

# THE PENDULUM

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## Scared into silence

Sexual assault persists as underreported college crime

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## THE PENDULUM

*Established 1974*

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# Behind closed doors

*Sexual assault remains unseen problem on college campuses*

Katherine Blunt  
News Editor

He stifled her frantic screams with a pillow and restrained her flailing limbs with brute force. She could barely breathe as he raped her. When he pulled her body on top of his and pushed her head between his legs, she managed to slip her wrist from his grasp and swiftly struck him in the genitals. Pain clouded his consciousness as she retrieved her clothes and fled into the night.

"I called my friends crying and they met me outside the dorm and helped me in and then called the Elon Police," said a former Elon University student who was granted anonymity by The Pendulum because of the sensitive nature of her experience. "The Elon Police took my statement, and then my friends took me to the hospital to get a rape kit done."

The attack ripped into her life like a violent storm and eroded nearly every aspect of her existence. Her health suffered, her relationships frayed and her spirit crumbled. Though the bruises she sustained eventually faded, the memory of that night never did.

The former student's attack was not an isolated incident. A 2009 study conducted at two large universities found 19 percent of college-aged women had experienced attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college. A national survey conducted in 2010 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found nearly 40 percent of female adult rape victims were first raped between ages 18 and 24.

The results of the 2009 college study echoed the findings of national studies conducted in 2000. And 1995. And 1986. The incidence of sexual assault at American colleges and universities has remained constant for nearly 30 years, a trend that many national, state and local lawmakers have tried to reverse with legislation such as the Clery

Act and revisions to Title IX procedures.

On college campuses, sexual assault policies largely influence whether students will report attacks and whether the attacks will be successfully prosecuted. As the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Occidental College, Swarthmore College and others wither in the national spotlight after allegedly mishandling several cases of sexual violence, institutions across the country are reexamining their policies and revising them to better support survivors' rights and interests. Elon will begin rewriting its sexual assault policies this summer.

"We know sexual assault is a big problem at Elon, and a lot of what I'll be working on is looking at our policies to see how we can make them more extensive and make sure they're all survivor-driven," said Becca Bishopric, coordinator for violence prevention and response at Elon. "We need to make sure students know where their confidential resources are."

Bishopric estimated the revision process will take approximately two years.

"To do it well, we need to sit down with a lot of different campus partners and community partners," she said. "All of these people need to have input so we can all be on the same page."

### Campus environment poses risks

The frequency of rape and sexual assault on college campuses has generated a large amount of both scholarship and speculation, for the college environment is rife with factors that may contribute to relatively high incidence rates. On many campuses, the weekend begins Thursday night and ends in the early hours of Sunday morning. Thousands of students scurry to parties or bars on weekend evenings and then wander back to their private rooms in the dark of night.

Although party culture is not causally related to sexual assault rates, alcohol is often involved in reports of sexual violence, according to several national studies. Elon is no exception. In 2012, the university required all incoming freshmen to complete a three-part survey of their lifestyle habits. The school conducted the first part of the survey in mid-July, the second part in mid-September and the final part in mid-October. The results illustrated how students' habits had changed after entering college.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AL DRAGO

One question asked female students to recall how frequently they were taken advantage of sexually after drinking alcohol in the two-week period prior to the survey. Before entering college, 92.2 percent said they had not been taken advantage of sexually during that time. After entering college, the percentage fell to 87.

Male students were asked a similar question. Prior to entering college, 96.2 percent said they had not taken advantage of someone sexually after drinking alcohol in that two-week period. After entering college, the percentage fell to 92.6.

"The results are very disturbing," said senior Erica Young, a SPARKS peer educator who is conducting research to determine how Elon can improve its sexual assault policies. "It clearly shows that we have higher rates of sexual assault among freshmen who

drink."

Many variables influence the correlation between alcohol consumption and the risk of sexual assault, but the question of consent figures most prominently into the equation. A student is clearly unable to consent to sexual activity if he or she is minimally responsive as a result of drinking, but the line is not always that distinct.

"I like to use the analogy of a contract," said Whitney Gregory, director of student conduct at Elon. "Would a contract be valid if someone signed it after having one drink? Probably. But after four drinks? Probably not."

Elon's official policy recognizes consent only if it was clearly expressed by a sober student, but Young said the policy should be used more as a guide, rather than a rule.

"I see it as more of a yellow light," she

said. "It requires students to be essentially sober, but it's not trying to say it's not consent if you're both clearly consenting. It just tells students to be cautious in those situations. It's hard to determine who is past the point of inebriation, so in those situations students should say, 'Maybe I should rethink what is happening here.'"

Students who are sexually assaulted while intoxicated may be less likely to report the incident for fear of facing disciplinary actions, according to Bishopric.

"We need to have an amnesty policy that guarantees that reporting that they were intoxicated during an incident would be in no way a student conduct sanction," she said. "I have a great understanding between my office and the student conduct office. Some of it is written down, but some of it isn't."

Even in the absence of an amnesty policy,

Gregory emphasized students should feel comfortable coming forward with their cases.

“We have never pursued alcohol violations for students who have reported sexual violence of any sort,” she said.

## The acquaintance factor

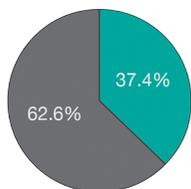
Panic overwhelmed her as he turned off the light and drunkenly advanced toward the bed. In the months she had known him, she had made it very clear she was not interested in a sexual relationship. He ignored her protests as he mounted the bed, pinned her beneath him and used his knee to pry apart her legs apart.

## By the numbers:

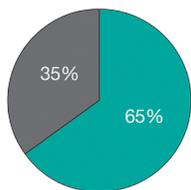
As many as **one in four students** are sexually assaulted by the time they graduate college.



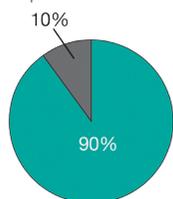
A survey conducted in 2010 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found **37.4 percent** of female adult rape victims were first raped between ages 18 and 24.



A four-year study by the U.S. Department of Justice found **65 percent** of rape or sexual assault victims did not report the incident to the police.



**90 percent** of survivors of sexual assault on college campuses know their attackers.



KRISTEN CASE | Design Chief

“I was struggling, and I’m not weak, but I’m not a super strong person,” said junior Spencer Barnardo. “I told him to get off of me, and he said, ‘If I wanted to do it, I could.’”

He released her, but he refused to let her leave the room. Only when he fell asleep was she able to sneak out of his bedroom. His words — “If I wanted to do it, I could” — still haunt her today.

“I remember having to walk by both of his roommates as I was leaving,” she said. “I thought to myself, how often does it happen that people are hanging out and doing whatever, while in the back room, someone is being hurt and violated in such a personal way?”

Many college administrators and advocacy groups struggle to answer Barnardo’s question. A study conducted in 2000 by the National Institute of Justice found nearly 90 percent of college women who had experienced attempted or completed rape on campus knew the perpetrator prior to the incident, an act commonly referred to as acquaintance rape or non-stranger sexual assault. The same study found nearly half of the victims surveyed did not define their attacks in that manner, rendering the problem difficult to fully address.

“Acquaintance rape doesn’t follow the stereotypical narrative of a stranger jumping out of the bushes with a weapon,” said Jordan Perry, coordinator for health promotion and substance education. “When our lived experiences don’t match the narrative, they seem to be less serious, but they’re not. Sexual assault on a college campus really has some unique components that you don’t always see in the external world. You’re returning to the same environment where the perpetrator is.”

Though deeply shaken by his words and actions, Barnardo, then a freshman, didn’t initially consider the incident an attempted rape. But when she heard one of her friends was alone with her attacker in his house, she felt the need to intervene.

“I didn’t trust him not to try it with someone else,” she said.

Barnardo, who was at another friend’s apartment at the time, called her friend and asked her to join the two of them. When her friend arrived at the apartment, Barnardo revealed what had happened the night she was attacked.

“They are the ones that pushed me to file charges,” she said. “They helped me see that this was a big deal, that it was not something I could just ignore and that I needed to do something about it.”

When Barnardo explained the situation to Leigh-Anne Royster, then the coordinator for violence prevention and response, Royster commended her for coming forward with the information.

“He had clear behavioral issues, and as Leigh-Anne pointed out, clear sexual issues,” Barnardo said. “She told me that what he said was a clear precursor to actual rape. If he can say that kind of thing, he can do that kind of thing. It was also very clear to us that the more he would drink, the worse his behavior would get.”

## Legislators push to stop sexual violence

Public awareness of acquaintance rape on college campuses is rooted in a study published in Ms. Magazine in October 1985. The three-year study, funded by the federal government, surveyed more than 7,000 students at 35 institutions of higher education. The results showed one in four women surveyed were victims of rape or attempted rape, and 84 percent of those who were raped knew the perpetrator prior to the attack.

The results of the survey discredited the common belief that rapists are strangers who ambush their victims in the dead of night, a stereotype The Pendulum criticized in an article published in April 1986.

“It is a myth that most rape victims are attacked by strangers,” wrote Rexanne Ayers, a junior at the time. “Researchers report that women usually blame themselves for the situation and feel that no one will believe them.”

That same month, Jeanne Clery, then a freshman at Lehigh University, was brutally raped, mutilated and murdered by a fellow student on campus. The tragedy inspired a 1988 law requiring colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to record crimes on campus and report them to students. At the time the legislation was passed, less than 4 percent of American colleges publicly reported campus crimes, according to information provided by the North Carolina Sexual Assault Prevention Team.

When the New York state legislature

proposed a similar statute, some weren’t sure whether mandatory disclosure of campus crime was necessary to promote students’ safety. George Sussman, then the executive director of the Association of Colleges and Universities in New York, seemed especially unconvinced.

“Colleges aren’t like cigarettes,” he told an Associated Press reporter in May 1989. “Most people don’t die from them.”

But a fuse had been lit, and Sussman couldn’t snuff it. Legislators, parents and students began calling for state and federal disclosure requirements. For the first time, Elon College added “sexual assault” to the “moral and decency offenses” listed in its 1988-1989 student handbook.

“It is unclear whether there is an increase in the number of rapes or in the number being reported, but officials say rape has surpassed theft as the principal security concern at colleges and universities around the country,” wrote Deirdre Carmody, then a New York Times reporter, in a 1989 article. “The concern centers on rapes committed by campus intruders as well as rapes by students who know their victims, a situation often referred to as date rape.”

The New York state legislation passed in 1990, as did the Federal Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act. For the first time, all American institutions of higher education were required to provide campus crime statistics to current and prospective students. The Campus Sexual Assault Victims’ Bill of Rights added in 1992 required colleges and universities to implement prevention policies and guarantee victims certain basic rights.

In 1993, Ohio’s Antioch College laid the foundation for what would become an effective consent policy in the following decade. At the time, the policy became the laughing stock of the media elite. The college “required” students to actively voice their consent at each stage of sexual intimacy, an idea The New Yorker spurned in an editorial that year.

“Making fun of the Antioch rules is a sport for people who find shooting fish in a barrel too challenging,” it read. “The rules don’t get rid of unwanted sex at all; they just shift the advantage from the muscle-bound frat boy to the honey-tongued French major.”

Regardless of its success, Antioch’s policy

was a sign of the times. Elon College created a separate subsection for sexual assault and rape in its 1992-1993 rules and regulations, and the remainder of the decade was marked by a surge in sexual assault prevention and response efforts. Both policy makers and college administrators began calling for greater accountability in handling such sensitive crimes, according to the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The government revised the Campus Security Act again in 1998 to expand reporting requirements and rename the law in remembrance of Jeanne Clery. Now, the Clery Act requires all campus police departments to keep a daily crime log and publish annual crime reports online.

The 1998 amendment also prohibits colleges and universities from using the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FER-

PA) as justification for their refusal to release the decisions of certain judicial hearings on campus, including sexual assault cases.

The federal government reinforced the need to prevent and prosecute sexual assault cases in all educational institutions in 2011 with its “Dear Colleague” letter. The letter, issued through the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education, clarified Title IX requirements regarding sexual violence and urged all institutions to uphold the requirements to the best of their abilities.

“A single instance of rape is sufficiently severe to create a hostile environment,” the letter read.

#### Assault rates prove challenging to measure

Despite efforts to strengthen reporting

requirements, bolster prevention programs and draft clearer consent policies, it remains difficult to document the scope of sexual violence on college campuses. Rape and sexual assault are highly underreported crimes. A four-year study by the U.S. Department of Justice conducted between 2006 and 2010 found 65 percent of rape and sexual assault victims did not report the incident to the police.

When a student chooses to report an incident to the campus or local police, the crime must be documented in the college or university’s annual crime report. But that number may not necessarily represent the true number of sex offenses that occurred on campus during any given year. Many students who choose to report their attacks seek confidential resources, and at many universities, the number of sex offenses re-

corded in an annual crime report does not include the number of reports made to violence prevention coordinators, counselors or chaplains.

Elon’s Campus Safety and Police Department recognizes two types of sex offenses as defined by the Clery Act: forcible and non-forcible. A forcible sex offense is defined as “any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.” A non-forcible sex offense is defined as unlawful sexual intercourse such as incest and statutory rape.

In 2010, Elon reported two forcible sex offenses. In 2011, it reported one. According to Bishopric, the numbers fail to accurately reflect the extent of the crimes and may skew the university’s perception of the problem. During the 2010-2011 academic year, confidential responders at Elon received 36 reports of interpersonal violence at Elon. They received the same number of reports in 2011-2012. Interpersonal violence includes sexual assault, relationship violence, harassment and stalking.

“A lot of times, schools delegate resources based on police reports, and that’s not the same as confidential reports,” Bishopric said. “What’s reported there is a very narrow definition of sexual violence and assault.”

Vickie Moehlman, a Campus Safety and Police captain, said the department will include the number of confidential reports in its 2012 crime report, which must be filed by Oct. 1, 2013.

“We have seen the number of confidential reports in the past, but the location of the incident was never included,” Moehlman said. “If we don’t know where it happened, we can’t include it in the report. The 2012 numbers will include the location of the incidents, so we can put them in the report.”

#### Defining sexual assault

What constitutes rape or sexual assault is, in some ways, rather arbitrary. Definitions vary on federal, state and local levels.

“It can be so confusing for survivors,” Bishopric said. “Most don’t know their options or if what happened to them fell under one of the many definitions of sexual assault. The overarching goal is to have a clear definition of what sexual violence is.”



Last year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation updated its definition of rape to include “the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.” Prior to the revision, the bureau used its 1929 definition — the “carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will” — to collect data and crime statistics.

“That was a big victory, but that doesn’t filter down,” Bishopric said. “It’s not consistent with Clery definitions, and state laws really vary. University policies are also different from college to college.”

Elon does not explicitly define rape and sexual assault in its student handbook. It refers instead to “non-consensual sexual acts,” an all-encompassing term defined as “any attempted or actual sexual contact directed against another person by a student in the direct absence of effective, mutually understandable consent.” The handbook condemns the use of force during any sexual act and emphasizes a student who is mentally or physically incapacitated cannot effectively communicate consent.

Ultimately, it is the student’s right to determine whether his or her experience constitutes rape or sexual assault, Bishopric said.

“I like to tell survivors that you can define your situation and that definitions don’t take away from what has happened to you,” she said. “However they want to define it is what they need to do.”

## Students often suffer revictimization

Students who muster the courage to report their attacks are often barraged with condescending questions and regarded with skeptical attitudes, for proof is a heavy burden when little physical or testimonial evidence exists to support it. Legal or disciplinary charges are often dropped in frustration or distress.

“It is difficult for a survivor to come forward because there is so much victim-blaming,” Bishopric said. “The Department of Justice says that only 2 percent of reports are untruthful, yet we have this overwhelming victim-blaming culture. We always ask, ‘Are you sure that actually happened?’ That’s so demeaning to their experience. It’s also totally inaccurate based on the statistics we have.”

When the anonymous former Elon student reported her attack to the local police, the backlash was immediate. Her roommate turned against her, her friends spread false rumors and strangers began harassing her.

“My friends, before I changed dorms, just didn’t get it,” she said. “They got mad at me for being upset about it. I became so afraid to even answer a phone call from an unknown number because I would receive calls harassing me so often.”

Bishopric said victim-blaming, often perpetuated by females, is a psychological defense mechanism.

“Women are more likely to victim-blame because if I, as a woman, make it sound like you could have done something to stop the attack, it makes me feel safer,” she said. “That is totally false. It’s something women do as a protective thing.”

The student transferred to a school in another state at the end of the academic year, but the harassment persisted. She continued to press charges as she was derided from afar.

“My first year at my new school was still kind of miserable because I was being harassed the first semester, and then toward the end of first semester and all of second semester the lawyers would check in with me about different aspects of the case,” she said. “It was just taking over my life.”

When she heard the perpetrator hired an expensive lawyer, she was forced to reconsider her course of action.

“The lawyer had a reputation of being really mean with victims on the stand,” she said. “After about a year and a half, I went to North Carolina and decided to drop the charges because I couldn’t devote any more of my life to this.”

She said she might pursue the case in civil court.

When Barnardo chose to file charges with the university judicial system, some of her friends refused to testify on her behalf.

“There were some people who had witnessed his behavior and knew it was wrong, but still said to us, ‘What did you expect? You knew what he was like, and you got what was coming to you,’” Barnardo said. “I actually had two people tell my friends that I got what I deserved.”

## Pressing charges

The road to justice splits for students who



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
**Landen Gambill, a sophomore at UNC Chapel Hill, filed a federal complaint against the university claiming the school retaliated against her after she criticized the way it handled sexual assault cases.**

wish to file charges against their attackers. They may travel through a student conduct process, a criminal process or a civil process. Students may press student conduct and criminal charges simultaneously, but most pursue only one form of prosecution.

At Elon and many other institutions, a student judicial hearing proceeds far differently than a criminal trial. Both rely on either physical or testimonial evidence to determine the outcome, but the university determines whether the accused party is guilty of the charges by “preponderance of evidence,” a lower standard of proof than “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

“We try hard to communicate that the student handbook is not meant to mimic the legal system,” Gregory said. “It’s different philosophically. We’re still trying to achieve justice, but through the lens of the Honor Code. We’re trying to reframe the conversation outside of the legal system.”

Though the standard of evidence is lower

in a university judicial hearing, sexual assault cases are complex and often difficult to navigate in a way that is fair to both the victim and the alleged perpetrator.

“We contact the accused and let him or her know the university is investigating charges against them, and then we get their perspective before pursuing investigation,” Gregory said. “There are so many factors we have to look at. Was there clear force? If there was force, all other factors are relevant, but we don’t need to get into as many details, such as coercion, manipulation, intoxication and effective communication.”

All sexual assault cases at Elon are brought before an administrative board composed of four trained faculty and staff members. Gregory said this practice helps prevent mistrials or biased verdicts, which may occur when a university refers sexual assault cases to a student honor board. UNC Chapel Hill was recently criticized for handling sexual assault cases in that manner.

“Our administrative hearing board is trained to ask good questions to get at the information, but not to judge,” Gregory said. “They bring multiple perspectives to the table.”

When Barnardo filed charges against her attacker through the university, Royster encouraged her to gather complaints from other students, as well.

“Leigh-Anne said that we would have a better chance of something actually happening if multiple people came forward,” Barnardo said. “It was actually very hard to find people who were willing to get involved. I think there ended up being four of us who were actually charging him with violations, and then a few who gave witness statements.”

Barnardo’s correspondence with Elon staff members and administrators during the filing process led her to believe she would only be able to learn the outcome of the hearing if she attended it herself.

“I considered it, but I couldn’t do it,” Barnardo said. “I knew I couldn’t just sit there in a room with him and have him give me that look that says, ‘How could you do this to me?’ as if this was me trying to hurt him in some way.”

Two years have elapsed since the hearing took place, and Barnardo has no idea what kind of sanctions her attacker received, if any. He is still a student at Elon.

“We heard rumors from people that he was supposed to be expelled, but that was obviously not the case,” she said. “It kills me that we just don’t know what happened.”

A student who presses sexual assault charges against another student is afforded the right to know the outcome of the hearing under section eight of the Clery Act. According to Gregory, Elon’s policies reflect that provision.

“Our process has been aligned with recommendation and requirements that came out two years ago,” she said. “We have always let the survivor know the outcome.”

When the anonymous former student filed her statement with the police, her attacker filed a counterstatement that said she had consented. But her body bore telling signs of trauma, and the university took immediate action against him.

“He wasn’t allowed on campus at first, and then he was only allowed to be on campus for his classes,” she said. “When he was allowed to be on campus, I remember be-

ing really scared that I would run into him, and I think the school did the best it could because he had to tell the dean of judicial affairs where he would be at every moment of every day, and if he lied, then he would be in more trouble.”

Her attacker withdrew before a student conduct hearing could commence, but the legal process pressed on for months. It was exhausting, depressing and ultimately fruitless.

“The legal process is hard because North Carolina’s definitions of sexual assault are a bit confusing,” Bishopric said. “There is the definition of rape, then there is the definition of sexual offense. Under North Carolina law, rape is only the penetration of the vagina by a penis. Sexual assault carries the same penalties if someone is charged with a sexual offense, but that’s a challenge of someone wanting to go through a legal process.”

Ultimately, both Barnardo and the anonymous student said they were highly disappointed in the way their cases played out.

“I just don’t feel like justice was served,” Barnardo said. “I ask myself, ‘What came of this?’ I got a lot of negativity for it, and I almost don’t feel like it was worth it because it seems like nothing had changed.”

#### Campus organizations push forward

Elon offers many resources for survivors of rape and sexual assault. Confidential responders are available at any time to receive reports, support students in the hospital and file charges with the police. The university also sponsors prevention programming through SPARKS peer education and the offices of violence prevention and health promotion.

But many students and staff members feel the university can do more to meet the needs of its students. In her research, Young has compared Elon’s sexual assault policies to those of its peer and aspirant institutions in order to determine where the university’s policies fall short. She found Elon’s written policies are far less extensive than those of many other institutions, including Bucknell University and the College of William and Mary.

“If we want to have a comprehensive policy, we need protocol and definitions that students can easily access and understand,” she said. “We have a lot of great policies in

practice, and Becca is awesome as a confidential responder, but if you don’t have certain things clearly written in policy, it’s not easily understood.”

Young recommended adding an amnesty policy, as well as policies that clearly outline a survivor’s rights and options for proceeding.

Bishopric agreed. She applied for a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice to create a sexual assault response team at Elon.

“One of the main tasks for that team would be looking at our policy to make it clear, consistent and accessible across the board,” she said. “We have to give them the clear evidence of where they can go. It’s clear we need to do more interfacing with first-year students. We’re trying to find ways to do it thoughtfully.”

Bishopric said she plans to expand existing prevention programs, as well.

“The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault developed a packet of best practices,” she said. “That’s another thing that we’re finding is really important. They focus a lot on prevention methods, while most of our policies are responsive. It’s not a model, but rather more of a how-to guide. We’ll be looking at these guidelines as we update our policies.”

In the meantime, many programs on campus are vying to raise awareness about sexual assault and offer support to survivors. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and April 24, SPARKS is hosting Take Back the Night, a rally to promote awareness on campus.

“People will be more comfortable coming forward if they know they have a lot of support behind them,” Bishopric said. “We need to make that shift and educate our people.” §



Senior Erica Young has researched the sexual assault policies of Elon’s peer and aspirant institutions to determine how the university can improve the way it handles sexual violence on campus.

# Students question campus acceptance of diversity

Katherine Blunt and Ethan Smith  
News Editors

After they felt the school couldn't help them, seniors Blake Thompson and Deanna Fox took matters into their own hands.

A note posted on the second floor of Thompson's apartment building quickly evolved into a campus-wide conversation about diversity at Elon University. Now, Thompson and Fox are vying to keep the conversation going.

"We're trying to get a list of alumni, current students, faculty and staff who feel like they have been discriminated against on this campus," Fox said. "Just like what they do with Holocaust Remembrance Day, they read off the list of names. We want to do the same thing with this list and make Elon more aware of the reality because people don't know about it. They like to push it aside and say, 'Oh it's just one incident,' but really, it's happening on this campus every day."

The note posted in Thompson's apartment building contained the term "coon tunes," a racial slur that refers to hip-hop and rap music. After finding the note, Thompson and Fox reconstructed the poster and hung copies around campus in an effort to raise awareness about what had happened.

Their actions had unintended consequences. Neither students nor administrators knew where the posters came from, and several expressed concerns about its racial undertones.

"A lot of people didn't understand what the term 'coon' actually meant," Fox said. "We thought it would be good to raise awareness about what the term meant, so we put that on the reconstructed poster."

The students were told they violated the Honor Code by hanging the posters around campus.

"For us, it felt like we were being blamed for what was happening on this campus," Fox said. "The victim was being blamed for trying to raise awareness about what had happened."

Thompson met with Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, to discuss what could be done to address the in-

cident and discuss its implications. Thompson said he was disappointed by Jackson's response.

"He told me two things," Thompson said. "He said, 'You live off campus, so Elon can't help you, and the police can't help you because no law was broken.' So I'm wondering, how are you helping me as an Elon student? You're part of our senior administration, and you're not helping your student."

Jackson said the university must take several factors into consideration when dealing with off-campus occurrences.

"Is it against policy?" Jackson asked. "There is not a right and a wrong answer. You can express what you want to say, even if it's offensive. You need to reinforce the free expression of ideas. Who will decide what's harmful to others? That's a difficult thing to say. The university is not going to physically go and start banging on doors."

Jackson responded to the incident by sending an email to all undergraduate students explaining the nature of the situation.

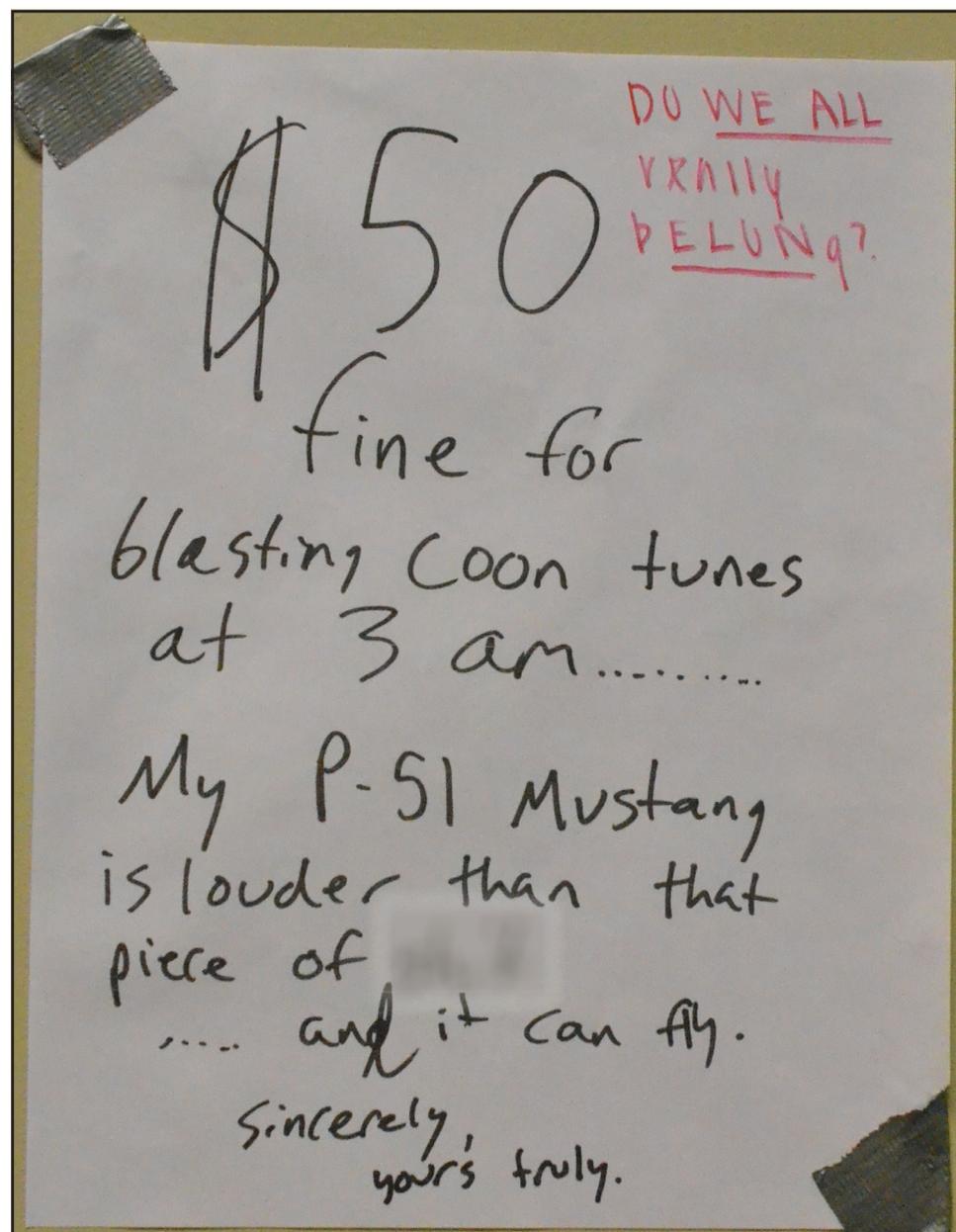
"Students, faculty and staff are partnering to create more conversation around racism at Elon," he said in his email. "Also, many offices on campus already offer diversity education conversation and programs. But we want to engage more in these efforts."

The Office of Inclusivity also worked with Thompson and Fox to organize several meetings following the incidents. The forums were an effort to start a conversation about the climate of diversity at Elon and the responsibility of everyone on campus to promote a more accepting environment. One meeting was for the black community only, and the second meeting was for everyone on campus.

"We decided it would be a good thing to have grassroots forums about these issues," Jackson said. "But we felt the second forum for the whole community wasn't really publicized well."

The inclusivity council will soon consolidate notes from the meetings and recommend to the senior administration how to best address the issue of diversity on campus, according to Jackson. Thompson and Fox will be involved in the effort.

"We're going to reconvene with a thinkers' group and a writers' group, and we're



Thompson reposted a note left in his apartment building after adding the question, "Do we all really bELONG?"

going to start really diving into the things we want on this campus in regards to discrimination," Thompson said. "First, it starts with us. It starts with the programs that are already in place. On a larger scale, we need to have someone on the senior administrative staff who is looking out for people who don't look like the rest of the senior administrative staff."

Thompson and Fox said they hope the conversation will continue after they graduate next month.

"I feel like there aren't enough students on this campus willing to stand up and be heard because they're so afraid," Fox said. "They're afraid of what can happen on this campus and all the rules and regulations we have to follow."

Jackson said he appreciates their efforts to improve the campus climate.

"Seniors really care and want to leave Elon better," he said. "They have the feeling that this isn't the end, even though they won't be as physically present."

# A need for weed?

*Gauging  
Elon's  
marijuana  
culture  
proves  
challenging*



Marijuana. Weed. Ganja. Cannabis. Pot. Doesn't matter what you call it, it's a hot-button issue in American culture right now, especially with the full legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington since the last election and marijuana legislation in Congress in several more states. The issue of marijuana is one which has plagued college campuses for years. But how is it affecting Elon University?

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Mary Kate Brogan  
Social Media & Web Editor

## Students by day, smokers by night

It's a warm spring night at Elon. Some students are holed up in the library writing papers, some are at the gym working on their beach bods for banquet weekends, some are cheering on their favorite team on TV, some are already passed out from exhaustion and some are recovering from the sunburn they sustained from the hot sunny day. But whether they be few or many, students somewhere in the Elon area are transitioning from baking in the sun to getting baked in the moonlight.

For Nate\*, Ben\*, Brian\* and John\*, this ritual is one they would be doing regardless of the nice weather. It's a routine they've gotten into, one they do three or more times a week. They pile into the car, crank up some tunes and light up a joint as they drive off campus.

"This might be one of my best joints all year," Ben says with a grin. He inhales and hacks a bit, then hands it off to Nate.

"I love cruising," Ben says. "It's probably one of my favorite things to do. Good music, good friends, good weed, that's my life. The best is when you're just in a nice safe location."

The reason for safe locations is to tamp down paranoia.

"Cause you want to make that level of paranoia the least it can possibly be," John says as he takes the joint. "I feel like the minute that weed becomes legalized, it will just become a better drug."

The growing haze in the car clears a bit when John opens his window. To someone unfamiliar with the practices of weed smokers, it seems like a whole new world of coughing, laughing and smoke. A world of 90s music. A world free of problems.

Well, except the fear of the "squale" or the "pigs" — the police.

"A lot of people, especially when they're new to smoking, it's like they smoke and weed can cause paranoia," Ben says. "And being scared of the cops is not a healthy thing when you're on a drug that can cause paranoia."

Brian says while they're willing to take the risk of smoking, they're still nervous about getting caught and try to be as safe as possible. After they get past the possibility of getting caught, typically their next big concern is what music to play, a topic Ben and Brian often dis-

agree on.

But as the conversation flows on, it turns out Ben and Brian's opinions differ on other things as well, like the culture of weed at Elon.

"I feel like at Elon, because there's a lot of supervision, which is great because the classes are smaller, you check in a lot more with professors and so you have events that you have to go to," Brian says. "And that's why drugs aren't able to overtake the lives of many, while at other big schools, when students don't check in and they have huge lecture classes, you can let it become the entirety of your life."

But Ben says he knows people at other schools who are able to handle being high all the time and still function at a normal level, and he says he thinks these people exist in the context of Elon as well.

Ben and Brian also seem to disagree on the possible issues with legalizing marijuana.

"It's no worse for you than alcohol or tobacco," Ben says. "That's unarguable. It's at most on par with those, and those are legalized, so by right, those should be in the same classification. My argument is that marijuana would not be as detrimental to society as alcohol is."

Brian says if marijuana is added to the current equation, it might create a bigger problem. But Ben says if we go off past example, banning illegal substances makes the problem worse.

"Now let's consider prohibition," he says. "Prohibition was led by a massive women's coalition. Prohibition then led to an increase in alcoholism and drinking across the country. You illegally prohibit it, and it spikes."

After a few minutes of debate, the guys quiet down a bit and just enjoy the cruise, talking about other things and, after a while, about how marijuana affects them. John says it affects everybody differently.

"I think weed just makes you more aware of everything," Nate says. "Like you focus on more things. Because I will think about the way that my nose hairs feel for 20 minutes."

Ben says he occasionally gets lost in a train of thought for long periods of time when he smokes.

And after a long bout of thinking and conversation, the boys head back to campus, back to their normal lives as students. How many students have this type of ritual? While the boys said they don't know for sure, they feel a

lot of students do what they do from time to time.

## Is the grass greener in college?

Much like underage alcohol use, marijuana use may be kept under the rug, but it is certainly not absent from universities nationwide. And with the recent legalization of medical

and non-medical marijuana in several states, the issue of marijuana on college campuses is becoming more complex than ever.

But just how common is marijuana?

According to a 2011 survey by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), marijuana use in 18 to 25 year olds is the highest it has been in at least 10 years. Nineteen percent of the pop-

ulation in that age group said they had used marijuana within a month prior to the study.

“For young adults in many ways, the drug levels have remained pretty constant and in some ways have gone down,” said Brad Stone, a press postman for SAMHSA. “But the one place that we have seen a rise is in marijuana use.”

Stone said the survey, which interviews approximately 67,500 people per year, accurately determines what direction the nation is moving with drug use, though it can’t determine why.

Marijuana use has increased nationwide, and Elon students seem divided on whether marijuana has a strong presence at the university.

Cameron\*, an Elon University sophomore, smokes weed several times per week. He said he believes many students at Elon smoke marijuana, if not regularly then at least recreationally.

“It’s incredibly common,” he said. “I think about everybody you run into does it.”

Jodean Schmiederer, assistant dean of students at Elon, disagreed. She said most students view marijuana culture through the people with which they surround themselves.

“I think the perception is that everybody does it,” Schmiederer said. “But really everybody doesn’t do it. I think you routinely see it, and so the perspective is it’s widely accepted and that everybody does it just because you see it happening frequently. But one person smoking doesn’t mean that everybody is smoking.”

Freshman Ashley Halinski, who considers herself opposed to marijuana use, said she agrees who students hang out with determines how common they think the drug is. She said she feels marijuana is less common at Elon than at larger schools, but is still fairly common.

Cameron, on the other hand, said he feels marijuana use at Elon is very common.

“I think there’s a high volume of people who smoke weed in comparison to the total number of people who go here,” he said. “I think if it was a larger school, maybe it wouldn’t be the same. But if you’re saying we have 5,000 students, I would think at least half smoke weed, recreationally, maybe on weekends, and then about half that smoke regularly.”

Schmiederer said it is difficult to rely on one person’s opinion when trying to characterize marijuana’s commonality because so many

people have so many different perspectives.

“I think there are some students that think marijuana use is normal,” Schmiederer said. “I think there are just as many, if not more, students who think it’s something they might try but that they’re not going to continue to do, and I think there are some students — an equal number or more — who think it’s not something they want to do, because it’s illegal and they don’t want to be around it.”

Dennis Franks, director of campus safety and police, said he does not consider marijuana common on Elon’s campus, especially not in comparison to alcohol.

“Is marijuana here? Yes,” he said. “Do we see it all the time? No. So I struggle to say that it’s a common thing.”

Overall, marijuana’s prevalence at Elon is up for debate, but it is safe to say marijuana has a presence at Elon, much like it does at many other universities across the country. As under wraps as its presence may be, it is still quite visible on Elon’s campus.

## Weighing the effects of marijuana on individuals, society

The debate regarding the benefits and consequences of legalizing marijuana has been going on for ages, but for the first time, more than 50 percent of Americans think marijuana should be legalized. Earlier this month, a survey of 1,501 adults by the Pew Research Center for the Public and the Press revealed 52 percent of Americans said the use of marijuana should be legal, while 45 percent said it should be illegal.

The issue is pertinent on the state level, where some state legislators are taking strides toward legalizing marijuana. Other legislators, like those in the state of North Carolina, have not budged on changing marijuana legislation. Progress on House Bill 84 — a bill proposed earlier this year to legalize medical marijuana — was stopped in late February shortly after it was proposed.

North Carolina Representative Kelly Alexander, who sponsored the bill, said H.B. 84 would have allowed physicians to prescribe medical cannabis to patients with painful lingering conditions in order to ease their pain.

“The bottom line is it can help sick people, specifically people who are suffering from chronic debilitating conditions,” Alexander said.

Alexander also said the bill may have rem-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

As more states legalize marijuana, college campuses face growing problems with regulating weed on campus.

edied some of the problems with lack of research in the field by setting aside a portion of taxes for research on the effects of marijuana.

Robert Capecchi, deputy director of state policies for the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), said the MPP was in support of H.B. 84. The MPP advocates for a taxation and regulation model of marijuana similar to the current model for alcohol.

"It's not as much the benefits of legalizing marijuana as it is the negative consequences of prohibition that need to be rolled back," Capecchi said. "People want to use marijuana. People are going to use marijuana despite criminal laws against it, so how are those people going to get marijuana? Currently, they're going to the criminal market. They enrich the criminal market. There are no taxes that are captured on that, so any cost borne by the state for the effects of the use of marijuana, there's nothing recaptured."

While some outside the Elon community may be adamant about the legalization of marijuana, Schmiederer made it clear that even

if marijuana becomes legal in North Carolina, students caught with the substance may still face an Honor Code violation. She said the university does not plan to alter its Honor Code, because the charge would still violate federal law.

"I think the challenge with marijuana from a philosophical perspective is that if marijuana was legalized, one of my concerns is still someone is selling it," Schmiederer said, "And the individuals that are selling it don't always have the best of intentions. When you invite people from the outside onto Elon's campus or into our community, they bring other concerns with them. So if you've got a dealer, typically they have a lot of other issues and challenges. They're not somebody we want in our community for the safety of everyone else."

Freshman Danny Kirk said if marijuana had been legalized in North Carolina before he came to Elon, he might have chosen a different school.

"There were kids here celebrating when Colorado legalized marijuana because it was one step toward the rest of the states legal-

izing it," he said. "So it might be more socially acceptable, but I still wouldn't do it because of the health and mental risks."

These health risks are plentiful, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. According to a fact sheet provided by NIDA, the adverse effects of marijuana can include increased heart rate, respiratory problems in frequent users, an altered psychological state, paranoia, anxiety and depression, among other symptoms.

"I don't think it's very healthy for anyone to do anything that alters who they are," said freshman Ashley Halinski. "Anything that kind of messes with your mind or changes your personality or the way you think cannot be healthy for you. And people say how it's not addictive, but I feel like it's mentally addictive."

Studies have shown marijuana can also be psychologically addictive. About 9 percent of users become addicted to marijuana, according to NIDA.

At the same time, many who argue for the legalization of medical marijuana say it can benefit those with cancer and other conditions

such as AIDS and glaucoma. But because it is a Schedule I controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, it is illegal to conduct large-scale marijuana studies, so there is very little literature on the subject. Some of the small amount of literature does address marijuana's potential medical benefits.

A 2000 study in the Journal of Public Health reported in 1985 the FDA approved Marinol, a synthetic form of medical marijuana, for treatment of nausea and vomiting in chemotherapy patients who did not respond to conventional therapy. The FDA also approved its use as an appetite stimulant for those affected by AIDS in 1992, the study said.

Because of its listing as a Schedule I substance, few studies have been legally conducted on the benefits of medical marijuana. But as states continue to discuss whether marijuana should be legalized, the United States will likely obtain more insight into the risks and benefits of marijuana. §

*\* Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the source.*



## Congratulations to Elon University's Phi Beta Kappa 2013 Inductees

Kaitlyn Rose Antonelli  
Elizabeth Sullivan Appleby  
Emily Joan Banks  
Chelsea Deidre Beveridge  
Emily Dell Buehler  
Caitlin Elizabeth Clarke  
Kristen Monica Conroy  
Morgan Leigh Denecke  
Alyssa Gail Flashburg  
Matthew Robert Florian  
Meredith Nicole Frazier  
Oliver Daniel Frey  
Hollyn Kae Geibel  
Elizabeth Bement Gibson  
Brett Alexandria Gladish  
Becca Leah Goldstein  
Jordan Leigh Grande  
Kathryn Olivia Hjalmarson

Kirsten Stacy Holland  
Sarah Anne Hoopes  
Melissa Benna Kansky  
Matthew Ryan Kavalek  
Amy Rae Kenney  
Sarah Rebecca Lentz  
Laura Phillips Martens  
Anna McAfee McCracken  
Erin Elizabeth Mellett  
Julia Nicole Miller  
Gregory Michael Nantz  
Elise Kelly Noyes (omitted!)  
Christine Ellen Pacewicz  
Jill Marie Padfield  
Elizabeth Anne Perdue  
Caroline Margaret Pittard  
Thomason William Price  
Jennifer Lynne Proto

Tara Lalita Raghavan  
Kaila Nicole Robertson  
Julia Corbett Ronecker  
Millie Beth Rosen  
Robert Jacob Shapiro  
Rachel Rose Stanley  
Sara Lynn Stanton-Hoyle  
Andrew Titus Stevenson  
Even Jordan Studenmund  
Christine Louise Swanson  
Lindsay Jean Swenson  
Kelsey Marie Van Dalfsen  
Chelsea Anne Vollrath  
Mallory Ellen Wall  
Sandra Joy Weiss  
Alexandria June Weller  
Rachel Elizabeth Wilson  
Grand Coleman Woody

# Anonymous Elon Twitter accounts: #stereotypical

Who doesn't love a shout-out from @ElonGDIPblems addressing Jesus as "Everyone's favorite GDI"? There are tons of anonymous Twitter accounts focused on Elon University's campus culture, and, let's face it, they're witty and entertaining and we probably scroll a little slower when a tweet from @ElonConfessions appears on our feed.

Last month, @Elon\_Black\_Prob tweeted, "Just because the professor mentioned diversity doesn't mean you all stop writing typing and texting to look at the lone black person." Two weeks ago, @TheElonGay tweeted, "Stop what you're doing and go pet the cats/bunnies/puppies outside Moseley! #CuteOverload."

These posts are funny because they're Elon-centric and they point out some of the ridiculous things Elon students do. In a way, they have defined our community and some of the individual groups within it. But most students don't spend time considering the stereotypes these accounts promote.

Last month, a controversy involving @TheElonD began after the individual behind the account posted a tweet when the Elon University baseball team beat North Carolina State. The tweet read, "The Elon baseball team just gave @ncstatebaseball #TheElonD. Waiting on the Smith Jackson email because that may or may not be rape." Some students expressed their disdain for this tweet because it made light of rape culture on our campus.

Sure, some Elon students were offended by this tweet, but few seem to consider the real implications of a series of seemingly harmless Twitter accounts that divide our campus into clean-cut stereotypes. Think about it. There's an account that defines what it's like to be gay on our campus, another that describes what it's like to be unaffiliated with Greek Life, what it's like to be black, to have less money than the majority of Elon students and many more.

It seems the most outspoken and perhaps the wittiest voices are coming through with these accounts, but, these voices may not be the most accurate representations of our student body.

When @ElonGDIPblems retweeted @SororitySouth when they tweeted "Happy wife, happy life!" and added "#makemeasand-



## ELON STEREOTYPES PORTRAYED ON TWITTER

wich," doesn't it serve to further the divide between Greeks and non-Greeks? And when @Elon\_Black\_Prob tweeted, "If I put in a work order why hasn't my light been fixed? Must be because I'm black," it's amusing, but also highly stereotypical. Each account is like its own clique that portrays a pigeonholed image of what it's like to be a part of that crowd.

Elon does have a few accounts directed at the entire campus. Two examples of these are @ElonConfessions and @OnlyAtElon. Although they too can promote stereotypes, at least they are promoting campus-wide generalities as opposed to those within individual

on-campus groups. The point is these anonymous Elon-centric accounts are amusing and really quite clever. We just ought to consider what we're saying about ourselves and our university with these accounts. They glorify stereotypes and while this can be wildly entertaining, we should also take a step back and consider if they are accurately portraying Elon and whether or not this is the image we want to send. to the rest of the world In particular, we are influencing prospective students who can easily access these accounts and will likely form an opinion of our university by scanning these Twitter feeds.

Do we really want to be telling prospective students that the black students at Elon believe their work orders aren't being processed because they're black? And do the non-affiliated students really believe girls in sororities are here for their MRS degrees?

Probably not, but prospective students might think they do. These tweets are all in good fun until someone takes them seriously. We should take a moment to think about how these accounts serve to promote stereotypes and how our campus culture comes across to prospective students and to others outside the "Elon bubble."

CARTOON BY JESSICA GREMBOWSKI

# If we stand united, terror doesn't stand a chance

Many of us are guilty of turning to religion and ethnicity as ways of making sense of inexplicable tragedies, but we must stop



**Alex Francis**  
Columnist

using these stereotypes as excuses for cultural ignorance and disdain. It is time to stop the perpetual finger-pointing that often follows an act of terrorism. Terror knows no one religion, race, nationality or ethnicity. We must stop acting like it does.

As I scanned news feeds for information

regarding the recent events in Boston that would explain such horrible acts, the inevitable and familiar fear must have risen inside Muslims across our nation. They were thinking, "Please don't let the people behind the bombings be Muslim."

A decade after one of the worst terrorist attacks in U.S. history, Muslims still face the reality that the actions of a few individuals cast guilt by association on anybody holding Islamic beliefs.

It has been reported that the two brothers who carried out the attacks are, in fact, Muslims holding radical Islamic beliefs, although they are Chechnyan nationals. Until further

evidence emerges as to the role religion played in the attacks, we cannot assume their religion influenced their decision to attack. Nevertheless, Muslims across the nation will continue to face scrutiny in the fallout of these bombings.

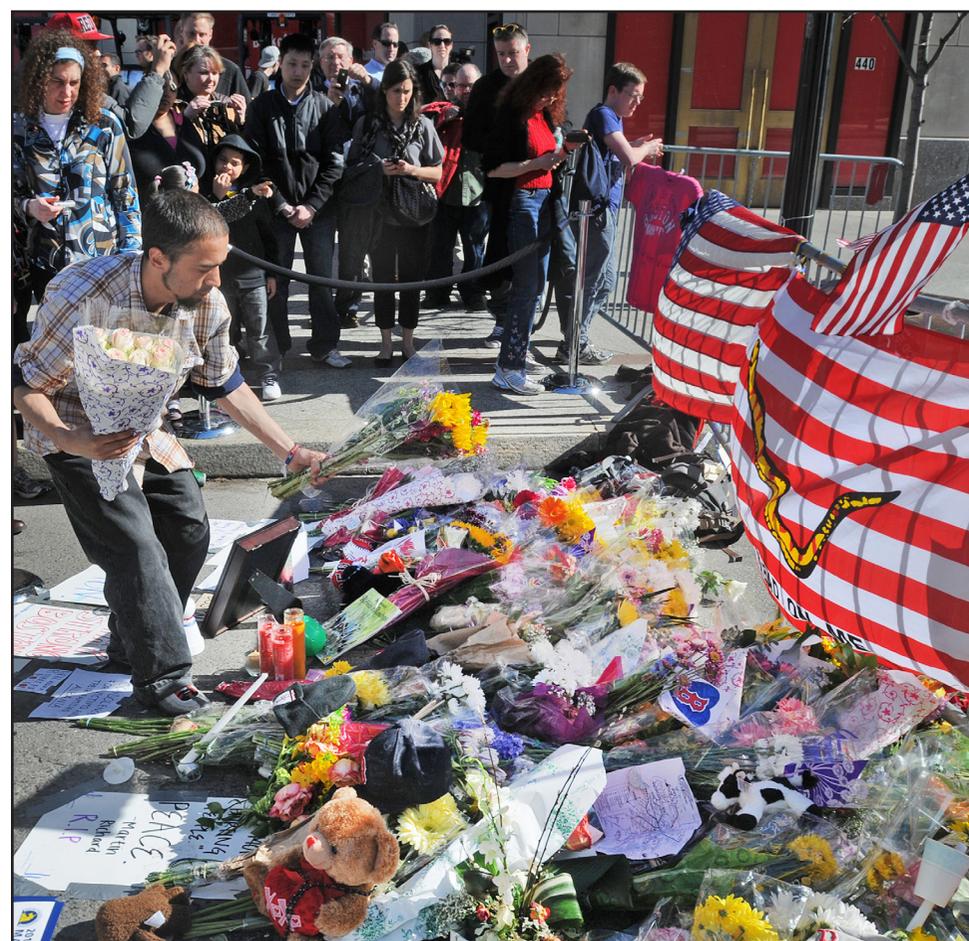
What is clear amongst the chaos is the marathon bombings have the potential to perpetuate Islamophobic sentiment and the capacity to undo a certain level of non-discrimination achieved in the post-9/11 era.

It is easy to get caught up in feelings of fear and hatred toward a group of people perceived to be responsible for such abhorrent action, but what ultimately matters is how we as a nation respond. We can't allow tragedies like this to unravel the ties that bind us together.

When we give into fear, we as a nation adhere to the terrorists' agenda. Terrorism's effectiveness depends on the collective willingness of people to give into fear.

I am positive of one thing: Our humanity will not be bombed away by terrorists of any race, belief or creed. Our resilience as a nation and our ability to come together will continue to define the American spirit, which has never been more important than it is today.

I still have faith in humanity. I still believe the good people in this world outnumber the bad, and always will.



People place flowers, cards and American flags at a memorial for the Boston Marathon bombing victims. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

## California's New University might be a mistake, but at least it's a cheap one

"You dropped a hundred and fifty grand on an education you could've got for a dollar-fifty in late charges at the public library."



**Ian Luther**  
Columnist

That's a quote from Matt Damon's character in "Good Will Hunting," one that always makes me cringe when I think about my own college career. Elon University's tuition is now more than \$40,000 per year, meaning my four-year degree will cost right around Matt Damon's estimate.

It's no secret college tuition is increasing and it's nearly impossible to get a decent-paying job without a college degree, but

knowledge shouldn't be worth several hundred thousand dollars when information is so freely available these days.

The California State Assembly agrees. Last week, Assemblyman Scott Wilk carried a motion to found a new division of state education with the New University of California. The school would have no teachers and no classrooms, just tests. Students would manage their own education and online tests would monitor their progress.

It's a controversial decision and its future is uncertain at best. But the principle is the same as that in "Good Will Hunting." Why pay so much for something so easily available?

I don't know how many Elon students are paying their own way through college, but I would assume it's not many. Most of us

are here at least in some part on our parents' dimes. But many other college students around the country attend state universities restricted by their given states' crippling debts.

Right now, 69 percent of Americans are in debt, on average about \$70,000. For students at Elon paying full tuition, that's somewhere around a year and a half of class, and that's not even worth anything unless you finish all four years. For many, graduation simply marks the first steps out of a financial pit.

But it's not just about the money. There's more to it than that. What are we really paying for at a traditional college? The construction of a new religious center that I might walk through once? New dorms for students I'll never meet? Granted, this is all part of the agreement we understood and signed up for when coming to college. But is it all neces-

sary?

Most of my tuition goes toward a whole bunch of things I don't care about, things that will probably never affect me. And that's fine. I came here for atmosphere, friends, fun and memories. I think most people do. But it's a system that focuses a great deal on things that have nothing to do with learning, which not everyone can afford.

The New University of California might work out or it might not, but that's not really the point. Innovation requires mistakes and failures to move forward and maybe that's what this will be — a mistake. But a brand of education not associated with drinking and sports might not be such a bad thing. Maybe these students will graduate with the same knowledge I will — with only \$1.50 in late fees.

## Educational rights for women remain motionless in Turkey

Kate Riley  
International Reporter

ISTANBUL — Despite major education initiatives and social reformations since the time of Ataturk, many girls in Turkey still do not receive an education.

Mustafa Kemal, now better known as Ataturk, or “Father of Turks,” is credited with founding the modern Republic of Turkey and was the first president of Turkey. Ataturk’s many social, political and economic reforms were embedded in the six fundamental principles of what is now known as “Kemalism.”

These six principles include Republicanism, Nationalism, Populism, Statism, Secularism and Revolution. The latter two were vital in the emerging role education has played in Turkey throughout the past decades.

“Kemalism was one of the main reasons that education and literacy increased and spread around girls and boys ‘equally’ after the establishment of the Republic,” said Nesrin Ersoy McMeekin, an instructor at Koc University, a private university in Istanbul.

“Still, it was and is a slow process, but since man and woman are considered equal by law, it became the government’s duty to provide equal education for both sexes,” McMeekin said.

“Principles of Kemalism were very strongly

— and unfortunately sometimes wrongly — used in education in different periods of the Republican era. Right now there is a big battle of keeping some of them and/or destroying them.”

As a professor of higher education, as well as someone who grew up in the Turkish education system, McMeekin has experienced challenges due to lack of funding for public education in Turkey, much like the monetary problems faced in the United States. She also sees how familial relations play a major role in the education of both young girls and boys, whether positively or negatively.

Although primary school is mandatory just as it is in the United States, many children, particularly girls, are not enrolled due to “traditional values” sought by parents, according to the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI).

This problem occurs primarily in the eastern parts of the country, which are considerably more rural and conservative.

Tolga Tan is a second-year Koc student who grew up in Kadikoy, Istanbul and is passionate about his own education. Tan has seen the impact families seem to have in various parts of the country.

“In rural areas, getting some sort of education has traditionally been a challenge,” Tan



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATE RILEY

A leisurely park in Istanbul overlooks the Blue Mosque, a historic site where Turkish sultans once lived.

said. “Most people in the eastern part of Turkey usually complete only primary education. The gender role in rural parts is more pronounced than it is in urban parts. Many girls don’t receive any education although it is unconstitutional, and this is mainly due to the parents and what they call ‘traditional.’”

According to the UNGEI and the United States Embassy in Turkey, the main obstacles to school attendance for girls in Turkey include a lack of school facilities, gender discrimination, low expectations from education, low quality of education and the cost associated with families sending their children to school.

UNGEI exemplifies the problem by outlining Van, a small town in eastern Turkey that demonstrates how poverty and cultural traditions have historically kept girls at home. Many families are worried an education could “spoil their daughters for marriage,” according to the report. But through the efforts of the UNGEI, more and more of these families have altered their opinions in order to change their family’s educational legacy.

“It is true that if the parents have higher education it is more likely that their kids will have one as well,” McMeekin said. “But there is also a significant number of parents who would do everything to have their kids go to university just because they themselves didn’t have the chance.”

Both Tan and McMeekin believe the amount of money pumped into education from the government could be increased, which might financially encourage families to make more of an effort in regards to their children’s education.

According to the United States Embassy in Turkey and the UNGEI, part of the problem

lies in the cost of transporting a child to school and buying supplies. This could be solved with the creation of scholarships to improve attendance rates in public primary, secondary and higher education in the eastern parts of Turkey.

Public universities in Turkey generally cost about 400 Turkish Lira per semester, which is equal to about \$222.60 in the United States, or they are free of charge. But students must go to primary school and follow the system in order to eventually take the university entrance exam during their final year of high school. At this point, there are a number of scholarships given if needed, McMeekin said.

But the campaign “Hey Girls, Let’s Go to School” has seen challenges that inhibit some children from eventually reaching these upper levels of education. Although the UNGEI has seen persistent poverty and a lack of resources in rural Turkish areas that continue to harm the potential of the nation’s education system, it has also seen increased media visibility and support from prominent politicians including the Prime Minister and the first lady of Turkey since its 2003 inception.

Additionally, the number of female children not enrolled in primary school has decreased significantly since 2003, according to World Bank analyses. In 2003, the number of girls not in primary school in Turkey was about 253,000, while that number shrank to about 53,000 in 2010.

“In the last 15 to 20 years, emphasis on education and campaigns to support girls and kids from rural areas in getting education have increased significantly,” McMeekin said. “But is it enough? Not yet. There is still a huge prejudice against girls’ education in Turkey, especially in eastern Turkey.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATE RILEY

Built more than 1,500 years ago and currently a museum, the Hagia Sophia is a main attraction in Istanbul.

# Spain celebrates Feria de Abril following Holy Week

Mackenzie Roberts  
International Reporter

SEVILLE — Two weeks after the solemn Holy Week in Seville commences a grand celebration that brings Spaniards together for a week of festivities.

Starting Monday, April 15 at midnight, Feria de Abril officially begins the moment the main structure—la puerta—lights up the fairgrounds. La puerta changes annually and this year it replicated the towers of Plaza de Espana.

Although Feria started out as an animal market in 1847, it is now a traditional festivity celebrated each year. But, the men still wear clothing similar to the original members of Feria. Their uniforms consist of a suit with boots and a hat. Many of the men ride horses adorned with flowers.

For women, Feria is a week that completely contrasts Holy Week. Women slick back



Festival lights illuminate the fairgrounds as eager guests wander through hundreds of casetas.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MAE BEERMAN

their hair tightly and pin it with colorful hair combs called peinetas. A flower made of fabric rests on the very top of their heads. Elisa Blanco Canton, a local in her mid-twenties, explained the process of finding the perfect Flamenco dress, which can run upwards of 300 Euro depending on the quality and style.

“Usually the women just purchase the fabric and make the dresses themselves,” she said. “The fabric is expensive though. It could be 100 Euro or more for just the fabric. I usually buy the fabric and then take the dress to a seamstress. I tell her how I want the dress to look and fit and she makes it.”

During the festival the streets are lined with hundreds of casetas—tents filled with drinking and dancing until the early morning. Originating from the men who moved their houses to live at the livestock trade, these tents have become a representation of social status.

Aristocratic families, political parties and local groups host the “invitation only” tents. While tickets are necessary to enter, if you don’t know any locals the public casetas welcome all festival guests.

Canton had tickets to some casetas but explained they are hard to come by.

“A lot of the casetas are passed down within the family. Even for locals, sometimes finding tickets is impossible,” Canton said.

From 2 p.m. each afternoon until as late as 7 a.m. the next day, both locals and tour-

ists flock to the fairgrounds. Approximately the size of two football fields, the fairgrounds

host the casetas and rides, including a ferris wheel.

Similar to fairs in America, cotton candy and popcorn are found on every corner, but chocolate and churros are also popular menu items at Feria. Unique to this week is rebujito, a cocktail mix of sherry and Sprite. Walking through the aisles of the fairgrounds, almost every attendee can be seen with the refreshing drink in their hands.

Attendees in the early afternoon can watch the society members of Spain ride through the dusty roads in their horse drawn carriages.

On the other side of the river, many are eager to see the inside of the Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza and witness their first bull-fights which occur daily.

Raul Salas, a local in his mid-twenties, explained the atmosphere of the annual festival.

“Beautiful women, drinking, dancing, warm weather and just having fun with friends,” Salas said.



During Feria, women can be seen in elaborate Flamenco dresses, which can be very expensive.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MAE BEERMAN

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# Ready to run again: Elon alumna participates

*2011 graduate Kristin Feeney proves resilient in raising money for cancer research*



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN FEENEY

Elon University alumna Kristin Feeney '11 was cheered on by her family as they waved handmade signs while she ran in the Boston Marathon April 15. Feeney participated in the marathon to raise money for cancer research.

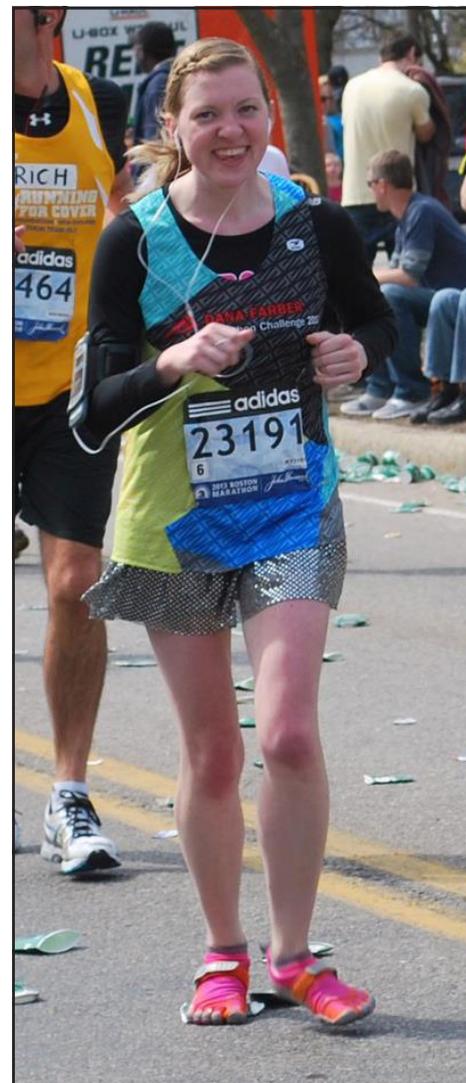


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN FEENEY

Feeney was at mile 25.8 of the 26.2-mile distance race when the bombings occurred. She was unharmed.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN FEENEY

Feeney's family and friends came to support her at the Boston Marathon. They were all unharmed.

**Tony Weaver, Jr.**  
Senior Reporter

As she reached the 40-kilometer marker, she turned a corner and suddenly, everything stopped.

Instead of continuing with the race, she ran into a wall of people. She thought she had made a wrong turn. The ensuing pandemonium and line of police officers blocking the path told a different story.

Dozens of possibilities rushed through her head, but none were anything close to

what was actually happening. In an attempt to understand the situation, she asked a fellow runner what was happening, who revealed something she would have never expected: "The race is over. There's a bomb at the finish line."

### Turning devastation into inspiration

Kristin Feeney, an Elon University Class of 2011 alumna, was lucky enough to escape the April 15 Boston Marathon bombings unharmed. Her reasons for participating in the marathon hit close to

# in Boston Marathon, survives double bombings

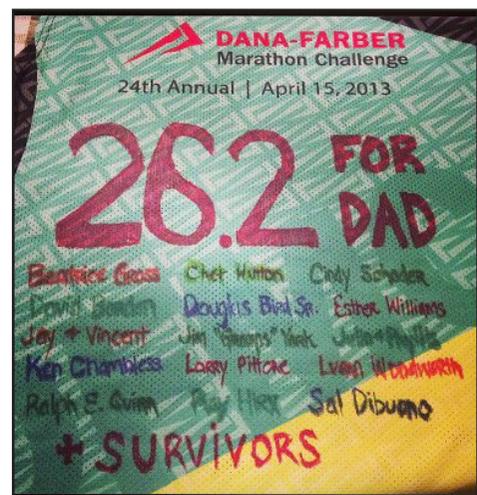


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN FEENEY

Feeney ran the marathon for her father, who was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma cancer in 2012.

home.

During the summer of 2012, her family was devastated when her father was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma cancer. In the midst of her sadness, Feeney refused to stand idly and do nothing. “With my dad being sick, I had to channel my nervous energy into something useful,” she said.

Feeney partnered with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a nationally ranked cancer research and treatment center founded in 1947. The institute is located in the center of Boston and offers a donation incentive called the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge. One hundred percent of the funds raised by the challenge are directed to the institute’s Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research.

Feeney said the institute’s reputation spoke for itself as she researched the types of programs she wanted to partner with.

“I chose them because they are one of the most reputable in the country,” Feeney said.

After her application to run on the institute’s behalf was accepted, her real journey began.

## Preparing for the big day

Feeney chose to run in the Boston Marathon, a 26.2-mile distance race that

is the second largest single-day sporting event in the United States. Aside from a few extracurricular activities, Feeney had no running experience, but her father’s condition inspired her to strive for what seemed impossible.

“My dad going through treatment motivated me to do something for him,” she said.

By running the marathon with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Feeney committed to raising at least \$4,000 for cancer research. It was then when she learned just how much support she had behind her.

“My parents rallied the troops,” Feeney said.

After word of her plans to run in the marathon spread through her family and friends, she received an outpour of donations. And after being featured in local newspapers and blogs, she was able to raise more than \$7,200.

While raising funds, Feeney began her physical training. For 16 weeks she trained five to six times a week, running long distances to prepare herself for the marathon.

During her physical training, Feeney found inspiration in the people she met along the way.

“The people I met kept me going,” she said. “Hearing other people tell you their story is very motivating.”

## Finding power in numbers

Contributions like Feeney’s are becoming more meaningful to researchers and their work.

As the government continues to make budget cuts, organizational research and development is receiving less federal funding. A 2008 study conducted by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation showed the United States was ranked No. 22 out of 30 countries with growth in government-funded research and No. 23 in the growth of business-funded research. A 2011 document from the Congressional Research Service shows Congress refused to enact a \$343 million increase in funding for research

and development proposed by President Obama.

The lack of funding is making it difficult for researchers to have access to the right equipment and even more difficult for actual research to be performed, making the contributions of Feeney and others like her crucial to finding a cure.

Feeney is not the only Elon alumna to have run for charity. 2011 graduate Riley Beetner, who ran the Marine Corps Marathon in 2012 with the American Cancer Society, inspired Feeney. Fellow 2011 graduate Linda Kurtz and 2012 graduate Taylor McKee are running the Nike Half Marathon with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. 2011 graduate Hilary Noble is preparing for her second year of cycling in the Pan Mass Chal-

lenge on behalf of the Jimmy Fund, an organization that also partners with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Together Elon University alumni have raised more than \$20,000 toward cancer research.

Feeney’s run was cut short as two bombs exploded at the Boston Marathon, killing three people and wounding more than 180. Even though she wasn’t able to finish the race, Feeney said she is still proud of her accomplishment and thankful her family and friends who came to support her were able to escape safely.

She said she is confident that, despite the difficulties she encountered, she will run again.

“The Dana-Farber team is resilient — we have learned to deal with stopping points,” she said. §



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
Victims of the bomb blasts during the Boston Marathon are assisted by emergency personnel April 15. Three people were killed and more than 180 were wounded by the explosions, which occurred at the finish line.

## Bird is the word: Yardbird Kitchen offers unique, local cuisine

**Katy Canada**  
Senior Reporter

The funky vibes of Yardbird Kitchen on South Church Street will hit you square in the face the second you open the door and smell sweet pastries baking in the back.

From the offbeat pictures hanging on the walls to the Edison chandelier in the back corner, the atmosphere of this new restaurant is bringing something original to the Burlington restaurant scene.

There is no shortage of restaurants in Burlington, but many of them are large fast food chains that do not offer diverse options. If you're in the mood for something with a unique flavor and eclectic atmosphere, you can find it at Yardbird Kitchen.

"Burlington is riddled with corporate restaurants, and I hate to say it, but they're lacking in the quality we can provide here," said Steven Lyall, general manager of Yardbird Kitchen.

"Everything here is homemade, from our dressings to house-made granola. We even go as far as grinding our own meats to make our meatloaf."

Created by owners Carli Webb and Grey Bailey, Yardbird Kitchen is the product of 11 years of anticipation and planning. Bailey, who has been involved in the restaurant business for 30 years, pulled from his experiences preparing food in multiple countries to develop Yardbird's one-of-a-kind menu.

Inspired by the spirit of Hawaii, their vision for the restaurant was to create a place with a welcoming environment that also contributes to the local community.

"There weren't a whole lot of places in Burlington that we wanted to go and spend time in, and the food that we experienced in Burlington isn't what we would like to have every day," Webb said. "Creating a gathering spot for a community of people is what we've really focused on."

Yardbird has contributed to this community-inspired image by using locally produced ingredients. North Carolina has a lot to offer when it comes to farmers markets, local produce and protein, according to Webb.

"We wanted to find a way to better incorporate the dollars from those farms going back to the farms and not getting sucked up somewhere else," Webb said.

Lyall said the unique menu is something everyone can appreciate.

"It's really cool to have dishes like Peri Peri chicken on the menu, which is from South African cuisine," Lyall said. "To bring that to



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

Yardbird Kitchen opened Feb. 26 on 3243 S. Church St. Its menu features Southern favorites with a twist, made with local ingredients.



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

The Diner Burger is a popular item on Yardbird Kitchen's eclectic menu.



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

Yardbird offers bread pudding on its dessert menu.

Burlington and have people experience that is really cool."

Webb and Bailey said they carefully considered Elon University students when they chose the convenient location of 3243 S. Church St. Yardbird is close to campus and is a viable option for students to go and spend their time. The restaurant has free Wi-Fi and comfortable sofas, and the staff hopes students will make themselves at home.

"In that community vein, we wanted this to be a place where Elon students could come," Webb said.

Yardbird is currently open for breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, as well as

for brunch on Sunday mornings. In June, they hope to open for dinner, as well.

"I enjoy delicious, healthy food, and having Yardbird nearby is incredible," said Elon sophomore Sarah Wasko. "They support local agriculture, which I care about, and they have the best veggie burger I've ever had."

Webb said she welcomes anyone who wants to expose him or herself to quality food and meet passionate people who are contributing to the community.

"Come and make it your home," Webb said. "Make it a place where you're comfortable being. We want to see your faces. We want to see people enjoying the space because we enjoy it."

# M

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# Alpha Psi Omega produces Shakespeare's plays with a hilarious twist

Jessica Petrocchi  
Senior Reporter

Plays with the word “Shakespeare” in the title typically scare students away, but the acting students in Elon University’s theater honor society, Alpha Psi Omega, put a humorous spin on the classic Shakespeare plays with “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged).”

“It’s one of the funniest shows I’ve ever done,” said Sean Liang, a senior BFA acting major and the play’s producer. “And it’s a very non-traditional theater show.”

APO produced the play with senior

Andrew Ontiveros as director. Liang, senior Matt Summers and junior Ryan Cooper were actors and took on various roles throughout the show. Many of the performers played several roles and switched characters quickly backstage.

“The biggest difficulty in producing this show was making sure each of Shakespeare’s plays were clear,” Ontiveros said. “Of course we make fun of each of them, but if we didn’t focus on what each play was, then how were we able to parody them?”

The show is a parody of all 37 of Shakespeare’s plays and combines them in a 97-minute show. The first act covered 36

different plays and the second focused on an abridged version of “Hamlet.”

“The actors did a great job of defining each play and each role they played, which was really helpful in telling the overall story,” Ontiveros said.

Whether it’s a comedy, history or tragedy, the actors kept the audience laughing. Liang and Summers have studied improv together for the past four years.

“We wanted the audience to forget the ‘horror’ stories of a literature class and approach Shakespeare from a new perspective that is interesting to them,” Ontiveros said.

Though there were many plays to cover,

it was a fairly simple show with no set and no more than three actors at any given time.

For this show, the audience wasn’t completely separated from the actors on stage. It was a conversational show, mixing improvisation and traditional acting.

“My favorite part is the audience participation section in Act II,” Ontiveros said. “The actors attempt to analyze Ophelia from ‘Hamlet’ by dividing the audience into her id, ego and superego. This is just a really fun section because the actors get to play with the audience and get to ad-lib and improv, which makes each performance unique to that night.”

# Jess Dugan establishes identity, community through photography

Meghan Mahoney  
Senior Reporter

Jess Dugan described various details of her identity, such as how she was prom king in high school, before showing her artwork April 15 in the Isabella Cannon Room at Elon University. She said she feels it’s important to show her own identity before beginning a presentation of her photography.

Dugan spoke about her photographs and process for her gallery, “Transcendence 2005-2012.” The portrait collection visually encompasses the transgender community and illustrates how gender identity and biological sex can contrast.

She doesn’t use studio lighting because she uses a 4-by-5 view camera, in which a cloth goes over the photographer’s head.

Dugan is interested in identity construction, gender construction and how people breed these elements through clothing and expressions.

“The process through which she makes the

photographs is different and takes us deeper into these people’s lives,” said Ken Hassell, associate professor of art. “Through that process, we begin to see transgender people as not just kind of ‘weird people’ but as human beings.”

The first time Dugan could pick up a camera after she had chest reconstruction surgery in 2005, she took a self-portrait with her mother, both with bare chests. Dugan said she was trying to make sense of this transformation and new body and wanted to understand herself and the community.

“I was really interested in showing these intimate moments and quiet moments at home,” she said. “At the time there wasn’t that much imagery of trans people I could find.”

Dugan focuses on gender as a performance and costume — a series of behaviors people can choose to embody or not. Her work showcases several relationships, couples and people going through the female-to-male transformation.

Dugan’s photos use direct eye contact to invite the viewer to engage with the subject.

“You’re forced to think how you feel about

this person,” she said.

When she receives feedback at her galleries, it’s usually from people not familiar with queer couples, she said.

“They were trying to figure out how their relationship functioned, who was more masculine,” Dugan said. “By the fourth or fifth photograph, they were exhausted.”

Dugan’s goal throughout her gallery showings is to focus on who the people in her photographs are as individuals. She invites the people in her photographs to her galleries because she wants them to be a part of the end process and not just a subject forgotten after the photo shoot.

“For me, as a photographer, the ethics I subscribe to are an important part of my process,” Dugan said. “It’s important to me that the people in my photographs feel like they’re a part of what I’m doing.”

Dugan makes sure to photograph her own body and insert herself into the community to make herself as vulnerable as she’s asking her subjects to be.

“Oftentimes we’re kind of examining other people and there’s this kind of distance that happens and we’re kind of ‘othering’ people,” Hassell said. “She’s willing to be a part of that process and look at herself and examine herself as well as others.”

Dugan said she was interested in this sense of a “chosen family” and how it rejects what is valued in mainstream society.

Hassell said there are many stereotypes and much transgender marginalization in society.

He said Dugan’s work humanizes this.

“We don’t want to take away their individuality,” Hassell said. “Looking at these photographs — they become personal and you see them as individuals. They’re just different.”



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

Jess Dugan has all of her subjects look directly at the camera to evoke deeper emotions from viewers.



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## Big Sean, 3LAU keep bass pumping during Spring Show 2013

STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor  
3LAU said he hoped students would leave the concert thinking about how crazy and fun the night had been.



TIMOTHY DEWITT | Staff Photographer  
Big Sean performed hits like "Dance (A\$\$)" and songs he had made with other artists, like rapper Kanye West.

Casey Brown  
Senior Reporter

With torrential rainfall pouring down and increasing tension in Boston April 19, Elon University students needed a distraction — and for some, that was the 2013 Spring Show, with headliners DJ 3LAU and rap artist Big Sean.

The show opened with Justin Blau, better known as his stage name, 3LAU. The Las Vegas resident emerged on the stage dressed in a plain T-shirt and jeans. His attire was relaxed, in sharp contrast with his aggressive and energetic music.

"[Before shows, I] sleep and drink Red Bull," 3LAU said. "I usually work on my set on the plane ride wherever we're going. I usually work on what I'm going to play that day. It usually takes an hour to two hours a day to get ready."

But this wasn't a run-of-the-mill show for 3LAU. His good friend from high school, Archie Rufty, is a junior at Elon.

"It's been awesome knowing him for so long and seeing his transition in music," Rufty said. "In high school, he played guitar and wrote songs and once he got to college, he shifted to DJing."

Performing shows with old friends in the audience is nothing new for 3LAU.

"At most places I go, I feel like I know someone," 3LAU said. "It's always fun to be with the people who were there before it all started, because it still doesn't feel very real. It almost reminds you where you came from."

Once he was on campus, 3LAU said he was ready to perform for the Elon audience. Dance music may be lesser known, but it is easy for an audience member with any amount of knowledge on the genre to truly enjoy it, he said.

"[Dance music is] just constant energy," 3LAU said. "So my goal with any crowd is for them to walk away saying, 'Wow, I just went crazy for an hour. I can't believe it just happened.' I love playing college shows because it opens a lot of kids up to what dance music is.

Most people don't know it yet. It's getting a lot bigger but it's still developing."

3LAU's explanation almost exactly described the atmosphere of the gym during his set. While the crowd began to trickle in at 8 p.m., onlookers bobbed their heads to the beat, keeping an ear out for increasing tempos in his songs.

As the attendee numbers increased and Big Sean's show time grew nearer, the audience went crazy with 3LAU, who jumped and sang passionately with his own tracks. By the time Big Sean was headed on stage, 3LAU had primed the audience to where they needed to be — excited and ready for an exciting night.

Big Sean walked on stage with the swagger of a confident performer, encouraged by the enthusiastic screams of the crowd. Based on their reaction, Big Sean was far from a disappointment. He performed major hits, like his singles "My Last" and "Dance (A\$\$)." He also performed his parts from songs on which he collaborated with others, such as Kanye West's "Mercy" and "Clique."

Big Sean was a physical performer. While closely monitored by a burly bodyguard, Big Sean used the entire stage to his advantage, climbing on speakers and on set pieces to interact with the crowd. Big Sean even gave personal clothing to his fans in the crowd.

The audience's mood as the concert ended seemed to be of pure satisfaction. The two artists, who both relied heavily on pounding beats and fast tempos, performed a show for audience members that left many humming songs as they left. Big Sean was unavailable for a post-show interview, the feel of the room seemed to match exactly what 3LAU wanted from the evening.

As for the artists' upcoming endeavors, 3LAU and Big Sean have a lot to look forward to. While he could not divulge much, 3LAU said he and his manager merged with a bigger management company, one that includes big-name dance music artists like deadmau5 and Calvin Harris. Big Sean's sophomore album, "Hall of Fame," will be released in June.

STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor  
**3LAU and his manager merged with a management company that includes big names, such as deadmau5.**



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor  
**Students danced to the increasing tempos of 3LAU's bass-heavy songs and sang along to the familiar lyrics.**



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor  
**3LAU opened the Spring Show with his electronic music. The Las Vegas resident didn't start experimenting with that genre of music until he was in college.**



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Arts & Entertainment Editor  
**Big Sean gave his shirt to the eager crowd April 19.**

# Tennis teams drop SoCon tournament heartbreakers in similar fashions

Andrew Wilson  
Sports Editor

One team was looking for the Southern Conference tournament championship for the first time since 2007, while the other was making its first ever appearance in the tournament finals.

The Elon University men's and women's tennis teams hoped to make two different versions of history April 21 at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. Both sides ended on the wrong side of history, but in eerily similar fashions.

The only men's SoCon title came in the 2007 season when the Phoenix swept the regular season and the tournament titles with an overall 23-3 record with a perfect 9-0 mark in conference.

In 2013, head coach Michael Leonard's Phoenix started conference action 7-0 before dropping consecutive matches late in

the season — April 7 — to Georgia Southern University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Entering the SoCon tournament as the No. 1 seed having won the regular season title, Elon was looking to make history in sweeping the titles for a second time in six years. They breezed through the quarterfinals and the semifinals on the way to a meeting with the second-seeded Samford University Bulldogs Sunday.

"We have had a great year as a team," said sophomore Stefan Fortmann. "The step we have taken from last year to this year is a very big one."

On the other side, the Elon women finished one match short of holding a share of the regular season conference title. The Phoenix finished 8-2 while College of Charleston came in with a 9-1 record to take the No. 1 seed.

Flying high coming into the tournament having already broken the school record for most wins in a single season, the Phoenix, like its male counterpart, breezed through the quarterfinals and semifinals of the tournament on the way to matching up with the No. 1 seed College of Charleston with the tournament title on the line.

"We were sixth-seeded last year," said women's head coach Elizabeth Anderson. "Having the chance to win the entire thing this year, it speaks to our character."

Following Saturday's semifinal matches, both coaches termed the opening doubles point as the most crucial to being victorious Sunday. The men converted with No. 1 and 2 doubles, winning in back to back minutes to secure the early 1-0 advantage. That wasn't the case for the women.

Charleston junior Kelly Kamboureilis and sophomore Jenny Falcone made quick work of Elon junior Viviana Stavreva and sophomore Maria Camara Ruiz at No. 2 doubles, 8-4. As the Elon's lone senior Briana Berne and freshman Taylor Casey were battling on court three, juniors Jordan Johnston and Frida Jansaker won the tiebreaker at No. 1 doubles to put the pressure on Berne and Casey.

The Cougars duo of senior Christin Newman and sophomore Samantha Newman got a timely break of the Elon pair to take the match 8-6 and the doubles point for



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Freshman Taylor Casey celebrates during the decisive No. 3 doubles match April 21 in which Elon lost 8-6.

Charleston.

As both matches progressed to the singles portions, the men traded points with the Bulldogs when Fortmann, hobbled by a knee injury he aggravated the day before in the semifinals against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, dropped No. 2 singles to junior Elliot Barnwell. Minutes later, sophomore Jordan Kaufman finished off senior Alex Sajonz at No. 4 singles, 6-3, 6-3.

"We played good doubles," Leonard said. "We just didn't come out in the beginning of singles like I thought we would."

Samford took the next two matches at No. 3 and 5 singles to pull out to a 3-2 lead overall and into a position that seemed almost insurmountable given the remain-

ing scores. Junior Cameron Silverman was trailing after dropping the first set at No. 1 singles while sophomore Juan Madrid was trailing at the No. 6 spot having dropped his first set as well.

Though Madrid contested the first set, junior Garrison Laduca won it, but he was only able to win three more games, dropping the match 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.

"It was really a good tournament for me," Madrid said. He had a between-the-legs shot April 19 against Furman University and the match-clinching win Saturday against Chattanooga before prolonging the finals on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, the women didn't blow a lead of any sort like the men. They trailed

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for the entirety of the match to the point where the championship seemed all but won in Charleston's favor.

Trailing 3-0 and having lost four of the six first sets of the singles matches, Johnston and junior Bryn Khoury needed comebacks to keep the Phoenix alive. Jansaker and sophomore Barbora Lazarova were the only two Elon players to win their first sets. They converted their second sets into Phoenix wins to pull within 3-2 of the Cougars.

Early on, things were not looking good for Khoury at the No. 4 spot. Dropping the first set in convincing fashion, 6-1, she stormed back to take the second and third sets, 6-3 each, to give the Phoenix a fighting chance.

"I knew I owed it to my team," Khoury said. "I beat her last time. I knew I could beat her again if I put my head into it, calmed the nerves and hit the ball like I can."

As Khoury finished bringing the women all the way back, Johnston was fighting back on Newman at No. 1 singles after falling in the first set.

"I at least wanted to give Bryn the opportunity to finish her match and have that chance for the team to win," Johnston said. "Honestly though, I wasn't really paying attention. I was zoned in."

When Khoury was finished, Johnston was leading the tiebreaker for the second set. She tied the match at one set apiece with a 7-4 win in the tiebreaker to send the No. 1 singles match to a third and final decisive set with the winner taking the SoCon title for her team.

The same thing happened in the men's match when Madrid deadlocked the score at three. Silverman had dropped the first set but broke senior Zac Dunkle in the second set to tie the match at one. Like the women's match, the SoCon title came down to the third set of the No. 1 singles match.

Key breaks in key spots ended up being the downfall for the Phoenix. Newman broke Johnston to go up 4-2 while Dunkle broke Silverman multiple times to take a 6-3 third set win and the title for Samford.

"Samford was a little more energetic and competing a little stronger in some spots and I think that changed the momentum," Leonard said. "We had so much momentum during the doubles, I thought if we came out a little stronger in singles it could have changed things."

While Johnston made a comeback with a break of her own, Newman again broke Johnston late to take the final set 7-5 and the championship for the Cougars.

"It was kind of a triangle of emotions," Johnston said. "Of wanting to puke, barely being able to stand from exhaustion and really having fun. I was fortunate enough to be in this situation and my teammates helped me do that. There was so much emotion in that last set. Christin played a great set and I had my chances, but that's how the cookie crumbles."

Though upset by the losses, both teams look toward the bright future with the youth and talent each of the teams possess. Silverman was named Player of the Year while Johnston was named to first-team all-conference singles. She is joined by her season-long partner Jansaker on first-team all-conference doubles while Khoury and Jansaker were named to the second-team all-SoCon singles.

Both teams will only graduate one player. On the men's side, it's Carlos Arboleda. "We are still a very young team, so we will have more chances next year," Madrid

said. "We have a lot of potential. In the off-season we need to work on a few things. We also need to gain some experience and use the loss to motivate us."

For the women, Berne departs, having been what Anderson called a "major player" through Elon's last four years. Both the returning players and coaches agree the two

programs are going in the right direction.

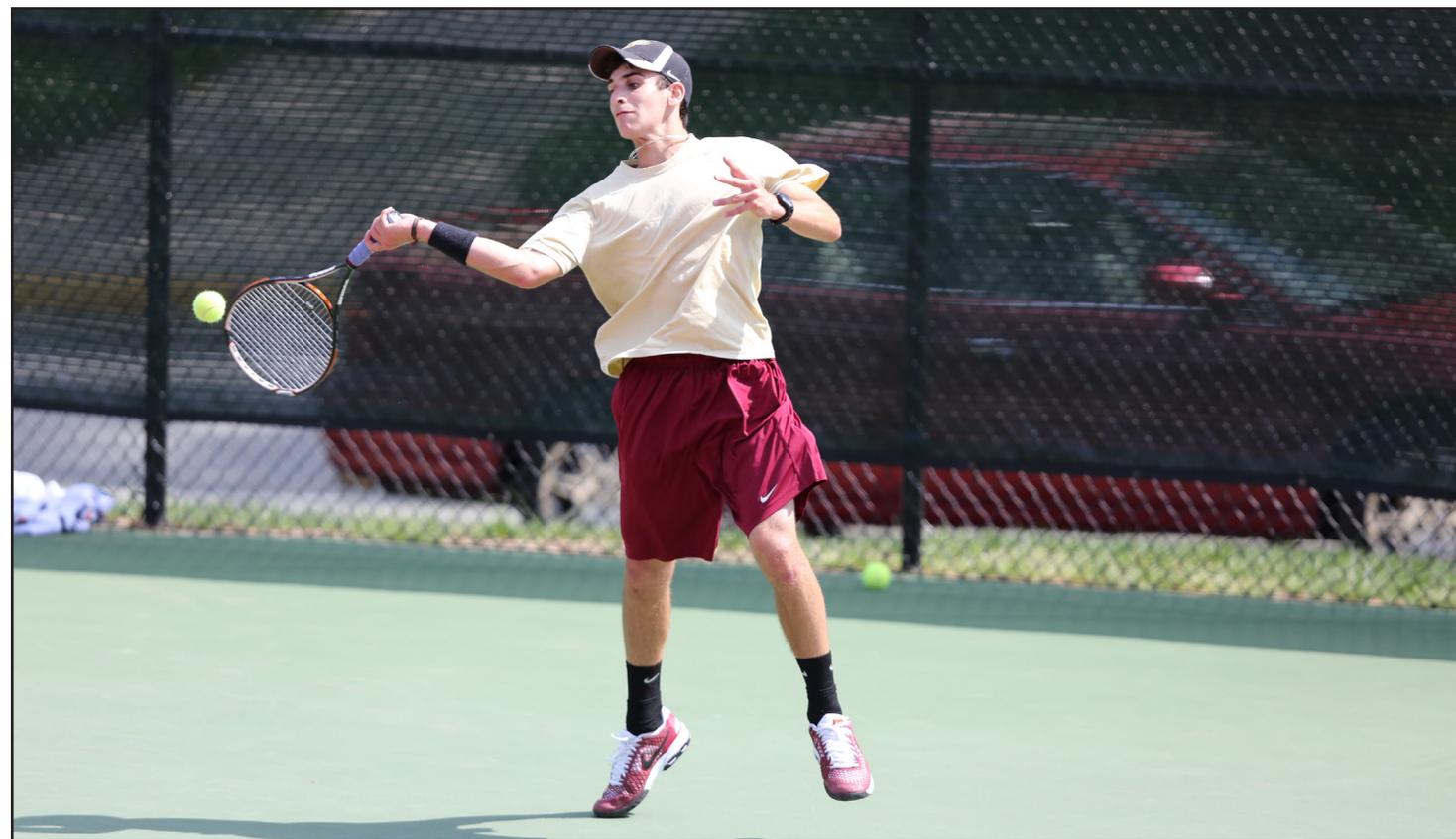
"Every year we've taken a step forward," Khoury said. "Next year, we're going for blood without a doubt. We both want the ring, especially after this year." §

*With additional reporting by Jordan Spritzer, senior reporter.*



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Juniors Jordan Johnston (left) and Frida Jansaker were the only Elon doubles team to win against the Cougars.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Sophomore Jordan Kaufman collected the first singles point for the Phoenix in Elon's 4-3 loss April 21 against Samford University in the SoCon tournament finals.

# Road to the pros

*Former Elon keeper catches a break*



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO

Former Elon University goalkeeper Clint Irwin broke into Major League Soccer with the Colorado Rapids this season March 16 when starting goalkeeper Matt Pickens left a game against Real Salt Lake with a broken forearm.

**Andrew Wilson**  
Sports Editor

Inside Elon University men's soccer head coach Darren Powell's office hangs a signed, framed jersey of Major League Soccer's Steven Kinney.

Kinney, a 2009 Elon graduate, was the first-ever player out of the Phoenix soccer program to be drafted into the MLS, let alone sign a contract. On July 8, 2010, Kinney made his first career start for the Chicago Fire against Real Salt Lake because of multiple injuries on defense.

Remember the opponent. The RSL is not done in this story.

Now a mainstay in Chicago's defense when healthy, Kinney's roots go back to Elon where he played with another star in his own right.

## Glory days

From 2007 to 2009, Kinney and goalkeeper Clint Irwin co-captained Powell's Phoenix. When Kinney graduated, Irwin was starting his senior season in which he would be named to the Hermann Watch List and become a finalist for the 2010 Lowe's Senior Class Award, which is given to a senior with notable achievements in four areas of excellence:

community, classroom, character and competition. Three years later and because of some unfortunate circumstances, Irwin is starting in goal for the Colorado Rapids of the MLS.

"Clint is the whole package," said senior defender Nick Butterly, who played with Irwin in 2009 and 2010. "There's not one single aspect about him. He's a great leader and an incredibly mature player. He has the athleticism and the dedication."

In recruiting Irwin out of high school in Charlotte, Powell said he and his staff knew exactly what they had when Irwin announced his intentions of playing for Elon.

"From when I first recruited Clint, he was goalkeeper No. 1," Powell said. "There was no hesitation in my mind that he was a top, top player. I was over the moon when he decided to come to Elon."

Irwin started in all four seasons for the Phoenix. Though 2008 was halted by an injury that only allowed him to play in eight games, he was still named to the second team-All Southern Conference. In 2009, he set the school record with 10 shutouts in the season. He later went on to break the all-time record for most career shutouts.

"Clint is incredibly loud," Butterly said. "That helped a lot having such a great

leader. From my experiences, I've been playing since I was a little kid, he's one of the best captains I've ever had. He's very decisive and he lets you know what he wants you to do. He's just very easy to play with."

As the 2010 season started, Irwin had made a name for himself and the Elon program after bringing the Phoenix to its first ever SoCon tournament championship game a year before.

Leading the conference with just a handful of games remaining is where Irwin's story really begins.

### Down and out for the count

"I can recall what happened just fine," Powell said. "I can still see his leg and I can still tell you exactly what happened."

Hosting College of Charleston Oct. 9, 2010, Irwin suffered a quad injury with four minutes remaining in the game that would keep him on the sidelines for the rest of the regular season.

"He was up for the Hermann Watch List and we were top of the league at the time," Powell said. "He was a big piece and he got hurt and kind of got out of everybody's minds. We didn't qualify for postseason that year so we just kind of drifted away."

Though Irwin returned for the first round of the SoCon tournament against Appalachian State University, the Phoenix dropped the game 1-0 and the season was over.

"I thought about the injury but it was more in the context of feeling like we had a really good team that year and could have done something special," Irwin said. "We could have made the tournament and made an impact so I was disappointed I wasn't out there to help the team and help us push to that. Not getting drafted was not my biggest disappointment. That was."

And so began the long road to Colorado.

### Life on the back burner

By the time Irwin was back to full health, MLS teams were already in preseason. Irwin's promising career was derailed for the time being due to the quad injury.

Irwin got a chance with the New England Revolution as the fourth

goalkeeper but was cut, as the team only carried three net minders. With all of the clubs having filled their spots, Irwin crossed the border to the North and signed with Capital City Football Club in Ottawa, Ontario.

After a successful campaign in Canada, Irwin found himself back in his hometown, playing for the Charlotte Eagles of the United Soccer League.

"He played as a backup but he got the [U.S.] Open Cup games," Powell said. "They had the best run in history in the Open Cup beating MLS teams along the way with Clint in goal."

As Irwin's "de facto agent," Powell made calls in an attempt to find him a home from the time Irwin left Elon all the way until the keeper made it with Colorado.

"Coach Powell has a wealth of contacts," Irwin said. "He was pushing me and

putting his reputation on the line for me which I'm still so appreciative of. He's one of my biggest supporters. He constantly encouraged me, even when things weren't going well, to stick with it."

Ultimately, it was another connection that got Irwin to Colorado, one that he wasn't expecting considering the obstacles he'd had to overcome.

### Opportunity rising

Training with the New York Red Bulls, Irwin said he thought that was a team he could stay with out of fall and into preseason. There was one problem.

"Unfortunately their whole coaching staff got let go at the end of the season so that was disappointing," Irwin said.

The goalkeeper coach with the Red Bulls at the time kept in contact with

Irwin, though, and he put in a word for Irwin with the Rapids.

"I got a call from them in January getting an invite to training camp," Irwin said. "I got lucky for that to happen."

Irwin earned a roster spot out of preseason with the Rapids, becoming the third Elon player to sign a MLS contract. Senior Gabe Latigue signed a contract with the Revolution at the beginning of 2013.

After just a few games, Irwin got his break.

### Irwin's box

Remember Real Salt Lake? Colorado was taking on RSL March 16 when just four minutes into the game, Colorado's starting goalkeeper Matt Pickens went down with an injury that forced Irwin into



Irwin holds the program record for most career shutouts with 22 through his four years with the Phoenix. He also holds the single-season record of 10 in 2009.

his first career MLS action.

“I saw the injury and you could tell it was pretty bad,” Irwin said. “All I was thinking was, ‘I need to get ready and prepare myself the best I can.’ There’s not really much else you can do. Once you get

out there, it’s just another game.”

Following the game, Pickens was diagnosed with a broken forearm, making Irwin the starter for the foreseeable future.

In six games played since taking over, Irwin has won the Man of the Match

award four times. According to Powell, that accomplishment is rare.

“Not many MLS players have started their careers like that,” Powell said. “It’s quite amazing. He’s making the most of his opportunity. He’s grounded, he’s

humble and hopefully it continues.”

## Maturity at the top

Now starting in the league he thought he would be a part of much sooner than 2013, the phone calls to Powell have changed dramatically from what they once were.

“I talk with him about once a week and those conversations have changed a lot from when I first came out,” Irwin said. “They used to be about me maybe not being really happy with where I was and he was just trying to keep me positive. Now, the conversations are, ‘You’re playing great and I get to watch you on TV.’ It’s a big difference.”

While the MLS does not specifically make goalkeeper jerseys for the public, Powell has Irwin’s regular No. 31 jersey in his office ready to be sent off to be signed. Soon, it will join Kinney’s Fire jersey on Powell’s own wall of fame in his office.

“Anything is possible for Clint,” Powell said. “He’s very good. The sky’s the limit. He has all the characteristics that you want in a goalkeeper. He checks off a lot of boxes. He’s an exceptional person, a good reader. He’s agile, he’s big, he can get crosses, he organizes, he gets the low shots and he can get the all of the high shots. We try to watch as many games as we can, and to see him on the big stage, it just makes it all that much more special for us as a coaching staff. He just does it all.” §



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Irwin (left) has played in six games while recording two shutouts this season for the Rapids. He’s made five starts while allowing five goals on 22 shots in place of Pickens.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BASEBALL

Georgia Southern  
Fri.-Sun., April 26-28  
Statesboro, Ga.

Wake Forest  
6 p.m. — Tues., April 30  
Winston-Salem, N.C.

### SOFTBALL

N.C. State  
6 p.m. – Wed., April 24  
Elon, N.C.

Furman  
Sat. and Sun., April 27-28  
Greenville, S.C.

### WOMEN’S TRACK&FIELD

Duke Twilight  
Sun., May 5  
Durham, N.C.

Virginia Challenge  
Fri. and Sat., May 10-11  
Charlottesville, Va.

# THE LAST WORD: The war on pollen

Every morning I awaken, and in the confusion between trying to turn an alarm off with an arm that fell asleep and wondering what day it is, I remember the war that is consuming my life.



**Jonathan Black**  
Managing Editor

The enemy is everywhere, and like Antoine “Bed Intruder” Dodson, I am on the constant lookout for it to climb into my bed.

The enemy is pollen. And like Harry Potter, Katniss

Everdeen and any other young adult novel hero not including dead-eyed Bella Swan, I am looking to vanquish my mortal enemy.

But unlike Harry Potter, I am without my support system and am calling on

Elon students to apply for the positions of intelligent, and trustworthy female sidekick and useless, blubbing male best friend.

Without my sidekick Hermione Granger, how will I ever learn to finish homework and vanquish evil, all the while maintaining a healthy social life?

As for my Ron Weasley counterpart... well, Ron is pretty useless and abandoned his friend one too many times. I can't have a friend of mine abandoning me when I reach stardom shortly into my post-college career. So I'll just stick with Hermione for right now.

So why am I using The Last Word as a Craigslist want ad for a smart, bushy-haired female companion to help me win the war against pollen? In fact, why do I even need a partner in crime?

The answer is simple: desperation.

The Weather Channel has reported the pollen counts as “very high” in the last

week, and with no respite coming, a man stricken with pollen allergies is wondering if he'll make it through spring.

Perhaps I'm just weighed down by all the extra phlegm that has accumulated in my body. Or maybe the pollen has taken a Leonardo DiCaprio approach and incepted itself into my brain while I was sleeping.

Either way, the pollen is driving me, and the people around me who have to endure my constant sniffing, sneezing and whining, insane.

At a certain point, my skin and hair are going to be tinted yellow, and the only way I will be able to communicate is through sneezing.

Maybe I should just give up, never show up to class and stay in my apartment until rain falls for three days in a row, vanquishing my mortal enemy.

Then, I remember. In “Harry Potter” and “The Hunger Games” — but definitely not

“Twilight” — I remember how the good slayed the evil: in one conclusive battle fought at the center of their universe.

So that's why I'm asking you, Elon, to join me for a campus-wide rain dance sometime in the near future. It will be performed at the center of my universe: my Hogwarts, the Pendulum office.

Because I'm about as lazy as Ron Weasley, this won't be done until a suitable Hermione Granger-type candidate applies to be my academic assistant.

For now, just wait and be prepared for my signal, which will most likely be a crazed-looking man dancing on top of the Elon Town Center in the middle of the day. Probably when potential new students are being recruited.

As for you, pollen, I will continue to fight against your tyranny for as long as I live, if only because you have stained any white flag I would have waved in defeat.

## Sudoku

		3				2		4
			5					1
				1		5	6	7
					6	7		5
		8	1	5	2	6		
5		4	7					
9	8	5		3				
4					1			
7		1				4		

Complete the grid so that every row, column and every three-by-three box contains the digits 1 to 9.

**Difficulty Level:** Medium

## Top Tweets

### @elonuniversity

Heartbreak for the #Elon women's tennis team in the #SoConTennis title match. But congrats on a record-setting and successful season! #LTML

### @ElonAlumBoston

We are so grateful to share that all of our Boston Marathon runners, spectators, friends, and family are safe.

### @WillyD\_18

Can't believe I missed a great moment in American history for Elon's Big Sean concert #terriblelifedecisions

### @ELONTHON

A year of planning, 4 dedicated committees, tons of amazing families, 24 hours of standing & \$212,728.00 it was TOTALLY worth it!!!



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Freshmen Sarah Riley (left) and Caroline James relax in a hammock April 16 outside of West dormitory. Temperatures climbed higher than 80 degrees, bringing many Elon students outdoors for activities.



## Top Photos



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Students dance as they celebrate the second annual Holi festival April 11 at the Speaker's Corner.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Freshman Matt VanDerveer dances during the morale dance at ELONTHON's eighth annual 24-hour dance marathon April 12 in Alumni Gym. This year's THON raised \$212,728, surpassing 2012's total of \$105,397.64.

AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Members of Alpha Xi Delta perform during the Greek Week Dance show April 17 in Alumni Gym. Alpha Xi Delta won the Panhellenic Council competition with a "Pirates of Xi Caribbean" performance.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Junior Meagan Casavant (right) shops during the first Farmers' Market of the season April 18 outside Elon Community Church. The Farmers' Market is held from 3-6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the same location.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

North Carolina dogwood flowers are in full bloom as a student rides his bike Monday through Scott Plaza.



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