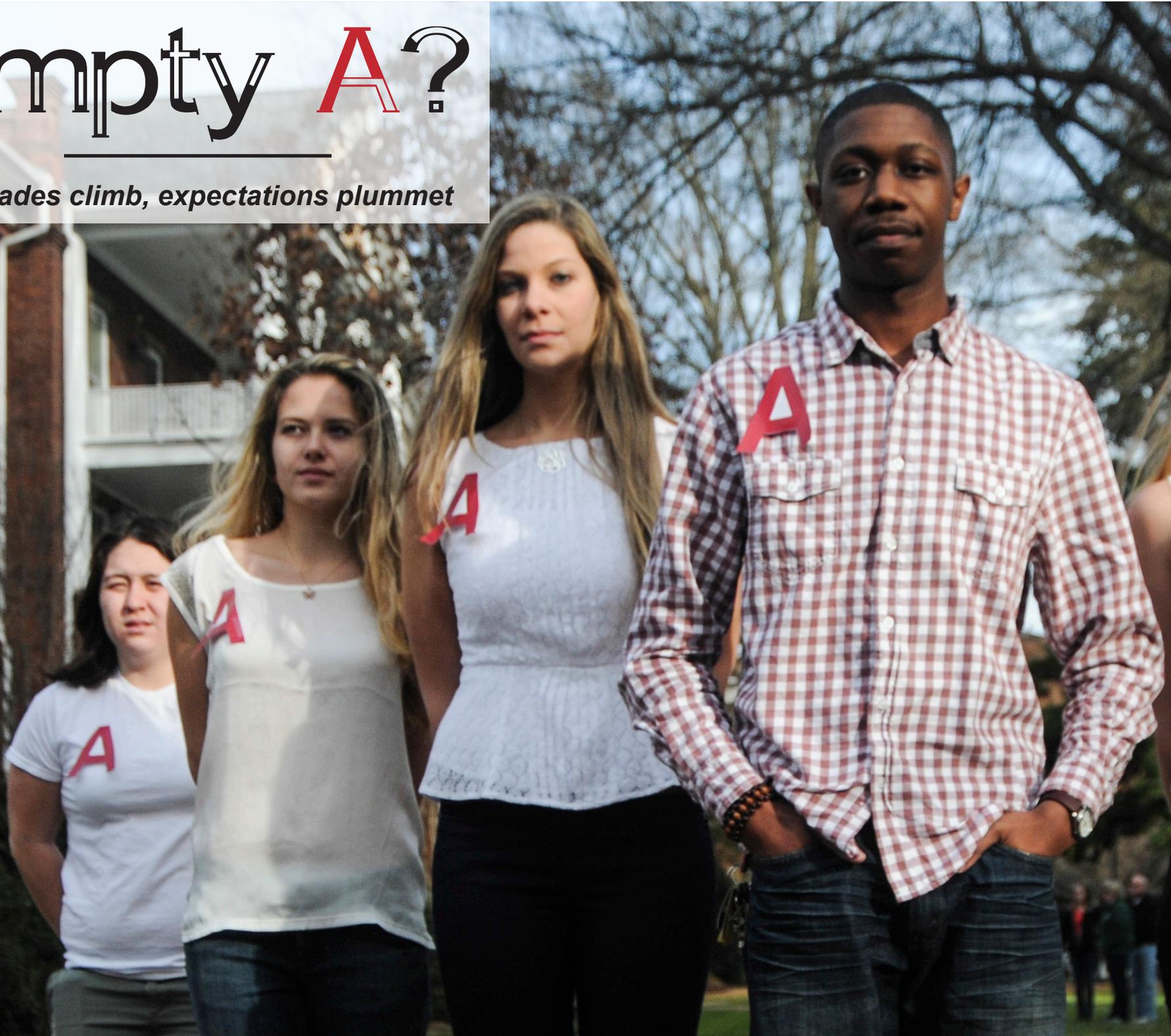


THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2014 • VOLUME 40, EDITION 1

Empty A?

As grades climb, expectations plummet



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2 Women's Lacrosse vs. Presbyterian 1 p.m.	3 New Student Convocation 9 a.m.	4 Spring 2014 classes begin 8 a.m.				

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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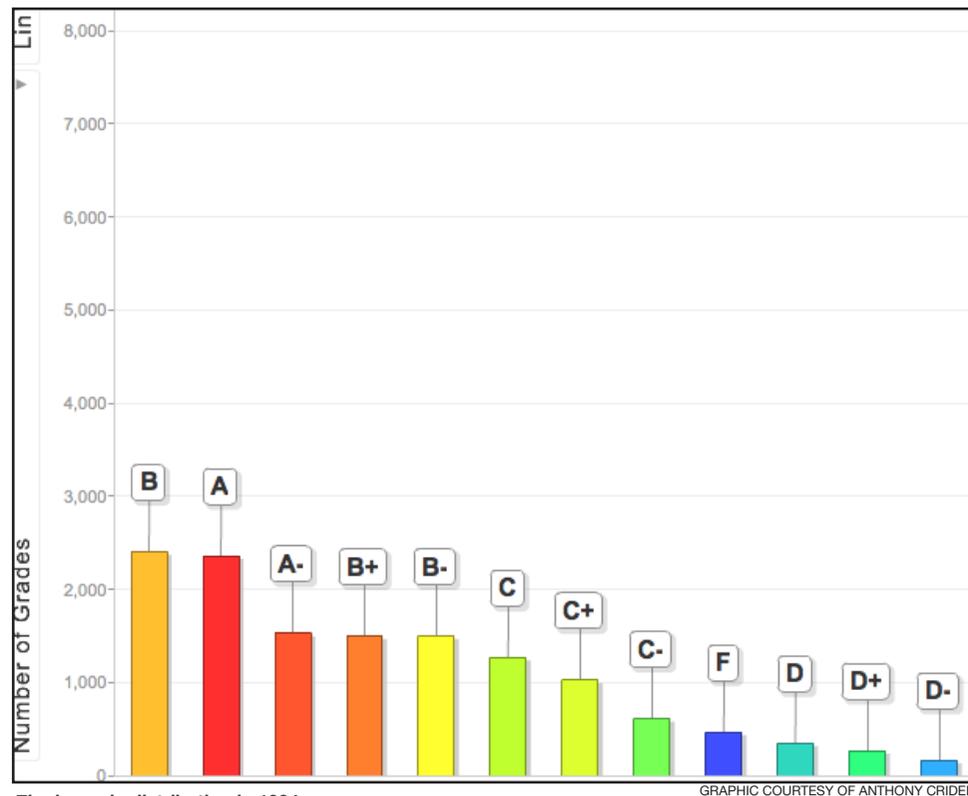
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Grade inflation: Are **A's** too easy to come by?



Elon's grade distribution in 1994.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ANTHONY CRIDER

Matt Lee
Reporter

If you are one of the students who made the President's and Dean's Lists over Winter Break, don't celebrate just yet.

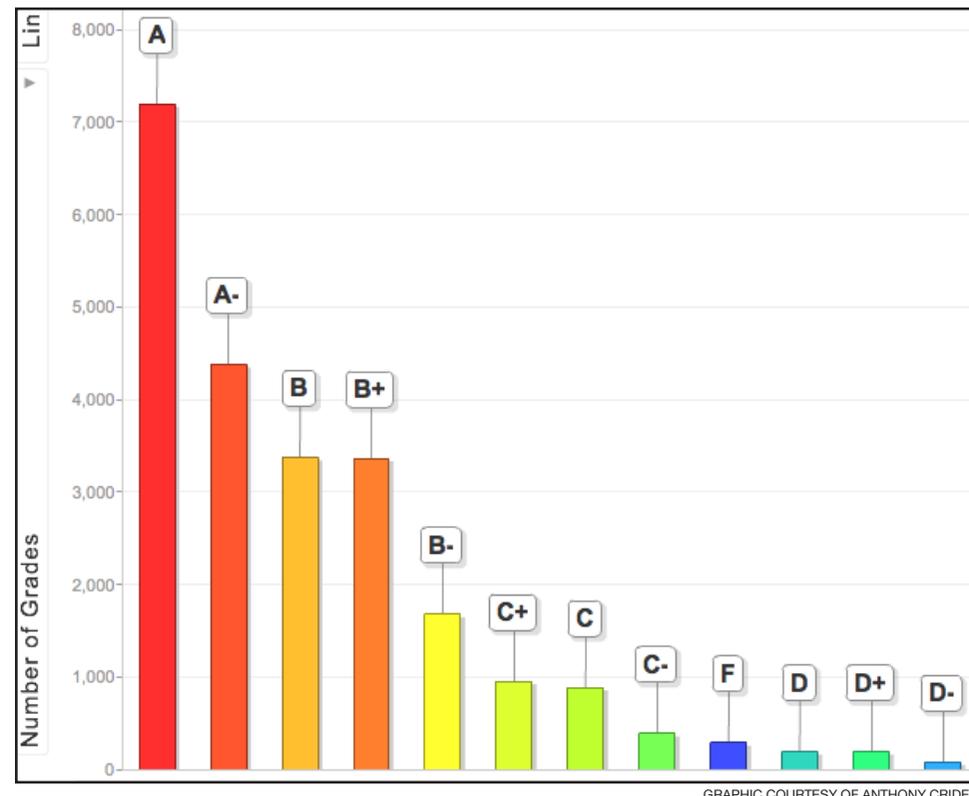
The President's List consisted of 718 students who received straight A's, and 1,256 students received no grade lower than a B- in a minimum of 12 semester hours while maintaining a 3.5 GPA, landing them on the Dean's List. Combine those numbers, and you'll realize more than 35 percent of students are making either the President's or Dean's Lists — that's more than one-third of the student body. According to Elon University's student handbook, the Dean's List exists to "encourage and recognize excellence in academic work." But with so many students making high grades, is the distinction still an honor?

This isn't the first time Elon has encountered this issue. In 2008, Elon reported a

shocking statistic: more than 40 percent of the grades students received were A's. The number of A's had been slowly increasing over the years, but passing the 40 percent mark warranted some administrative concern.

President Lambert quickly responded in a letter titled, "Who is an 'A' student today?" saying, "Clearly, we must remain committed to maintaining standards of excellence." Six years later, the percentage of A's has only gone up.

Elon's student handbook outlines grades as follows: an A indicates a distinguished performance, a B an above-average performance and a C an average performance. This fall, 45 percent of the grades given out were A's, a 5 percent increase since President Lambert's letter. Based on the handbook's standards, those grades would indicate that almost half of Elon's students have demonstrated a distinguished performance in class, and only 9 percent can be considered aver-



Elon's grade distribution in 2012.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ANTHONY CRIDER

age (9 percent of grades given out were C's). This overwhelming and increasing amount of academic success has led many students, faculty and staff to question the extent of grade inflation at Elon.

Grade inflation occurs when grades go up despite student performance not improving. The value of a letter grade decreases, and higher grades become less challenging to attain.

The problem

According to the Elon student handbook, "an Elon student's highest purpose is Academic Citizenship: giving first attention to learning and reflection, developing intellectually, connecting knowledge and experiences and upholding Elon's honor codes." But is the university doing enough to challenge its students, especially now that most students are considered above-average? Sophomore Maggie Liston doesn't think so.

Liston, a French and international studies double major minoring in political science, believes that academic rigor is lacking at Elon.

"I currently have a 4.0, and I don't think I deserve it," she said. "And, for me, I feel guilty, because I know that sometimes I'm not putting forth my best work, but it doesn't influence my grades at all."

During her first semester at Elon, Liston was shocked to discover her college courses were not as challenging as those she took in high school. She even requested outside coursework from her adviser in an attempt to push herself academically where her classes were not.

"I just had these expectations coming from high school that college would be this fountain of knowledge that I could soak up and that everyone would be as excited as I was, and it wasn't that way," Liston said.

See *INFLATION* page 18

In 10 years, four winners will attempt to be the first humans to set foot on Mars, including one Raleigh student

Charles Parrish II is one of the 1,000 finalists in the Dutch Mars One project to put people on Earth's red neighbor. Mars One is a non-profit, crowdsourced project that is still looking for the funding to build a rocket, suits and supplies.

The first planned launch, in 2024, will only have a crew of four, so the North Carolina State University student may not be one of the first to set foot on Mars. Parrish still has to pass physical tests and an interview.



Photo courtesy of MCT Campus.

Parrish may be one of the first humans to walk this ancient Mars seabed that might have once held water.

Former faculty member Alexis Kamerman dies in Taliban attack in Afghanistan

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

Last Friday, Elon University lost former faculty member Alexis Kamerman in an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. Kamerman served as assistant director of residence life for the East Residence Area from 2012 to 2013.

In June 2013, Kamerman took a job at the American University of Afghanistan. She wanted to inspire young women to seek higher education. Kamerman was to spend three years at the university.

Ashley Pinney, who worked with Kamerman at Elon, told the Chicago Tribune, "She knew she could make a difference there and wasn't going to let anything stop her from doing that."

While out to dinner with a fellow faculty member, a Taliban suicide bomber and gunmen attacked the restaurant, killing 21 people. The attack seems to have been in retaliation to a NATO airstrike that killed several Afghan civilians. The president of the American University of

Afghanistan called the violence "senseless."

In a statement to the Chicago Sun Times, Kamerman's aunt, Julie Pfeffer, said, "Her death is a shock to us all, and we can't imagine a moment going forward when she won't be desperately missed."

Elon junior, Alex Caruso, said, "As my advisor in RSA, she really helped guide me and get more involvement with leadership. She is definitely part of the reason why I am co-president of RSA today. It is something I would never have pursued without her. I hope her legacy at Elon is one of a hard-working, loving, and caring individual."

A Gathering of Friends was held Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Numen Lumen Pavilion to commemorate the 27 year old's legacy of service and compassion.

In an email, Smith Jackson, vice president for Student Life and dean of students, said, "She had many friends at Elon and was a very engaging and positive-minded professional who championed the ideals of inclusion and respect."

After computer glitches caused SNAP, or food stamp, benefits to stop, North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services said it will have the backlog cleared by March

Since fall, electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards have been randomly affected and not allowed recipients to get monthly benefits. The state DHHS said it has 24,000 cases to work on getting missed payments. In response to the backlog, the USDA threatened in December to cut federal funding to the SNAP program.

North Carolina has 1.7 million people on SNAP. SNAP payment sizes shrank across the board in November as the increase from the 2009 Recovery Act expired.

Who receives food stamps

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamps, helps low-income people buy food; percent of a state's population receiving SNAP, June 2013:

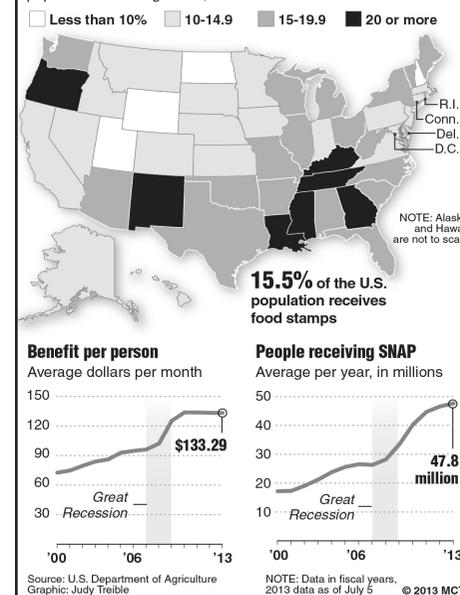


Photo courtesy of MCT Campus.
For the 15.5 percent of the U.S. population receiving food stamps, SNAP benefits are the most prevalent.

A summer court date was set Friday for a North Carolina man accused of attempting to join a terrorist organization

Basit Sheikh, a Cary resident, was arrested in November and charged with attempting to join Jabhat al-Nusra, which has been declared a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. Jabhat al-Nusra is currently fighting against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Federal prosecutors wanted a September court date to prepare a better case, but U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle said that would be too long of a wait. Boyle also ruled that Sheikh would not be released on bail, deciding that he is a flight risk.



Photo courtesy of MCT Campus.

An armed Jabhat al-Nusra fighter controls a gas production factory in Ash Shaddadi, Syria.

Elon Law's new dean to build on university's strengths

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The Elon University School of Law now has its third dean, with Luke Bierman taking over for the school's previous dean, George Johnson, starting June 1.

Before accepting the position at Elon, Bierman was a distinguished professor of law at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, as well as the school's associate dean of experiential learning.

Faith Rivers James, professor of law and co-chair of the search committee for the school's dean, said the committee looked for candidates who could use the strengths of Elon to improve the relatively young law school.

"Elon's outstanding record in terms of engaged learning is an important foundation for the law school," James said.

James said Bierman's background and

experience shows that he can combine university education with practical, hands-on teaching. That practical knowledge included an understanding of the national and North Carolina-level academic and legal market.

"We were looking for a visionary leader who could take Elon Law School through the next stage in our development," James said.

In a speech announcing Bierman as the Elon Law School's new dean, Elon President Leo Lambert said Bierman's leadership will help the school grow based on practices the university already prides itself on, such as faculty mentoring and scholarly pursuits.

"Professor Bierman is going to lead Elon Law in building a national model of highly personalized engaged legal education," Lambert said.

Following Lambert, Bierman emphasized the importance of ensuring legal education remains rigorous, relevant and efficient in

creating the law school of the future.

"Let me suggest one particular vision that might make sense, considering the transformative society that lawyers and we all find ourselves: at the beginning of the 21st century, while knowing that our students today will be providing legal services on the cusp of the 22nd century," Bierman said. "It's kind of daunting if you think about it."

In his vision, Bierman challenged the audience to remember that this is "a law school, not a lawyer school."

"Why don't we imagine a law school at the center of learning, lawyering and leadership?" Bierman said. "It's a place where learning and lawyering can help solve our collective social, economic, cultural and political problems. That sounds pretty good. That sounds kind of like Elon."

As an attorney, Bierman is a member of the Legal Access Job Corps Task Force and founded the Justice Center at the American

Bar Association, as well as previously directing the ABA's Judicial Division.

Bierman also worked as chief attorney for the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, as well as a clerk for the presiding, or chief, justice.

James said Bierman's work made him a strong candidate for dean because the law school is not purely an academic institution.

"The law school is both an academic institution and a collection of lawyers," James said. "Both sides of that ledger are going to be important."

The process to find a new dean began in summer of 2013. Johnson, who replaced founding dean Leary Davis in 2009, said he is stepping down to return to teaching.

Elon's School of Law began in 2006 and was recently placed in The National Jurists' top 20 list of most innovative law schools in the United States.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind selected as common reading for the next school year

Michael Bodley
News Editor

The 2014-2015 common reading selection, William Kamkwamba's "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," is designed to show incoming students the world through the eyes of a boy growing up in developing Malawi, one of Africa's poorest countries.

The nonfiction book was chosen by the Elon Common Reading Program (ECRP) to combat stereotypes and poverty through ingenuity, according to Jeffrey Coker, chair of the ECRP and director of general studies.

"It's empowering," he said. "You look at somebody who is in a disadvantage, but because of their own personality and creativity they're able to do something extraordinary."

The boy in the book's title is the author, Kamkwamba. Born into poverty in a small agricultural village in Malawi, Kamkwamba is forced to drop out of school and watch his fellow villagers drop like flies from starvation caused by a lengthy drought.

To bridge the language barrier, U.S. author Bryan Mealer, best-known for writing "Muck City," co-wrote the book, but the story is Kamkwamba's alone.

The storyline follows the transformation of an inkling of an idea into a tangible reality: creating a windmill out of discarded junk to supply the village with electricity and running water.

"It takes you from him just reading a textbook that he can hardly read, and he's looking at these diagrams, and he's experimenting, and he learns from that to do more, to create a bigger one, more powerful," Coker said. "It's as empowering, as inspiring, as it is universal."

Eight to ten faculty, staff and students typically serve on the ECRP each year. Junior Ruth Robinson said "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" speaks especially to first year students.

"This is a vital lesson for first year students who are in the midst of figuring out what makes them passionate and how they can use that to help the world become a better place," she said. "I think that my biggest concern freshman year was deciding what truly made me passionate, and how I could use this not just for self-gain, but for the overall betterment of society."

There were practical considerations in selecting the book, too, according to Coker. The university was unable to bring Dave Eggers, author of the 2012-2013 common reading selection "Zeitoun," a nonfiction work on post-Katrina New Orleans, to campus at the time.

"It was disappointing," Coker said. "We want to make this about more than just a book students have to read. We want students to see, talk, interact with the author and allow the book to take on a whole new meaning."

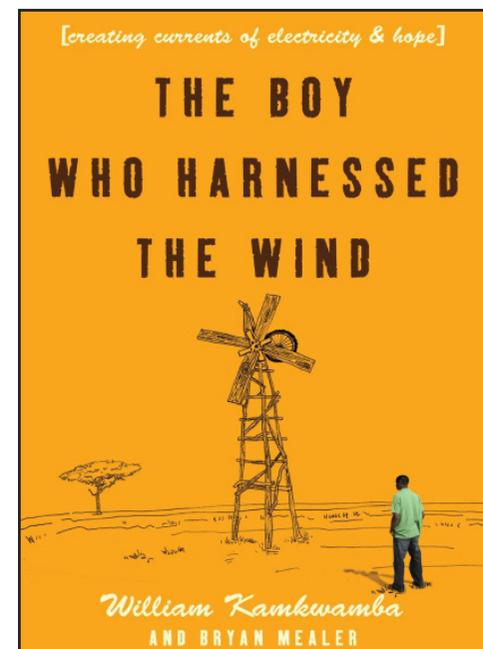
Coker said the 2013-2014 chosen author of "Little Princes," a whirlwind account of the author's quest to save orphans in war-torn Nepal, Conor Grennan, exceeded expectations by holding four question and answer sessions, going out to more than one lunch and dinner with students and tweeting with members of the Elon community for days after he visited campus Sept. 16-17.

The ECRP used to announce the common reading selection and then ask the author to visit campus for discussions. But putting the cards on the table put Elon in a "begging position," Coker said.

"Now when we approach authors and agents we'll say you might be the common reading if you're willing to come and interact with Elon students," he said. "What we don't want is for an author to come for campus and give an evening lecture and leave. It's really not effective."

Kamkwamba and Mealer have already agreed to come to campus next fall, and Coker said their visit should open some eyes.

"We really like William as a role model," he said. "You combine his remarkable story with a genuine personality, and you get someone who really challenges stereotypes and educates in a way students can relate to."



A discarded bike tire and scrap metal helped Kamkwamba power an entire village.

A remodeled West End rings in Winter Term with expanded payment options

Meghan Leonard
Senior Reporter

Students returned from winter break to find that Elon's signature bar, West End Station, underwent a massive transformation.

West End's new owner, Harold Hill, bought the bar at the end of the summer with an aim to create more variety in the Elon community. He wanted to attract not only students, but also alumni and community members as well.

In an effort to bring in more current students, Phoenix cash has been added as a new payment option for food and drink.

The first visible change is the updated outdoor patio, complete with heaters, new furniture and an iron fence, replacing the old brick wall.

"I want people to be able to see inside and see their friends on the patio," said Hill. "The old brick wall made it feel like a prison and no one could see in or out."

Inside, Hill knocked down the wall that used to cut the bar in half to create more openness and flow. He also switched the stage and dance floor to the right of the bar, which eliminates the need to fight through a huge crowd to

get a drink, he said.

"We didn't want people to have to wait twenty minutes to get a beer," said Austin Davis, Hill's girlfriend who is helping manage the bar. "This way it's easier for people to move around and get to the bar."

They also created more space by eliminating some of the unused games, leaving only a pool and foosball table. Hill also installed brand new bathrooms after receiving numerous complaints about the old ones.

The bar has also installed new security cameras after a couple of incidents of vandalism in December, Hill said.

Elon sophomore Noelle Walser said she is pleased with the makeover.

"I like how open it feels now, and also the heaters outside are a really nice touch," she said.

Hill and Davis are both Elon alumni. Hill said his dream was to transform West End from a run-down spot students frequented on Tuesdays and Thursdays to a nice bar and restaurant that the entire community can enjoy.

Starting in February, West End will be offering a revamped food menu, which will include salads, flatbreads, tacos, quesadillas and other options for students on



MEGHAN LEONARD | Senior Reporter

Populated by a local crowd during the day, West End remains swamped with students most nights.

a budget.

Anthony Hutson, West End's new kitchen manager, describes the food as "gourmet quick food, not fast food."

Hutson said all of the food will be made from scratch, and they will be offering a lunch and dinner menu. They are also exploring possible late night options. Because the new owners didn't want to just offer fried food, the new options will go for more variety.

Hill said he also wants to encourage people to try a variety of craft beers. He will be starting a series called Beer 101. He plans to bring in a beer master once a month and for a flat rate, people can taste a variety of the offerings.

As a beer enthusiast, Hill wants people to become more educated on the process of making beer, as well as the different tastes each brew has to offer.

Since West End's re-opening, the response from students and community members has been enormous. Last Thursday night, the bar's crowd exceeded capacity. More people gathered outside, unable to get in.

Hutson said that at 12 a.m. there were

only 20 people inside the bar, but nine minutes later they had reached capacity.

Senior Stephanie Seligman bought her wristband for entry into West End hours before she arrived at the bar at 12:15 a.m. Because of insane crowds, she never made it inside.

"I was extremely frustrated with the management. I think it's poor business to sell wristbands and then not have an expedited line to get in," Seligman said. "Honestly, there's a reason upperclassmen are starting to choose other establishments. They should have taken in account the number of wristbands they sold earlier that evening."

"I feel like everyone all comes out at once at 12, and that's what creates the huge line issue," Hutson said. "The new West End staff encourages students to come earlier so they can have more time to have fun and in turn, decrease the wait time outside."

Currently, the capacity for West End is 237 people. Once the fire marshal re-evaluates the bar with the additional open space, the bar should be able to accommodate more patrons.



BETH LESTER | Staff Photographer

High brick walls used to block patrons from peering in, but they have been replaced by a wrought-iron fence.

Book launch at Elon has ties to Periclean Scholars work in Mexico

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

On Friday, the Periclean Scholars at Elon University held an event to launch the book "Aqui & Alla/Here and There." Campus and community members gathered as author Blanca Zendejas Nienhaus and others with connections to the book spoke.

At the event, Nienhaus gave a brief overview of the book and noted its association with the Periclean Scholars class of 2013.

Elon's Periclean Scholars program is a part of Project Pericles, a national nonprofit organization that encourages colleges and universities to prepare students for global citizenship. At Elon, the Periclean Scholars program consists of civic engagement courses that culminate in a class project, which focuses on combating an

issue somewhere in the world.

The Periclean Scholars class of 2013 identified health concerns in Chiapas, a state in Southern Mexico. Nienhaus and her husband Brian Nienhaus, assistant professor of management and mentor for the Periclean Scholars class of 2013, guided the class through its project locally and in Mexico.

"The class of 2013 wanted to partner with Mexico, and it wanted to partner with Chiapas," said Thomas Arcaro, professor of sociology and director of the Periclean Scholars program at Elon. "And the end product was so much more bountiful than anyone could have imagined."

In the book, the author tells the childhood story of Trucila Perez, who immigrated to North Carolina from Chiapas so her family could reunite.

Perez goes unnamed in the book, but she

spoke at the book launch. She thanked her mother, also present at the launch, for bringing her to the United States.

"I never dreamed in my life that I would be a part of a book," Perez said. "I never thought that I would come to this country and be able to do something like drive a car, own a cell phone."

Perez graduated from Blanca's community program, Plaza Comunitaria. The program offers educational services to Mexican immigrants in Alamance County.

While 50 percent of the proceeds from the book go to Nienhaus, the other half supports the Hogares Sanos Project, a community health initiative started by the Periclean Scholars class of 2013 that serves the Latino population of Burlington.

Nienhaus explained the role she and her husband had in the Periclean Scholars project.

"I think that for the first time the Periclean Scholars were put in a position to realize that they were surrounded by a large Hispanic community," she said.

Thomas Price, a member of the Periclean Scholars class of 2013, agreed.

"Blanca was already involved in the community in a number of ways," he said. "It was through her and her husband that we really understood the challenges of immigrants in Alamance County."

At the event, Javier Diaz de Leon, the consul general of the Mexican Consulate in Raleigh, briefly described Blanca's success.

"She must be proud of where she is and where she comes from," Leon said. "She is also part of this community. She's Mexican, but she's also a Carolinian. Being in the Carolinas means being part of a diverse, multiethnic community."

Dialogue remembers Martin Luther King with topics of service, awareness

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

At the Martin Luther King Difficult Dialogue on Thursday night, participants discussed social change on Elon University's campus, as well as on a national and international scale. The event, hosted by the Multicultural Center in a Lakeside conference room, consisted of student-led discussions that examined Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s achievements and speeches.

During the dialogue, Continuing the Spirit of Social Justice, attendees identified that King's legacy affects all people and that awareness leads to societal transformation.

The student leaders who presented topics and asked questions to facilitate discussion included junior Clarisse Abayisenga, the student program coordinator for the Multicultural Center's Diversity Emerging Education Program (DEEP), junior Jasmine Turner and senior Jordan Joshua.

To open the event, Abayisenga presented information about King's life, focusing on his passion to serve others. Discussion participants shared how King's words contribute to their understanding of service.

"I think it's important to realize that to have a fulfilling life means that we have to contribute to others'," Turner said.

Abayisenga then showed a segment from King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Afterward, attendees said that King's message impacts people from all backgrounds, not just those who experience racial inequalities.

"He could never be dead because his words are alive," Abayisenga said.

Turner and Joshua then led separate discussions about two of King's other speeches.

Turner read an excerpt from King's eulogy for victims of the Birmingham church bombing in 1963. To put the speech into context, participants talked about the social constructs of the civil rights era. They also spoke about today's injustices, including economic inequalities.

In modern times, Turner warned attendees to think before judging people from other cultures.

"We have to understand the society and its interworkings before we point fingers," she said.

Joshua introduced excerpts from King's 1965 commencement speech at Oberlin College. He directed the group's attention to the speech's analogy about fictional character Rip Van Winkle, who slept so long that he missed changes in his town.

According to Joshua, King made an important comparison between the tale and people who ignore societal problems. Joshua

said that, unlike Rip Van Winkle, King identified disparities during his lifetime and found ways to combat them.

Attendees said that King's example applies to modern situations across all groups.

"I think that it's not only an issue for minorities, but that it's an issue for the human condition," Abayisenga said. "As people, we have to open our eyes that there are things going on not only in our community but around the world."

To address this concern on campus, Joshua encouraged students to take advantage of Elon's study abroad opportunities.

"We are all blessed to be in this situation, in this traditional four-year college with an excellent education," he said. "But not just an excellent education, the number one study abroad program."

Joshua, who studied abroad during his time as a student, said that becoming globally aware helps students to facilitate changes.

"Studying abroad pushes you outside of that invisible boundary that you put yourself in," he said.

Community member Darius Richmond agreed that awareness is beneficial and said that the Rip Van Winkle analogy was the most impactful part of the discussion.

"If you don't recognize what's going on, you can't advocate," he said.

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New NC taxes force meal plan prices to record highs

Katy Canada
Managing Editor

In a summer tax code overhaul, a bill stating that university meal plans and live performances would no longer be exempt from sales tax was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Upon returning to campus in 2014, Elon University students have taken notice of increased prices of university meal plans, which before the tax code implementation cost anywhere from \$2,500-\$6,274 each year. After tacking on the 4.75 percent sales tax levied by the government, in addition to the 2 percent tax required in Alamance County, students are now paying an average of \$294 extra each year.

Senior Vice President for Business, Finance and Technology Gerald Whittington said almost every single state has revenue enhancers similar to North Carolina's newest additions. Whittington recalled that the Department of Revenue has gone back and forth on exempting university meals from sales tax multiple times.

"I think, as a society, we're just resigned to 'we're going to have to pay the tax.' That's just how it is," Whittington said.

Elon students are not nearly as complacent in regards to the increase in prices. Students in dorms at Elon are required to purchase one of the All-Access meal plans, the least expensive of which is \$2,328 for the spring semester after the tax.

Junior Allison Hren had already chosen to buy the least expensive meal plan before the sales tax was introduced.

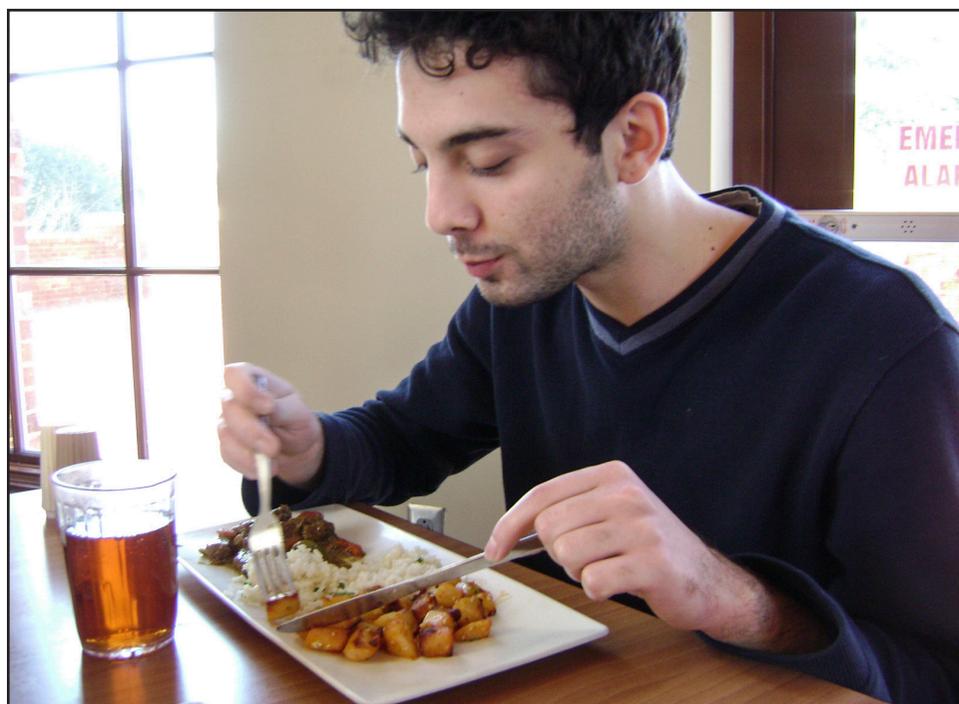
"It was a shock, to be sure," she said. "College is already expensive enough for people who want to go, and especially with schools like Elon who require you to have a meal plan your freshmen year. It's definitely a deterrent."

Some students who do have the choice to downgrade their meal plans or forgo them altogether are planning to take advantage of that option.

"For what it's costing me now, I know

that I can make my own food much less expensively. In the future, I don't plan on having a meal plan," Hren said.

In addition to removing the tax exemption for meal purchases, the same sales tax has been added to the prices of tickets for live performances. According to Will Powell, the director of ticket sales for the athletic department, the additional sales tax for sporting events has not yet been applied to Elon.



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Diego Fernandes using his meal plan, which after new state and local taxes costs an average of \$294 more.

While athletic ticket prices have not been affected, Powell said there is no way of knowing how they will be impacted in the future.

"I think it would depend on what sport it is, to be honest," he said. "We obviously don't want to pass off any additional cost to the consumer unless we have to. But it would definitely have to be a game-by-game and a sport-by-sport determination."

The realities of the North Carolina sales tax changes have been harsh for students at public institutions as well.

University of North Carolina at

Greensboro student body president Crystal Bayne said she met in November with the Association of Student Government, and a collective of North Carolina student governments agreed that the new sales tax would impact students negatively.

"Our biggest concern was that when they come back to school, because of the lack of publicity, there was going to be a lot of sticker shock," Bayne said.

Bayne said student groups have already

sity administrators struggled with how they were going to implement the sales tax.

"After conversations with representatives from the universities, it was decided that the universities preferred collecting the tax on the cost of the meal plan instead of collecting it at each transaction," Lewis said.

By taxing similar products and services, he said the state is avoiding giving certain providers an advantage over others.

"All the vendors of food at Elon – for example, Varsity Sports Grill, Acorn Coffee Shop or Chick-fil-A – have been charging a sales tax on food sold to students," Lewis said. "It was our intent to treat food sold by dining halls the same way and ask them to collect a sales tax just like every other vendor of food currently does."



Seniors



Info sessions:

January 22nd Moseley 140 @ 5:30 p.m.

February 11th Moseley 140 @ 5:30 p.m.

February 25th Moseley 140 @ 5:30 p.m.



noticed the changes. Next week marks the beginning of Winter Fest at UNCG, an event that is sponsored by several groups on campus.

"There's really no way around this," she said. "If a student group is selling tickets for \$10, that group is only going to receive \$9.25. A lot of students have expressed concern with that."

Representative David Lewis, a sponsor of the bill, said the General Assembly's goal was to tax a greater number of items in order to decrease the rates at which they were taxed.

When the bill was first passed, univer-

After six months, unemployment insurance may return to NC

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The United States Senate's top priority for January has been the extension of expired federal unemployment insurance—a reality in North Carolina for nearly six months.

Federal unemployment insurance ran out at the end of 2013, and the Senate is currently working on legislation to extend those benefits until March. But in North Carolina, the state's General Assembly reduced unemployment insurance payments from a maximum of \$500 to \$350 each week. The bill also trimmed the length of time someone could receive unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 12-20 weeks.

This disqualified North Carolina from emergency unemployment insurance the federal government supplies states in need. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., amended the Senate's bill to extend federal benefits to reinstate North Carolina's emergency unemployment insurance.

"As we slowly regain jobs lost during the Great Recession, out-of-work North Carolinians should not suffer because of the General Assembly's reckless actions. And even though our state's unemployment rate continues to decrease, the long-term unemployment crisis – and the North Carolinians who cannot find work – should not be ignored," Hagan said in a statement.

Whether North Carolina gets that emergency unemployment insurance is up to Gov. Pat McCrory, who has declined to say what he would do if the Senate's bill passes.

Tom Tiemann, professor of economics at Elon University, said the reduction and eventual loss of unemployment insurance in North Carolina hurts the state's chances of regaining jobs.

"There's been less money coming in for people to spend," Tiemann said. "Money coming from the outside helps not only when people spend for themselves, but that spending creates jobs." Tiemann explained by saying that

when a person uses an outside dollar to buy groceries, for example, that grocer then has that dollar to spend, so it has more effect in the economy than just one dollar.

"People on unemployment insurance don't save any of it," Tiemann said. "It has a very high multiplier effect."

Living unemployed

Kim Crawford, executive director of Allied Churches, a homeless shelter and resource center in Burlington, said a loss of unemployment insurance usually does not mean that someone immediately goes to the shelter.

"They have a few more steps, generally, before they end up with us. They run out of unemployment and so they sell their car and their other belongings and their house gets foreclosed on," Crawford said. "Then they end up with us."

Betsy Strauss, program manager at Alamance County's Women's Resource Center, said the loss of unemployment insurance puts a strain on the women she sees because they are often the sole worker in their household.

"They become homeless, or they manage to get into a shelter, or they are going from friend to friend or relative to relative," Strauss said.

Crawford said many in Allied Church's shelters have jobs, but they are usually in the service industry, which are minimum wage and part-time, which Crawford said is not enough to live on.

"The unemployment benefits can help you stay where you are. It can help you at least maintain a living," Crawford said.

The impact of losing unemployment insurance is particularly difficult to those Strauss works with because many were already underemployed to begin with. The Women's Resource Center works with women in the area to get additional job training, but Strauss said a good percentage of her clients have at most a GED.

"To have actually finished high school within the traditional four years, we



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Senator Kay Hagan said the state's residents shouldn't suffer for the General Assembly's "reckless" actions.

don't see too many of those people," Strauss said.

Not hiring

Tiemann addressed the theory that a loss of unemployment insurance would further encourage individuals to find work because they would need a paycheck even more.

"If there's no jobs to be had, it doesn't make any difference," Tiemann said.

Since the reduction in unemployment insurance, North Carolina's unemployment rate has dropped over 1 percent. However, 100,000 North Carolinians also left the workforce altogether, which meant they were not counted as unemployed, creating an artificial decrease in the unemployment rate.

"If the economy starts to grow and people aren't looking for work, then it won't grow back as quickly as it otherwise could," Tiemann said.

Crawford said many people she sees at Allied Churches are part of that group of "discouraged workers" because jobs are not available.

"Most of the jobs are in West Burlington, and most of the affordable housing is in East Burlington," Crawford said.

The alternative is a commute that can

be difficult without transportation.

"It's not uncommon for people who are living in the shelters to be walking four to six miles, one-way, to get to work for a part-time job that pays \$9 an hour," Crawford said.

Strauss said unemployed people in other parts of Alamance County face the same difficulty.

"There is no bus service in Burlington, other than the Elon bus," Strauss said. "And if they're living in Graham or one of the outlying communities, unless they are within walking distance of a place of employment, they're up the creek without a paddle."

Strauss added that moving can be an expensive process, considering security deposits and additional rent required for a current home.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the United States is currently in the longest period of sustained high unemployment since the Great Depression. Tiemann summarized the solution to the problem in one word: spend.

"If your credit card is running out and your kitchen's empty and you're starving, you go out and buy food and don't worry about the card's debt," Tiemann said. "It's more important to get employment pumping. It's a silly time to balance the budget."

Semiconductor technologies key to revitalizing U.S. manufacturing industry

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

Earlier this week, President Barack Obama announced that North Carolina State University will serve as the head of his manufacturing technologies initiative. This public-private partnership between universities, companies and research institutions will work to create more efficient and sustainable methods of powering electronics.

For the past 50 years, electronic devices have relied on silicon-based semiconductors to convert electrical energy into power. A semiconductor is made up of a conductive metal and an insulator, such as silicon, which allows for better control of electrical currents.

These semiconductors are present in devices such as laptops, cell phones and industrial motors. Silicon Valley was built on the use of silicon semiconductors.

Since the 1970s, the semiconductor industry followed Moore's Law, which states that integrated circuits will double their transistor capacity every two years. This explains why cell phones, televisions and computers have become smaller in recent years.

But, as technology has improved, the industry has outgrown the capabilities of silicon chips. Silicon materials use high amounts of energy and are prone to overheating and failure.

President Obama's Next Generation Power Electronics Innovation Institute plans to shift the industry from producing silicon semiconductors to relying on wide bandgap (WBG) semiconductors.

"In a global economy, a company has to keep inventing and innovating in order to stay on the cutting edge," Obama said.

WBG semiconductors can operate at twice the maximum temperature of silicon chips. The new semiconductors would also be able to withstand 10 times higher frequencies and 10 times higher voltage than silicon chips can manage. According to a statement by the U.S. Department of Energy, WBG semiconductors could cut energy use by 20 percent and reduce energy waste by 90 percent.

WBG materials include silicon-carbide, zinc-oxide, gallium-nitride, diamond and others. On average, these materials yield three times the bandgap energy (eV) as silicon-based conductors.

Silicon-carbide, the most popular WBG, is currently in use and expected to grow in popularity. Gallium-nitride, a WBG material that is used to read Blu-ray Discs, has a smaller market and is more expensive than silicon-carbide. Research initiatives plan to bring the cost down significantly in the next few years.

RF Micro Devices (RFMD), based in Greensboro, focuses on developing WBG semiconductors. In a statement from RFMD, the company said they plan to use money from the institute to develop gallium-nitride semiconductor technology, which is predicted to be a \$334 million industry by 2017 according to Strategy Analytics.

Electronic devices manufactured with WBG semiconductors are cheaper, more energy efficient and more compact than those made from silicon. This opens up new design opportunities for personal devices including cell phones, laptops and tablets, as well as industrial machinery.

Jason Kekas, co-founder and chief technology officer of ImagineOptix, a company that produces lenses, optics and prisms on micro-film, said "This technology could allow for light projectors in very small devices, like cell phones."

Dennis Kekas, interim executive director of the Next Generation Power Electronics Institute and father of Jason Kekas, said: "I'm most excited for improved motor drives in electric vehicles. Right now you have those mammoth contraptions under the hood, but widegap broadband would streamline the design."

WBG semiconductors could reduce the cost of electric cars by reducing the size of the cooling system needed. This technology would allow the system to charge faster and reduce the overall cost of manufacturing electric vehicles.

The Next Generation Power Electronics Institute has ambitious plans for a complete restructuring of the power grid. WBG semiconductors would allow large



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

The initiative unveiled at Wednesday's speech pushed for more efficient semiconductors.

areas of the power grid to convert to DC operation. Most household appliances and personal devices run on direct current (DC) power.

These devices must convert AC grid power to usable DC power, wasting up to 5 percent of all energy used in U.S. homes. Devices such as solar panels, electric cars and geothermal energy are based on DC power. With a grid run on DC power, these devices would not have to waste energy converting to AC power for the grid. In a statement, the U.S. Department of Energy said, "WBG semiconductors could help reduce the size of an 8,000 lbs. substation to 100 lbs. and the size of a suitcase - ultimately helping to lower the cost of electricity and build a stronger, more reliable grid."

In an interview with the "MIT Technology Review," Greg Reed, Director of the Power and Energy Initiative at The University of Pittsburgh, said "within the next 20 years we could definitely see as much as 50 percent of our total [electricity consumption] made up of DC consumption."

By 2030, the initiative hopes to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions by 14 billion tons, saving the U.S. \$3.3 billion in energy spending.

"This technology will be a huge step in clean energy. There will be less energy wasted," Dennis Kekas said.

While the benefits from this technology are potentially industry-changing, North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan notes that WBG materials and devices cost three to five times more than silicon semiconductors. Senator Hagan says she hopes the initiative will work to reduce the cost.

WBG semiconductors are still in the early stages of development. Since there have only been experimental prototypes, research and development are a key components of the institute.

"These prototypes are very experimental, but very promising," said Michael Hoit, vice chancellor of information technology at NC State University. "They wouldn't be investing this much money if the program didn't show real promise. However, we still need another five to 10 years of research."

Although this technology is still under development, Kekas said he is confident products will start utilizing WBG conductors within the next few years.

"This project will reach beyond RTP. This institute is part of a plan to revitalize U.S. manufacturing," Dennis Kekas said.

Public Policy Polling shows growing support for medical marijuana

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

New polling numbers show North Carolinians are changing their minds on the dangers of marijuana, opening the door for new medical marijuana legislation in 2014.

In light of legalization in Colorado and New York, Gov. Cuomo's plan to legalize medical cannabis, attitudes towards marijuana are changing. Public Policy Polling, a North Carolina-based polling company, released a study earlier this month that found 63 percent of North Carolinians believe doctors should be allowed to prescribe marijuana for medical use. This is percentage is up from 58 percent last year.

The study also found that 53 percent of North Carolinians believe alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana, and 42 percent believe marijuana should be legalized.

"When you look at the national trends, the number of people supporting legalization is growing. It's now up to 55 percent nationally. I just don't see anything happening that could decrease those numbers," said Jon Kennedy, secretary at N.C. NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

The National Cancer Institute recognizes marijuana's antitumor properties, citing five recent studies involving different types of

cancer in mice and rats, but no clinical trials have been conducted. Marijuana has a bad reputation as a gateway drug, but research by the Drug Policy Alliance found this perception to be false.

In a documentary last year, Sanjay Gupta, medical correspondent for CNN, said, "It is irresponsible not to provide the best care we can as a medical community, care that could involve marijuana."

The FDA approved the active ingredient in cannabis, THC, for medical use. However, marijuana is classified as a schedule 1 controlled substance, meaning it is addictive and does not possess any medicinal qualities. Given recent research to the contrary, this classification may need to be revisited.

Even President Barack Obama has spoken out on the issue, saying he does not believe marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol.

"My family friend [who holds a medical license in California] believes that medical marijuana is a healthier alternative to traditional and more addictive painkillers like OxyContin and Vicodin following surgeries," said Elon University freshman Dylan Rock. "It's an added bonus that it helps with nausea instead of taking multiple drugs, which often have damaging side effects."

In a statement last December, U.S. Rep.

Walter Jones, R - N.C., said, "I encourage our state elected officials to give this issue the attention it deserves by consulting with medical professionals to determine the efficacy of the safe use of CBD [cannabidiol, a cannabinoid used in medical marijuana] in liquid form for young patients that have no other medical options."

N.C. NORML and Rep. Kelly Alexander plan to meet in the coming months to draft medical marijuana legislation.

Kennedy believes education is the key to passing medical marijuana legislation in 2014. N.C. NORML is planning to launch an educational campaign using billboards, social media and legislative packets to show that marijuana has medicinal qualities, is not addictive and is safer than alcohol.

"I like to think people are reasonable, and I believe that as more facts come out about marijuana that show it isn't toxic, it isn't dangerous and, in fact, it is medicine, the conservatives will have to see that they're on the wrong side of history. The statistics are overwhelmingly in our favor," Kennedy said.

Last year, N.C. NORML and Rep. Alexander teamed up to write House Bill 84, a bill to set up, tax and regulate medical cannabis dispensaries within the state.

Groups like N.C. NORML, N.C. Medical Cannabis and N.C. Cannabis Patients

Network mobilized their resources to support the bill.

Kennedy said Alexander "told [the bill's supporters] that the best way to earn the General Assembly's support for the bill was to show public interest. We held legislative days, we got people to call their representatives and write letters."

Rep. Alexander warned that if HB 84 went into the Rules Committee, the bill would enter a "black hole." After just 20 minutes of discussion in the House Rules Committee, a vote ruled the bill unfavorable.

Rep. Paul Stam, chairman of the House Rules Committee said he and other legislators felt "harassed" by the number of phone calls and emails in regards to HB 84. Stam ruled the bill unfavorable in large part to stop the public response.

Stam told WRAL, "we did it to be done with it, so people could move on for the session."

"Tabling legislation because of public support? That's the opposite of how democracy should work," said Kennedy.

The 2014 proposal is sure to face an uphill battle, but supporters of medical marijuana are confident legalization is inevitable. If N.C. were to legalize, it would join 21 other states with medical marijuana laws.

"Eventually all states will legalize, but it's obviously difficult to say when," Rock said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Recent polls show increased support among North Carolinians for the legalization of medical marijuana. In addition, 63% of North Carolinians believe doctors should be allowed to prescribe marijuana for medical use.

Obama places the future of electronic innovation in North Carolina's hands

Michael Bodley
News Editor

RALEIGH, N.C. - Following a disappointing December that saw job creation fall to a three-year low, President Barack Obama visited North Carolina State University (NCSU) Wednesday to announce a \$150 million public-private partnership to fund the future of energy-efficient electronic chips and devices.

NCSU will lead a group of six universities and 18 private companies, collectively referred to as the Next Generation Power Electronics Institute, in developing smarter and more affordable electronic chips that run everything from cellphones to industrial motors.

"We've got to do more today to connect universities like N.C. State with companies like Vacon to make America the number-one place in the world to create new businesses and new jobs," Obama said to cheers from the sold-out crowd of 2,000 inside the J.W. Isenhour Tennis Center.

Vacon is a Finland-based producer of wide gap semiconductors, a departure from traditional silicon chips that the president said are up to 90 percent more efficient, because they can operate at higher temperatures and are more durable. The company is one of the institute's 16 partners. Obama toured Vacon's Durham facility before coming to Raleigh.

The institute will invest in "long-term solutions" for developing more efficient technology, which will spur a growth in manufacturing jobs, Obama said.

North Carolina Republicans have criticized the president's perceived failure to fix the economy after the federal government reported just 74,000 new jobs nationwide in December 2013. But emerging from the recession is a marathon, not a sprint, Obama said, as he pointed out the 80,000 new jobs created nationwide in the manufacturing industry in the last five months.

"This is going to be a long haul," he said. "We're not going to turn things around overnight. A lot of jobs were lost. Ultimately, because our people are good and smart and hardworking and willing to take risks, we are going to be able to start bring-



President Obama spoke at N.C. State University Wednesday on the importance of advancing scientific research. CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

ing those jobs back to America."

North Carolina Republican Gov. Pat McCrory said the program is a "good pilot" for bringing jobs to the state as he greeted Obama on the tarmac of Raleigh-Durham International Airport Wednesday morning.

The visit was Obama's third to North Carolina since the battleground state went red in the 2012 election. Though the president's emphasis on manufacturing was well received by most, the Young Americans for Liberty, a libertarian organization with more than 500 chapters nationwide, welcomed Obama with signs demanding his impeachment.

"We're protesting his economic policy," said Ross Bradley, NCSU student and member of Young Americans for Liberty. "Everything he has set up is creating lots of little loops that people aren't able to jump through. He's strangling the economy."

The organization credits Gov. McCrory's administration with the two-point drop in state unemployment levels last year, though North Carolina's 8 percent unemployment rate remains higher than the national average of 7.3 percent.

"North Carolina has struggled," said

Brian Fitzsimmons, a Raleigh resident. "Raleigh has struggled. But it is absolutely clear that the president's willingness to invest in this area will lead to the jobs getting better. We've got a lot of innovation, a lot of great people here. We need the direction."

But the institute is still very much in the planning phase, according to Dennis Kekas, assistant vice chancellor of NCSU and interim executive director of the institute.

"The biggest challenge, and the first step, is getting these 24 partners together and on the same page," he said. "We need to increase the flow of communication between the institute members and partners. We are still working out contracts, staff and all the components that go into creating a new organization."

The federal and state government money, totaling \$80 million, has already been allotted, Kekas said, but some of the matching \$70 million pledged by private businesses is still being negotiated.

A five-year plan is in the works to get the institute up and running, according to Kekas, with the end goal of weaning the institute off government funding and becoming

self-reliant.

If all goes according to plan, the first year will launch the program, and the second year will oversee the implementation of technology into products, followed by two more years of research and education on the technology. By year five, the institute aims to be entirely self-sustaining and devoid of government funding.

Obama said he hopes the federal funding will "get the ball rolling," but leaves the rest in the "very capable" hands of North Carolina ingenuity and creativity.

"Middle class families that are going to be able to buy the products that result from this innovation will lead to a virtuous cycle where everyone's working together, and no one's left behind," he said.

But as state Republicans are quick to counter, the president's promise is less than reassuring for those who are currently unemployed. Obama responded in an aside by urging Congress to pass an extension of long-term unemployment benefits. The bill is currently gridlocked in the Senate.

"Folks aren't looking for a handout," he said. "They're not looking for special treatment. There are a lot of people who are sending out resumes every single day, but the job market is still tough in pockets throughout the country. People need a little support, a little help."

While the fate of the bill remains up in the air, the president said he's no longer interested in waiting on the whim of Congress.

"Where I can act on my own, without Congress, I'm going to do so. And today I'm here to act," he said.

Obama encouraged North Carolinians to "get going" on harnessing the best and brightest of the state to lead another manufacturing revolution with electronic chip technology.

NCSU senior Daniel Salo said he is ready to go.

"We've been selected here in Raleigh," he said. "But at the same time, it's a tough road to recovery ahead for the state and for the nation. It's going to take technology, creativity and a desire to embrace the challenge."

Assistant News Editor Stephanie Lamm contributed reporting.

Duke University professor offers unorthodox solutions for U.S. income gap

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

As a part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. 50th Anniversary Speaker Series, William Darity, Jr. spoke about economic justice Wednesday at Elon University. Darity serves as the chair of the African and African American Studies department at Duke University. His research focuses on economic inequality.

The talk centered around his plan to end unemployment and racially fueled wage discrimination.

“The United States is characterized by a long-standing pattern of large structural racial inequality that has deepened further as a result of the economic down-turn,” Darity said.

Despite the efforts of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, both the unemployment gap and the racial gap have remained about the same nationwide.

The joblessness rate for black male teen high school dropouts is 95 percent, according to Remapping Debate, an advocacy group based in New York. Additionally, African-

Americans with some college education or an associate’s degree earn less than white high school dropouts, on average. Darity said he believes the racial gap in unemployment is a “profound index of the degree of discrimination in the U.S. labor market.”

Last year, Darity unveiled his plan to eliminate unemployment: The National Investment Corps. The Corps would work with state governments to create public works projects for unskilled workers. The jobs would pay at least \$23,000 a year and provide an additional \$10,000 in benefits.

Darity says if 15 million people enrolled in the program, and each worker was paid \$50,000 a year, including benefits, the program would cost \$750 billion annually.

Money to fund the program would come from cuts to the current \$740 billion spent on poverty alleviation programs, which Darity says would become unnecessary once unemployment is eliminated.

The second part of Darity’s policy includes what he calls a substantial child development account, or the “Baby Bonds” proposal. This is

a trust fund or endowment for each American child.

The amount of the fund depends on the family’s income, assets, debt and other financial circumstances, with children of wealthier families receiving less money.

The amount allocated would be determined by the financial situation of the family three to five years before the birth of the child. The fund would incur interest at a constant rate of 1 percent annually until the child turns 18.

Darity said he believes this will lessen the inequality gap between children who are born into wealthy families and those who grow up in poverty. The average account would be worth \$20,000. Families who fall below the poverty line, such as a family of four earning less than \$23,550 a year, could receive a Baby Bond worth up to \$50,000. Funds could be used for business ventures, education, the purchase of a home or other approved expenditures.

Darity estimates the program would cost \$80 billion annually, which he says is “not very much in the context of the American budget.”

Some students and faculty present were not convinced Darity’s proposal is the solution to the racial wealth gap.

“I have very mixed feelings about Darity’s ideas. I would love knowing I could secure a job, as I think many people would, but this project is too big of a jump. Secondly, there are too many problems that Darity did not have solutions for, which I really felt weakened his point,” said freshman Riley Billman.

Darity has presented his plans for a National Investment Corps and Baby Bonds to the Obama administration, but the administration has not picked up either program as of yet. While Darity acknowledges that the program would not provide better education, housing, healthcare or opportunities for the children while they are growing up, he believes it could be transformative for low-income Americans.

“The provision of a substantial trust fund for newborns for families that are wealth poor and the passage of a federal job guarantee would go a long way towards achieving what the American ideal should be,” Darity said.

Neo-Paganist learning experience debunks myths about witches

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The Elon community offers a wide range of unique and insightful talks, but few begin with a song praising goddesses.

As part of the Winterfaith Lunch and Learn series at Elon Community Church, students, faculty and community members met Wednesday to learn more about the Neo-Pagan and Earth traditions religions.

“There is a social stigma on being pagan. We call it coming out of the broom closet,” said Megan Goodwin, visiting instructor on religious studies at Elon and the host of the afternoon’s talk.

Goodwin started her talk with myths about witches and Neo-Pagans, which include a hatred for Christians, an ancient tradition linking back to centuries-old Europe and devil worship.

“The people trying to get the statue of Baphomet on the state steps in Oklahoma? That’s not us,” Goodwin said.

Kathy Sanford, an Elon Community Church member, said she came to the event out of curiosity for the subject and for students.

“I come more to see what you students are up to,” Sanford said.

Susanne Doolittle, another church member, said Neo-Paganism is new to her and wanted to find out what the religion actually is.

“I like to clarify what I think about Neo-Paganism,” Doolittle said.

Neo-Paganism, as Goodwin described it, is mainly centered on the worship of gods and goddesses – sometimes only goddesses or only one deity – and their interrelation to nature.

“Every living thing has a spirit and is connected to one another,” Goodwin said. “And that connection is sacred.”

Goodwin included demographics on American Neo-Pagans, who are 91 percent white, 65 percent women and largely middle-class. Neo-Pagans also tend to have higher levels of education, with only 8 percent having a high school diploma or less.

To the surprise of many in the audience, Goodwin said witches and other Neo-Pagans are part of a movement that started in the 1950s and 1960s in England and has come over to the United States. Some denominations of Neo-Pagans, like Strega, Slavic, Heathens and oth-

ers use the gods of ancient Italian, Russian and Norse pagans, while other groups like Druids adopt the same name as older faiths but have different practices.

Neo-Pagans also celebrate ancient holidays like Yule and Samhain in an attempt to reconstruct ancient traditions. Many of these holidays would become Christmas, Halloween and more as missionaries encouraged peasants to celebrate already significant days.

“Pagan means ‘from the country.’ It’s those bumpkins in the country who still worship many gods instead of one,” Goodwin said.

Goodwin said one large part of Neo-Paganism is political engagement and many are environmental activists or feminists, as many Neo-Paganist strains focus on goddesses and femininity. The modern witch movement came out of the feminist movement in the 1970s, with the image of women being persecuted and burned as witches in Europe as a rallying symbol.

“A lot of people take strength from identifying with a word that traditionally meant you were an outsider,” Goodwin said.

She added that there is little historical accu-



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

Megan Goodwin speaks on Neopaganism and Earth Centered traditions at Elon Community Church.

racy to the claims of mass witch burning, and much of it was pushed by civil authorities who wanted property that women owned.

One question Goodwin heard from the audience that she said she rarely gets was about the role magic plays in Neo-Paganism.

“Generally, it’s directing energy out to affect change in the world,” Goodwin said, pointing out that it is not “casting spells on people.”

Sanford said these sorts of events can happen at the Elon Community Church because of the type of community that goes there.

“We are willing to open ourselves up to this kind of inquiry,” Sanford said.

Re-envisioning single-sex dorms:

Why Elon's innovative spirit has outgrown the role of single-sex housing on campus

The single-sex residence halls on campus — Smith, Carolina and West — have long been a part of the history of the university. Thousands of students have lived in these halls and have formed lifelong friendships. With that being said, the main purpose single-sex dormitories serve is now in direct conflict with the Elon Commitment to creating a dynamic on-campus living experience.

125 years removed from 1889, Elon University is a more popular college choice than ever. This meteoric rise to success has forced our university to mature quickly in order to adapt to the changing times. Luckily, one of Elon's many strengths is its exceptional ability to change with the times while maintaining its core values.

The Elon Commitment is the administration's plan to continue to push our university to new levels of national recognition. At the core of the Elon Commitment is a simple vision for the student body that states that it is the goal of the university to challenge the minds of the student body while inspiring them to become global citizens.

One of the main themes of the Commitment is to create a re-envisioned residential experience on campus that serves as a platform for personal growth and inclusivity. Residential neighborhoods such as the Station at Mill Point, the Oaks, Colonnades and the soon-to-be-completed Global Neighborhood all encourage students to break out of their comfort zones and explore a more diverse world around them. With the administration striving to create a more accepting and inclusive residential experience on campus, it is clear that single-sex residence halls no longer have a role on our campus.

A residence hall is often a student's first home away from home. When placed in single-sex residence halls, students find

themselves surrounded by other students who often look and think like they do. Instead of reaching out and exploring the diverse world that a college education provides, students are stuck in a homogenous niche.

This does not prepare our student body for life after Elon. To deprive students of the chance to form friendships with people who are different from them is a lost opportunity. When living in a co-ed residence hall, students live side-by-side with different ethnicities, ideologies and genders. In addition to fostering a feeling of inclusivity and acceptance, mixed housing also teaches students to respect one another regardless of gender, sexual identity or ethnicity.

Not only do male and female students live next to one another in the Station at Mill Point, but they can reside in the same apartments if they so choose. Gender-neutral housing is nothing new in the world of higher education, but it shows that Elon is not afraid of being progressive in order to provide its students with the best experience possible.

In addition to creating a more diverse and inclusive residential experience, the administration is also trying to challenge and stimulate the minds of its students. Living Learning Communities are great environments for students to immerse themselves in a certain academic focus. Learning Communities provide students with the opportunity to challenge themselves intellectually while being surrounded by other students who are passionate about their education.

Instead of forming friendships rooted in gender or ethnic similarities, students who reside in these communities form friendships based on similar academic interests. These communities can be found in many of our residential neighborhoods on

campus with the exception of the single-sex dormitories. The lack of opportunity for students to pursue their academic passions to the fullest in these single-sex dorms is yet another glaring example of why these dorms are outdated.

The artificial arrangement found in same-sex dorms does not benefit students in any way nor does it reflect the world outside the university. Elon's commitment to create global citizens, fully prepared for life after college, is not enhanced by

single-sex dormitories. It is time for Elon's housing to completely mirror its values and the world around us by desegregating single-sex dorms.

Our university has surpassed many other schools as we continue our swift rise to national prominence because we are not afraid of growing into the future. Eliminating single-sex housing embraces the innovative spirit Elon administrators have long embodied.

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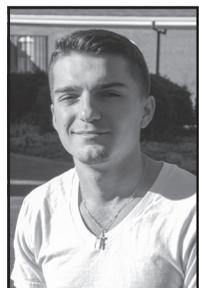
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Is the national media being fair on Bridgegate?

Ever since news broke about “Bridgegate,” (a political payback scheme involving the closure of the George Washington Bridge by aides and appointees of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie), it seems every political pundit and media organization has jumped at the chance to speculate just how much it would impact his predicted presidential run. According to many, the situation looks dire.



Chris Mench
Columnist

“Christie’s staff she-nanigans - which he says he did not know about - have raised enormous questions about his temperament and how he would run a White House,” wrote CNN’s Gloria Borgern.

MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow speculated “It seems today that Chris Christie announced he is not going to run for president in 2016.” Even Jersey legend Bruce Springsteen performed a song skewering Christie on “Late

Night With Jimmy Fallon” last week.

The jury is still out on whether or not Christie himself was involved in the scandal, and it may well be proven that he was, but it’s interesting to note that in the same week the media was busy eviscerating the governor, they featured Democratic Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton on the cover of “Time” with the headline: “Can Anyone Stop Hillary?” Yes, it’s almost three years before the 2016 presidential election, and Clinton is already being declared unstoppable.

You may have missed it, but last week, the Senate Intelligence Committee — which is comprised mostly of Democrats — released a report on the Benghazi scandal, saying the attacks “were likely preventable” and laying most of the blame at the feet of the State Department, which Clinton headed at the time.

“The Committee believes the State Department should have recognized the need to increase security to a level commensurate with the threat, or suspend operations in Benghazi,” read the report. “However, operations continued with minimal improvements

in security and personnel protections.” The report is a political bombshell, connecting Clinton’s mismanagement to the Benghazi attacks more definitively than ever, but was largely ignored by the national media.

While defenders of Christie and Clinton argue that they weren’t ultimately responsible for their respective scandals, it’s interesting to note the difference in the way the media has portrayed them. Christie is being savaged, and declared “out” of a political race he hasn’t even joined yet. Meanwhile, Clinton is being anointed as the “prohibitive frontrunner” in a race she hasn’t joined, either.

All of this isn’t to say that Bridgegate shouldn’t be talked about, or that it won’t have an effect on a Christie presidential run. Whether it was simply bad management or something more sinister, Christie has a lot of questions to answer.

The scandal has certainly changed people’s perspectives on him, and it may well cast a shadow over his potential 2016 campaign. If at the end of the day both were found completely responsible for their political scan-

dal, Christie would have caused a traffic jam, while Clinton would have caused the deaths of four people, including the U.S. Ambassador to Libya. Now ask yourself: which one seems less presidential?



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Governor Christie has denied having any role in the Bridgegate scandal.

Study abroad today to travel a better world tomorrow

Being abroad means distancing oneself from all that defines students during their four-year college tenure. Through my student-worker position at Elon University’s Global Education Center, I have encountered all the excuses that students generally resort to when brushing off the idea of a study abroad experience, especially that of a semester-long program. Only occasionally are there valid reasons to stay within



Dalton Cox
Columnist

the red-brick walls of Elon.

I have become one of the well-marketed 72 percent of Elon students who study abroad at some point in their undergraduate careers. I believe that there is an indispensable aspect to one’s education gained during a prolonged period abroad.

Before I traveled to Istanbul this past summer, my friend lent me a copy of Mark

Twain’s “The Innocents Abroad”. I highlighted a particular line of Twain’s narrative describing his journey to the Holy Land,

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime,” Twain wrote.

I doubt I could better state my shared opinion that being immersed in an unfamiliar culture is that it allows us to re-evaluate our preconceived notions of the human condition challenges our assumptions of ethnicity, gender, sexuality and acceptance of the expression of all, which we have previously regarded as foreign. Students must temporarily become uprooted from the botanical garden of Elon to gain such knowledge through experience.

A closer-to-home example for Elon students is observable in the cultural stereotypes regarding the southeastern United States. As a part of the Elon minority

raised below the Mason-Dixon line, I am all too aware of certain negative associations that the rest of the world may have regarding this region, stereotypes amplified by modern media in the form of television shows like “Duck Dynasty” and through such controversy as that sparking North Carolina’s “Moral Monday” protests.

As many students who travel the United States and even the globe to attend Elon will observe, it is narrow-minded to assume the southeast is a cultural boondock, undereducated and formed exclusively by dirt roads and dirtier bigotries. The mountain-lined region, with all its complexity, is the homeland of William Faulkner, Flannery O’Connor and Tennessee Williams.

The southeast today still produces great minds, cultures and a renowned reputation for hospitality, not to mention soul food. Despite all hardships and negative associations, which this region has faced and continues to face, no person should judge this or any other location until they have observed the region firsthand.

Such direct experience is crucial to achieve an educated understanding of what defines a region or culture. One must observe the beauty and the human element that a region possesses, as well as be able to perceive how areas are attempting to redefine themselves by fighting against the darkness of the past in order to preserve a more diverse humanity. For places like Syria and Egypt and, in a far less extreme sense, for North Carolina and the southeastern United States, this is the hope of many.

Travel allows us to witness such hope, as well as to partake in a ubiquitous struggle for a better world and hopefully to experience hospitality and a universal humanity. After such an encounter we are able to better observe our fellow man, as preconceived notions are replaced by open-mindedness and acceptance and we no longer isolate but can identify the “foreign” within ourselves.

Romanian and Bulgarian social impact on EU states remains unclear

Christian Seitz
International Correspondent

BERLIN — On Jan. 1, 2014, citizens of Romania and Bulgaria were allowed to freely move, live and work in the major economic powers of Europe, including the United Kingdom, France and Germany. This passage brought about mixed reactions from citizens living in the affected nations.

Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union (EU) in 2007, but some EU members signed a clause keeping tight restrictions on immigrants from the two countries for seven years. The aim was to keep impoverished Bulgarians and Romanians out of wealthier economies for as long as possible. The limitation expired earlier this month.

Each country in the EU voted in 2005 on the date to allow Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants into their country. Ten countries allowed immigration in 2007, five in 2009, two in 2012, and the last eight in 2014.

Joel Dombrower, a bartender in Berlin, has mixed feelings about the issue. He said that people should have the chance to move elsewhere if it will bring them a better life.

“There’s nothing wrong with that,” he said.

On the other hand, he is worried that many poor immigrants will move to Germany and will be “taking advantage of the system.” The system he refers to is Germany’s welfare state, specifically their strong unemployment benefits, which he says only requires that one register with the proper authorities to start rolling in the money.

“It’s a bit frustrating, knowing that

they’re opening up the borders just for people to take advantage of it,” Dombrower said.

Germany does not have a minimum wage for the majority of jobs. Dombrower said he is nervous the Romanians and Bulgarians who find jobs in Germany will work for lower than wages, undercutting the hourly wage of other service positions such as his.

Another reason for Germans to be nervous is that the immigrants will work for less money, therefore, employers will be more likely to hire immigrants, rather than Germans who want slightly higher pay.

“It will be harder for people to find jobs,” Dombrower said.

Dombrower’s longtime friend, Bjoern Lucke, a receptionist from Berlin, succinctly summed their ambivalent feelings about the matter.

“The people who are there can move here and

have a better life, but they can also use the social system here for their advantage,” Lucke said.

Not all EU citizens are as concerned about the influx as native Berliners.

Ronan Mechel, a French telecom engineer currently living in Berlin, said now is the right time to let Romanian and Bulgarian citizens freely move throughout the robust European economies. He said it is the right move, since it will help those countries’ economies, which will then strengthen the continent as a whole.

“This is positive for all of Europe,” he said, “You cannot generalize.

Meechel is at odds with those who believe it will only be lower-class citizens who will immigrate to the wealthier European countries.

Mechel and Dombrower have differing opinions about the cultural impacts of the immigrants.

Dombrower said that some current Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants refuse to integrate into the local culture.

“There are plenty of people who have lived here for a long time, for their whole lives, who don’t even try to learn the language,” he said. “They don’t know one word of the language.”

But Mechel said that Romanian is linguistically similar to Italian and French and said that Romanians should have no trouble assimilating into those countries. He also said that since Bulgarian is a language very different than most, the country has a very strong foreign language education system, and many Bulgarians are multilingual.

Mechel points to French carmaker Renault’s lucrative 1999 takeover of Romanian carmaker Dacia. Renault is now making more money off their Dacia brand than their own, suprising many analysts and proving Romania has plenty of skilled and intelligent workers just waiting to contribute to Europe’s economy.

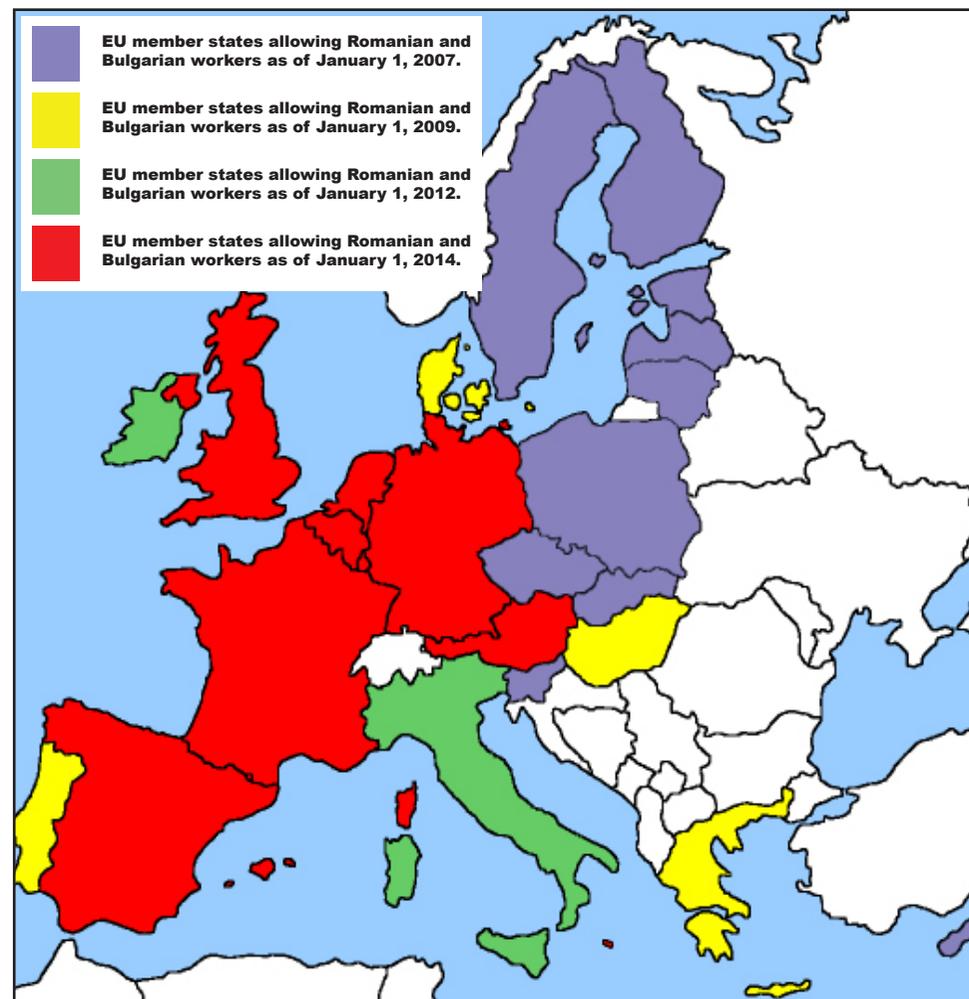
In spite of his reservations, Dombrower said he hesitantly agrees with Mechel that this was the right move for Germany.

“It has to pull through,” said Dombrower. “Germany should continue on the path it’s taking, helping the world with its economic crisis.

Thinking about the possibilities of the young Romanian and Bulgarian economies, Mechel agreed. “If they grow, everybody grows” he said.

“The people who are there can move here and have a better life, but they can also use the social system here for their advantage.”

*-Bjoern Lucke,
German receptionist*



Each European Union nation voted on a date to allow Romanians and Bulgarians to live and work in their country. GRAPHIC BY KAITLIN DUNN

Elon students earn Pulitzer Center fellowship to Ecuador

Addie Haney
Reporter

I will miss meandering through the open, European-esque plazas of Old Quito. I will miss the walks through the dozens of parks teeming with joggers, dogs, futbol players and the occasional couple. I will miss the sound of Spanish rattled off at lightning speed, the friendliness of Quito's people, the food and the stunning scenery that surrounded me at every turn.

All things considered, it was both an enjoyable and successful ten days in Quito, Ecuador, documenting the education system in the South American country for a fellowship from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting.

While in Ecuador, my partner and I spent three days alongside members from the iMedia program interacting with and interviewing students (the children were the cutest), teachers and alumni from the Escuela Nuevos Horizontes del Sur, a tiny, rural private school a winding and mountainous 45-minute drive outside Quito.

We also spoke with professionals involved in the higher education system in Ecuador, including a member of the university accreditation board, the head of a language immersion program for both exchange students and native Ecuadorians and an American profes-

sor who helped revamp the teacher training programs in dozens of schools across Ecuador and other nations.

The interviews helped shape the narrative of a nation that for many years, and even still to this day, lacked quality education for its citizens, but now is trying to turn the tide to provide a better life for its people.

Once upon a time, children in rural areas who spoke an indigenous language struggled to succeed in a Spanish-speaking school system. Now with compulsory education mandated by the nation's constitution and about 5 percent of the GDP spent on education—compared to the United States's 5.4 percent—students are learning, and some are even going on to receive degrees in higher education.

But even with these improvements, the Ecuadorian education system is vastly different from America's and I came away from the trip with a greater appreciation for our system, despite its many flaws.

Here, choice and opportunities abound. It would be very difficult to get funding by an Ecuadorian university to complete the type of trip from which I just returned. And with new changes in Ecuador's constitution and university accreditation process came a new entrance exam that determines a student's field of study for him or her. Emphasis on technical skills and science-related subjects leaves the chance to earn a liberal arts educa-



An Ecuadorian boy studies his textbook. Haney spent ten days interacting with students near Quito. ADDIE HANEY | Reporter

tion similar to Elon and other U.S. universities slim to none.

While the two systems are so different, the one thing both countries share is the passion of teachers trying to make a difference in a student's life. Education is clearly important to a successful future, and from listening to the principal and teachers of Escuela Nuevos Horizontes del Sur, who all teach multiple subjects to both primary and high

school students, I could sense the intense desire for making their students feel special and encouraging them to reach for their dreams.

Going to Quito was a great learning experience, and I came away from the trip with a greater appreciation for my education and the opportunities I've been afforded during my time at Elon. I'm also hopeful for Ecuador's future and the students seeking knowledge and a better education.

Tennis Mania: Australian Open creates unique atmosphere

Mia Watkins
International Correspondent

MELBOURNE, Australia — At any given time of the year, thousands of people travel to Melbourne, Australia, to experience its artsy culture, tasty cuisine, and breathtaking attractions. But in January, the main reason people flock to the city is for tennis.

Melbourne hosts the Australian Open, a 14-day international tennis tournament. Players from around the globe compete in singles and doubles matches for grand prizes totaling 33 million Australian Dollars.

The Australian Open is about the experience. It gives people of all ages and backgrounds a piece of the sports culture as it spreads across the city, from hotels to parks.

For Brad Rees, the experience is everything. Rees, who lives three hours outside the city, made the journey to attend the Australian Open for the first time this year. He said he appreciates the sports culture of Melbourne and enjoys meeting people who share the same appreciation.

"Seeing all of [the tennis players] talent, young and old, and getting to know new people. People from different countries," Rees said. "It's all just having a

good time, really."

The city creates an environment for people to enjoy the tournament inside and outside the stadium. For those who cannot attend the competition itself, large television screens across the city give updates on the latest happenings with the tournament, and it is shown on every television in every bar in the city.

Cale Hutchings works at the Crown Hotel in Melbourne and has noticed a big difference in the atmosphere this month.

"It's really great for Crown," Hutchings said. "With the Crown tennis live site...it's really awesome. I think it's real-

ly exciting. Melbourne's a good place for it. A lot of people are here from around the world."

Signs advise Melbourne natives and incoming tourists to "Get Court Up" with the competition. Outside shopping centers, the faces of tennis stars are slapped on billboards advertising clothes and accessories.

"I just think it's amazing that we can actually have this in Australia," said Hutchings. "You see it overseas, you know Wimbledon and all that and how big it is, but you never really realize that [the Australian Open] just around the corner from where you are."

INFLATION

from page 3

Liston is not alone. Junior Delaney McHugo also sees a problem with grades at Elon.

“I think that a lot of the caliber of work that students do here is not necessarily matching up to the standards of grades,” she said. “Yet professors feel obligated to give students those grades for various reasons.”

The university has made efforts to combat grade inflation. One of the school’s mottos is “Engaged Learning,” which aims to expand a student’s knowledge outside the classroom. Students are studying abroad, listening to guest speakers and engaging in extracurricular activities. Even with these initiatives, students like Liston don’t think that makes up for the lack of academic rigor.

“I think Elon has made significant strides, and I don’t want to discredit them, but my high school was harder than what I’m doing now,” Liston said.

Dr. Steven House, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, recognizes the abnormally high amount of A’s and is concerned.

“[The high number of A’s] does a disservice to the ones that really, truly do have a distinguished performance,” he said. “They are trying to set themselves apart to be the ones to go to graduate school.”

Why so many A’s?

One of the possible reasons for grade inflation is that professors purposely inflate grades to boost their performance on student evaluations, and Dr. House recognizes this as a possibility.

“I do believe that there is a perception with faculty that if I grade easier I will get a better student evaluation,” he said. “But I know that that is not always the case because some of our toughest graders are our most highest-rated faculty.”

Yet, the university’s toughest graders are definitely in the minority, especially with more than 70 percent of the grades falling between the A and B range.

Business professor Scott Buechler believes one reason for grade inflation is actually smarter students.

“Academic rigor I think has gone up, but I also think that the quality of students has outpaced the increase in academic rigor,” he said.

There is no doubt that Elon’s academic reputation has increased. In 2005, the average GPA for an incoming freshman was 3.72. Today, the average GPA for an incoming freshman is a 3.9. Perhaps the curriculum has not adjusted enough to the improved quality of students.

Nonetheless, McHugo said she believes the university will be hesitant to adjust the

Elon University						
Fall Term						
Academic Year	A's	B's	C's	D's	F's	GPA
1992-93	24%	33%	22%	7%	4%	2.71
1993-94	24%	34%	21%	6%	4%	2.71
1994-95	25%	35%	19%	5%	3%	2.80
1995-96	26%	35%	19%	5%	3%	2.80
1996-97	28%	34%	18%	5%	3%	2.82
1997-98	29%	35%	17%	4%	2%	2.86
1998-99	29%	35%	16%	4%	2%	2.88
1999-00	30%	35%	16%	4%	2%	2.90
2000-01	33%	35%	13%	3%	2%	3.00
2001-02	34%	35%	14%	3%	2%	3.02
2002-03	34%	35%	13%	3%	2%	3.02
2003-04	34%	36%	13%	3%	1%	3.06
2004-05	36%	36%	12%	2%	2%	3.07
2005-06	38%	35%	12%	2%	1%	3.12
2006-07	37%	36%	11%	2%	2%	3.11
2007-08	39%	36%	11%	2%	1%	3.12
2008-09	40%	36%	10%	2%	1%	3.16
2009-10	40%	35%	9%	2%	1%	3.17
2010-11	41%	34%	10%	2%	1%	3.17
2011-12	42%	34%	9%	2%	1%	3.19

Elon’s grade distribution from 1992-2012.

COURTESY OF THE 2012-2013 ELON UNIVERSITY FACTBOOK

curriculum.

“It’s something we are kind of sweeping under the rug to kind of keep our overall image of having this intellectual climate, because people are getting good grades, and people are doing well in their classes, and that looks great,” she said.

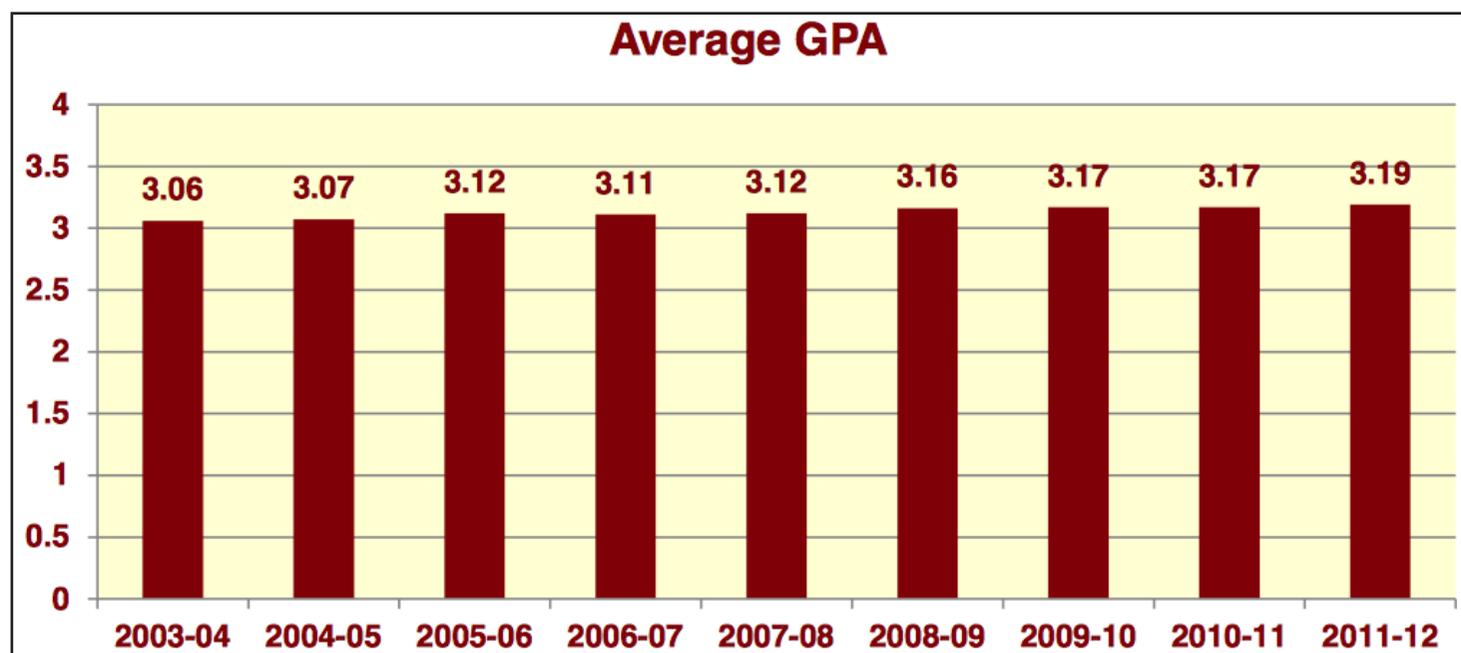
How can we fix it?

Grade inflation isn’t a problem only at Elon. It’s an issue on a national scale. A recent Teachers College Record study shows that across a range of 200 universities, more than 40 percent of all grades awarded were in the A range. For Elon to address its grade inflation issue, it would require cooperation from the administration, teachers and students. The administration would need to enforce stricter grading standards, teachers would need to ensure the grade fits the standard, and students would need to do more than the bare minimum.

“I just think that we do whatever we can to pass by, and we’re paying thousands of dollars to go to this institution so it can challenge us academically first and foremost,” McHugo said.

The administration isn’t opposed to changing the system, but students need to come forward if there is a problem.

“I wish students would, in their student perceptions of teaching, indicate that they are unhappy,” Dr. House said. “Say, ‘I got an A in this class, but I was disappointed in the way things were graded.’ Those are the kinds of things that will get things changed.”



The average GPA of Elon students from 2003-2012.

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150 children, one mother: One woman raising the family only she could

Michael Bodley
News Editor

Growing up the second of five children on the wrong side of the tracks in white and wealthy Sudbury, Mass., Deborah Long often found herself alone in her hand-me-down dresses and homemade sweaters.

But she always had food in her stomach, even though sometimes dinner was leathery meat and other times it was tomato soup sprinkled with cheddar cheese. Long's basic needs were satisfied, but her wants and dreams left much to be desired.

At 11 years old, Long began babysitting the neighborhood children to earn a little pocket money. Shortly after enrolling in Lincoln Sudbury High School, Long obtained a work permit and rode her bike the few miles down the road to the local donut shop. She soon found herself working every day after school and on weekends.

"To this day, I can make a bottle of shampoo last a long time," Long said. "You figure out exactly how little you can get away with, and still get your hair clean."

Later, when Long had three biological children, she wanted to be able to purchase clothes for them, so they wouldn't have to work as long and as hard as she did. But above all else, she wanted to support the trio through college. Long knew just how hard it was to pay her own way.

But for Long, getting her own children college degrees was just the beginning. When the trio left the nest, she missed being a mother, missed tiptoeing the thin line between when to scold and when to hug, when to push and when to kiss.

Today, Long likes to say she has almost 150 adopted children. The hundred and some are limited-income, first-generation college students from Alamance County. That's a lot of mouths to feed.

Long's family grows by leaps and bounds

It all started in June 2006 when Cummings High School, an underperforming public school down the road from Elon University, was threatened with closure. President Leo Lambert couldn't let the school fail when Elon was doing so well. He turned to Deborah Long.

A college access program was decided upon and Long needed to have a proposal to Elon's senior staff by August. The clock was ticking. Long had never designed such a program, but she relished the challenge.

"I said to President Lambert, 'Just know that I've never designed a college access program and I've never been in such a program,'" she said "This was a new challenge, but I love a challenge. I was excited."

With no funding and zero accreditation, Long didn't know if the Elon Academy, as it came to be known, would leave the ground. No national grants would fund a program without a track record, so Long and President Lambert paid longtime Elon donors Edna and Doug Noiles a visit. By the end of lunch, the couple was asking where to sign. The check for \$220,000 sustained the academy well into its second year.

Though the money gave her breathing room, Long continued to question the program. How would the students and families of Alamance County respond to the Elon Academy brochures mailed to each household in the district? Would anyone even apply?

"Are people going to trust us? Are they going to send their 14-year-olds to Elon for a month?" Long asked.

In fall of 2007, 80 applications arrived at Elon. The Alpha Class of the Elon Academy was born. Though at first, some of the scholars cried, others became dreadfully homesick and a few rebelled, in the end they all began to grow, thrive and excel. Long was there every step of the way, though she's quick to credit others for the Academy's progress.

"I think the secret to the success of the program is that I think I have a pretty good idea of my strengths, but my strengths are limited," she said. "I think the key is to surround yourself with people who know things and can do things and have a skill set that you don't have."

Long doesn't see color. She sees potential. She sees poverty. She sees despair. And yet, Long finds hope in the hopeless child.

Long was once not so different from her adopted children. Many of her years have been spent alongside people who were richer than her or poorer than her or lighter than her or darker than her. It's not that Long seeks diversity. It's that diversity seems to find her.



Long shakes hands with Crystal Owens, a member of the Elon Academy Delta Class, at a College Coffee ceremony recognizing the Elon Academy students.

Scratching and clawing through the college years

Long never wanted to be a teacher. She stumbled upon psychology as an undergraduate at Colby College, which she could barely afford with a substantial scholarship. Colby was another white, wealthy world, and Long watched from the sidelines, often preoccupied by part-time jobs.

Most days a week, Long donned a hairnet and ladled out food in the school cafeteria. The cafeteria job paid her tuition. On the side, she babysat so she would have spending money.

"It couldn't have been much more humiliating," she said. "I was serving my peers. It was obvious I was one of the few low-income students, and it was another 'look-at-me, I don't belong here instance.'"

As a freshman, Long made one friend, her roommate. By the end of the year, her roommate became pregnant, married and left school. Ignoring her loneliness and brushing aside hurt, Long threw herself into work, but she struggled to maintain a high GPA with so many social, academic and financial challenges.

By working multiple jobs during the aca-

demical year, on holidays and in the summer, along with a series of loans and scholarships, Long kept herself financially above-water.

"I knew [my situation was tough], and it hurt. But I thought to myself, this is my life. This is the way my life is and I just have to endure it so I can get my college degree and have a better life," Long said.

A boy came next. Long started dating a student two years older. In him, she found friendship, but at a cost, as he became possessive, and Long made no friends, save him. When he graduated, Long once again had no one.

The next closest friendship Long developed was with a psychology professor who saw her potential when no one else did.

"You know when you meet someone and you think, 'They really see something special in me?'" Long asked. "He made me feel like I was special."

While the two didn't discuss Long's personal life, he encouraged her in a way her parents did not.

"I had to support myself," Long said. "It was interesting, because my mother was a teacher and she thought a college education was overrated and a waste of money. It was not encouraged. If any of us wanted to go to

college, it was like, 'You're on your own. Good luck.' I wonder if she said this because she knew that she could not afford to help us. Sending five children to college was impossible on my parents' budget."

One holiday, Long's sister came home from school to let their mother know she had something to tell her. Her sister was dropping out of school.

"My mother said, 'Oh, thank God. I thought you were going to tell me you were pregnant,'" Long said.

The road trip that changed everything

After graduating from Colby in 1970, Long's struggles were far from over. At the time, no one wanted to hire a psychology major with a bachelor's degree. The minimum wage jobs Long had suffered through all her life to get the diploma that now seemed useless weren't over.

Long settled at a resort in Maine for another low wage. There, she met two students on vacation from Duke University, Bill and Hank. Somehow, they convinced Long to follow them back to North Carolina.

With every penny she had earned that summer, Long bought a used, orange Opal Cadet and headed farther south than she had ever been.

After bouncing around between more low-paying jobs in Durham, where she lived, Long heard about the Teacher Corps, a national program that paid students with liberal

arts degrees \$90 a week to serve as teaching assistants at struggling low-income schools. At the end of two years, Long would receive a master's degree she couldn't otherwise afford, as well as a teaching license.

"I really didn't want to be a teacher but I thought, 'At least someone will pay for my education, and it's better than waitressing,'" Long said.

She moved in with three black students in the same program in a rented house outside St. Petersburg, Va. Courses were divided between Virginia State University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Growing up in New England, I hadn't had much interaction at all with minority groups," Long said. "You find out that you're not so different, after all. It was fun. It was really fun. Sometimes I would feel left out, just because there are cultural things that are different, but we would always be laughing. I remember that, just making each other laugh until we cried."

Home floats away

Toward the end of her two years in the Teacher Corps, Long's parents sold her childhood New England home and purchased a 22-foot boat. Long suddenly had no home for the holidays.

"Months would go by, and we wouldn't hear from them," Long said. "It was nerve-racking, in a way, to be pushed that much further on my own."

Master's degree and teaching license in hand, Long trekked back to Durham in 1973. She accepted a job teaching first grade at East End Elementary. Most of her students were black. Most of her students were poor.

"I felt right at home, because I had lived and breathed diversity with the students in my classes and with my roommates," Long said.

In her second year, Long was confronted by the angry mother of an out-of-control black child. The mother accused Long of being racist for disciplining her child.

"I was hurt," Long said. "It was really upsetting to me, because it wasn't about race. It was about her behavior. But I began to think to myself, 'Am I racist?' I really did a lot of soul searching."

Slowly, Long adopted a teaching style that stood in stark opposition to the conventional stickers and spankings handed out like candy at East End.

"We should treat behavior the same way we should treat academics," Long said. "If a student doesn't know how to write his or her name, you don't spank them or take away their recess. You don't punish because someone can't do something academically. Why would you punish because someone doesn't know how to behave appropriately? It isn't about punishing, it's about teaching appropriate behaviors in a given situation."

One of Long's students cemented her ideas about teaching. A little boy stole a pencil from a classmate and stabbed another with it, leaving Long little choice but to send him to the principal's office.

Long watched, horrified, as the principal spanked the boy.

"I saw the look on his face, and I thought, 'Oh, this is so wrong,'" Long said. "Many of the children that I taught were abused at home. I couldn't put them through that at school."

The next day, Long apologized to the student. Children are forgiving, she said. He looked at her with nothing but love in his eyes.

"That taught me that teaching is all about relationships," Long said. "All of this giving candy for being good or giving silent lunch for being bad, I just can't go there. It just doesn't work and it's inhumane."

Moving on: Long's biological family is born

After three years in the Durham City

School System, Long married and started a family of her own, leaving her adopted children behind in North Carolina. It was hard.

"It could have been a movie, or maybe a dream," Long said. "I loved these children. I loved their families. I still remember their names."

Long moved to South Carolina and then Arkansas. She had three children of her own along the way, before she and her husband divorced. There was also a scare with a malignant strain of cancer that resulted in surgery.

A friend of Long's pulled her back into teaching at Arkansas College, but her master's degree prevented her from achieving tenure. Long resolved to earn a doctorate.

As a single mother, Long worked full-time, raised her family and studied for her doctorate. How? She's still not entirely sure.

"I was young and I was determined," Long said. "I loved teaching college. I just did it. I would take my children to the pool, and I'd have my textbooks and my papers I was writing. I just used every minute I could possibly use. To this day, I benefit from the time management skills I learned then."

Meeting the family

The accidental teacher couldn't stop. After Arkansas came Elon and the Academy, where Long became a mother again.

She applauded the Academy students at their best, and she gave them a shoulder to cry on in times of need. And Long got to know each one personally. She had them over to her Burlington home for fish taco nights. She read them her favorite poems and shared the quotations that inspired her.

Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son" is a favorite of Long's. In the poem, a mother tells her son, "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair." Long's life has been no crystal stair, either, but she wouldn't change a thing.

"That's basically what I became to these students: a second mom," Long said. "What I would do for my own children is what I would do for these children. When do you push? When do you hold back? When do you give a hug? When do you scold?"

Nothing makes Long smile more.

"When they walk in the door, it's like my child has come home. When they're successful, it's like I'm the proud mom, and I hope that I've had something to do with that."



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Deborah Long and President Leo Lambert stand alongside members of the Elon Academy Delta Class.

Elon Cares works to make HIV/AIDS a thing of the past

Meghan Mahoney
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As the lights dimmed, Yeager Recital Hall began to fill with performers dressed in variations of red and black. Once again, Elon Cares 2014 kicked off the show with songs preaching a message of unity, love and to not be afraid to be yourself. A solo guitarist started the show off with the ever popular “Here Comes the Sun.”

Each performer wore a red ribbon, a symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness. Elon Cares, held on January 18, supports Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, a nonprofit organization that raises money for AIDS awareness and provides support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The show shocked the audiences with staggering facts, such as the more than 25

million people that have been lost to AIDS worldwide. Together, the slideshow read, they hope to make this a thing of the past.

One performance that stood out was a rendition of “It’s Time” by Imagine Dragons. Three girls sang with passion that could be felt throughout the room. With every breath, the audience was taken on a journey. The words “I’m never changing who I am,” struck a chord in the support of the cause.

Lyrics heard on the radio every day found new meaning in this show. Each song had a message to share, all working in support of HIV/AIDS awareness.

Elon Cares wasn’t all seriousness. The crowd laughed as the yearly drag number began after intermission. Six-foot tall men stood on the stage in clothing that left little to the imagination, but it was a favorite of the night with spot-on comedy performed in a

tasteful manner.

Another spotlight moment was the “Unwritten” and “Royals” medley. These songs were sung passionately by two men. They fed off one another’s energy to preach the message of living life to the fullest.

The show closed with the classic “Bridge Over Troubled Water” which could not have summed up all the messages of the night better. “I’m on your side when times get rough,” “I will comfort you” and “Your time has come to shine” were all preached and practiced.

Audience members participated in raffles and silent auctions for various items from Broadway, including signed posters, gift cards to local restaurants and other Broadway items such as mugs, hats and bags. All money raised went towards Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Elon Cares 2014, it was your time to shine.



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Elon Cares students all came together and sang one last group number, led by Senior Brandon Murtagh, called “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

Much Ado About Nothing: 16 rehearsals, 11 shows, 1 month

Kelsey Higgins
Senior Reporter

Set in Messina, Italy, Shakespeare’s comedy, “Much Ado About Nothing” chronicles two pairs of lovers, Benedick and Beatrice and Claudio and Hero, as they navigate through good, old-fashioned Shakespearean chaos.

Those in Elon University’s Department of Performing Arts have been hard at work since the start of Winter Term and will present their rendition of the play in the Black Box Theatre on Jan. 23-27 and Feb. 5-8.

“First and foremost, this is a comedy,” assistant director Meagan Schrock said on behalf of the directing team. “That lighthearted feel is something that we’ve tried to keep at the forefront of our work while keeping in mind that there are lessons to be learned from the story.”

Director Kevin Otos leads the team and is assisted by freshman Emily Ciuffetelli and sophomore Meagan Schrock.

“The Winter Term show only has 16 rehearsals before the run of 11 performances begins,” Schrock said. “That being said, this cast is extremely diligent and hardworking. Because of this, we’ve hardly noticed the limiting time factor.”

Junior Benedetto Robinson, who plays Claudio, said that this is the most accelerated



BETH LESTER | Staff Photographer

Tyler Alverson and Benedetto Robinson rehearse one of their scenes as Benedick and Claudio in Elon’s production of Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing,” on January 16 in the Black Box Theatre.

theatrical process that he has ever worked on.

“It’s hard enough to rehearse and prepare a show in six weeks, so I think us doing a full Shakespeare show in a month, from first read through to final performance, calls for a celebration,” said senior Tyler Alverson who plays Benedick.

Throughout Winter Term, students on-and-off-stage rehearse seven days a week, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., with a short break for lunch.

Despite such a hectic schedule, all those in the cast and crew of the show love the work they do and the people they do it with.

“I love my job,” senior stage manager Veronica Lee said. “The students and faculty that make up the performing arts department are some of the nicest, funniest and hardest working people you will meet.”

With such a heightened schedule, staying healthy is on the top of everyone’s priority list.

“We are all together from nine to six, seven days a week. Sickness is bound to spread, but when you miss a day in a schedule like this it’s like missing three,” said senior Kate Conway, who plays Beatrice. “Trying not to skimp on sleep, drinking tons of water and taking Vitamin C has been unusually high on my to-do list.”

Also joining the cast of students is Equity actor and assistant professor of performing arts Dan Matisa.

“He is a professor in the department, which can make it a bit intimidating for the student actors, but this gives them the opportunity to work alongside a true professional,” Schrock explained. “This is a wonderful opportunity for

a hands-on learning experience, and we think everyone has enjoyed it thus far.”

With everyone giving 100 percent of their time and effort, the group of performers can’t wait for opening night.

“One of the best parts about opening night is seeing the shift in energy of the cast,” Lee said. “Also, it’s always rewarding to see how far everyone has come since the beginning of this production and since the beginning of their time at Elon.”

Conway urges people to come despite any wary feelings they may have about Shakespeare.

“I leave rehearsal every day happier than the last and I guarantee ‘Much Ado’ will put a smile on your face,” she said.

If anything, come out to experience the remarkable camaraderie of the Winter Term cast and crew. They could not sing each other’s praises louder.

“We’re all tackling Shakespeare together and we’ve established a great community in Messina,” Alverson said. “Everyone is just so much fun to work with; Messinians know how to get down.”

Director Otos shares one piece of advice: come prepared to laugh.

Reservations for Much Ado About Nothing can be made by calling (336)-278-5650.

Sean Magee uses YouTube, original music to set himself apart

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

“It’s just a little bit different, a little bit different, a little bit something more...”

These lyrics to the song “A Little Bit Different” written by Elon University senior music technology major Sean Magee, ring true to the industry he seeks to enter. The music business constantly looks for original talent, and Magee has worked, through his studies and his extracurricular endeavors, to make himself an act to be noticed.

Magee started his work with music at age six when he began playing piano, but it wasn’t until he started writing his own material that he saw music as a possible career for himself.

“At about age nine, I started writing melodies and songs, no lyrics or anything,” Magee said. “My piano teacher [Gerry Diamond] was into creating your own music, and I fell in love with that. I realized music was what I wanted to do.”

Diamond is a musician in his own right, who performed and wrote original songs with his band in Boston in the early nineties. Then, he moved to North Carolina and opened the Family Piano Academy in 1993, where he fell in love with teaching. Diamond met Magee in 1999, when Magee was six years old and eager to learn.

“He was one of those kids that brought great energy to a lesson every time,” Diamond said. “He never had a down lesson. He was fearless in everything. He was attentive to detail and disciplined. You have to really give his mom credit, because kids that age don’t just have that kind of discipline.”

Diamond’s teaching emphasizes the creation of original compositions because he thinks the feeling of accomplishment after completing an original work is empowering for any musician. Diamond is particularly impressed with Magee’s songwriting and says its impact has hit close to home.

“His original stuff is so good,” Diamond said. “He’s the perfect combina-

tion of a musician’s musician and a pop musician. Little kids are great barometers for what’s catchy, and my kids sing Sean Magee songs around the house constantly. His songs are really well-crafted and catchy.”

Magee worked with Diamond throughout high school. He eventually chose to attend Elon because a lot of schools don’t offer music technology or music production majors. He also liked Elon’s more commercially driven curriculum. Citing U2 and Billy Joel as his major influences, Magee said he didn’t want to study music in a classical environment.

Clay Stevenson, a professor in the music department at Elon, has worked with Magee in a number of his classes, including his senior seminar. He praises Magee for his passion for the subject and his drive for excellence.

“Sean practices his craft tirelessly,” Stevenson said. “He is known to spend hours on end rehearsing on the piano and writing songs in the practice rooms at Center for the Arts. He is also a competent music producer and engineer. He has a great ear for how sounds fit together in a musical landscape, and his productions are known for being very ‘tight’ and tuned.”

As Magee works hard to hone his musical skills, he has also discovered ways to make himself marketable. Last year, Magee worked with cinema students to create a music video for his original song, “A Little Bit Different.” Despite the logistics of creating a music video, Magee said he had an enjoyable experience and looks to do it again.

In the meantime, he uses YouTube to grow his audience. He has arranged and recorded popular songs to post on his YouTube channel. His cover of Pitbull’s “Timber” has more than 60,000 views, and his other videos are headed in the same direction.

“Last semester, I was going to Raleigh to play live gigs and I wasn’t getting anywhere,” Magee said. “It was good to make a few bucks, but at bars and restaurants, no one is listening. Online content is



Senior music technology major Sean Magee has been a pianist since age six and today has found his following on YouTube with his cover of Pitbull’s “Timber”, which reached over 60,000 views. JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

more practical and more fun. With recording and arranging, I have a lot of control. It makes me better at producing and recording, which is valuable stuff.”

Stevenson thinks YouTube is a good move for Magee, because the Internet opens him up to a bigger audience. But he emphasizes the importance of standing out on a platform that makes it so easy to post material.

“YouTube works great for consumers because it’s a quick, easy and free way to access a large quantity of diverse music,” Stevenson said. “YouTube is great for the artist because it is instant distribution to a large number of potential fans. The challenge for the artist is getting ‘heard above the noise.’ Because of the quantity of music on YouTube, an artist needs to create great music in unique ways to successfully garner the attention of fans.”

As Magee’s time at Elon comes to a close, he looks forward to creating more music and videos. After that, Magee hopes to work in the music industry, eventually building himself into his own artist.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

Magee wants to move to LA or Nashville to work in a recording studio as a piano player, but his goal is to be his own artist, writing and performing his own material.

“I want to head to LA or Nashville and find work in a recording studio,” Magee said. “I want to do some sessions playing as a piano player. It’s a high-pressure job. In the meantime, I will write songs, maybe for other artists. The ultimate goal is to be my own artist, writing and performing my own songs.”

Diamond said he hopes his former student will stay disciplined and knows that he needs to focus on his work rather than how it is received.

“You need the discipline of practice and working at your craft,” Diamond said. “You’re not always going to write a good song, but you always got to write. It’s the only way to get there. Also, you cannot get too high over successes or too low over failures. You need to focus on actual work. That’s what you can control.”

Stevenson agrees, but believes any young artist should know how to diversify his or her efforts and should have the skills to use today’s technology to be a marketable artist.

“Musicians in Sean’s position need to use as many of the tools and options

available to them in order to be successful,” Stevenson said. “I advise aspiring artists to be diverse in the way they market themselves. Artists should be releasing music via YouTube, playing concerts, entering artist showcases, partnering with other artists, shopping their demos, etc. The idea is to reach as many potential fans as possible.”

Magee will graduate this spring to pursue his musical aspirations, but no matter what happens, music will be at the center of his life. To Sean Magee, music matters because it’s a way for people — musician to musician, musician to audience, audience member to audience member — to connect on another level.

“Music makes everyone feel good,” Magee said. “It makes a lot of people get along. There’s nothing quite like big live shows with the lights and the loud music blasting, overwhelming you. Experiences like that, or hearing a new song and being like ‘I didn’t know you could do that, that it was possible.’ It’s an art, and art is intellectual and valuable, but for me, it makes everyone feel good.”

Sean Magee

Midnight Meals
January 23 at Irazu
11:00 p.m.

Elon happy but not satisfied after historic week

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

As the final fans left a sold-out Alumni Gym following Elon University's 84-74 loss to No. 15 University of Massachusetts on Jan. 18, many held their heads high.

The Phoenix was coming off a historic 87-85 overtime win at Davidson College on Jan. 16 and held its ground a Top 20 team, the first ranked opponent that had ever visited Elon.

When asked about where the team is as a whole, senior forward Lucas Troutman gathered his thoughts about the historic week for the program and was able to put it all into perspective.

"We're not content with where we're at," Troutman said. "We still want to get better. But we've made drastic improvements to where we were starting to where we are at now," he said. "Defensively and offensively, we've struggled moving. Now, we're getting to the basket, getting those scores. Now, we have to bring back the defense too and get those stops, get those steals, and cut out some of those fouls to put us in the game."

The Phoenix is 10-9 for the season, but 3-1 where it matters – in the Southern Conference. From here on out, there's nothing but conference games on the schedule. All of those lead up to the SoCon Tournament in Asheville which will take place March 7-10.

The win over Davidson was a massive step forward in the SoCon. The Phoenix made a statement to the entire league by coming back from a 14-point deficit with less than five minutes left to not only force overtime but hang on and win in a hostile environ-



MEAGAN CASAVANT | Staff Photographer

The post presence of UMass led the Minutemen to an 84-74 win over Elon on Jan. 18.

In doing so, Elon ended Davidson's 23-game home SoCon winning streak and posted a win inside Belk Arena for the first time in 10 games.

"The hard thing is now we have to go and focus one game at a time," senior guard Jack Isenbarger said after beating Davidson. "It's easy to get excited. It's going to be a fight every time you play a conference game."

The Phoenix will have to go through Davidson at least one more time — a March 1 tilt in Alumni Gym — before the season wraps. But the Wildcats aren't the only opponent that Elon has to worry about in the SoCon.

Next on the slate is a Jan. 23 matchup on the road with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The Mocs currently sit atop the league standings with a mark of 6-0. Also approaching are challenging road tests at Samford University and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Western Carolina University, which beat Elon on Jan. 4, pays a

visit to Alumni Gym, as does Wofford College, Samford and Davidson.

"Conference play is unpredictable," senior guard Sebastian Koch said. "Anything can happen. Every team is good."

Elon coach Matt Matheny said he was concerned about the mindset of his team following the monumental Davidson win. The Phoenix had nationally-ranked UMass coming in to Alumni Gym less than 48 hours later, and had just exhausted nearly every bit of energy to eke out the overtime win.

"I worry about everything," Matheny said. "Coming off of that victory, I was concerned going into Friday's practice that there'd be too much giddiness and not enough preparation. I thought our guys prepared pretty well. I did not see signs of fatigue. I thought our guys played really hard."

Elon started the UMass game in a hole, 7-0, after an alley-oop in the opening seconds sparked some Minutemen momentum. But the Phoenix did not give in, cutting the defi-

cit to as few as seven points multiple times in the final minutes.

"You just have to stay focused," Koch said after the game. "We came back and made it a close game. We want to be a team that punches the other team in the mouth, and today we got punched."

Elon has come a long way since dropping 114 points on Division III Washington & Lee University to open the season in November. Through setbacks to teams like Canisius College and Division II Metro State University, Matheny has said that the team is still growing and taking things one day at a time.

Big-name opponents the Phoenix has faced this year include No. 21 University of Colorado, Georgetown University, No. 7 Duke University and now No. 15 UMass. Elon lost all four of those games, but Troutman acknowledged that there's more than just winning and losing when you play teams like that.

"We went into those games to accomplish something and that was to get better," Troutman said. "That was to make ourselves better for conference play which is what matters. It's great playing those big teams, but even though we weren't able to pull anything out, we were able to pull stuff out of it. That's going to help us with the conference and help us in the next couple years."

With preseason aspirations of winning the SoCon and reaching the NCAA Tournament in mind, taking something out of each game is vital to Elon's success. Whether it's perfecting the motion offense or getting that one extra loose ball, the Phoenix hopes every improvement will show down the road in March.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Elon beat Davidson on the road for the first time since entering the Division I ranks.

Recap of recent games

Davidson

Final Score: Elon 87, Davidson 85 - OT

Field Goal Pct.: Elon 50.7%, Davidson 43.4%

Leading scorers: Elon - Troutman 28 pts., Davidson - Brooks 28 pts.

UMass

Final Score: UMass 84, Elon 74

Field Goal Pct.: UMass 46.6%, Elon 34.4%

Leading scorers: UMass - Lalanne 23, Elon - Troutman 19

Phoenix determined to avoid injury excuses entering 'crunch time'

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

One thing Elon University women's basketball coach Charlotte Smith does not want to hear is excuses.

Not from her players, not from her staff and especially not from the thousands of other "coaches," also known as fans, that attribute the Phoenix's struggles to either the rash of injuries the team has faced or the youth that has been pressed into action as a result.

"We've never focused on the fact that we have all these injuries," Smith said. "We know we have injuries, but we feel we have so much depth that anyone can step in, and I feel like we won't miss a beat."

Senior guard Kelsey Harris, the Phoenix's most experienced upperclassman, has had to log more than 600 minutes of game time while her teammates recover from injuries. She admits that it can be discouraging to see so many of her teammates unable to suit up. But Harris knows that her team can't lose focus and begin to feel sorry for themselves. They must move forward with whomever is healthy and

fight through the storm until the team is back to full strength.

"It can be frustrating [to lose so many teammates to injury], but everything happens for a reason," Harris said. "I think adversity, in the long run, is going to make us better. We have to learn to deal with it."

The Phoenix has seen junior center Shannen Cochraham and more recently,

**"I FEEL
LIKE
WE
WON'T
MISS A
BEAT"**

CHARLOTTE SMITH
WOMEN'S HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

junior guard Zora Stephenson, go down with injuries, opening up space for freshman guard Lauren Brown, fellow freshman forward Jenifer Rhodes and sophomore forward Autumn Carter in the starting lineup.

It was a difficult adjustment for Brown to make initially, but she has since seen her game and her confidence grow as she has become more accustomed to the high level of play in Division I basketball.

"I definitely think [playing significant minutes] has allowed me to see how much faster college basketball is, especially compared to high school," Brown said. "Girls are bigger, faster and stronger. But I definitely feel as though I'm starting to get a rhythm and figure out how the game is."

Smith has had just one player, Harris, start all 17 games, while three — Ste-



With players starting to gain experience, Elon has now won three straight games. RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

phenson, Brown, and junior forward Sam Coffey — have started 16. In the fifth spot, Smith has started all but three players on her roster in at least one game as she tries to find the right combination of experience and youth.

Smith sees enormous benefit in mixing and matching her starting five and has no problem doing it. In fact, Smith said she's been impressed with what she has gotten from her reserves, especially those asked to play outside their comfort zone.

"The resilience of the players [has been a key to the team's success]," she said. "People are stepping in and playing in positions that aren't their natural position and doing whatever they're called to do."

Smith said she isn't worried about her healthy players becoming fatigued because of the quality and depth of her highly productive bench.

"At this point, it's crunch time," Smith said. "It's the second part of the season, and I feel like we're in condition enough that we can log a lot of minutes and still be effective. But we have depth, so we really don't have to burn anybody out. We can rotate people in."

Harris has taken it upon herself to give support and encouragement to her younger, less experienced teammates whenever she can because she knows none of them believed they'd be as important to the team as they are so early in their careers.

"I try to [mentor] all the freshmen and younger players, just because we have so many underclassmen playing so many minutes," Harris said. "Any player coming from high school wants to play as much as possible, but not many come in thinking they'll play 30 minutes a game. But I think they've done a great job realizing what their roles are."

The rapid improvement of her underclassmen has been a source of great pride for Smith and her coaching staff, especially now as they begin to factor into the game's outcome.

"For the most part, we have youth pretty much across the board," Smith said. "So, when you're a coach and you're looking at the things you're accomplishing despite youth and the things you're accomplishing despite injuries, it makes you smile."

Smith can't help but be excited about the remainder of the season as her underclassmen continue to grow and develop with more experience and her injured players return. When the Phoenix is back to full strength, Smith sees no reason why her team shouldn't compete for the Southern Conference title.

"Hopefully in the latter part of the season we'll be healthy and we'll have all the pieces [together]," Smith said. "Because I can only imagine what this team would look like if we had all our players healthy."



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Autumn Carter is one of many Elon players seeing extended playing time due to teammates' injuries.

Seasoned Silverman continues to

Jordan Spritzer
Senior Reporter

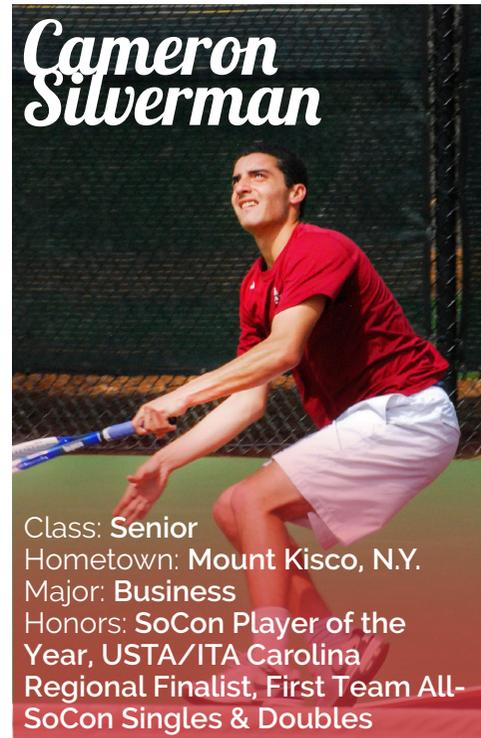
The Australian Open may be taking place on the other side of the globe, but fortunately there is still high quality tennis being played here in the states – at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.

Senior men's tennis star Cameron Silverman has put Elon University tennis on the map for the last four years. Fresh off his win in the Men's National Open Indoor Championship, Silverman is sitting pretty ranked No. 25 in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

"It's my last year of college tennis, so it'll be something I never get to do again," Silverman said. "I'm going out there with a different mindset than in the past. I'm just trying to win as many matches as I can and enjoy every moment."

The reigning Southern Conference player of the year, whose ITA ranking is the highest it's ever been while playing for the maroon and gold, is ready to embrace his ranking.

"There are certain pressures that come with the ranking... but I have to make sure



GRAPHIC BY TERRENCE MCLAUGHLIN | Design Editor

I'm [still] playing for my team," Silverman said.

Coach Michael Leonard was quick to point out that being ranked is nothing new for Silverman. Silverman bounced around the ITA rankings in 2013, but at times it appeared that he struggled with the proverbial target on his chest.

"Last year he had a good fall so he was ranked high, turning him into the hunted, rather than the hunter, which was a new place for him," Leonard said. "Every time he went out, he got someone's best shot because he would be a great win for somebody."

But Silverman, along with Leonard, said he believes that he is better prepared to deal with the pressures of being ranked in 2014.

"[Silverman] is the most mature he's ever been," Leonard said. "When he came in as a freshman he wasn't mature at all, so to see where he was and where he is now, he's in a good place. We're going to see what he's capable of. He's stronger, his game's better and he's mentally stronger, so it'll be exciting to see."

Perhaps Silverman's biggest aid in his quest to keep his ranking is his teammates. Silverman said he realizes that tennis is a team game and believes the team has what it takes to overcome their heartbreaking defeat in last year's Southern Conference Championship match against Samford University.

"As hard as last year was, you just have to take the positives out of it," Silverman said. "[I have to] not take anything for granted and not get ahead of myself. I think this year we have a really good shot if we all play well."

Aside from the motivation from last year, the Phoenix also has the benefit of not losing any key players to graduation.

"We lost a heartbreaker last year, and I think that motivates us going into this year, especially with the right kind of kids," Leonard added. "I think everyone came back a little more mature, a little tougher and a little fitter," Silverman said.

Even with the likes of Silverman leading a team full of much improved returning players, the Phoenix hasn't had an easy



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Stefan Fortmann, a First Team All-SoCon honoree in 2013, will be a vital piece to Elon's success.

start to the 2014 campaign. After a difficult weekend in Raleigh to open up the season against North Carolina State University and College of William & Mary, the team traveled to take on the then No. 7 Duke University Blue Devils. Silverman and the Phoenix left Durham victorious as Silverman defeated No. 52 Jason Tahir, 6-5, 3-6, 6-1.

The tough stretch continues as the Phoenix hits the road once more to face the University of Virginia Cavaliers as part of the ITA Kick-Off Weekend Jan. 25-26.

"We're trying to go to matches [against top competition] with the mentality of every match being a physical match," Leonard continued. "Trying to stay in there and play as well as you can because sometimes against some of these teams you get over-

whelmed and someone can get on top of you kind of quick. What we're trying to do is have everybody prepared to have the physical and mental capability of making each match as long as possible so it can prepare you for when you have to go play in the conference."

The matchup against top-ranked Virginia excites Silverman the most. The Cavaliers had two players ranked in the preseason ITA singles rankings, including senior Alex Domijan and junior Mitchell Frank, who were ranked No. 2 and No. 15, respectively.

"I'll get a shot at them, which is great," Silverman said.

Leonard is especially excited in anticipation for Silverman's matchup with some of college tennis' best. Leonard said Silver-

carry Elon tennis into 2014 season

man is in a great position to make some noise in the national event, citing his hatred of losing as his main asset going into the matches.

For Silverman, there is no better test of skill than matchups with some of the best talent in the nation.

"Playing against some of the top teams is great," Silverman said. "It's good to start off with these tough teams because the conference ends up being a bit of a drop off compared to these ACC schools."

A player like Silverman can often transform a program. For Leonard, his goal is to make the most of having such a talented student athlete.

"The big thing for me is making sure he gets the same resources that he would get at a bigger school," Leonard said. "It would be a shame for a kid like that to [go to waste]."

Leonard also noted that having a player like Silverman can have huge benefits in terms of recruiting. Like many Elon students, Silverman hails from the Northeast (Mount Kisco, N.Y.). Ever since Silverman's enrollment at Elon, Leonard has noticed an increase in interest from top players throughout the region.

"I try to show other people that you can go to a school like Elon, a mid-major school, and still be a highly ranked player," said Silverman.

Silverman is also striving to make an impact on the players already playing at Elon. "I've always been a good tennis player, but I think as I've gotten older and the years have gone on I've become more of a leader," Silverman said.

Silverman expects big things from himself as well as his teammates. "I'm just trying to win as many matches as I can," said Silverman. "I just want to win the Southern Conference before I leave."



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Elon Coach Michael Leonard has been recognized as SoCon Coach of the Year four times in nine seasons at the helm.

The Acorn Residence Inn



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CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Robert Lindgren, a native of Sweden, was named to the SoCon All-Freshman team last season.

Recap of upset over No. 7 Duke

Doubles:

No. 1: Tahir/Saba (D) d. Silverman/Fortmann, 6-5.

No. 2: Lindgren/Kowalski (E) d. Hemmeler/Semanzato, 6-4.

No. 3: Madrid/Kaufman (E) d. Hammond/McCall, 6-5 (5).

Singles:

No. 1: Silverman (E) d. Tahir, 6-5 (4), 3-6, 6-1.

No. 2: Saba (D) d. Fortmann, 6-2, 6-1.

No. 3: Semenzato (D) d. Lindgren, 6-0, 3-6, 6-0.

No. 4: Kowalski (E) d. Hemmeler, 6-3, 2-6, 6-5.

No. 5: Levine (D) d. Madrid, 6-3, 6-2.

No. 6: Kaufman (E) d. Hammond, 5-6 (7), 6-0, 6-3.

Women's tennis team ready to reach new heights

Matt Mallian
Senior Reporter

Coming off a 21-win spring season in 2013, the most successful campaign in program history, the Elon University women's tennis team is gearing up for the beginning of a new spring season in which the team will return many of its top producing players from a year ago.

The Phoenix roster includes four seniors, most notably Jordan Johnston and Frida Jansaker. The two have been a dynamic doubles pair for Elon in the past, going 22-2 on the 2013 season, including 9-1 in the Southern Conference. When asked to describe what makes them such a dominant duo, Johnston said it goes beyond words.

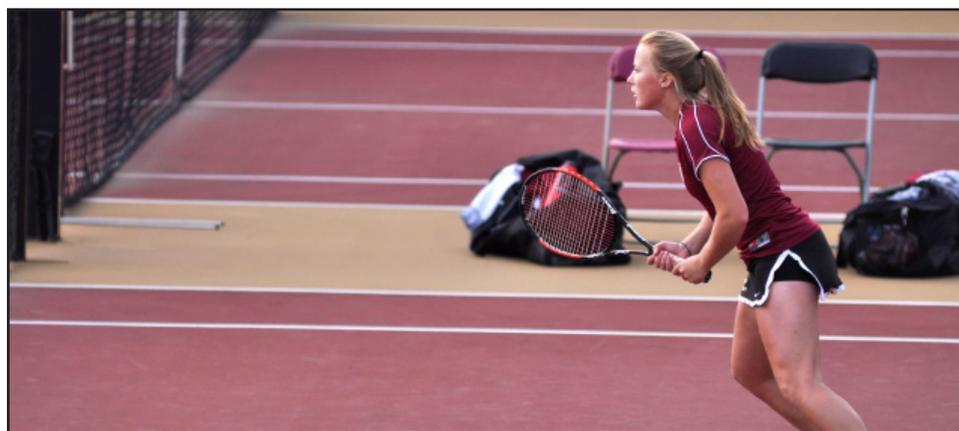
"We have gotten into a really good system of playing doubles together and we have so much experience now, this being our third season playing together," she said. "We really have a great understanding of each other. It doesn't even require words anymore. We just know what it takes to win and we know how to get the best out of each other and I think that's the reason why we are so successful – because we know what to do to help each

Frida Jansaker



Class Senior
Hometown Kristianstad, Sweden
Major: Finance & Management
Honors: Second Team All-SoCon in Singles (2012, 2013), First Team All-SoCon in Doubles (2012, 2013)

GRAPHIC BY TERENCE MCLAUGHLIN | Design Editor



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Elon senior Frida Jansaker ended 2013 with 11 consecutive singles wins and 10 straight doubles wins.

other out and pick each other up."

Johnston and Jansaker, the No. 1 doubles pairing as well as No. 1 and No. 2 singles players, respectively, anchor a Phoenix lineup that returns seven of its eight players from 2013.

"Senior leadership is fantastic," Elon coach Elizabeth Anderson said. "All four of them are really motivated to finish this year as their best year and they've really done a nice job."

Johnston's individual accolades speak for themselves. She has been named to the All-SoCon first team for three consecutive years and was also awarded SoCon Freshman Player of the Year in 2011. The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) ranked Johnston No. 69 in the nation among singles players for the upcoming season. Despite the many individual awards Johnston has received, she remains more concerned about the success of the team as a whole, ranked No. 70 in the nation by the ITA.

"[My] main goal, only goal: conference championship, make the NCAA Tournament," Johnston said. "That's what my goal personally is, and for the team I want that more than anything."

On paper, this goal is a lot easier for the Phoenix with the departure of the College of Charleston from the SoCon. The Cougars are now members of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the same conference that Elon will be joining next year. College of Charleston has dominated the women's tennis landscape in the SoCon in recent years, winning five

straight SoCon Tournaments since 2009.

The road to the NCAA Tournament began for the Phoenix on Jan. 18 in Blacksburg, Va., with a match against the Virginia Tech Hokies. Virginia Tech, ranked No. 54 in the nation, defeated Elon 6-1. The Phoenix will play another Atlantic Coast Conference team on Jan. 22, a match in Chapel Hill against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Elon is 1-19 against ACC schools in program history, picking up their lone victory last season against Wake Forest University. Despite Elon's struggles against ACC competition, Coach Anderson says the team will not back down.

"We're going after them," Anderson said. "We've got some good opportunities, and I think we have a good team. We can

beat these teams. We just have to go out there with the right mindset and prepare the right way in practices."

With College of Charleston off to the CAA and Elon close behind next year, players and coaches alike believe this is the year, and the window of opportunity is open to win the SoCon in 2014.

Alongside the dominant doubles pairing of Johnston and Jansaker, senior Bryn Khoury, who won 22 singles matches in 26 tries in 2013, is back, as is senior Viviana Stavreva (12 singles wins). The foundation and depth are there for the Phoenix, guided by the consistency of Johnston and Jansaker. The Phoenix has made it no secret that their goals are to win the SoCon Tournament and advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since joining the SoCon. This journey began on Jan. 18 and will continue into April.

"The four of us [seniors] have been through it all – good, bad and ugly – and it's coming to a head with this being our last season," Johnston said. "It's sad when you think about the fact that it's our last [season] but we are really excited because this is the year we are going to bring it. The happiest we will be is when we win that conference championship this year. The four of us have stayed together through it all and have seen this team do a lot of things and that would just be the cherry on top."



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Jordan Johnston went undefeated at the Kitty Harrison Invitational in Chapel Hill, N.C., this past fall.

THE LAST WORD: Not-so-easy A

I've never been one to look too much into my grades. As a communications student, I'm more worried about my standings in organizations and landing



Jonathan Black
Editor-in-Chief

good internships than studying for a test on the influence of guilds in the 19th century. Yet when I discovered that more than 35 percent of the Elon University student body made the Dean's and President's Lists last semester, I wondered for the first time if my grades were mediocre.

My grades have never been horrible, but I would not be consider a regular on the Dean's List by any

stretch of the imagination. I have routinely struggled to find the right balance between my standing in organizations, classes and my social life. But should I be ashamed of that?

Over the holiday weekend there were two questions my extended family members would not stop asking me. The first: "So which one of those girls I see photos of you with is your girlfriend?" None of them, I'm in a happy relationship with The Pendulum, thank you very much.

That question was always followed by "how are your classes going?" Never mind that my being in a relationship takes precedence over my academic performance. Since I am apparently failing at obtaining my degree in husbandry, my not-too distant cousins seemed like they would save me some face by asking me about classwork.

They were wrong.

As a journalism major, grades aren't a major determinant in my future. Yet, as many times as I tell my mom this, it still leaves her distressed, since journalism is not the most stable career in the world. Will she be even more worried about my career prospects after reading I'm in the two-thirds of students not on the Dean's List? Probably.

Knowing that I do my work to the best of my ability is usually good enough for me, at least until the end of the semester rolls around. Thus begins the wonderful time of the year when students upload photos of their Dean's List certificate to Facebook for the whole world to see. If those academic achievers want to inadvertently shame two-thirds of the student body, then bravo, they succeeded.

Chin up, Elon students who don't make the Dean's or President's Lists, there's still a place for you in the world. You know what they call students who graduate medical school, no matter their grades? Doctors.

The point is, no matter your grades, you shouldn't let some bi-annual list determine whether your four years spent at Elon were a success or failure. We all walk together, even if some of us don't have gold cords over our maroon robes. So keep plugging away at your organizations and volunteer work, because someone will likely recognize your hard work.

In my two and a half years at Elon I have grown more than in my previous 19 years and made the most out of the opportunities provided to me. I won't let a Facebook photo of your name on a sheet of paper take anything away from that.

Sudoku

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

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

Difficulty Level: Hard

Find the solution at elonpendulum.com/sudoku.

Top Tweets

@KyleKoach27

"Winter Term translates directly to never leave your bed ever"

@HeadPhoenix

"Congratulations to @elonmtennis in their big win over #7 Duke yesterday. What a great way to start in 2014."

@keithale

"Elon Cares gets better and better every year! Congratulations to all involved! If you haven't seen it, it started 3 minuges ago - so teleport"

@stebertstebert

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddling masses of abandoned study abroad blogs, yearning to breathe free."

@OnlyAtElon

"What a great effort by @ElonMensHoops! Certainly a game we will not soon forget. #LTML"





CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
During his visit to North Carolina State University on Jan. 15, President Obama spoke directly to the middle class.



BETH LESTER | Staff Photographer
Seniors Tyler Alverson and Kate Conway rehearse one of their scenes as Benedick and Beatrice in Elon's production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" in the Black Box Theatre on Jan. 16.

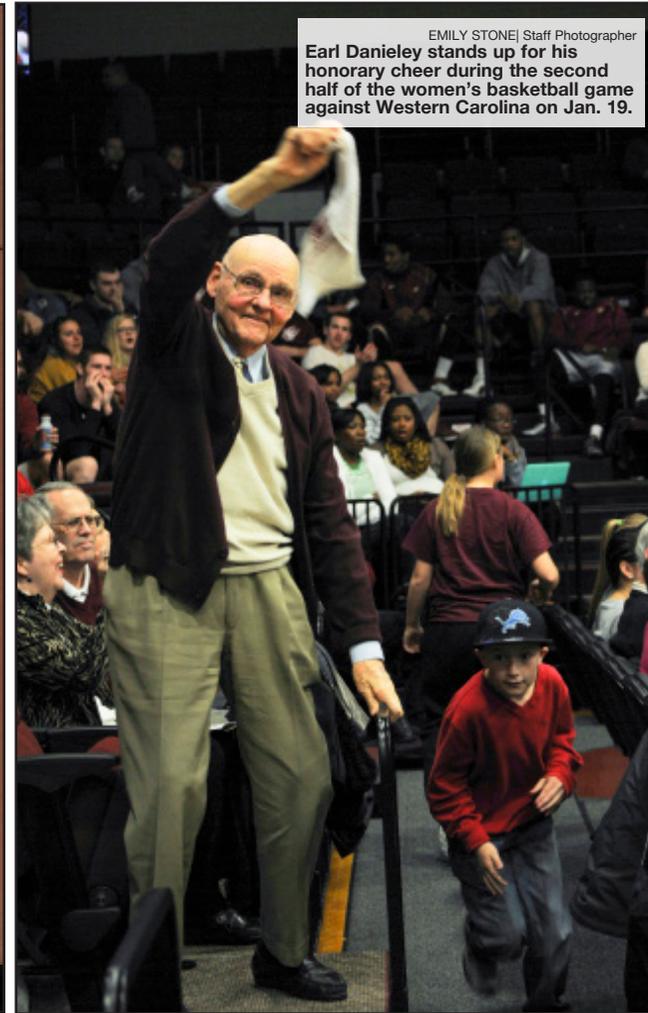


RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Senior Kelsey Harris protects the ball on Jan. 17's game against Appalachian State.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Dancing Medley: Elon students sing and dance a combination of "The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing" and "I Won't Dance" in Elon Cares on Jan. 18.



EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer
Earl Daneley stands up for his honorary cheer during the second half of the women's basketball game against Western Carolina on Jan. 19.



EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer
Fans cheer on Elon during the game against The Citadel on Jan. 11. Elon beat The Citadel 74-65.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor
Senior Jack Isenbarger rests on the bench with his teammates during Jan. 11's game against The Citadel.



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