieley Center residents were notified Feb. 3 that construction was officially underway on two new facilities in the Danieley Neighborhood. In October, Board of Trustees approved plans for an expansion of the Violet Hoffman Daniel Commons Building, as well as a proposal for a 14,850-square-foot recreation center located on the north edge of Danieley Center, between University Drive and the residence halls.

The 4,000-square-foot addition to the east side of Daniel Commons will feature a larger common room, a possible classroom area, neighborhood offices, Einstein Bros. Bagels, a demonstration kitchen and an outdoor patio for residents and the existing Qdoba Mexican Grill dining area will stay.

The new multipurpose facility will house a 1,200-square-foot fitness center, staff offices and recreation space to be used for sports and social events, according to Brad Moore, university architect and director of planning, design and construction management.

Elon construction workers put up a fence around Daniel Commons last week that closes off all but one entrance to the building, but students aren't bothered. For Danieley residents, the benefits outweigh the costs.

"The only inconvenience is really the noise literally right outside our windows in the HIJK area in the morning," said sophomore Alexa Lowey, a Danieley Center RA. Still, despite the noisy construction, Lowey predicts residents will be happy to have a new common space that will enhance the community feeling in Danieley Center neighborhood.

"Being in Danieley, we all know the struggle of feeling like we're on the other side of the world," Lowey said. "I'm excited to be able to have more things happening on this side of campus, especially having somewhere to get breakfast."

As long as neither project is delayed by winter weather, Moore said, both new facilities should be in use by the start of the fall 2015 semester.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

The expansion of Daniel Commons in Danieley Neighborhood began construction. An Einstein Bros. Bagels is set to be added.

Tillis sparks hand washing controversy

Leena Dahal
Assistant News Editor

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., caused many people around the nation to question his sanitary routines: Tillis doesn't think restaurant employees should be required to wash their hands.

At the end of his appearance at the Bipartisan Policy Center in D.C. last Tuesday, Tillis recounted a story from 2010 to complement his discussion on burdensome regulations placed on businesses. When the conversation turned to restaurant regulations, Tillis shared his previous comment which highlighted his point but also triggered a couple laughs from the audience:

"I don't have any problem with Starbucks if they choose to opt out of this policy as long as they post a sign that says 'We don't require our employees to wash their hands after leaving the restroom.' The market will take care of that. It's one example."

For restaurants that don't require their employees to wash their hands, he said, the market will take care of itself.

This comment went viral across social

media and news outlets. Consequently, it led to several jabs from political commentators and talk show hosts including John Stewart who took it a step further by dubbing Tillis "Sen. Dung-Hands Von Fecal Fingers."

"That's not getting rid of regulation," the late-night host said on-air Wednesday. "That just makes you an inconsistent ideologue with a light fecal dusting in your latte."

On the other hand, some supporters argue that government regulations are often a burden and overwhelm businesses.

Ryan Shindler, a sophomore political science major, said a fine line exists between liberty and reality.

"Yes, people have the freedom to wash or not wash their hands, but this action taken or not by those who handle food directly affects the people who eat at said restaurants," he said. "His intention was probably about liberty, but people should care because no one wants to go to Duke Hospital for getting food poisoning from The Root."

Jason Husser, assistant political science professor and assistant director of the Elon

University Poll, said while the comment was not well thought-out, it definitely spoke to his staunch free-market philosophy.

"I see it mainly as an off-the-cuff statement," he said. "But beneath the surface, you can see it is in some ways consistent with his philosophy that the government does not need to be so intrusive in all domains of life."

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 48 million cases of food-borne illnesses occur in the country every year, 3,000 of them fatal. They also found that 20 million people fall ill every year because of norovirus, with about 5 million cases associated with food, especially restaurants and catering services.

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Alamance homeless grapple with freezing temperatures

Ashley Lowe
Senior Reporter

During the months of December, January and February, Elon University students bear the cold weather as they warm up in their beds with sweatshirts and cups of hot chocolate. Students have the luxury of heat and blankets in their residence halls.

The winter isn't as easy to tolerate for some of Elon's close neighbors in Alamance County. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 11 percent of the Alamance County population is homeless. Currently, 16,872 people are coping with freezing temperatures.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, the 2015 winter season is going to bring freezing temperatures and snowfall to Elon until the end of February. If last year is any indication of how intense Mother Nature can be, Alamance County needs to be prepared.

The Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC) offer an option for the homeless community to seek shelter at any time during the year, especially in the winter. The ACAC provides "meals, shelter, resources, and support to meet social, education, health and other needs by serving the lonely, hungry and homeless. [The ACAC is] sustained by the generosity of individual community members and organizations who contribute food and funds and volunteer their time."

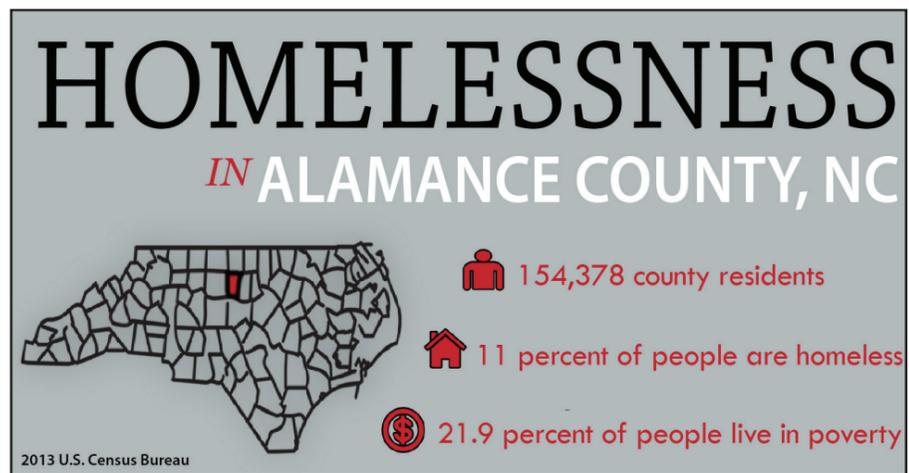
There are 102 beds for those who need a warm bed at night.

"We are able to provide the warmest and most secure place for homeless people to be during the winter season," said Kim Crawford, executive director of the ACAC.

"When it's really cold, we get about five to 10 additional people that we weren't expecting to sleep at the shelter on that particular night," Crawford said.

The unpredictability of the cold temperatures keeps the ACAC staff on their toes to make sure every visitor is accommodated with a bed. Not only does the ACAC provide a warm place for homeless residents to sleep but it is also provides a food kitchen with healthy and warm meals for visitors.

Holly Smith, a senior from the Burlington area, is familiar with the ACAC and the positive impact it is making on



the community in regards to providing food for the homeless population. "[The Alamance County] food pantry, Loaves and Fishes, closed last year and Alamance has been deemed a food desert, which ties more into the poverty element associated with homelessness," Smith said.

The motto of the ACAC is, "Housing the Homeless, Feeding the Hungry," and the organization has lived up to this mantra so far this winter as the meal drop-in center has been operating at capacity during every meal this month.

"Lots of people come in during the colder months at lunch and dinner because it gives them a chance to get warm," Crawford said.

When the temperatures drop quickly, the ACAC also accommodates low-income families that struggle to pay their utilities to keep their houses warm. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 21.9 percent of people who live in Alamance County live in poverty.

Crawford wants to ensure the homeless community knows the ACAC is there for them during their time of need.

"I don't want them to be ashamed of coming to spend the night in a shelter, especially when the temperatures are so cold," Crawford said.

The students at Elon are helping the homeless community endure the cold weather in Alamance County. Elon's Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement has students volunteering in the ACAC's soup kitchen and food pantry. If students volunteer in the

late afternoon, they have may have the opportunity to help grocery shop for the soup kitchen and food pantry.

"The Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement serves as a great conduit for students to get involved in our community" said Evan Small, assistant director of the Kernodle Center for Student Programs.

Small wants to see future students get involved in the community surrounding Elon, which includes Alamance County. He knows having phenomenal human conversations breaks stereotypes about homeless people and their situations. With these forums of conversation, Small hopes students will remove themselves from campus and insert themselves into service.

"I think most students don't view Alamance County as a permanent home. They view the community as a transient place that they will leave after graduation from Elon," Small said. "This also brings up the broader issue of the impact that volunteering has to support the less fortunate beyond Elon and Alamance County."

Getting involved with the Kernodle Center is as simple as "stopping by the office, shooting an email or visiting our website for more information," Small said.

The Sigma Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and the Omicron Epsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha took Small's advice as they helped Allied Churches on their Martin Luther King service day. These organizations helped distribute warm food and clean the facility on their day off from class during Winter Term.

The circus behind the Circus

Wherever Ringling Bros. goes, protesters follow, putting pressure on host cities

Max Garland
Reporter

The circus came to North Carolina, but if a vocal group of animal-rights protesters had its way, the Ringling Bros. would have been sent packing before the big tent had a chance to rise.

Protesters gathered near the Greensboro Coliseum Feb. 7 to raise awareness for Ringling's reported mistreatment of its bread and butter: animals.

"Ringling is doing things to animals that are unnatural," said Martha Cecil, a protester and co-leader of Speak Out for Circus Animals. "You can't train an elephant to stand on its head. You can't train a tiger to jump through a flaming hoop by giving it a treat. That's how the abuse starts. They have to break the will of the animals they get."

Protesters held up signs outside the coliseum depicting elephants tied up in ropes and the tools they say circus trainers use, such as bullhooks, chains and stun guns. Other signs bore sentiments such as "Let's be a leader in animal welfare" and "Stop supporting slavery."

The Greensboro Coliseum hosted Ringling Bros. from last week until Sunday, during which eight protests took place on the corner of Patterson and High Point Road. Approximately 200 people have protested since Wednesday, Cecil estimated.

"We're reaching out to people and making them think," said Colleen Smith, co-leader of Speak Out for Circus Animals. "If we get them curious, then they can find out for themselves what circuses do."

Ringling Bros. has been the focus of several protests since pictures of its employees using violent training methods on elephants and video footage of the use of dangerous animal-control tools before performances surfaced.

At least 29 Ringling elephants, including four babies, have died since 1992.

"Ringling transports these animals 50 out of 52 weeks a year in tiny cages and they use cruel training methods to get them to do tricks," said protester Clare Farrow, a junior at Elon University. "Animals in circuses are taught from the beginning stages of their lives to fear humans, and force is used to keep them in line. It's not healthy."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture fined Ringling Bros. \$270,000 in late 2011 for Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations that began in June 2007. The fine was the largest civil penalty ever assessed against an animal exhibitor.

Stephen Payne, vice president of corporate communication for Ringling parent company Feld Entertainment, said the fine was paid so Ringling could start fresh, downplaying its importance.

"We have an excellent team of trainers that takes great care of these animals 24 hours a day," he said. "The claims PETA and other groups are making are absurd and insulting. Our trainers are in this business because they care about and love animals."

According to Payne, protesters at the North Carolina shows have had no impact on Ringling's business, and its supporters are not bothered by the abuse findings.

"We always say to people that they should come and see the circus for themselves," he said. "Then they can have a better understanding of Ringling and how well we treat our animals."

In 2012, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), along with other animal rights groups, paid a \$15.75 mil-



COURTESY OF THE TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Animal activists, who protested Ringling Bros. Circuses recently in Greensboro, have been pushing circuses to treat animals with more care.

lion settlement to Feld Entertainment, the end of a 14-year legal battle over Ringling's treatment of its elephants. A key witness in the case for the animal rights groups, a former Ringling employee, was deemed a paid plaintiff by U.S. District Judge Emmett G. Sullivan.

"Ringling has always won when they've been sued because they are such a huge conglomerate," Cecil said. "They can afford to cover it up and get people to still come to their shows."

Protesters also gathered near Ringling shows in Raleigh and Fayetteville this week, a narrative that has played out across the country.

Activists in other cities have called on local governments to stop the circus from coming to town. Several U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Chapel Hill and Stamford, Connecticut, have bans or restrictions on animals in circuses. More than 30 countries have done the same.

Advances in communication technologies, the increasing popularity of non-animal circuses like Cirque du Soleil and the notoriety of documentaries such as "Blackfish" could be a factor in these bans.

"It's so easy to get behind these protests," Farrow said. "There are many similar options for entertainment that don't hurt animals, like Cirque du Soleil or animal documentaries. It's something people can help raise awareness of without a lot of investment."

The future of animal circuses in Greensboro is cloudier. Farrow said North Carolina is not an animal-friendly state, but small steps like bullhook bans are likely to make a difference.

"We're going to follow the other cities and states' examples that have banned circuses, like Asheville," Cecil said, pointing out the recent animal circus ban at Asheville's US Cellular Center. Cathy Justice, a community relations specialist for the city of Greensboro, said a few people have brought up the possibility of an animal circus ban at council meetings, but the city council has not yet seriously considered such measures.

A ban may not help at all, as human interaction with animals has reached a point of no return, according to Dave Gammon, associate professor of biology at Elon.

"Humans have messed with animal lives

in so many ways that it's almost pointless to preserve some idea of nature that doesn't exist anymore," said Gammon, who studies animal behavior.

Gammon said there are some advantages to having circuses around, despite the clouds of controversy that tend to trail behind.

"Circuses raise awareness and enthusiasm for animals, and they can inspire kids to care about them," he said. "I think it's debatable if it's a worse standard of living for them as compared to the wild, where they face all sorts of threats."

Activists are keeping the debate alive.

These protests may roll into the next generation, which is what Cecil and other activists are hoping for.

"We mainly want to educate children about how no wild animal should be held captive in the circus," she said. "One day we are going to pass the torch on to them."

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2.14.2015	7pm	Bjorn Jacobsen
2.17.2015	6pm	Fat Tuesday Party (live entertainment)
2.21.2015	7pm	Red Glass Apple Band
2.28.2015	7pm	Cover Story Band
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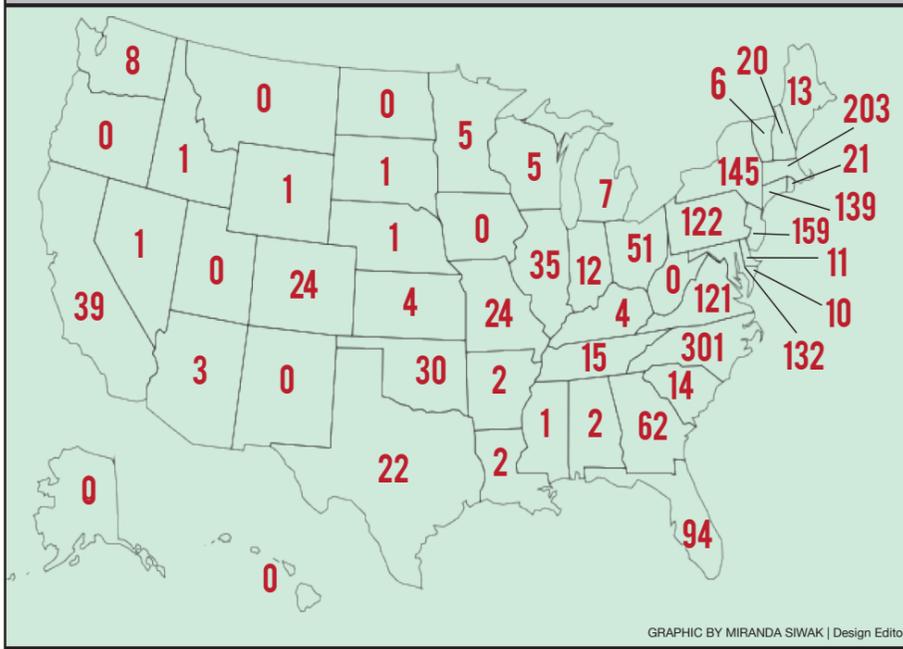
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Where are Elon students from? class of 2018



GRAPHIC BY MIRANDA SIWAK | Design Editor

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

An increasing student body and recent plans for the construction of multiple buildings in the last few years all point to Elon University's growth, evidence Elon is attempting to become a more diverse campus nationally, internationally and culturally.

Currently, students from every state except for North Dakota are represented in the student body. That will change next fall as an incoming freshman from North Dakota will join the Elon community.

Even so, there are obvious demographic trends in the composition of Elon students.

ADMISSIONS

from cover

The trend of alumni and parents supporting the admissions center continued with Jamey and Tracey Walser '84 Nugent making a gift. The building's two-story lobby and atrium is now named The Nugent Atrium in honor of their gift.

Vice President for University Advancement Jim Piatt, Jr. said Elon does not wish to share the amount donated out of respect for the donors but is grateful people think highly enough of Elon to invest in the institution.

"This project, from a donor's standpoint, is special," Piatt said. "It's a front door to the university, and many people come in contact with that."

Melinda Wood, senior associate dean of admissions, served as the admissions liaison for the construction process of the center.

She said the planning team dedicated thoughtful planning and careful discussion to the layout of the building.

"What we found was very few institutions were able to easily accommodate admissions and financial planning in the same building," Wood said. "We wanted to make sure we could service all students, whether it was prospective students and their families or current students."

The Moseley parking lot was blocked off and then torn up to make room for the lawn in front of the building. The disappearance of parking spots didn't go unnoticed by disgrun-

According to the 2014-2015 Elon Fact Book, Elon is primarily composed of students from North Carolina, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia.

Elon's admissions process provides some explanation. Based on demographic data, Elon focuses recruitment efforts to areas that have been successful in the past, while also evaluating areas that could be potential outlets for increased recruitment efforts.

"We evaluate trending demographics and external and internal data to determine emerging markets for Elon," said Lisa Keegan, dean of admissions.

Recently, there has been a push to increase recruitment efforts on the West Coast, specifically California.

"Our efforts of adding a regional representative in California and seeing an

bled student drivers.

"[The construction] made parking difficult," said sophomore Rachael Morton. "I don't know much about admissions, but I have a feeling it is a bit excessive."

Sophomore Danielle Richer agreed. "I like that they built a new building," Richer said. "However, the taking away of the Moseley parking lot has made parking challenging and inconvenient."

The size of the Inman Admissions Welcome Center — 32,000 square feet — caused a stir among students.

"I'm just really curious to see what the building will be used for," said freshman Emily Freeman. "I feel like it's too big and too much money was spent on it."

Zaiser said the increasing number of prospective students was a factor in determining the size of the building.

"We want to be able to accommodate all of the demand and interest in Elon," Zaiser said. "We all know that first impressions are lasting impressions. They create a sense of place."

Elon's approximate 120 tour guides also moved into the new center. The second floor of the building features large office space where approximately 20 tour guides work at a time.

Senior Dan Sheehan, an Elon tour guide, said that while the new building gave Admissions more space, Inman still isn't big enough.

increase in enrolling students from California demonstrates that our presence in emerging markets is key to our recruitment success," Keegan said.

Sophomore Shay Hopkins-Paine, from Maine, said Elon is appealing to people from regions like the Northeast and the West Coast.

"It's not so southern that people are out of their comfort zone," Hopkins-Paine said.

Keegan believes part of what makes Elon so appealing to students from the Northeast is the value of the education, coupled with the cost of Elon in comparison to private universities in the Northeast.

"We recruit heavily in the Northeast and have tremendous support from alumni and parents in that region," Keegan said. "Those are both critical to our recruitment efforts."

Even so, pockets of the United States are unfamiliar with Elon. Hopkins-Paine heard of Elon through her best friend from home, who is a year older and had already made the choice to attend Elon.

"I had never heard of Elon except for through my friend," Hopkins-Paine said. "There were no recruitment efforts [in Maine]."

Freshman Erin Donnelly from Minnesota heard of Elon through her high school guidance counselor. She is one of five freshman students from Minnesota. Visiting Elon, though, was what sealed the deal for her.

"My family decided to take a trip to come visit the school, and it just felt right and felt like home when I walked on campus," Donnelly said.

Hopkins-Paine thinks recruitment efforts to different parts of the United States would not have to be extreme but could familiarize people with Elon's name.

"I would just love little things [changed]," Hopkins-Paine said. "Going to college fairs in Maine would be incredible. Going to college fairs in every state would



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

Originally from Maine, sophomore Shay Hopkins-Paine heard about Elon through a friend.

be incredible. It would be really great if Elon put their name out there more."

Hopkins-Paine and Donnelly said Elon is more diverse than their home states, and it has been interesting for them to become acquainted with a variety of people. Hopkins-Paine believes Elon is truly making an effort to increase diversity on campus and both students agree there is no prominent geographic or regional culture present on campus.

"I honestly was surprised at how diverse Elon is," Donnelly said. "I have met so many people from all over the country and don't feel that there is a distinct culture, other than everyone being super involved in multiple things."

Elon recently hired an admissions counselor to focus on high school students in Illinois, based on data indicating Illinois as an area where students are increasingly interested in Elon. Furthermore, Texas has been identified as state with potential, and recruitment efforts will also be concentrated there next year.

"I hope we will continue to see rich geographic diversity among Elon students, both domestically and internationally," Keegan said. "I think we will see increasing students from the Great Lakes and West Coast and hope that we continue to draw students from new and emerging markets for Elon."

41

total staff members

More than
120

tour guides

17

donor gifts

INMAN ADMISSIONS:

BY THE NUMBERS

32

thousand square feet

Clohan Theater seats

165

people

38

meeting spaces and offices

GRAPHIC BY KATERI BRAUNSTEIN AND MARGARET LOWMAN | Design Interns

"For the amount of people coming to campus, we actually need more space than Inman has," Sheehan said.

Zaiser said that he hopes the admissions center will give prospective students a good

feeling of what Elon embodies.

"If I was touring and saw that building, I think that it would add to the experience," said freshman Dustin Farris.

JOBS
from cover

ing and structure students receive from on-campus jobs is significant and contributes to the professionalism of on-campus jobs.

“There have been surveys that indicate that employers are attracted to students who have had an on-campus job,” Carpenter said. “I think we have a structure here that may or may not be present off campus.”

Sophomore Jordan Lockhart recently accepted a job as a student office assistant in the School of Communications. Because she doesn't have a car at school, an on-campus job was a must.

As a Communications Fellow, she was interested in a job to boost her resume. Additionally, she recognized the networking possibilities of placing herself in an environment where she could connect with others.

“It's a more professional level of responsibility,” Lockhart said. “Everyone comes through the school at some point.”

Students who have off-campus jobs also recognize the benefits their employment opportunities have provided. Sophomore Sarah Reynolds has worked consistently for six months at Amber's House of Dance as a tap and ballet teacher.

Reynolds said her job has certainly helped her time management skills. She also said she was attracted to her job because it allowed her to continue a passion of hers from high school, an opportunity that was not available on-campus.

Reynolds also appreciates working with people off-campus. She said interacting with her students and their parents is “comforting,” and she appreciates the support she receives from them.

“Having that outside family is something that not a lot of people

get to experience,” Reynolds said.

Senior Caleigh Erickson, who has worked at LOFT in Alamance Crossing for about three years, has a similar perspective. She said she enjoys entering the “real world” each week.

“It's nice to be with people who aren't students and come from dif-

ferent walks of life,” Erickson said. “Some of the types of people I work with I may have never met through any activity at Elon, so it's really broadened my perspective and given me a glimpse into other lifestyles.”

Erickson also works on-campus as a French tutor, so she has control over her hours. Her job at LOFT

and her job as a tutor have allowed her to prioritize academics while simultaneously earning an income.

Overall, students who are employed on and off campus are challenged to accommodate both their academic and professional obligations.

“It is smart to put school first if

you can and look for a job that accommodates your academic goals. My work schedule is very flexible and allows me to put school first,” Erickson said. “It is nice to have a job that I enjoy and that lets me be a full-time student first, because that's why I'm here in the first place.”



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Editor

SGA 'Acorn Fund' to bankroll student innovation

\$200,000 of rollover money endowed to support student entrepreneurs

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) recently announced the launch of a \$200,000 initiative to further student innovation outside of the classroom.

The new endowed program, dubbed the “Acorn Fund,” is said to support projects that have a positive impact in the community — both nonprofit and for-profit business models are eligible.

Funding for the project came from SGA's so-called “rollover fund,” or money left over at the end of each academic year. The same pool of capital created the “Fun Fund,” best known for bringing camels to campus on Wednesday — “Hump Day” — last spring.

“While there are many mechanisms of monetary support for students interested in undergraduate research and implementing events for the student body, SGA felt there was a need to provide financial support to individuals pursuing other projects and ideas,” wrote Executive President Joe Incorvia, a senior, in an email.

With any lump sum of money, though, there are bound to be questions about its regulation, said Kyle Porro, a sophomore SGA senator who helped lead the Acorn project. A rigid application process ought to ease student

concerns, he added.

“They need to get their acts together,” Porro said. “They need to know this is a lot of money, and they need to document every single thing that they do.”

A consistent criticism of the “Fun Fund” and some other SGA initiatives has been the notion that student's money could be spend more shrewdly or go to better use.

After taking in student activity fees, SGA distributes funds to organizations in a massive budget process in the beginning of the year. What's left over after that can be drawn on from organizations that submit special, or one-time, allocation requests. What's left over at the end of the year goes into SGA's “rollover fund,” from which they are free to distribute as they see fit.

The “Acorn Fund,” then, does come from the tuition dollars of students — but some of it is tied up in those who have long since graduated. It can lead to misconceptions about how SGA's budgeting process works, Porro said.

“When people say that this is their tuition dollars going into this, kind of, but it's also money that has been sitting there and accumulating over the years,” he said.

Though the fund is still in its infancy, some ambitious students have already begun vying how to capture the funds. Junior Kellen So-

renson, along with his partner, junior Robert Paxton, have for some time now been devising a compostable gardening product that they believe will expedite the planting process for trees.

Already, the pair has secured funding from a first-place finish at the Elon-sponsored Triple Impact Challenge last fall, among other investment sources.

“Obviously, if you're going to start up a company, you need a lot of funding to get going, and this seemed like a really good way to do that,” Sorenson said.

Successful applicants should not expect to have to deal with much micro-managing on the behalf of SGA, according to Porro, who emphasized a need for minimal regulation after applicants are given grants from the fund. To him, and other members of the eight-person team who out the fund together, accountability is at the core of it all.

“I feel like if you or your group is ready to get into this type of thing, you realize that this is not only a lot of money but you want to make a business out of this,” he said. “You're not expecting to have that money sit in your pocket. It's a little different.”

That's just fine to Sorenson and Paxton, who already have a clear vision and a concrete business plan. They're only in need of the missing piece: funding.

“If we don't get the Acorn fund, we would definitely be seeking another source of funding,” Sorenson said. “Especially for a startup, funding is everything, and it's the most difficult thing. This sort of money isn't easy to come by.”

Porro and the rest of SGA say they don't want to get in the way of that kind of vision — but they do want to keep an eye on their investment.

“Since we didn't want to be watching over them the whole time, we will probably have them come present to the Senate on an infrequent basis,” he said. “But we won't be asking for weekly updates. It's not going to be that intense. The thought is that the committee will have picked a group that will be on top of their game and they will not need our guidance — nor will they want our guidance, really.”

The fund, which will begin accepting applications this spring, is open to all majors and all students, save second-semester students.

“One thing we've really been emphasizing is that this is not a business school initiative,” Porro said. “We want to make sure that this is for any student that might have any interest for anything that might fall into this.”

Community Connections panel discusses economic growth

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

Wednesday night in McKinnon Hall, a panel of four experts reached a consensus: the future of Alamance County depends on creating pleasant communities for young professionals and families, as well as improving the infrastructure of the region.

The Council on Civic Engagement at Elon University and the Burlington Times-News co-sponsored the community forum “Alamance 2030: What Will Our Community Be Like in 15 Years”

The panel of four, moderated by Jason Husser, assistant director of Elon University Poll, shared insights into the demographic and economic changes occurring in Alamance County and their implications for the future.

Panelist David Cheek, Mebane city manager, cited the changes that have transpired in Durham since 2000 as inspiration for Alamance County.

“I’ve spent a little time in downtown Durham,” Cheek said. “A lot of you may not remember downtown Durham, but it’s changed dramatically.”

He attributed economic changes and population shifts in Durham to the increase in the number of apartments. Cheek said Alamance County could have similar results.

“I think [the solution is] you create communities where people want to live,” Cheek said.

Amy Nelson, director of Burlington Planning and Economic Development, agreed with Cheek.

Based on research she has conducted recently on economic development, Nelson concluded creating better communities could stimulate economic growth in Alamance County. After these communities are established, jobs ought to follow.

By improving living conditions, the panelists argue more college graduates, includ-



David Cheek and April Durr serve as panelists for the panel “Alamance 2030: What will our Community Be Like in 15 Years,” where solutions for economic growth in Alamance County were discussed. It was determined that economic growth depends on infrastructure and community.

ing those from Elon, would pursue jobs in Alamance County. This would increase the high-paying jobs in the county, and the economic growth.

Eric Henry, resident of Alamance County for more than 50 years, said the solutions already exist, acknowledging Elon students as a potential mechanism to improve the community by staying in the region after graduating.

President Leo Lambert agreed harnessing the talent of young individuals would be a fundamental aspect in improving the overall community.

“I’ve never underestimated what a young college graduate can do when they put their minds to it,” Lambert said.

Additionally, panelists agreed infra-

structure in Alamance County could help commuters travel to their jobs faster and connect Alamance County to other North Carolina regions like the Triangle.

“I think [infrastructure is] probably the number one issue holding back this community,” said panelist April Durr, director of community impact at the United Way of Alamance County.

The panel argued the raw materials for economic development in Alamance County are present, but initiating economic growth is a process that may require more time.

“We’re part of one of the biggest growth regions in America,” said panelist Ryan Kirk, assistant professor of geography and environmental studies. “The hard part is

bringing economic development.”

Cheek believes the primary source for addressing these issues is local government. Cheek, who has been involved in the local government for 32 years, encouraged audience members to become involved locally and help identify solutions and initiate changes.

By engaging the community in the local government, quick changes could occur and federal involvement wouldn’t be necessary.

“Local government can really have a positive impact,” Cheek said. “I don’t think we need to apply a federal mentality to our local government. We can do some really great things at the local level.”

Elon student teaching program making strides



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Senior Kristine Miller student teaches at Altamahaw Ossipee Elementary through Elon’s program.

Tanza Loudenback
Senior Reporter

Fifty-four Elon University seniors are student teaching this semester in preparation for careers in elementary, middle and high school education. This year, principals have the opportunity to offer job contracts to student teachers prior to graduation.

“In the past, they’ve had to wait until the school board approved the budget in June or July, which meant we often lost a lot of the student teachers to other counties that were already hiring,” said Marna Winter, lecturer in education and director of education outreach at Elon.

Winter works closely with local, private and charter schools in Alamance and surrounding counties to build relationships with the schools to which Elon students are later assigned.

“The principals [in Alamance and surrounding counties] really want our students there,” Winter said. “They know they’re well trained.”

Last week, student teachers began their semesters at 21 different elementary, middle and high schools in the Alamance-Burlington School System, one high school in the Guilford County Schools and one middle school in the Orange County School System.

Elon’s student teaching program is unique because it places its students at one school for the entirety of their student teaching period. All programs begin in the fall with a practicum and an average of

100 hours in the classroom. When student teachers begin full-time student teaching in February, they’re already familiar with the schools, classrooms and students, Winter said.

“The way Elon structures student teaching is very beneficial in that you really get to immerse yourself in the process,” said Sally Day MacLeod, a senior who is student teaching a kindergarten class at Marvin B. Smith Elementary in Burlington.

Student teachers begin their spring semester by gradually taking over subjects from their cooperating teacher in their assigned classroom, MacLeod said.

She also said it’s important to plan for lessons thoroughly and have them approved by the cooperating teacher in advance, as the students thrive off of consistency.

“I come home from school each day and spend at least two hours working on all aspects of the lesson plans,” MacLeod said.

Eventually, student teachers take on the responsibility of teaching all subjects to their class. After about six weeks, they begin handing the responsibilities back to their cooperating teacher in preparation for the end of the semester and Elon graduation.

Although MacLeod isn’t set on teaching in North Carolina after graduation, students who choose to remain in state must apply for a teaching license after completing Elon’s yearlong experience of student teaching.

Cheat sheet: Brian Williams controversy



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

By The News Editors

Brian Williams, NBC News anchor and past Elon University commencement speaker, has gone from delivering headlines to making them. Amid an escalating scandal around the accuracy of his reporting on an Iraq War mission in 2003, Williams announced Thursday he would be temporarily stepping down from his duties.

Speculations around Williams' 2003 claims were sparked Jan. 30, when NBC Nightly News posted a clip to Facebook of Williams recounting stories of his reporting of the U.S. Invasion of Iraq. In one recollection, he claimed he was aboard a helicopter that was forced down after being struck by a grenade.

The story was blasted by U.S. soldiers who remembered the event quite differently. Chris Simeone, who identified himself as the pilot of the helicopter that carried Williams and other reporters during the invasion, called the anchor a "liar."

"He was on my aircraft and we were NOT shot down. That was a sister ship and a friend of mine," he wrote. "Brian Williams has been knowingly lying since that mission to boost his credentials."

Flight engineer Lance Reynolds, who was verified as being on the actual helicopter that was shot down, was also among those who took offense.

"Sorry dude, I don't remember you being on my aircraft," he wrote on Facebook. "I do remember you walking up about an hour after we had landed to ask me what had happened."

Williams responded to the controversy



Brian Williams announced Feb. 7 he would temporarily step down as anchor of NBC Nightly News due to a recent investigation by NBC regarding the accuracy of his past reporting.

last Wednesday when he admitted his mistake.

"I feel terrible about making this mistake, especially since I found my OWN WRITING about the incident from back in '08," he wrote on Facebook. "I was indeed on the Chinook behind the bird that took the RPG in the tail housing just above the ramp."

But Williams' woes do not end there — as days progressed, commentators pointed to other instances of fact-checking errors including Williams' after-action report on Hurricane Katrina in which he claimed he saw a corpse floating by his hotel in the French Quarter. This, skeptics pointed out, was near impossible as the French Quarter was largely dry at the time.

As tension rose and NBC announced it would be launching an internal investigation, Williams announced his "temporary leave" on Friday, saying that he had "become too much apart of the news" as his main reason.

Despite the growing controversy, Elon University has maintained they will continue to maintain a close relationship with the renowned anchor.

"He has explained his mistake and taken responsibility for it," Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications, said Thursday. "I don't anticipate there being any changes."

Williams fostered a strong relationship with the university over the years. He was a commencement speaker in 2013, when his son Douglas graduated from Elon, and also serves as the national chair of the School of Communications Advisory Board. In late October, he was the primary host of Elon's New York Gala where the new School of Communications fundraising campaign was announced. Williams is a significant donor to the campaign — one of the television studios in the remodeled McEwen will include his and his wife Jane's name.

News Briefs

Rev. Luke A. Powery to deliver Elon's 2015 Baccalaureate sermon

Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery, dean of Duke Chapel at Duke University, will deliver Elon University's Baccalaureate sermon at 3 p.m. Friday, May 22 in Alumni Gym.

The program is open to the public, with all graduates and their families invited to attend.

Powery, who was named one of "20 to Watch" by the African American Pulpit in 2009 in recognition of his work, was ordained by the Progressive National Baptist Convention and has served at churches in Switzerland, Canada and the United States.

Equipped with numerous leadership experiences including his status as a member of the executive lectionary team for The African American Lectionary, an online ecumenical project funded by the Lilly Endowment, Powery is the recipient of numerous scholastic fellowships and awards.

Youth employment continues to lag behind

Generation Opportunity, a national, non-partisan youth advocacy organization, released its Millennial Jobs Report for January 2015. Some of its findings in terms of youth employment continue to disappoint: the youth employment rate for 18-29 year olds stayed at a 14.2 percent, the unemployment rate for 18-29 year-old African Americans was 20.8 percent and the unemployment rate for 18-29 year-old women was 12.1 percent.

In response to the disappointing statistics, Patrice Lee, director of outreach for Generation Opportunity said, "Our generation continues to lag behind the overall economic revival, as the youth unemployment rate still stands at an unacceptable 14.2 percent."

She added this is especially true for young African Americans who now face a one in five chance of being out of work. Lee pointed to factors such as the fact that African-American young adults are 15 times more likely to be in prison than their white peers.

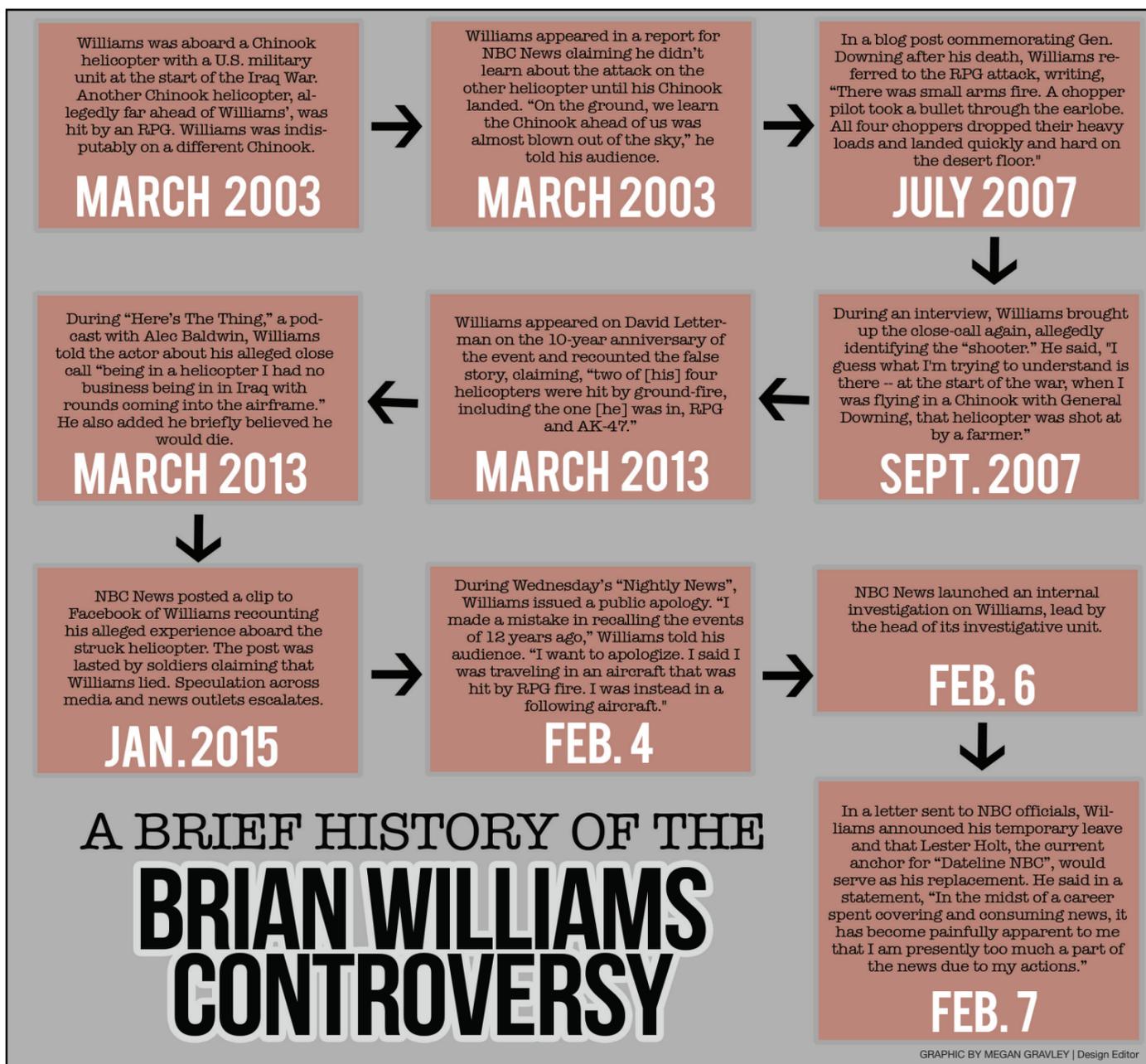
Teenager collides into Burlington post office

Burlington police reported a 17-year-old crashed his car into a post office located at 405 Maple Ave. on Saturday night.

The teenager, George Desimone, was driving a 1996 Mercedes and had entered the post office's parking lot from Maple Ave. and proceeded to crash into the building.

The building suffered approximately \$50,000 in damage and Desimone's vehicle was beyond repair.

Desimone, who was arrested for driving while impaired and inhaling an intoxicating substance, was released to his parents where he will wait to appear in court.



Editorial

The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

Growing Greek culture creates pressure to conform



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

The women of Delta Delta Delta welcome a new class of pledges on Bid Day, the last day of the recruitment process.

The Greek system at Elon University is a social force to be reckoned with.

It occupies too much of a presence on campus, and the pressure to rush has never been more intense.

Many freshmen have fallen victim to the notion — whether it's true or not — that they must pledge to a Greek organization or kiss their social life goodbye. The resulting demand for spots in these organizations is too much for Elon to accommodate.

We would expect recruitment numbers to increase proportionately along with Elon's undergraduate enrollment.

But Greek Life growth is outpacing enrollment. While undergraduate enrollment is up 23 percent since 2005, the number of women registered for sorority recruitment has increased 55 percent in that time.

When sorority recruitment began Jan. 28, a record-high 638 people had signed up. At the end of the process, when bids had been given out, students involved in Greek Life accounted for 40 percent of Elon's student body. That percentage is entirely too high.

Shana Plasters, the director of Greek Life, said in an email that a university-wide committee has begun discussing how to deal with the ballooning interest. She said the size of the individual organizations were a consideration in these discussions.

But certain parts of the Greek system are out of the control of Elon officials. Quotas determining how many people must join the organizations are governed by the National Panhellenic Conference, which doesn't necessarily see the scope of Greek Life's presence on campus.

The disproportionate number of people involved in Greek Life is a problem now but could easily work itself out as the university grows.

Allowing Elon to expand independently of the Greek system will reduce the impact of the institution as well as its relevance on campus. As the number of non-affiliated students grows in proportion to affiliated students Greek Life will become a less dominant social force.

Service, scholarship and sisterhood — three of the main pillars of sororities, for example — are central to scores of

other organizations on campus. Values like these are common in organizations like InterVarsity, Campus Outreach, and I Am That Girl. But freshmen don't flock to these organizations in the same numbers as sororities.

What stands between those alternative organizations and each new class of students is the overwhelming and deeply human need to feel a sense of belonging.

Students understandably want to make the most of their four years in college, and Greek Life seems like a one-stop-shop. But not all students who go through recruitment emerge with a bid.

The Office of Greek Life's website explains that young women who do not receive a bid either chose to withdraw from the process at some point or were unwilling to consider membership in one of the sororities that was not within their top choices.

This explanation blames individuals who don't make the cut for being too choosy. Granted, some people do choose to withdraw from recruitment, but the website severely understates the fact that people going through recruitment can be dropped from all potential organizations at any point before the final round, which is a much more common cause of heartbreak for those who don't make the cut.

Plasters said the Office of Greek Life aims to maintain a high-quality experience for students in various Greek organizations. Of the 133 students who did not receive a bid during sorority recruitment this year, more than 68 percent of them had been invited back by at least one chapter, she pointed out.

But whether a pledge could truly have a high-quality experience after accepting a bid from her second or third choice is questionable. College students are told to make the most of their four years. It's not surprising people choose to drop out of the process when their top choice is no longer an option.

Greek Life is undoubtedly beneficial for the women who are involved. It encourages philanthropy and provides a platform for networking. It occupies an important role on Elon's campus.

But that role is too large. And although it's a great way to make friends, it's not the only way. The solution is to squash the idea that going Greek is the end-all be-all of having a good time in college.

A letter to students from President Lambert

Dear Students,

Welcome back to campus. I hope your spring classes are off to a wonderful start.

I am compelled to write as we begin a new semester to offer a reflection on a recent cowardly action by an individual who yelled a racial slur and sexually graphic insult from a moving car to an undergraduate student.

In my New Student

Leo Lambert
President, Elon University

Convocation message in August, I offered these words: Communities are strengthened or diminished each day by the individual actions of each member. Acts of racism, sexism and homophobia harm the human spirit and diminish us all. Wherever you are and wherever you go as an Elon student, I ask you to conduct yourselves with the highest standards of decency and respect.

As we celebrate Black History Month in February, this is a good time to reflect on the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who dreamed that his own

children would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

The sterling character of those who endure insult, rise above it and continue to work with dignity to make the Elon community better and stronger each day stands in sharp contrast to the low character of the cowardly perpetrator.

I have every hope that your generation has the best opportunity in history to eradicate such senseless acts of hatred and intolerance from American life.

As a member of the Elon community,

I hope you will work to strengthen it each day by showing care and respect to others and by condemning unprincipled behavior when you witness it.

I send every good wish for a successful academic term, and trust that you will continue to use your Elon education to be a blessing to the world.

Sincerely,

Leo M. Lambert

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. The Pendulum is located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center on Williamson Avenue.

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Corrections

In an article in last week's print edition of *The Pendulum*, published Feb. 4, a quotation was fabricated. In the article, "Five stars



Michael Bodley
Columnist

for feedback," written by Chace Blackburn, a senior reporter, a quote is incorrectly attributed to an Elon professor.

The quote reads, "Sometimes it is a bit disconcerting that students can rate me before they even meet me. But at the same time, I don't

think it's a huge distraction. Most kids I've talked to don't use it that much — at least they don't usually not take a class because of a bad review." In the article, published on page 6 last week, the quote is attributed to Vanessa Bravo, assistant professor of communications.

Blackburn, a freshman, never interviewed Bravo for the article. In a time crunch, she inadvertently left it in as a placeholder quote to aid her outline — a terrible, sloppy and inexcusable journalistic practice.

I'm bringing this to your attention because, as an organization, we have not always held ourselves to the same standards of transparency as we do to others on campus and beyond. The correction process has been allowed to fall by the wayside.

That changes today. From now on, any and all corrections in *The Pendulum* will run in a clearly-labeled box in print and be placed in the same section as the original error. Online, stories will be updated at the top with a detailed description of the error, as well as the time and date of the correction.

What happened with our reporter is a blatant breach of trust between you and us. The matter has been dealt with appropriately, and more stringent editorial standards have been put into place to ensure nothing of the sort will happen again.

We will hold ourselves to the same standards of transparency as anyone or anything we cover moving forward. You deserve better.

Turning the other Greek cheek

The animosity between unaffiliated and Greek students on campus has risen to new peaks over the last year as national



Janat Bashir
Columnist



Sarah Mulnick
Columnist

and campus events exploded across social media. Between the Rolling Stones article that libelously announced that a fraternity had participated in and covered up a gang rape without any obvious repercussions, the punishment of an Elon fraternity aimed at sorority recruitment and the recent surge in women who go through sorority recruitment at Elon, it hasn't been a good year to be Greek.

It's unfortunate, because we love being Greek.

It isn't always easy to keep your head high and wear your letters without caring about what others think. The problems with Greek life are wide and varied, from institutionalized racism to expenses that can be more of a burden than anticipated. Parents don't understand, childhood friends poke fun and unaffiliated peers turn up their noses at the men and women who go through recruitment and bind themselves to their organization.

Trust us. We've been there, and we've heard everything under the sun: "You're just paying for your friends." "You're shallow." "You're not a feminist." "Have fun



Jane Seidel | Photo Editor

Phi Mu sisters celebrate on Bid Day as recruitment draws to a close Feb. 1.

hating yourself for the next four years." "All you care about is beer and boys."

The stereotypes that insist Greek students are full of themselves are difficult to put up with. But they have a support system that will gladly and loyally lift them up every time it gets just a little too difficult to handle.

They have futures ahead of them that are supplemented, not created, by an alumni network that stretches across decades and countries. These organizations have a rich history filled with traditions. They expect the best of their members and teach them how to give it on a regular basis.

Many affiliated students have found themselves a system of peers that they can connect with through their common Greek bonds. Speaking from our own personal experiences, we have made some of the greatest friends we wouldn't have

otherwise met if it weren't for recruitment, and we have been given opportunities within our organization to play on our own talents and simultaneously encourage others'.

Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, but the obsessive stereotyping is unproductive at best and, at worst, perpetuates a negative image unrightfully held by so many. It masks the idea that Greeks are, in fact, individuals with their own opinions and lives and mannerisms.

We have never been ashamed to wear our letters, but we're ashamed to be in a community that puts us down for it.

DOCTORS' ORDERS

We've all heard about them.

Some of us have even been unfortunate enough to be innocent bystanders. You were just going about your busi-



Frankie Campisano
Columnist



Lauryl Fischer
Columnist

ness, maybe on your way to your class every year to welcome the incoming freshmen."

"You'll eventually feel you understand what exactly it is 'you know' in the 'EU! You know!' orientation chant."

"Elon is a very diverse campus." Victims of these lies have been seen shaking their heads in disbelief as they cower in the shadows. (They can be cured with gifts of chocolate. If it helps Harry Potter recover from a blow from a dementor, it'll work for them.)

If you're one of these Tall Tale-Telling Tour Guides, know that you can seek help. If you just take a long look in the mirror and mouth the word "Phoenix" long enough, you can rise from the ashes of your deceit. Rededicate yourself to truth and honesty. Honesty, of course, has won the Best Policy Award every year for the past hundred or so years.

Just start telling the truth. It's exciting. It's interesting. It's marketable. People trust an honest face, and also it's pretty easy to fact check this kind of stuff in the 21st century.

But just between you and us, generalized satirical patient and fake doctor confidentiality and all, if these outlandish campus claims are the result of



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Elon tour guides lead groups of prospective students and alumni around campus and provide insight about the university.

coercion or brainwashing please don't hesitate to let us know via smoke signal, or maybe carrier pidgeon.

Maybe the tour guides believe if they repeat something enough, it will bend the laws of reality, causing their lies to become truth. Improving Elon takes

hard work, not tall tales.

Want more Doctors' Orders?
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What to do when your friends abandon you for Greek life.

ness, maybe on your way to your class or to the mailroom, when you stumbled upon the unthinkable. No, it's not your ears deceiving you. It's what's referred to in polite company as a Tall Tale-Telling Tour Guide, and in less-than polite company, a good old fashioned BS'er.

We didn't dare ask anyone to step forward to tell us the shocking details of a T.T.T. Tour Guide, so instead we crafted this brief list of things we've heard passed around among students.

"Yeah, Brian Williams gives a speech

Long-term study experiences lead to longer-lasting growth

From London to New Zealand, student experiences life around the world

Danielle Deavens
Senior Reporter

Elon University is ranked ninth by the Princeton Review for its study abroad program, and students certainly take advantage of it. According to the university's Global Education Center (GEC), 72 percent of Elon's 2014 graduating class studied abroad at least once.

Compared with a national average of less than 10 percent, this earned Elon a No. 1 ranking in the Institute of International Education's 2014 Open Doors report for the number of students who studied abroad in the 2012-2013 school year.

This fall, more than 400 students engaged in study abroad programs, doubling the figure recorded for fall semester international study in 2009. This winter, more than 700 registered to study abroad for January, in countries such as Costa Rica, India and Ireland.

Though Elon's numbers for international study continue to grow, there is still a stark contrast between figures for semester programs and Winter Term programs. Both options have differences in their advantages, disadvantages and impacts on students.

Senior Morgan Kimbel knows firsthand that Winter Term and semester study abroad experiences are not created equal — she's done both. Fall 2013, she studied abroad in London at the Foundation for International Education, one of three Elon Centers Abroad. This winter she studied abroad again, this time in New Zealand with the adventure-based ecotourism program.

Each study abroad program varies in time and place, as well as impact.

"I left my Winter Term experience in New Zealand feeling like I was capable of anything," Kimbel said. "This trip made me a stronger person and made me closer to the people who I had these experiences with."



Stephanie Kilmer (left), Liz Kelly (center) and Morgan Kimbel (right) stand in front of London's Tower Bridge during their semester abroad.

The GEC describes Winter Term study abroad courses as "intensive three- to four-week courses ... taught by Elon faculty."

More than 30 of these courses are available each year, and class sizes range from 16-30 students, all of whom participate in a 1-credit seminar course together during the preceding fall semester.

The preparation and camaraderie developed during that time allow groups to hit the ground running as they explore a particular part of the world over a short period of time.

"This course pushed me outside my comfort zone [by] doing adventurous activities with people I did not know well prior to the

trip," Kimbel said.

One of the major attractions of a Winter Term study abroad is that each day is a bit different, and all are busy.

This is often reflected in the cost of Winter Term courses, which ranges from \$4,000-\$9,000. A schedule full of adventures often requires students to incur high costs of transportation, dining, lodging and class activities that accumulate quickly on such a fast-paced course that often includes travel to multiple cities or countries, along with additional meals and personal costs.

In Kimbel's case, the course led students and faculty all around New Zealand. During this time she developed such a passion for

the country that she wants to go back for a longer stretch of time.

"I definitely would have gone there for a semester," Kimbel said. "I loved the adventure-based elements of the country's culture, and I think it would have been a wonderful experience to spend a whole semester there instead of only three weeks."

She said a longer time in New Zealand would be valuable, but it would not replace her time in London. She experienced more significant growth during that fall semester abroad.

"My experience there taught me so much about myself," Kimbel said. "Spending a whole semester in a place had a longer-lasting effect on me, while studying abroad for a Winter Term changed me in a short period of time."

This analysis, reflection and introspection are part of what the GEC wants students to get out of study abroad programs. At a school like Elon where most students approach international study as a question of "where" rather than "why," this is an important concept to keep in mind.

The GEC's answer on its website is long, but the part Kimbel said resonated with her says, "Study abroad gives you the chance to look at life through a different perspective, to learn more about colorful individuals and the idiosyncrasies of cultures. You'll be surprised how much you learn about yourself, too."

Students have to decide how they can continue to benefit from a valuable experience abroad in the rest of their time at Elon and after. Kimbel may have figured it out.

"[London] truly grabbed hold of my heart," Kimbel said. "In fact, I have chosen to move to London for a year of grad school after I graduate in the spring."

Kimbel's experience living in London has helped shape her post-graduate path. While she is unable to decide which country she liked best, she found that the semester abroad gave her more opportunity for long-lasting growth and connection to a new country.

In that way, studying abroad is very similar to attending Elon. Not only is the experience what students make it, but also the more time and energy students invest in the experience, the more they have to gain.

The Elon Noyce Scholars Program

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Preview: 'In the Heights' captivates

Energized, exuberant show brings cast closer together, builds bonds

Hannah Durbin
Assistant Style Editor

Many of Elon University's greatest performers were prepared to hit the stage for Elon's first-ever production of the Tony Award-winning musical "In The Heights."

Onstage, a story unfolds. It's 2008. It's the peak of the New York City summer heat. And everyone is trying to get out.

The show is set in Washington Heights, a place where it costs to have a dream, and making a living is no simple task. Still,

the excitement of a long-awaited college homecoming hangs in the air.

Usnavi, played by senior Hunter Brown, dreams of one day getting away from Manhattan and returning to the shores of the Dominican Republic. While looking after his aging neighbor and working as a bodega owner, Usnavi craves something more.

Vanessa, Usnavi's beautiful love interest played by senior Gabriela Gomez, works in the neighborhood beauty salon and hopes to one day be able to live on her own, free from her alcoholic mother. Vanessa's childhood friend Nina, played by senior Nicole Uram, returns home — to her parents' surprise — from her first year at Stanford University to reconnect with her rapidly changing, close-knit neighborhood.

Although the characters all have repetitive, inescapable lives, they still attempt to make something more of it, reflecting on modern struggles.

"This show is very different than anything that we've ever done at Elon," Brown said. "In The Heights' is unique because it is set in the present time and takes place in modern society and has a very relevant and relatable message."

In contrast to classic shows Elon has put on before, this show's Latin-flavored music and hip-hop dance moves contribute to its high-energy, contemporary feel.

"The music is amazing and really fun to sing and dance to," Gomez said.

Director and choreographer Lynne Formato developed her vision into a work of art and brought a compelling story to life.

"Working with Lynne has been absolutely incredible," Brown said. "I cannot even express how much I love being her student and working with her."

Formato's hard work and precise planning has contributed to a stress-free environment for the cast and crew, leaving space for the actors to freely work and explore their roles.

With only three weeks to prepare for opening night, rehearsals are long and breaks are short. Typically rehearsing six days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the cast has devoted large amounts of time and energy into putting on this production and has high hopes for a week full of successful performances.

Gomez spoke on behalf of the cast and explained how this experience has been "one of the most fun things I've ever been a part of." The intense rehearsal schedule has built close bonds between the musical theater students, and the chemistry on stage is genuine.

"Being so passionate about musical theater is hard to explain," Brown said. "Something about the stage attracted me and never let me go. I love theater because it gives you the ability to explore every facet of your brain and heart. It's terrifying, fun and mind-opening."

The results can be seen on stage this upcoming week. "In The Heights" will be running Feb. 12-15 in McCrary Theatre. Tickets are free for students with a Phoenix Card, but they must be picked up in advance in the Performing Arts Center.



Hunter Brown plays Usnavi in Elon's performance of "In the Heights," which opens Feb. 12.

Review: Dance performance celebrates black history

Students in the "Celebrating Black History Through Performance" performed a variety of music and dance Feb. 6 in Elon University's Whitley Auditorium. The dance and vocal performance celebrated African American culture through the direction and choreography of Jason Aryeh, associate professor of dance.



Miranda Siwak
Columnist

To create a fun, welcoming atmosphere, hosts and members of the Elon African Society senior Omolayo Ojo and sophomore Kennedy Ojimadu began the show by walking onstage dancing, laughing and clapping. They set the tone for freshman Cassandra Tumas and sophomore Abby Corrigan, who danced a duet titled "Welcome All" in bright yellow clothes.

After the duet, senior Yasmine Arrington took the stage. Before her performance, Arrington addressed the audience.

"Black history is very rich," she said. "In all reality, there's still a long way to go."

With that introduction, she read the spoken word poem "A Black Prayer" over a soft drumbeat.

Senior Danielle Biggs followed Arrington with a solo dance performance titled "Alone But Strong." Biggs reflected the song's title with her movements as she

glided across the floor.

Following Biggs, senior Renee La Schiazza sang an a cappella rendition of "Amazing Grace/Say a Prayer." The audience listened to her performance in complete silence, captivated by her soothing voice. La Schiazza's moving solo served as a smooth transition between dance performances, and it brought a new dimension to the event.

The next dance routine matched the grace of Biggs' performance but added an element of power. The first dancer of "Sea of Skeptics" walked on stage without music and began her routine as the remaining dancers entered one by one. Music reminiscent of traditional African rhythms filled the room as the dancers performed with intensity and power.

A dance solo choreographed and performed by senior Sophie McNeill followed in the same tone as the group dance performance. McNeill's expression was intense, and her movements evoked the strength of the song, which was titled, "We Are All Human."

Next, Aryeh's West African Dance class performed a short, upbeat number. The group of about 12 dancers moved with energy, bringing a lighter tone to the auditorium as they showed off their classwork.

After Aryeh's class, a group of vocal students sang "Baba Yetu," a translation of the Lord's Prayer in Swahili. They stood in a semi-circle and wore an array of traditional African clothes representing different regions as they sang the uplifting song in



Students sing "Baba Yetu (The Lord's Prayer in Swahili)" during the performance on Feb. 6.

unison.

In a change of pace, junior Dorian McCorey came onstage to sing "Colored Woman" from the musical "Memphis." It was a powerful ballad that she executed beautifully. This song speaks of the discrimination and hardships women face, and the strength in McCorey's voice demonstrated the power that all performances that night aimed to showcase.

The show ended with "Drum Dance," a performance of six girls dancing and playing drums. The performers first came through the audience, chanting and banging their drumsticks together to begin their performance. The piece ended the night with high energy and a pleased crowd.

All of the performers involved in "Cel-

ebrating Black History Through Performance" showed off their talents as they executed each performance with passion, emotion and advanced technique. The evening's performance was an engaging and entertaining display of culture that dazzled and engaged the audience.

This event was a part of the month-long celebration of Black History Month. For more events and activities on campus throughout February, view the link below for more information:

http://www.elon.edu/e-web/org/black_history_month/events.xhtml



GRAPHIC BY MIRANDA SIWAK | Design Editor

A tight-knit sorority looking for more

Delta Sigma Theta works to increase NPHC's presence on campus

Brett Gubitosi
Senior Reporter

When junior Morgan Fleming became a sister in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. last April, she was overjoyed.

It was one of the greatest moments of her life. Her friends and mother came and, most of all, she was forever part of a new community. As her ambitions grew in her chapter, Omicron Iota, she realized work needed to be done.

Fleming, now the president of Delta Sigma Theta, wants to increase her sorority's presence on campus. Even though they are active, Fleming understands that Delta Sigma Theta's membership is low because of the small size of Elon's black community.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) members make up 2 percent of Elon's Greek life. There are currently 44 students involved in Elon's NPHC, which oversees historically black Greek life organizations, or 8.65 percent of all 384 Elon students who identify as black/African American. But, this does not lessen their community impact or philanthropy work.

"I think that, as a smaller part of Greek life, NPHC has to work a lot harder to be visible," Fleming said. "We have to make sure that we use our resources wisely in order to capitalize on the promotion of our events so that we can increase the audience."

According to Nikia Jefferson, assistant director of Greek life and NPHC adviser, expanding the NPHC organizations' on-campus presence is an ongoing process that requires further advertising efforts.

In the past year alone, two new NPHC positions were created at Elon: director of public relations and director of special events. Along with being her sorority's president, Fleming is also the NPHC's director of special events.

"[The number of black Elon students] alone plays into the size of our organizations," Jefferson said. "And obviously not

everyone wants to be Greek."

There are six NPHC Greek life chapters at Elon: Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta.

Although they are independent organizations with varying goals and philanthropies, they come together throughout the year. For example, they participate in an annual Homecoming Step Show, among other events.

Jefferson helps keep all the NPHC organizations connected and is often in conversation with each NPHC chapter president about organizational expansion.

Other than their sizes when compared to other Elon Greek life groups, NPHC organizations, specifically Delta Sigma Theta, have a different recruitment process.

Both Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council (PHC) organizations have a set recruitment time during the year. PHC's Bid Day was Feb. 1, when nine of Elon's sororities welcomed a total of 505 new members. IFC formal spring recruitment ended with Bid Day Feb. 6.

Delta Sigma Theta and other NPHC organizations do not have a predetermined recruitment schedule. Instead, members post flyers around campus and on social media, and those interested attend meetings.

The recruitment process begins when each chapter is ready and the national organization and Elon's Greek Life office

allows it. The last time Delta Sigma Theta welcomed new members was Spring 2014.

There is now no word when recruitment will resume.

Fleming said being in a small organization is difficult but also an excellent bonding experience.

"There isn't room for someone who can't pull their own weight," Fleming said. "But we regularly see each other at least four times a week, so this closeness greatly increases our sisterhood."

Jefferson admires the tight-knit, committed members of NPHC organizations.

"Because they are smaller organizations, each member has to step up," Jefferson said. "All of them undergo personal and leadership development that will help them after their time at Elon."

Before becoming a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Fleming said she wasn't certain about joining a

Greek organization at Elon.

This changed when she began to assess her values, which included compassion and honesty. She admires and was influenced by her mother, also a Delta Sigma Theta member, along with other members of the organization.

"I discovered that people I looked up to were women with great values," Fleming said. "It so happened that all of them were members of Delta Sigma Theta."

Established at Elon in 1981, Delta Sig-

"I THINK THAT, AS A SMALLER PART OF GREEK LIFE, NPHC HAS TO WORK A LOT HARDER TO BE

VISIBLE."

MORGAN FLEMING
ELON JUNIOR

BRANCHES IN COMPARISON*

NPHC

RECRUITMENT: Ongoing

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 44 people

YEAR ESTABLISHED: 1981

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS: 6

PHC/IFC

RECRUITMENT: Late Jan./ Early Feb.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 2,313

YEAR ESTABLISHED: 1970

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS: 17

GRAPHIC BY MEGAN GRAVELY | Design Editor

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Losing streak bearing burden on Elon men's basketball



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

The Elon men's basketball team has endured a tough stretch recently as it rides a four-game losing streak and eight losses in its past nine games.

Miles Garrett
Sports Editor

It has been a long season for the Elon University men's basketball team.

After 25 games, the Phoenix has a record of 11-14 and currently sits in the middle of a four-game losing streak.

In its first full season as a member of the Colonial Athletic Association, Elon has had its fair share of ups and downs.

Early on, unfamiliar competition loomed, earning the Phoenix a projected last-place finish in preseason conference standings. Head coach Matt Matheny was faced with the burden of replacing four 1,000-point

scorers from the 2013-2014 season while also having to slowly work in incoming freshmen to the current roster.

Elon showed signs early in the season that it could compete at a high level.

After an impressive month in December when the Phoenix went 5-2, including close games against the University of Missouri and Duke University, Elon has swayed off course.

The Phoenix has found wins hard to come by in the last three weeks. Elon has lost eight of its last nine games, all against CAA competition, by an average of 11.1 points.

Despite the losses this season, Matheny remains optimistic about his team.

"I enjoy coaching this team," Matheny said after Elon's 67-63 loss to Drexel University on Feb. 5.

"We have to keep our heads up and keep fighting."

Injuries have played a factor in how Matheny has had to shuffle the starting lineup. During the season, the Phoenix lost sophomore guard Luke Eddy to an ACL tear and senior forward Ryan Winters to a back injury. Eddy was leading the team in scoring at the time of his injury and was replaced by freshman guard Elijah Bryant.

"We are climbing a pretty steep mountain," Matheny said. "We've seen some beautiful views, but we have a lot of climbing to

do."

Partially because of the injuries, Matheny employs a four-guard starting lineup in the middle of conference play. With this change came size disadvantages for an already small Elon team.

Instead, junior guard Tanner Samson believes having a four-guard starting lineup can act as an advantage against their opposition.

"It can create problems for other teams," Samson said. "We do well at boxing out, I think it works well for us."

Defense is another problem that has faced the team. Elon has given up an average of 70.1 points per game throughout this season and has become accustomed to starting games slow. In the first half of games this year Elon, has scored 787 points, almost 200 points less than it did in the second half (978).

"The No. 1 thing we need to improve on is defense," said junior center Tony Sabato. "The past few games we're giving up more than 50 percent [field-goal percentage] from the field, so we're really trying to limit that down."

As the season winds down the Phoenix has little time to gain momentum heading into the CAA tournament March 6-9. With six conference games remaining, the clock is ticking for Elon to make the necessary changes to close out its inaugural year in the CAA.

With adjustments forthcoming in its defensive game, the players need to take time for self-development.

"Just worrying about ourselves more than anything is most important," Samson said. "Focus on the defensive end and keep working at that and make little improvements. We should be all right."

Skrosky embraces recruiting grind

Through all the dialouge, some soft, some harsh, Rich Skrosky has stayed true to his words in regard to recruiting.



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist

From his first day as Elon University football coach, he's preached about taking more of a hands-on approach to recruiting with an emphasis on targeting prospects from North Carolina.

As National Signing Day fades into the distance, it's fair to say he succeeded in that.

Elon signed 19 players in the class of 2015 with 13 hailing from North Carolina.

Running back Malcolm Summers from Eastern Alamance High School in Mebane and receiver Tereak McCray from Walter M. Williams High School in Burlington both come from schools in Alamance County.

Recruiting players from the surrounding area was something Skrosky did while serving as Elon's offensive line coach and later offensive coordinator under Pete Lembo from 2006-2010. When hired as head coach in December 2013, he brought that idea up.

"We said last year at this time, that was really important," Skrosky said.

Then, Skrosky had little time to assemble his staff and hit the road recruiting. There were less than two months between the day he was hired and National Signing Day.

Having a full year now to establish relationships with recruits and their families was a key factor in pulling in a full class of 19 players — the number Skrosky wanted to reach. There were 17, but two more commit-

ted during Elon's hour-long Signing Day online show.

Take offensive lineman Matt Kowalewski as an example. A recruit from Charlotte Catholic High School, Kowalewski was Elon's first commitment in this year's class when he verbally committed early last summer.

Skrosky said Kowalewski and his family have been on campus more than 10 times already, which he believed helped.

Then there's quarterback Daniel Thompson, who Skrosky said is an important piece to the puzzle because of his "leadership and magnetism." He committed last summer, too, and is someone who the staff is excited about thanks to the relationships built in the past year. His brother, Dylan, played quarterback at the University of South Carolina, so he's from a football family.

"The mantras going out were competitiveness and [being] passionate about football," Skrosky said. "I can't overstate that enough, how well we get to know these kids."

Skrosky said most of the in-state players were offered by Elon very early in the process. In fact, the 2016 recruiting cycle has already begun.

He claimed some offers have already been extended to players who could potentially be a part of next year's signing class.

"We've made it a personalized process," Skrosky said. "If we get in early on a kid, if we educate them to what Elon is and what Elon has to offer and we get them on our campus, we'll have a great shot."

Skrosky's stuck to his words and established a unique recruiting blueprint. Now, it's time for it to translate to the field.



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Head football coach Rich Skrosky will welcome 19 players from the 2015 recruiting class.

Ahead of their class

Freshmen Hannah Olson and Kara Shutt make presence known on the field



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

(Left to right) Kara Shutt congratulates Hannah Olson after Olson scores during the game against USC Upstate on Sunday, Feb. 8. The two freshmen made an immediate impact as Elon won its first three games.

Robbie Nanna
Senior Reporter

Two freshmen, shortstop Hannah Olson

and center fielder Kara Shutt, have had to adapt pretty quickly in their first year as members of Elon University's softball team. Both play positions that require a great

deal of leadership.

"They're not freshmen," said Elon softball head coach Kathy Bocock. "They don't have an opportunity to be that and they understand that."

Olson hails from Yorktown, Virginia, where she attended Grafton High School. Her high school accolades include being named the "No. 3 Female Athlete to Watch" by the Daily Press in 2013. Olson's high school performance earned her All-District, Region and State Player of the Year awards.

In her short time at Elon, Olson has had to step up as a leader on the field.

"She has quick hands and quick feet, and if she keeps playing the way she has been, I think our middle [infield] is going to be great," Shutt said.

Shutt, a Greensboro native, also had an impressive resume coming out of high school. As she earned All-Conference, Area, District, State and Conference Player of the Year awards from the Greensboro News & Record.

"Her skills in the outfield are undeniable," Olson said. "She can read balls off the bat like I've never seen before, and she doesn't try to do too much when she's hitting."

In their first live action, Shutt and Olson both stepped up to the plate. Olson's intelligent baserunning and Shutt's clutch hitting were vital to the team's three wins during opening weekend.

Olson had a batting average of .500 for the weekend and an on-base percentage of

.615. Her aggressive baserunning accounted for six of Elon's 16 runs for the entire weekend and also added three stolen bases.

Shutt was an offensive force for the Phoenix and had an extra inning walk-off single in the team's first game against Radford University. She hit .444, tallying three doubles and three runs batted in.

"They came in with a great attitude and confidence," said senior infielder Aly Quintana. "They know how to play the game and that alone is huge for us as a team."

What they lack in experience, they make up for in smarts.

"They have a knowledge of the game, they're confident, they're gritty and they'll get after it," Bocock said.

On a team where 10 of the 18 players are of sophomore or freshman standing, some younger players must step up and take control on the field. Olson and Shutt have led by example.

"I'm working on hitting with [assistant] coach [Tyler] Engle, and I just want to bring my speed to the outfield," Shutt said.

If Olson and Shutt continue to play in the same form as their first few games it proves beneficial for Elon's season outlook. While it is still early in the season, Bocock believes the team can rally off of the energy Olson and Shutt bring.

"They're quiet, but there's never a time they don't hustle, and the girls see that," Bocock said. "And how could you not follow people like that?"

Elon women's lacrosse examines growth entering second season

Kyle Lubinsky
Senior Reporter

The Elon University women's lacrosse team's game against No. 8 Duke University Feb. 7 served as a progress report grading the team's growth through one full year as an active program.

The Phoenix fell 17-8 to the Blue Devils.

Elon previously faced Duke in its inaugural season, losing 25-4 in Durham. That game happened precisely a year before Saturday's contest. It was also Elon's first lacrosse game ever.

In one short year, Elon has made waves across the state of North Carolina. It lost by just nine, as opposed to 21, to a top ten school in the nation, this is a staggering feat for a program so young.

"Any game we play, our opponents help us," said sophomore attacker Sloane Kessler. "We can get better, and they will exploit our weaknesses. We just look at this as getting better going forward."

Focusing on self-improvement rather than outcomes has been a healthy approach for the Phoenix. The team has treated every game so far as a learning experience.

"We never have expectations about wins and losses," said head coach Josh Hexter, who won the Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year award last year. "Regardless of the opponent, we just want to raise our level of play."

Hexter was hired from Duke's staff, where he was both an assistant coach and associate head coach from 2005-2012. During his time with the team, the Blue Devils had a combined record of 119-

42. His competitive spirit and knack for winning have both boosted Elon's efforts throughout its short history.

Part of the Elon's success has stemmed from the play put forth by its younger members.

The players on Elon's roster are mostly freshmen and sophomores, with only two upperclassmen on the team. Freshman midfielder Stephanie Asher has made an immediate impact, scoring seven goals in just two games this year. Kessler won Freshman of the Year in the Atlantic Sun last year, and has scored five goals this season.

The Phoenix started the season with a commanding 24-8 win against Kennesaw State University Jan. 31, the most goals Elon has ever scored in a game.

The jump to the Colonial Athletic Association provides a new challenge for the Phoenix, which went 8-9 last year.

"We're really excited about joining the CAA," Kessler said. "There's a lot of competitive teams in there, and with so much depth this year we're really excited."

With much of the lineup returning for at least two years, the Phoenix has time to grow as a team.

"The season is going to be great," Hexter said after the Duke game. "We have a really fun, athletic group, and I think the second half this game is going to be a turning point for us."

With so many young players, the outcome of games against big-name opponents down the road could be a different story.

ELON FOOTBALL TRYOUT MEETING

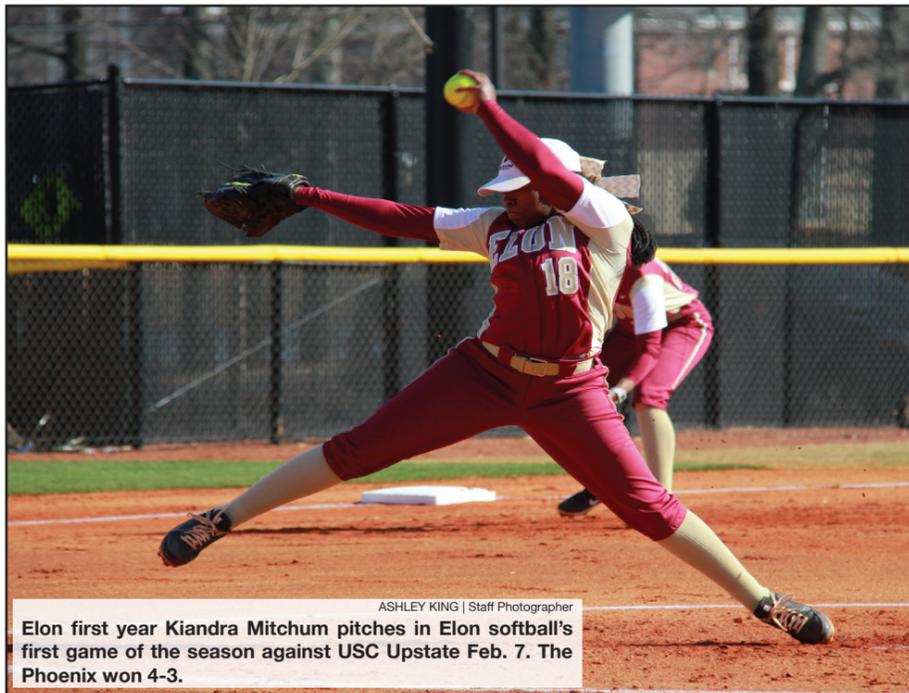


When: 7:00 a.m. Monday, Feb. 16

Where: Alumni Field House – Team Meeting Room
For: Current Elon University students who would like to learn more about the opportunity to try out for the football team

Questions? Please contact assistant coach Scott Browne at rbrowne@elon.edu

Top Photos and Tweets at Elon



Top Tweets



Austin Hamilton
@A_Ham10

Just recently got hip to the dressing at Chipotle. Game changer right there man



Scott Van Zile
@CoachVanZile

First time at Burlington's famous Zack's Hot Dogs. #BestDogInTheSouth



Grant Flick
@GFlick 21

Professor: "There will be nightly homework and readings." *slowly starts scrolling through add/drop*



Sam Walt Jones
@samwaltjones

And the Elon Grammy for most popular song goes to the Alamance train. #elon #grammys



Elon Gossip Squirrel
@xoGossipSquirrel

Typical Elon Masshole: "Back in Boston we are getting SO much snow right now!" Boston, the new name you gave your middle-of-nowhere hometown

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