

**MEN'S TENNIS REMAINS UNDEFEATED AT HOME**  
**PAGE 16**



**A CAPPELLA GROUPS SING FOR A CAUSE**  
**PAGE 12**



# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008 | VOLUME 34, EDITION 9

[www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum)



Photo submitted by Lori and Michael Russell

Awa and her mother, Lori, watch hippos swim in a lake three miles away from their home in Togo. Though Lori and her husband Michael have officially adopted Awa, they have not been able to bring her back to the United States because she does not qualify for a visa.

## Bringing Awa Home

Elon natives fight to obtain visa for adopted daughter

**Ashley Barnas**  
News Editor

They went to Elon Elementary School, began dating during their senior year at Western Alamance High School, stayed together through college, got married, joined the Peace Corps, traveled to West Africa and adopted a child. But that's where their problem began.

After more than five months of not seeing their daughter, Lori and Michael Russell are struggling to obtain a visa to bring her home to Durham. Not all overseas adoptions fall under the same rules.

"She's not an orphan — that's the problem," Lori Russell said. "The United States says that unless the child's an orphan, she cannot have a visa."

In November 2007, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services returned the adoption application filed by the Russells because of a missing translation of their daughter Awa's birth certificate. Caseworkers included a letter stating that if the Russells "insist on filing this petition, it will be denied" because Awa has two living birth parents.

"I can understand not separating children from their parents, but in our case, it's very distressing," Lori said.

For the Russells, there are only two options. The first is also the worst, Lori said.

She would have to leave law school at Duke and move back to Togo with Awa. Michael would need to stay in North Carolina at his job at Duke Global Health Institute to support his family. In order for Awa to obtain a visa, the Russells need to have had physical custody for two years. While in Togo, Awa

lived with the Russells for one year.

The second option is humanitarian parole. It is a "very discretionary visa that's given in situations where the parolee does not qualify for any other visa," Lori said.

"If they decide to give her a visa, we would go back to Togo," she said. "They're ready for us [in Togo]. We would get on the next plane out there."

Awa currently lives in Togo with an American friend of the Russells, making it easy to call Awa a few times each week. But their friend's visa expires in April, potentially leaving Awa without a caretaker.

### Meeting Awa

On a Peace Corps mission to Togo in June 2005, the Russells had no idea that they would do more than plant trees and help develop small businesses. One month after arriving in Mango, the "poorest, driest and sparsest" city in Togo, they met Awa, then 5 years old.

"We bonded immediately," Lori said.

Awa would hang out at their house nearly every day, and they would make her boiled eggs and peanut butter sandwiches.

"Everyone knew that Awa wasn't being taken care of," she said. "Her father is 73 and he's been ill for a long time, and her mother is over 40 years younger and not happy about the marriage in the first place."

Awa's mother would leave the house at dawn and not return until after dusk, the Russells said, leaving Awa to roam the streets. Her family's income is no more than 35 cents per day.

The Russells took immediate action. From August 2005 to September 2006, they treated

**See AWA | Page 2**

## Construction set to begin on meditation garden

**Megan Lee**  
Reporter

Chris Wood strolled through the curving paths guided by purple painted lines, in a room engulfed in the whispering of meditation music. Eleven tea candles illuminated the outskirts of a canvas covering two-thirds of McKinnon Hall.

Wood, a sophomore music theater major, along with several other students, faculty members and staff, took 10 minutes out of his day to walk the labyrinth that laid out for three days last week in the Moseley Center meeting room.

This was probably the last time students like Wood will find themselves in pensive poses at an indoor labyrinth in McKinnon.

Almost every year, Elon's Truitt Center for Religious

and Spiritual Life brings "Walking the Labyrinth" to campus for three days. Guiding the event is Truitt Center's Program Assistant Rene Summers and a couple of student volunteers.

"Even though it has been difficult to reserve this location, it has benefited so many students that we continue to have it," Summers said.

This spring will bring an end to the difficulties of reserving McKinnon Hall. With all of the positive feedback the center has received, Elon is planning to construct a meditation garden and labyrinth on the north side of Holt Chapel. The location has been approved and will be funded by the gifts in honor of 1952 Elon alumna Helen Jackson Lindsay.

Thomas Flood, Elon's superintendent of landscaping and grounds, will build the new addition to campus in an organic design different from the canvas in McKinnon. It will consist of aggregate stone in cement, and in the very center of the labyrinth will be an Elon oak tree.

"The labyrinth represents a journey that you travel, by becoming reshaped by the experience in the center and bringing it back to the world

you live in," university Chaplain Richard McBride said.

For the six years that this event has been held, a rented white canvas with rich purple paint would expand across the McKinnon Hall floor.

The pattern's hand-painted design resembles a six-leaf clover within a gear that has several teeth. Its calming atmosphere was set by dimmed lights and Asian-influenced music played on a loop.

"I liked the feeling after sitting in the center and then getting up after my reflection," Wood said. "I focused on Christianity and getting closer to God when I first started, but then thought about a lot of things once I sat down."

Placed in the center of the clover-like destination were three eggplant colored velvet pillows, a box of facial tissues and a basket of words to help jumpstart visitors' reflection as they sat and contemplated.

This quiet stroll and secluded area sends the message to slow down and take the time to think about things.

This form of interfaith exploration has received a wide range of responses.

**See GARDEN | Page 3**



MEGAN LEE | Photographer

A group of students from a health and wellness class walk the labyrinth in McKinnon Hall. The labyrinth is a spiritual tool that many use to symbolize a personal or spiritual journey. Elon plans to construct a labyrinth on the north side of Holt Chapel on south campus.



# Russells eager for family and friends to meet Awa

## AWA from Page 1

Awa for symptoms of neglect.

Edward Perry, a close friend of the Russells from the Peace Corps, took immediate notice to Awa's constant presence at his friends' home. Her physical and scholastic growth was overwhelming.

"Little by little, Lori would work with Awa on her words and forming sentences," Perry said.

It was not long until Awa was sitting down trying to read.

"Awa is a type of person that when you see her, you know she is smart, but due to Lori's ability to connect with children and Mike's patience and humor, Awa flourished in their home," he said.

In October 2006, Awa's mother came to the Russells' home and asked if Awa could live with them. "We said we would think about it," Lori said. Awa's mother left and didn't come back for a few weeks.

By November, the Russells were in contact with Awa's parents, the U.S. Embassy and a local judge to discuss an adoption. In March 2007, they were granted legal custody of Awa, and her parents agreed to pass on full parental rights to the Russells. The adoption was fully recognized in Togo in June 2007 and in the United States three months later.

It's not common for Peace Corps volunteers to adopt a child, Perry said, because it's "quite a task" on top of their daily responsibilities within the community.

"For a couple of people who lived and worked as hard as they did during their service, to then take on a child is crazy talk," he said. "But I realized that by the nature of their characters, they are meant for this sort of dedication."

Upon first meeting Awa, Perry was floored by the Russells' open arms to her. He was also concerned about the day when they would have to leave Togo, and Awa.

"But later on, I saw that they weren't intent on leaving her at all," he said. "I was even more scared about that. So were they, but the Russells used their fear in a different direction."

Despite all the rejection and repeated process of starting over, the Russells continue to fight to

bring Awa home. Their struggle with bureaucracy frustrates Perry.

"Even our own country is being slow to understand that yes, the Russells are serious when they say they love this child and are not intent on 'trafficking' her to a foreign land."

Whenever Perry saw Awa, she was often "incoherently enthusiastic" about something and jabbering away in French or Hausa, a West African dialect. Most of all, he said, "She always wants to play on Mike's arms and be comforted by Lori's."

Like Perry, Jenny Gorsegner also met Lori and Michael in 2005 during pre-service training in Togo. Though she met Awa only once, Gorsegner recognized how close the Russells were to their daughter.

"As Lori shared story after story about Awa and her daily adventures: discovering running water for the first time and washing her clothes every day because they were new, her face would light up in a way that only a mother's can," Gorsegner said.

The Russells' courage and commitment to bringing Awa home is a statement to how much they love Awa, Gorsegner said.

"Lori is a planner," she said, "and when all of these adoption procedures threw loops in her game plan, she took them in stride because of this noble ambition to give Awa a life filled with opportunities. Michael sacrificed time with his family and friends in the United States to stay with Awa in Togo, even after more than two years away."

### Helping to Bring Awa Home

On their Facebook group, "Bring Awa Home," the Russells have posted a link to sign a petition. They said it was the best thing to do to help their situation.

"It's a great way for us to have all that support in one place," Lori said.

Michael said he recently printed out the database and it was 39 pages long. "Putting that in a senator's hands will really make a difference," he said.

Lori said that letters and e-mails help the North Carolina politicians realize their situation more clearly.

Elon junior Scott Russell, Michael's younger brother, said Michael and Lori's situation is heartbreaking.

"It will truly be an injustice to this little girl as well as my entire family to not allow her to live with the parents that love her," he said.

He has faith that Elon can make a difference, and he knows that he will love her when he finally gets to meet her.

Though Scott has never met his niece, he said, "Through my family, I am convicted to love her."

Scott and dozens of other Elon students have joined Awa's Facebook group, including Elon Volunteers! in a public bid to support the Elon natives.

### A Jubilant Young Girl

Now 8 years old, Awa is attending private school in the capital city, Lome.

"She's very behind because she didn't get a lot [of education] before," Lori said. "Awa is having difficulty trying to read. As bright as she is, it's difficult for her."

Awa is fluent in French and is getting better at English.

"She loves 'Blue's Clues,'" Lori said. "Michael's mom and my mom would send DVDs all the time." The shows helped her learn English. "She would wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, good morning!' just like in 'Blue's Clues.'"

Lori would often draw "Blue's Clues" characters, Awa's favorite, and have her color-by-number to teach her math.

"She's hilarious," Lori said. "She has the best sense of humor as anyone I know of as a kid."

Awa really wants to "come home," Lori said. "She asks all sorts of questions about her room and about her family."

When they bring Awa home to Durham, the Russells are looking forward to the stability for Awa and for themselves. They can't wait to introduce her to their families, get her into a good school and just have normal lives including swimming pool outings and laughter.

"She's my baby, she's so incredible," Lori said. "You just can't help but fall in love with this kid."

Photos submitted by Michael and Lori Russell



Awa and Lori wear their matching pagne, handmade outfits that are specially tailored. Awa got to pick out the fabric and was very excited about her new outfit – she wears it all the time. It means a lot to Lori that her daughter wants to match and be like her.



Awa, 5 years old at the time of this photograph, lies in a hammock outside the Russells' home when they lived in Togo. "It was probably the first week we met her," Lori said.



"Portable Awa" is content to sit in Michael's backpack. "Just them goofing around on a regular, old day," Lori said. "Awa is such a goofball, so she probably initiated it. She's a nut – she does anything for a laugh."

# Student helps needy with 'the little things'

A senior's service organization works to improve lives through donations of small items

Andie Diemer  
News Editor

How often do travelers simply overlook the mini toiletries in their hotel rooms? How many times have shoppers walked by a cosmetic counter without grabbing a free sample?

After this spring break, senior Samantha Tremblay is hoping to help the less fortunate by collecting toiletries, most of which can be obtained for free.

Tremblay is the founder of an organization called Little Things Mean a Lot. She created the group her freshman year of high school because she thought it was a creative way to help people by providing them with trivial yet essential items.

Since many people have collections they forget about or stay in hotels, it is an easy and free way to get involved,

### Want to donate?

Stop by the collection box in Octagon between March 31 and April 7 to donate small toiletry items from your spring break trip.

"little things" after spring break. That was the same amount donated by several schools in the Alamance-Burlington system last fall.

To date, she has donated almost 11,000 pounds of items to organizations such as the American Red Cross, Allied Churches, Residential Treatment Services and Family Abuse Services in the area.

"[It is] for people who might not be in the best of situations now," she said. "They could use these

items to get ready for a job interview to help turn their lives around and get back on their feet. There are many ways each organization beneficiaries use these items."

She said the Red Cross has used some of the items post-fires, when most of people's possessions are destroyed.

"Even these small items mean a lot to the people who are benefiting from them."



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Senior Samantha Tremblay, founder of Little Things Mean a Lot, hopes to make lives easier through donations of small toiletry items.



MEGAN LEE | Photographer

The labyrinth, set up each year in McKinnon, as pictured here, will become a permanent outdoor addition to Elon's campus near Holt Chapel, along with a meditation garden.

## Campus landscape will change with addition of outdoor labyrinth GARDEN from page 1

"As I have walked the labyrinth before, it's very individualistic," Summers said. "But then you are also surrounded by people who are sharing a similar experience with you."

Peter Ruhiri, a graduate exchange student from Kenya, said that his experience was not only relaxing, but also a mixture of both physical and mental exercises.

"This is more spiritual than anything else to me," Ruhiri said. "You are being calmed mentally and physically walking. I think it activates a part of the brain that you normally don't use or think about."

Wood said he enjoyed it so much that he will be telling his friends about it, encouraging them to experience the labyrinth in years to come.

McBride and Summers hope that students who use the new meditation garden and labyrinth will have the same positive experiences.

## Campus prepares for Sunshine Day celebration

Molly McGowan  
Reporter

Regardless of the weather, Elon students have been making an effort to make it a little sunnier in North Carolina. On Thursday, Elon celebrates the freedom of open government by hosting Sunshine Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McKinnon Hall.

The purpose of Sunshine Day is to cast light on the importance of state Sunshine Laws, which ensure the public's right to be aware of its government's affairs at federal, state and local levels.

To promote the public's awareness of such rights, media and citizen groups created the North Carolina Open Government Coalition in 2004.

Two years later, Elon became the academic home for the North Carolina Open Government Coalition, to lend support through academic opportunities, Associate Professor Vic Costello said.

Thus, the Sunshine Center was formed.

Costello has been influential in Sunshine laws education. Last year, his senior seminar class produced an educational video, "Uncovering Sunshine Laws."

The video was directed at high school students to inform them of their rights. His students also created lesson plans for teachers so they could lead discussions on the video.

"The goal is to put that video in every library across the state," Costello said.

This year, Costello is having his senior seminar students create another video, this one targeting city and county clerks "to educate employees of government offices who [will] have to comply with open government requests."

To see how their video could best educate government officials, Costello's students brought in six city clerks and spent two hours discussing the challenges they faced.

Sunshine laws guarantee the public's access to government proceedings, such as North Carolina's Open Meetings Law, which mandates that public bodies' hearings be open to the public, and any open gatherings are subject to recording.

North Carolina's Public Records Law requires that the majority of public records (papers, books, maps, tapes, documents, etc.) of the state's government agencies be accessible to the public.

Connie Book, associate dean of

### Sunshine Laws: What are they?

Sunshine Laws make government proceedings and public records open to the public.

The North Carolina Open Meetings Law makes it mandatory for government meetings to stay open to the public.

The North Carolina Public Records Law mandates open access to all public records and documents held by government agencies.

the School of Communications and director of Elon's Sunshine Center, said she is looking forward to the celebration and is pleased with what the center has already accomplished.

This past year alone, the Sunshine Center has received 187 e-mails and phone calls from citizens questioning their rights to open government, she said.

Some people are just unaware of how to gain access to a public record or what constitutes a public record, while others, such as writers, use the center to learn how to access public documents they need for their stories.

Sunshine Day itself will be a prime example of public access, since the state's major newspapers and television stations will be in attendance.

The keynote speaker at the luncheon will be Debbie Crane, who was recently fired from her position as public information officer to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The News & Observer had been conducting an investigation on North Carolina's mental health system when Crane claimed that Gov. Mike Easley's press office had been encouraging them to delete all e-mails so as not to create any public records that the community could access.

The News & Observer reported that the governor denied any such behavior.

"The idea is if you put light on a situation, you can find truth there," Book said. "You can find resolution."

**Crenshaw Service Specials "We Put You First"**

**HYUNDAI**  
Genuine Hyundai Service and Parts

**OIL and FILTER CHANGE**

**\$2395**  
Plus tax

- Up to 5 qts Havoline oil
- Genuine Hyundai filter
- Top off all fluids
- Adjust tire pressure
- Multipoint vehicle inspection

Hyundai vehicles only. Not good with any other offer or coupon. Expires 4-30-08

**Crenshaw HYUNDAI**

**TRANSMISSION FLUSH**

**\$12995**  
Plus tax

- Complete transmission flush including torque converter unit
- Additive for reconditioning seals for extended transmission protection from wear
- Multipoint vehicle inspection

Hyundai vehicles only. Not good with any other offer or coupon. Expires 4-30-08

**Crenshaw HYUNDAI**

**Crenshaw HYUNDAI**

330 Huffman Mill Rd, Burlington, NC  
(Across from Burlington Square Mall)

**584-1144** "We Put You First"

Service hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm

## NEWS IN BRIEF

At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the corner of West Friendly and New Garden Roads in Greensboro, Charlie and Faith Hawes will be hosting a Peace Vigil at Guilford College for the fifth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq.

They are asking anyone who wants to see an end to the war to join. Hundreds of vigils across the country will be held Wednesday for the same reason.

## Seven new deadly sins

In an era of globalization, the Vatican has updated the seven deadly sins with seven modern mortal sins.

The new list includes:

- Environmental pollution
- Genetic manipulation
- Accumulating excessive wealth
- Inflicting poverty
- Drug trafficking and consumption
- Morally debatable experiments
- Violation of fundamental rights of human nature

These seven join the original list of pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed and sloth.

## POWERless week three results

So far 33 of 40 buildings on campus have reduced their energy intake, which is up from 11 last week.

Winners this week are Loy Center G, H and I with 15.9 percent followed by Oaks B with 8.8 percent and Danieley Flat M with 8 percent.

Area winners are Danieley Center with percent, Loy Courts with 13 percent and East Area with 12 percent.

If you have any stories about student involvement, let Paul Holt know at [holtpa@elon.edu](mailto:holtpa@elon.edu).

## Win money for your organization

The first ZipTouch competition will be held at 3:30 p.m. on April 4 in front of Moseley.

Representatives from campus organizations can compete to win more than \$100 for their organizations; registration is \$10 per person.

The representative who keeps contact with the ZipCar the longest will win.

For more information, please contact your organization's president or Cory Morrison at [wmorrison@elon.edu](mailto:wmorrison@elon.edu).

## Free Speech TV available on campus

Elon Television is now receiving Free Speech TV, which includes the award-winning news program Democracy Now.

FSTV includes other regular programming as well as special reports and documentaries and will be aired on the Elon Television channel.

## Blood drive coming soon

Elon Volunteers and Kappa Alpha are hosting a blood drive from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on April 1 and 2 in McKinnon Hall.

To sign up, please visit: <https://www.membersforlife.org/cbsr/schedule/login.php> using Sponsor Code 1428.

## Donate spring break toiletry items

Bring back toiletry items from your spring break to help those in need.

There will be a collection Box in Moseley March 31-April 7. Full-sized and sample-sized products are needed.

Donations will benefit the American Red Cross, Allied Churches, Residential Treatment Services and Family Abuse Services.

# New theory suggests climate change began 10,000 years ago

## Scientist proposes to Elon community that high levels of greenhouse gases deviate from the natural cycle

**Kaitlin Ugolik**  
Futures Editor

Adding to the controversy around climate change, one paleoclimatologist has hypothesized that humans caused the rise in greenhouse gases long before scientists originally thought.

William Ruddiman, professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, the last speaker in this year's Voices of Discovery science series, posed his argument to the Elon community Monday night in McCrary.

He presented the widely accepted idea that levels of carbon dioxide and methane have risen in the last few thousand years, contributing to global warming. He added his idea that this unnatural uptick began 5,000 years ago when the natural cycle of oscillating carbon and methane levels was disrupted, mostly by deforestation.

At about this time, he said, Mesopotamia and then China and Southeast Asia developed agriculture. The practice of growing crops and clearing trees on a large scale quickly spread through Europe causing carbon dioxide to rise instead of fall as it naturally should have Ruddiman said.

He said that this is where he gets the most skepticism. People wonder what humans were doing that long ago

to affect carbon dioxide levels.

"This rise in (greenhouse gases) is not natural," he said. "Humans got involved in the climate system and kept the climate warmer than it otherwise would have been. Farmers stopped a glaciation."

The more widely held idea is that the Industrial Revolution caused the changes in greenhouse gas levels around 1800, and then the use of fossil fuels did so again in the 1900s.

Ruddiman noted that the change in monsoon circulation in Southeast Asia in the last 10,000 years also had an effect on methane gas levels and climate change.

The levels naturally rose, but did not correct themselves after monsoon season as they had in previous 10,000-year periods. Water gathered in valleys, which turned into bogs and released more methane gas than had previously been released.

"The methane trend was doing something it'd never done before and humans doing stuff they'd never done before," he said. "It fits."

Scientists have taken carbon dioxide and methane samples from beneath the ice in Antarctica and Greenland dating back thousands of years, and according to Ruddiman none have been able to find a time when levels did what they have done here.

"Natural explanations for the greenhouse gases in the last 10,000

years are falsified," he said. "That's deceptively simple and I have trouble getting some of my critics to see what a critical argument it is."

Ruddiman received another major criticism for his hypothesis that human action is directly to blame for the rise in greenhouse gases. After further research, he has formulated a new argument: gases directly caused by humans kept the air warmer 5,000 years ago when it should have cooled. This, in turn, kept the oceans warmer and the oceans then produced more carbon dioxide than it would have otherwise.

Ruddiman still cited direct human involvement as a main culprit in the rise in methane and carbon dioxide. He offered disease as a reason for the occasional dips in the gases within the past 10,000 years. These dips, he said, happened in times of great pandemics when people died off, leaving their farms to be taken over by vegetation, which lessened the level of carbon dioxide.

"I wouldn't be going around giving all these talks if I wasn't dead certain it's correct," he said.

Ruddiman received his bachelor in geology from Williams College and his Ph.D. in marine biology from Columbia. He has written several books, including "Plows, Plagues, and Petroleum: How Humans Took Control of Climate."

# Factory workers attest to union struggle in Dominican Republic at Fair Trade talk

**Amanda Duberman**  
Reporter

As a follow-up to the "Who Made Your Shirt?" Fair Trade symposium, Students for Peace and Justice invited Manuel Pujols and Julio Castillo, two factory workers from the Dominican Republic, to speak on their undertaking to create a labor union to improve conditions at a Hanes-owned factory.

During the talk, which was translated from Spanish to English, students were able to hear a firsthand account of a situation in which a predatory corporation has impeded workers' ability to organize and unionize.

Upon hire, Pujols and Castillo were led to believe they would be in charge of about four textile machines for a reasonable length of time. In time, they would be called upon to do "twice the work for half the pay," often operating five to six textile machines for lengths exceeding 12 hours.

Eventually, workers grew weary of poor conditions and many were injured. Those who complained were fired, and thus the seed was sown for a union effort.

In July of 2006, Pujols and Castillo began to assemble a labor union in order to ensure fair treatment and compensation. Their efforts were scantily gratified and 118 workers involved with the union were fired.

"According to Dominican law, a union may form if 50 percent of workers plus one supports it," Pujols said. "We had 478 signatures out of 841 workers. To keep the union from forming and becoming successful, Hanes fired nearly half our supporters."

Pujols asserted that every time the union gains any traction, Hanes management threatens to fire those involved, thereby dismantling support for the effort.

Corporations have vested interests in hampering union formation, as in the past these efforts have contributed



JEFF THURM | Photographer

Dominican factory workers Manuel Pujols, left, and Julio Castillo, right, speak out about union struggle at Monday night's Fair Trade Symposium event.

to raised awareness for poor working conditions as well as pay increases.

"Management has repeatedly threatened to move the factory to China, where they claim workers will demand less," Pujols said.

According to Pujols, a family of four in the Dominican Republic requires about \$450 a month for food and basic necessities, but the most any Hanes worker can realistically make is around \$400 per month.

"This means we have to work a lot of overtime and other odd jobs on our off days," he said. "There are people who have worked the factory for 15 years and have never had a vacation."

Pujols and Castillo have brought their efforts to the United States with hopes of raising awareness among college students for the issue. The two were granted a meeting with Joia Johnson, the executive Vice President of the Hanes brand, who they expressed was less than sympathetic.

"Basically, Ms. Johnson told us our fight belonged in the Dominican Republic. She offered no solution and made no promises," Pujol said. "She

did not seem to understand that our country has continued to violate its own labor laws. Our voices are not heard there."

Prior to visiting Elon, Pujol and Castillo spoke to audiences at Georgetown and the University of Maryland, where they emphasized the consumer power of students.

"Ninety percent of the shirts produced by Hanes will be printed with college logos," Castillo said.

Zack Knorr, the International Campaigns Coordinator for United Students Against Sweatshops, followed Pujols and Castillo's testimony with a presentation about students' ability to raise awareness for sweatshops.

"Students at Elon can insist that the university operate under the Designated Suppliers Program, which would essentially ensure that goods sold in the campus shops are made in factories that comply with high labor standards," Knorr said. "We could double wages for factory workers, and the cost of your sweatshirt would go up 75 cents. The power to do this is in our hands."

# Debate rages about holiday status of St. Patrick's Day

Melanie Burliss  
Reporter

The prospect of a day off for a national St. Patrick's Day holiday is not likely to occur at Elon anytime soon.

For now, St. Patrick's Day is not recognized as a national holiday. It's a cultural event famous for leprechauns, corned beef and cabbage and more than a little celebration.

A new movement pushed by an Irish beer company has prompted a petition drive to ask Congress to designate the day as a national holiday. The sponsor of that effort, Guinness, stands to gain commercially even if the holiday bid turns flat.

At Elon, national holidays do not automatically translate into days off from classes. Associate Provost Nancy Midgette noted that Elon does not pause for Labor Day, a holiday that always falls at the very beginning of the fall semester.

"The university doesn't want to interrupt the start of the academic year so early in the semester," Midgette said.

Elon justifies holding classes on Labor Day by providing a two-day fall break in October, closer to the middle of the semester.

So the odds may not be on the students' side that the university would grant a day off on or around March 17, near the usual time for a March spring break.

Many students don't agree with the university's sentiment. Labor Day is supposed to be a day free of "labor" nationwide. At Elon it requires academic labor, which concerns senior Bryn Lang.

"I think that as students, we have as many responsibilities as full-time workers," she said. "Failing to celebrate this particular national holiday is a discredit to the students and faculty."

Senior Amy Crismond said that Elon should recognize all national holidays.

"It's a national holiday for a reason,"



Guinness, a popular Irish brand of dark beer, is playing a major role in the fight to make St. Patrick's Day an official holiday.

she said.

As for St. Patrick's Day being recognized by Elon, Midgette said, "There is not a clear-cut yes or no answer to this question. A lot of careful thought and planning goes into the creation of the academic calendar."

St. Patrick's Day is a well-known and well-celebrated holiday at Elon. It is recognized by students whether they celebrate by going to Catholic mass, cramming for a test in Belk Library while sporting "Get Lucky" T-shirts or being with friends at West End Station.

St. Patrick's Day attaches importance to Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick, who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

St. Patrick is said to have chased all of the snakes out of the country because they were a symbol of the Pagan religion.

Guinness' petition was cleverly titled "Proposition 3-17," after the date

of the holiday. Proposition 3-17 had received more than 280,000 signatures as of Monday.

Guinness was asking for at least 1 million signatures by midnight on March 16 before sponsors bring the petition to Congress. Guinness wants to not only "commemorate the spirit of this day, but to celebrate and honor St. Patrick himself," according to the mission statement of Proposition 3-17.

"St. Patrick's Day is one that has become popular in America," Midgette said. "But personally, I don't see that it should lead to becoming a national holiday."

Some students disagree.

"St. Patrick's Day is celebrated as a religious holiday by many people," Crismond said. "Therefore, it should be a national holiday just like other religious holidays and celebrations."

## The Guinness campaign: how to make a holiday official

Kaitlin Busch  
Copy Editor

Everyone is Irish on March 17, so why not make St. Patrick's Day an official holiday? That is exactly what the brewers at Guinness think.

Guinness created Proposition 3-17, which "requests that St. Patrick's Day be made an official holiday not only to officially commemorate the spirit of this day, but to celebrate and honor St. Patrick himself ... he embodies the pride and strength in all who are Irish and Irish enthusiast alike."

Guinness urges people to sign the petition online so that if official, "nations around the world will join together to enjoy the parades, the fun and fellowship and a pint of Guinness stout or two."

Guinness' goal is to secure one million signatures by midnight on March 16 so that they can formally present the petition to the U.S. Congress on St. Patrick's Day.

Some students supported the movement at West End Station last week. The bar printed out a copy of the petition so students could sign when exiting.

Junior Sean Flynn spent the past Winter Term studying in Ireland. He said that St. Patrick's Day should definitely be an official holiday.

"If Halloween and Thanksgiving can be holidays, then why can't St. Paddy's day be one too?" Flynn said.

The Web site says that Guinness currently has 289,244 signatures as of Monday.

## UNIVERSITY GRILL

### Nightly Specials

Tuesday - Wine Night (1/2 price on select bottles)

Thursday - College Night (\$1 drafts and .25 cent wings)

Friday - Surf and Turf Night (Special Steak and Seafood Plates)

Saturday - Spaghetti Night (All you can eat only \$8.95)

www.universitygrillelon.com

University Grill 2463 W Webb Ave

Cash Money - Checks - MC - Visa - Amex

Right down the street at the intersection of Haggard and University Drive!

Don't forget we serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Tuesday through Sunday 6am-9pm

Now hiring part time help nights and weekends.

Take outs and call-ins always welcome

Live entertainment coming back on Thursdays in March!



# MOVE OFF CAMPUS!

**Elon Student Housing.com**

Units are filling up, sign up online today!

- Campus Trace
- College Place Townhouses
- College Station
- The Crest
- Partners Place
- Phoenix Arms
- Old & New Trollinger
- University Pointe
- West End

Owned & Operated by  
B.C. Parker Real Estate

336.226.8411



# Editorial

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

## Letter to the Editor

I was extremely disappointed when I picked up a copy of The Pendulum this week only to see the headline "March Sadness" emblazoned across the front page. The following article about the men's basketball team's performance in the Southern Conference Tournament was unfair and insulting. All it focused on was the fact that the team lost the championship game, but what about the fact that they even made it there? The Phoenix surprised everyone to make a run for the title, and though the team may not have won the tournament, the team made history with Elon's first appearance in the championship game, as a number seven seed no less. Our team played on national television, against a nationally ranked opponent, and held its own. So to the basketball players: you shouldn't have any "March Sadness" about the tournament, but you should be proud of your remarkable success. Most of us support you.

Jordan McNeill  
Elon '11

Have an idea or opinion you'd like to share with The Pendulum? Contact us at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) and we'll print what you have to say. Lengthy letters or columns may be cut to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

## Campus participates in week-long celebration for Sunshine Laws

This week is recognized as Sunshine Week, a national effort to raise awareness of open government and the necessity of sunshine laws. Sunshine laws, otherwise known as freedom of information laws, are laws that release government documents and information to the public.

They advocate the public's knowledge of what the government and elected officials are doing with their time and the public's tax money. First put into action in 1966, sunshine laws provide the assurance that the public will have access to government records and meetings.

Many benefits of sunshine laws are neglected today. People inadvertently enjoy sunshine laws without realizing it, or fail to recognize their access to government information. Many don't know the amount of information available to them.

Sunshine laws provide a bounty of information to citizens who wish to access them. Government secrecy is something that a democracy such as the United States should not bolster or possess. That is why these laws are so important for people to be aware of and use to the full extent.

Elected officials should be held accountable for the time and money they spend working for the government. It is the taxpayers' money they spend, so the taxpayers should be entitled to the knowledge of where their money is going. Pay salaries of government officials, budgets, minutes of government meetings, the results of legislations, all of these things are open to public knowledge through

sunshine laws.

In concordance to sunshine laws and the release of information to the public, a common trend is beginning to appear in private colleges across the nation.

More and more, newspapers and individuals are vying for the release of documents from private universities. Individual crime reports and security personnel

and carry themselves like sworn police officers, they should have to be held to the same standards.

A majority of schools in the United States take part in federal financial aid programs. These schools, public and private, are required to release incidents reports each year. But these reports are often brief at best and do not detail specific incidents.

**In the light of Sunshine Week, the public should become more aware of its ability to acquire government documents.**

files are not required to be released to the public by law.

In many ways, this standard makes sense. Private universities and institutions are as their name implies, private. They are not required to dispense information because they are private institutions that operate outside the boundaries of government legislation on what needs to be released to the public.

But some states are beginning to pass legislation forcing even private institutions to release information such as individual crime reports. Many advocates for such legislation claim that private universities, for the sake of public relations, will not dispense such information because of the negative effects it may have on the college's image.

Colleges nationwide, whether public or private, should all be required to release security records to the public. If campus police at private universities are going to act

While there may have been a drug possession charge listed in last year's incident report, the public has no idea if it was a minor case of possession or a major drug ring.

In the light of sunshine week, the public should become more aware of their ability to acquire government documents. People should also become aware of their inability to access information kept secret by private institutions. It's a matter of public safety and also an issue with the institution's reputation. A private university may see it more fitting to sweep blemishes under the rug than to address actual problems in their student body or their administration.

This practice is irresponsible and should not be allowed by the government. Private schools may be private institutions, but they should not be able to bypass the law and work their way through every loophole.

## Tuition increases must be substantiated

The recent increases in tuition have left many enrolled Elon students dismayed. A recent 8.6 percent rise in tuition means that students will be paying an extra \$2,000 in fees. Add that to the 6.4 percent increase in room and board, a near \$500 increase, and there is a substantial rise in the amount of money students are paying for their education at Elon.

For the common student, paying for school is one of the No. 1 concerns in college. Students constantly seek financial aid, grants, student loans and scholarships to help alleviate the weight of tuition. A common solution students seek is the concept of "grandfathering" in students after tuitions are bumped.

The concept is simple: The price paid for college upon entry is the price paid until graduation, regardless of tuition hikes. This ensures that students would not have to worry about unexpected increases in tuition.

In many ways, this concept seems perfect. Students can plan out their

college tenure and payment plan without the added stress of unforeseen rises in tuition.

The problem with this mindset is that it leaves no room for growth for the institution. Without money to expand, the university will be sub-par to others progress with improved teaching methods.

Without tuition increases, schools would not be able to hire more teachers to instruct classes or provide more individual attention for the growing student population. Existing structures would grow dilapidated and the administration would not be able to expand programs to accommodate more students in a more efficient way.

The issue is a tuition hike that seems disproportional to the growth of the institution. Tuition hikes can be made in anticipation of growth, but Elon administrators have always expressed an interest in maintaining the small class sizes and community feel so unique to this university.

At Elon, the most recent tuition increase was used to hire 30 new faculty and staff members. There seems to be a disconnect in the growth of the university's size to necessitate the salaries of 30 more faculty and staff members. With the university seeing only a 4 percent growth in enrollment, are 30 more faculty and staff members really necessary?

The Lumen Prize represents a fairly substantial increase, as does financial aid for Honors, Fellows and study abroad programs. But it seems a little counterproductive to raise tuition only to offer more financial aid.

Without tuition hikes, colleges and universities would not be able to improve themselves to better serve the students who attend them.

It is true that the money for forward momentum must come from somewhere, but the increase in cost must be substantiated by an increase in practical services to the students and at the same rate of growth as the university.

A university runs like a business. To improve the existing product, prices have to be bumped up a small amount in order to make the improvements. In the end, the business persists with a better product that accommodates more consumers.

Elon's increases in tuition are necessary for the improvement of the school and the betterment of the quality of education that students receive.

Students most certainly understand the necessity for an increase in tuition if it has a basis in increasing their quality of education and is done in proportion to the growth of the university. It is when there seems to be a disparity between the rate of the hike and its apparent necessity that students feel upset.

One can only hope that the administration will reach a plateau after this most recent increase, and will be earning enough to give students' wallets a much-needed break in the future.

### THE PENDULUM Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). If you have questions or concerns about an article contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Olivia Hubert-Allen

**Managing Editor**  
Bethany Swanson

**Adviser**  
Colin Donohue

**Section Editors**  
Ashley Barnas, News  
Andie Diemer, News  
David Koontz, Opinions  
Shelley Russell, Special Projects  
Jessica Dexheimer, Features  
Alexa Milan, A&E  
Michelle Longo, Sports  
Kaitlin Ugolik, Futures

**Photography**  
Angie Lovelace, Editor  
David Wells, Assistant Editor

**Copy Editors**  
Kaitlin Busch  
Jennifer Clements  
Margeaux Corby  
Miriam Williamson

**Designers**  
Caroline Matthews  
Cynthia Pope  
Alyse Knorr

**Business**  
Adam Justice, Manager  
Chris Dorsey, Assistant Manager  
Derek Bronsteen, Ad Designer

# Opinions

## Church's protests disrespectful at Carson memorial services

According to its picket schedule, Westboro Baptist Church intends to picket the memorial service for UNC Chapel Hill student body president Eve Carson.

The press release from Westboro Baptist Church for the event insists that "God hates American colleges. They are filthy, anti-God, arrogant, debauched, decadent and depraved." Furthermore, they acknowledge UNC as a "cesspool of iniquity." Essentially, they take issue with Eve Carson because she went to college.



**Amanda Duberman**  
Columnist

The Westboro Baptist Church "movement" took root in Topeka, Kan., and is headed by disbarred attorney Fred Phelps. Membership stands at roughly 100 members, about a dozen of which travel to picket funerals, namely of gays and lesbians, fallen soldiers and homosexual "enablers." These qualities are by no means mutually exclusive, and essentially no one is immune from Westboro's shapeless and largely

unfounded concept of what is sinful and wrong.

The group frequently disrupts funerals of soldiers, alleging that individuals enlist in the army because they are "too lazy to get a real and honest job."

It is certainly odd, if not off-putting, that Westboro protests a group that, for many years, has protected their right to put incendiary and railing accusations on public display. Furthermore, if a young person refrains from joining the military, what is another of their options? Not college, of course.

Obviously, this confers a sense of irony upon Westboro's entire ethos, assuming their "credibility" is even necessarily in question. They claim rigorously to hate America and the actions of the U.S. government, the very institution which supplies them with the First Amendment thereby allowing their right to assemble. Yet still they hate America, claiming it "spits in the face of the Creator."

An 800-word invective asserting the ill logic of Westboro Baptist Church is unnecessary. Their pending gesture to picket Eve Carson's memorial necessitates discussion of this group on a larger scale, especially regarding the legality of their activities.

Some states have put legislation into place that makes picketing at funerals a crime, which warrants fines and jail time. These states include Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and

South Dakota. Currently, there is no federal statute that can legally prevent and remove protestors from a funeral or memorial service. The struggle seems to be balancing free speech with common decency and respect, and the local tragedy incites the question of which is more valuable. Is it really an either/or proposition? Free speech or decency?

Westboro and several other Christian-extremist organizations are in large part not properly vetted. Their speech is not restricted because it would appear to be protected under the First Amendment. Often it seems people are coddled into thinking that the best way to handle the situation is to ignore the picketers, as to not dignify their defamatory intentions.

This may be true, but if Westboro's claim that "God hates America" was chanted in the name of Islam, the government would hum a different tune. No one would insist that sort of speech be "ignored." An entire war has been waged partly on the basis of not ignoring this sentiment. Many would say that this sort of expression at a public gathering would be cause for alarm, and perhaps even "clear and present danger," which is punishable by law and would warrant extraction of protestors from the funeral.

Which begs another question: Is Westboro Baptist Church a terrorist organization? And if so, should it be treated as such?

There is no bureaucratic definition of terrorism, but there is a general understanding that it involves using intimidation and coercion as a means by which to make a purpose known.

There is no doubt that Westboro Baptist Church harbors an insidious intent that it claims is fostered by scriptural support. This conflated with their use of intimidation and anti-American propaganda resembles the terroristic methods employed by groups deemed as "terrorist organizations" by the United States. A designated terrorist organization would most assuredly not be allowed by local and state governments to remain at Eve Carson's memorial.

According to its Web site, Westboro Baptist Church uses the Bible verse, "...and some have compassion, they make a difference," from Jude: 22 to qualify their protest. Dictionary.com has this definition of compassion: Deep sympathy and awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it. Clearly, Westboro Baptist Church demands a new word for irony.

The Carson family and the UNC community have been aggrieved and injured beyond understanding. They should not be asked to see the picketers from Westboro Baptist Church and plainly ignore them.

## New York governor's actions are inexcusable

By now everyone has heard about the Elliot Spitzer debacle in New York. The scandal was a good representation of the increasing hypocrisy in politics today: Spitzer was caught in the same type of prostitution ring he used to bust up as New York's Attorney General.

The story broke when Spitzer's bank reported a suspicious \$10,000 transaction to the IRS, initially fearing that he may be the victim of

identity fraud.

The money turned out to be going to the Emperor's Club VIP, an escort agency and prostitution service.

With Spitzer believed to have paid the club upwards of \$80,000, a story such as this was



**Kevin Clang**  
Columnist

bound to be discovered by the public. Some on the left have theorized that Spitzer received special attention from the feds because of his name and status, which they deem as unfair treatment. Whether this allegation is true or not, the idea that we should not pay extra attention to public officials is fundamentally wrong.

Spitzer is the most recent case of a politician falling from grace. From Idaho Senator Larry Craig's illegal bathroom encounter last year to Mark Foley's inappropriate messages with underage pages the year before, it seems that the press is constantly weeding out the bad apples of government. Some argue the issues should take precedence over scandals, but the public has a right to know of one's moral failings when they choose to run for public representation.

The office of governor is a huge responsibility and an elite club with just 50 members throughout the United States. Governors should be held to a strict moral standard reflective of their constitutional duties. Whether Mr. Spitzer's love of expensive prostitutes had any effect on his governing ability is doubtful, but as the highest elected official in New York he served as the backbone of ethics for the state. Spitzer himself hit the proverbial nail right on the head in his resignation speech when he said, "I cannot allow for my private failings to disrupt the people's work." He was absolutely right.

Public officials are elected by voters to serve the people. They are chosen to lead and govern, and should be held to a higher standard than the average Joe. This special treatment comes with the job. Anyone entering into the public light, including not only government officials but athletes and entertainers as well, should realize that newspapers and the Internet both play prominent roles in American society. They should expect their every move monitored and discussed (although, what the tabloids are doing to Britney and Lindsay is cruel).

Tabloid television shows, papers and Web sites dominate viewership. The celebrity news magazine *People*, has a weekly circulation of 3.75 million, and is readily available on supermarket counters all across the country. The good news is that we all have a choice. If one is not comfortable with this reality, they should not enter the public eye.

## Blind faith solves no problems



**Brett Sculetta**  
Columnist

Faith portends to stretch one's personal beliefs into the facets of everyday life. The idea that someone can believe in something so strongly that they don't need proof of its existence is the foundation and core of most religions in contemporary society. But faith is a failure to exercise rational thought.

Any scientific or empirical argument can be rendered useless when people of faith exploit the concept of the unknown to explain away any deficiencies in their arguments. A friend put it best when she said that God is the glue that fills the holes in philosophical ideologies. Whenever something doesn't make

sense, just add God and stir; suddenly everything comes together.

As the direct antithesis of rational thought, faith fails to allow new ideas to brew and shuns progressive thinking. How can gay marriage be acceptable if we base our argument entirely on a centuries-old text apparently written by an invisible, floating God? How can we fight economical

society.

Consider that the impoverished tend to be highly religious, even more so than middle-class and upper-class people. Shouldn't they rebel and fight for a fair opportunity to make their way in the world?

But why fight when salvation comes after death? Just endure 70 years of injustice and suffering,

will at some point come true should not occupy people's thoughts. Actions must rely on what is known and on what can be fixed and changed that will better individuals and the world.

When people stop living with the belief that magical beings with wings will protect them and begin answering the questions in their lives, perhaps new frontiers can be discovered that aren't limited by a leap of faith, but forwarded by a leap for mankind.

Religious beliefs are personal, and should remain that way. But as far as greater society is concerned, rationality and human discourse are the paths to progress, to justice and to equality. Faith deserves no place in a classroom, in a courthouse during oaths or in the governance of the people.

Don't just accept something because someone or something says that's how it is. Question it, research it and decide if the idea is worth accepting.

**Religious beliefs are personal and should remain that way. But as far as greater society is concerned, rationality and human discourse are the paths to progress, to justice and to equality.**

inequalities when the motto for a religion is to accept suffering and poverty now, so you can be rewarded in the afterlife?

It seems quite convenient that faith enforces the status quo in so many troubled areas of

enjoying only a second-class status, because an eternity of riches awaits later. There is no proof of this eternal salvation. But there is something much better. It's called faith.

Whether any particular beliefs about the unknown

# ELON Inked

## THE CULTURE & STORIES UNDER THE SKIN

### Monetary and health concerns

Ashley Dischinger  
Reporter

Since American culture is obsessed with physical appearance, it should come as no surprise that the popularity of tattoos is skyrocketing. But what remains unclear is whether this unique form of self-expression is worth the various economic and health costs.

Familiar warnings have almost become cliché: "Tattoos can be dangerous to your health," or "You could experience burning or permanent scarring, or die from a contracted infection."

It is not uncommon for people to experience increased pain, tenderness and swelling after getting a tattoo. Red streaks, swollen lymph nodes and scar formation are some additional side effects that have been reported. Allergic reactions to the ink, though rare, have also occurred in some cases.

But even if these slightly less-than-pleasant health risks don't make someone shy away from the tattoo parlors, it is important to check out the background of the tattoo parlor rather than blindly lay down money.

The artists should be wearing gloves while doing their work. Health officials also recommend asking to see a sterilization certificate. Unsterile equipment can transmit infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and even HIV.

A customer has every right to ask the artist about their training, personal experience

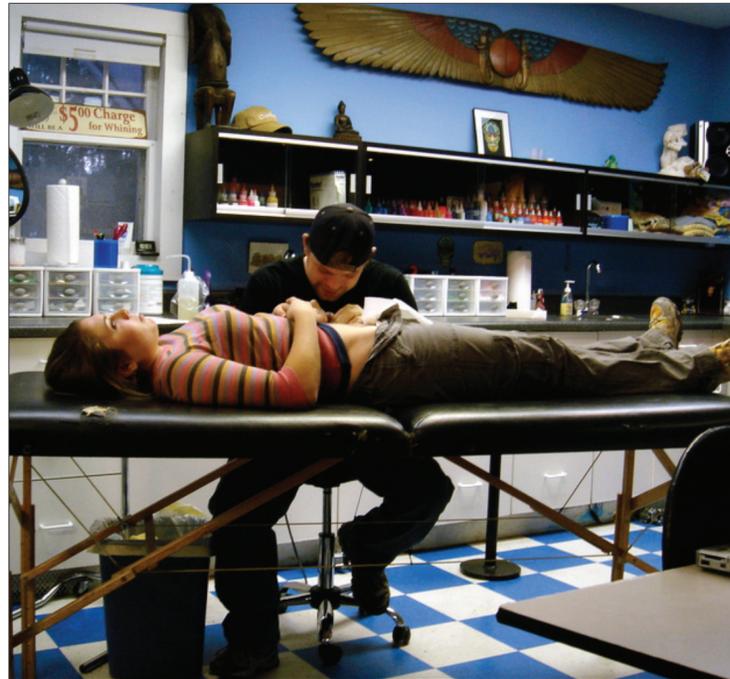
and examples of their finished work. A tattoo parlor that appears unkempt and unsanitary probably is, and is not the place to permanently alter one's body. Regulations and permits from the Health Department are strict; making it obvious if a tattoo parlor is not up-to-par.

Tattoos are known for being expensive. While the price is slowly decreasing with higher demand, those seeking tattoos should still be prepared to turn out their pockets.

In the United States, many tattoo artists charge a basic price of \$80-\$100 an hour. Some intricate tattoo outlines can take 12 or 13 hours to complete. Most shops will set a minimum price, and few will not even consider putting anything on a client for less than \$40.

But prices usually aren't set in stone. The artist is likely to see how high he or she can go with the price. If this is the case, be prepared to do some haggling about the price before the artist begins his or her work.

The bottom line is, when it comes to the cost of tattoos, both monetary and health-wise, you usually get what you pay for. Paying a higher price to get a tattoo at a better-quality company could mean the difference between contracting a blood-borne pathogen and living a healthy life with the possibility of getting more tattoos in the future.



Freshman Kerrin Tracy gets a tattoo while on a road trip with a friend, following her 18th birthday.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

### Historic, impressionable and ever-changing

Jackie Moss  
Reporter

Tattooing is one of the fastest growing retail markets, following computers, cell phone services, Internet offers and bagels, according to the U.S. News and World Report. Native Americans used them to indicate everything from tribal identity to warrior and marital status.

But the art of skin stain, or body art, dates back to the early 19th century, when written records about American tattooing were found in ships' logs, letters and diary entries written by sailors. Long before electric tattoo needles, American sailors tattooed themselves or each other to pass the long hours aboard ship.

Since colonization, tattoos have been used by American citizens to illustrate important events or people in an individual's life. The 1970s breathed life into tattooing, moving away from bland, generic designs. This shift towards the highly detailed and original art quickly turned tattoos from markers on society's outcasts to a popular form of expression.

Life magazine reported that 10 percent of Americans had tattoos in 1936. A study done in 2006 by the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology showed that one in four Americans between the ages of 18 and 50 have designs etched into their skin.

"It would be harder to find someone who doesn't know anyone with tattoos than to find someone with a tattoo," junior Pam Brearey said. "But that doesn't mean their arms and legs are covered [with art]. It might just be one small one on their wrist."

It's hard to imagine just one generation earlier, tattoos were still taboo.

"The only people with tattoos when I was growing up were in the Navy or from New Jersey," said Joan Moss, a 50-year-old New York native. "You could tell them apart from anyone you wanted to be associated with just because they had tattoos."

So does this generation gap in such a highly-escalating trend cause difficulties when dealing with younger Americans?

"I try to ignore them," Moss said. "Unless they have stuff on their face or point it out, I just don't talk about it."

Historically, the only people who were accepted with tattoos in America were soldiers, sailors and prisoners, most of whom were already outcasts. In addition to those groups, gang members had begun using tattoos as a way to affiliate themselves with their gangs. These negative connotations of tattoos are widespread in our society and can affect how others view individuals with visible tattoos.

An online poll of 2,215 adults in 2003 found that most Americans who do not have tattoos find individuals with tattoos less attractive and less sexy, and assumed tattoo wearers are less intelligent. Of all poll-takers, 86 percent felt that tattoos were a sign that the wearer was more rebellious than most. But considering the increase in the number of tattoo wearers, the so-called "rebellious" statement of a tattoo is just the opposite.

The reason for the swell in tattoo popularity is unknown. The original theories were rebellion against "the man" in the 1970s, or because it was a newer form of self-expression.

"Some people get tattoos because their friends have them and they feel like they need one too," junior Ben Marsh said. It is possible that the "bandwagon" mindset is at play in this situation, which would explain very simply why there has been such an influx of tattoos.

American society's view on tattoos has changed radically in such a short period of time it is almost inevitable that it will change again. Since more Americans are getting tattoos, they will become more widely accepted than they are now, perhaps taking the Native American's outlooks and using them to signify people's relationships and identities.

### Tattooing for the right reasons: Rare Breed artists share their passion for the job

Shelley Russell  
Special Projects Editor

Needles, sterilization and artists' precision could make tattooing and piercing seem tedious. But body art is more than just a job for the four tattoo artists and one body piercer at Rare Breed Tattoos in Burlington.

Owned by Angie Hayes, 27, the artists at Rare Breed are more of a family than a bunch of co-workers. Laughing and sharing stories during a quiet hour at the store, it is obvious that they love what they do.

"I've been involved in artwork ever since I could hold a pencil," "Scuba" Steve Bowles, 33, said. "I did the band thing for about 16 years and it just wasn't paying the bills, so I got started with tattoos."

Bowles has been licensed as an artist by the Health Department for one year and one month, but this did not come before he completed an intense apprenticeship at Rare Breed.

"We put the apprentices through hell at first to see if they are here just for fun, or if they are really serious about tattooing," Hayes said. "You have to learn your blood-borne pathogens and then you have to practice your line work."

Rare Breed Tattoo is serious about cleanliness. Biohazard trash cans lie at every station, the countertops are sparkling clean and the floor is spotless.

"It is definitely the cleanest shop I've ever been in," current apprentice Jake Edwards, 26, said. Edwards had been toying with the idea of becoming a tattoo artist for eight years, but just recently decided he was serious about it.

With 61 tattoos, Edwards is the only person at Rare Breed who can actually count how many tattoos they have; their legs, arms, stomachs and backs are covered — except for Fernando Ortega, 54. Ortega has been tattooing for 27 years, yet he has no tattoos. The New Orleans native is holding true to a promise he made when he first started tattooing.

"I promised my mom I wouldn't get any tattoos," he said. "I've thought about getting some, but I think I am going to keep the promise."

As for the other artists, they just can't seem to get enough. "The first tattoo I did after I was permitted was on myself," said Bowles, who drew two intricate tattoos upside down on each of his thighs.

Hayes has had three tattoos covered up already and she has two tattoos on her back that she will remove through flesh-tone sessions; a process where the tattoo is lightened so a new tattoo can be drawn over top.

"The [tattoos] are addictive though," said Chris Castelda, 31, a friend of the artists at Rare Breed. "I never thought that I would get a tattoo, but once you get one it starts to kind of grow on you."

As fun as tattooing is, the artists at Rare Breed won't just tattoo or pierce anyone. Hayes said that unless the people are familiar repeat customers, anyone else under the influence is not permitted to get pierced or tattooed at Rare Breed.

And the artists won't draw anything and everything. "We won't do any racial or gang-related tattoos," Bowles said. "Anything that offends a certain group of people, we won't do. It really depends on the message. If we think it is offensive, we won't do it."

Hayes has even talked some customers out of getting a tattoo that they would regret — like the time a boy came in wanting to get "jess-ica," the name of his girlfriend, tattooed across his knuckles.

But a few turn-aways won't harm Rare Breed's popularity. Most people who walk through the door are repeat customers. Ortega said that a lot of Elon students come in on Sundays to get piercings.

An unfortunate competitor is local 'scratchers,' or people who purchase tattooing machines off the Internet and tattoo unpermitted from their home. Aside from the fact that scratching is illegal, the practice has other implications.

"It affects our business, but it also makes the tattoo industry look bad," Bowles said. "There are a lot of health risks. This store pushes cleanliness and doing things by law."

Last Thursday marked the one-year anniversary of Rare Breed. Hayes, the only artist who does both piercing and tattooing, has hopes of expanding the company's services. She wants to return to cosmetology school to learn about cosmetic tattooing, a process that involves tattooing on facial areas.

The artists encouraged anyone interested in tattooing to get involved. The passion and experience they share about tattooing is evident in the professional work they produce. For more information about Rare Breed or the artists, visit [www.rarebreedtattoo.com](http://www.rarebreedtattoo.com).



The Rare Breed staff (from left to right): Jake Edwards, 26, 'Scuba' Steve Bowles, 33, Fernando Ortega, 54, Angie Hayes, 27, with son and Kyils Ball, 27 in front of their shop in Burlington.

SHELLEY RUSSELL | Photographer

### AMY REITNOUER junior



Before taking cultural anthropology with professor Kim Jones my freshman year at Elon, I had not even remotely considered getting a tattoo. In fact, I was rather repulsed by them. I largely thought tattoos were for bikers and hicks — something people did on a whim and regretted 15 minutes later.

But in cultural anthropology, I learned the significance of tattoos and body art. Tattooing is an ancient custom found in many places around the world. In many cultures, tattoos are done to provide a physical reminder of a major point in one's life, or someone's coming of age. With that kind of context, tattoos took on a new light for me.

For a few years after that class, I toyed with the idea of getting a tattoo, but had no idea what I would get, where I would get it or what it would mean. I just knew that it had to carry significance, or I would seriously regret it.

This past fall, while in London for a semester abroad, I began to think that this may be the perfect time to go ahead with it. No other place or time in my life has had the impact that London had on me. It was about as "coming of age" as you could get.

So I did it.

I researched the best places in town, found a little place called "The Family Business" that was more of an art gallery of tattoos than a typical parlor, and made my appointment. After a consultation with the artist, Mie, I was ready to go. On a Friday afternoon, in the middle of Islington, two of my friends accompanied me to the place, and then it happened — didn't really hurt at all, imbedded in my skin forever. I've never felt such a rush in my life.

What did I get?

Well, there's meaning behind that too. The design itself is very basic. Just a grey outline of the north star, a compass rose-like shape, on the inside of my left heel. I chose it because the north star always gives you direction, and will always guide you home. For me, I'm not entirely sure where that home is quite yet, but I can only hope that some of the events that shaped me while I was in London can guide me there. If not, I've always got my own personal star to lead the way.

### KERRIN TRACY freshman



I was 18 years and nine days old when I got my first tattoo. You'd think it was as if I'd been waiting impatiently for my 18 birthday, but the truth is, getting a tattoo was never something that I had planned or ever thought that I would do. There is something to be said about being young and crazy though. There is also something to be said about being on a road trip with your best friend your senior year of high school. I was having the time of my life and I never wanted to forget it.

Our original plan was to go all over upstate New York, starting out with visiting our friend at Bard College for a few days, spending some time in the Woodstock area where my friend has family, and then driving up to Ithaca College to visit my older sister. However, we did not exactly stick to this plan. We got a little sidetracked at the World's Largest Kaleidoscope, snowed-in by a "Nor'easter" blizzard, and made an impulsive stop at a tattoo parlor along the way.

My original tattoo was of a northern red oak leaf — just an outline, in brownish, red-ish ink. Recently, I got two more leaves, and it appears as though the leaves are falling off of a tree and drifting down. Everyone always says, "that's just a henna tattoo," or "you should get them filled in." I like the way they look though I like that they look like skeletal, dead autumn leaves falling to the ground.

The hardest part of revealing my tattoo to others is trying to explain the ever-popular question of "why a northern red oak leaf?" The best answer I can think of is that there is no other object that I could ever, or would ever, put onto my body. It symbolizes me, a typical New England girl. It conveys a sense of home to me and brings me back to my childhood. It brings back smells, sounds, specific days, a certain laugh of an old friend. It reminds me of my favorite Robert Creeley poem, "Trees." It relates to my personality, being a drifter and someone who never quite feels content or settled, someone who constantly feels lost, but not without hope.

### ADDISON OTTAWAY junior



I have five tattoos, but my newest one is of a dragon that looks like it is coming out of my skin. It looks angry, but it is blue, which is the color of healing. The night before I was going to get my tattoo, I was having doubts until I found a dragon that I really liked. I got my tattoo at Jade Monkey Tattoo, an award-winning studio in Wilmington, N.C. It took two hours to draw and cost me about \$180.

I didn't realize it at the time, but this tattoo pretty much sums up my entire sophomore year at Elon. I had a really hard fall semester — I had a leadership position in which I was being taken advantage of. But when I joined my fraternity and achieved two leadership positions, things began to look up.

Once in my life, I made decisions in handling things that negatively affected me, which is indicated by the cracking of the skin in the tattoo. My tattoo symbolizes the release of frustration, used constructively as a healing process.

I plan on getting eight more tattoos so that I will have 13 total, which is a significant number in the tattoo world.

### JEFF THURM sophomore



I knew I wanted a tattoo, but I wasn't sure of what. I knew I wanted to have my sister's initials, so I played around with a few designs that I made until I got what I liked.

My sister, Jennifer Leigh, has several severe disabilities and I wanted to do something to honor her because she has taught me a lot and has been a big part of who I am. Her initials would be the perfect thing to represent everything she has done for me.

# Features

## Studying and SAVING lives on the SIDE

Debbie Silverstein  
Reporter

Putting out fires, answering fire alarms, attending to car accidents—it's all in a day's work for a firefighter. For James Black, it's all in a day's volunteering.

Black spends his free time volunteering as a firefighter at the Elon Fire Department. The junior economics major heard about the opportunity as a freshman from an older friend who was in the program.

"I always thought firefighting looked like a fun thing to do whenever I would see trucks driving by, but I

never thought I would do it myself," Black said.

Black, who lives in the new station on Powerline Road, said he responds to a lot of calls, especially at night. Since he resides at the station without paying rent, he says it's sort of "a form of repayment" to answer as many calls as possible.

Each volunteer receives a pager. Student volunteers like Black are instructed to respond to calls when they can, although they do have to respond to a certain percentage of calls per year, Black says.

As far as actual fires go,

the town of Elon doesn't see too many. Black said he would estimate there's only one structure fire, or the type of fire that burns a house down, every three to four months.

"There's some excitement with structure fires because you actually get to fight the fire, but it's also pretty sad," Black said. "A person's entire life is burning up in the flames."

In addition to running calls, Black has developed relationships with the other volunteers and staff members at the Elon Fire Department.

"It's kind of cliché because everyone thinks of the fire department as a big family but it actually does work out that way," Black said. "It ends up being kind of a brotherhood. When you run into burning buildings together, you start developing bonds pretty quickly."

Currently, there are four Elon students who volunteer and four more that are beginning training. Captain David Wright from the Elon Fire Department said that they don't do any real recruiting. Students usually hear about the program through others or because they volunteered during high

school. Wright said they often get calls from interested Elon students asking about their program and how they can get involved.

Black helped recruit his friend Caleb Beyer to volunteer for the fire department.

"I would come to class having these awesome stories to tell and Caleb was always so pumped about it," Black said. "I did kind of bribe him to go down to the station and check it out, but he made the ultimate decision to follow through."

Beyer, also a junior, has been volunteering since his sophomore year. Like Black, Beyer said he had never thought of being a firefighter until he heard stories from friends and thought it sounded like a cool idea.

"It's given me something to be a part of while I'm here," Beyer said. "A lot of students join sororities or fraternities to get involved, but I chose to do this instead."

In addition to volunteering, Beyer is a Business Fellow and has an on-campus job.

"The fact that I'm doing this as a volunteer keeps the hard work out of pleasure," Beyer said. "It's not something I have to do. I want to serve

and I want to contribute. It really keeps the whole thing in a service aspect."

This past February, an awards ceremony was held to honor some of the volunteers at Elon. Black received the Firefighter of the Year Award. He said the award meant a lot to him because of the recognition he got from his peers for doing a good thing and helping people when they need it.

Risking his life for no pay seems pretty heroic to most, although Black says he doesn't think of himself as a hero in any way.

"I'm just an ordinary student who made a commitment to a less typical activity," Black said.

Both Black and Beyer said they will continue volunteering until they graduate.

Beyer says that he would even consider volunteering again after college if the opportunity arises.

"It's not always an easy job," Black said. "Sometimes I end up confirming someone's worst fear and then watch their day turn horrible. But in the end I think I'd rather be there trying to make a difference if at all possible."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Junior Caleb Beyer visited his brother's preschool in their hometown of New Bern, N.C., to talk about his experiences in firefighting. His brother, Chase, and the other students loved the opportunity to try on Caleb's fire gear.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Junior Caleb Beyer, sophomore Turner Schaeffer, and senior James Black fought a house fire together on Flora Avenue in spring 2007.

## The forgotten fraternity The brotherhood of AXP uncovered

Laura Wainman  
Reporter

For 13 years, one fraternity has gone almost unrecognized by Elon University.

On Feb. 18 1995, the Elon chapter of Alpha Chi Rho received its charter, and though the chapter is active, it is still not one of the seven social fraternities recognized by the university.

In the early 1990s, Elon's chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity lost its charter, which left that year's pledge class in limbo. The group of men started a Pi Kappa Phi colony, wanting to regain their fraternity status. But the men fell short of the 30 member quota: they had eight.

A representative from the national Pi Kappa Phi organization took away their colony status due to their lack of members. Eventually, the group began searching for a national fraternity to back it, and the Alpha Chi Rho organization was willing. Since then, Elon's chapter of Alpha Chi Rho has existed as an unofficial fraternity, since it did not get its charter through Elon's Greek Life program.

The operation of Alpha Chi Rho is generally the same as most of the on-campus fraternities.

"We have weekly chapter meetings, brotherhood meetings and study halls," said sophomore Ted O'Connell, the fraternity's public relations chair.

Four of the brothers also live in an off-campus house, which the chapter uses for meetings and other functions.

They are active in many fundraising activities for each of their five philanthropies: Feed the Children, The American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Children's Wish Association and the Autism Society of America. This past January, the brothers started an event

called Freezing to Feed the Children. They stood on the road by Wal-Mart in shorts and T-shirts, holding signs and collecting money for Feed the Children. They raised \$250 for the organization, and are working to make it an annual event.

The lack of support from Elon's Greek Life has made it difficult for Alpha Chi Rho to grow.

"The hardest thing about being an off-campus fraternity is that we don't have access to the multitudes of resources that the on campus fraternities have, which makes recruiting very difficult," said sophomore Al Brown, the chaplain and rush chair for the fraternity.

"It is difficult to attract new members since we have to rely mainly on word of mouth to get our name out," O'Connell said.

Though Brown said the chapter is interested in moving on campus, the outlook is not promising for the brothers.

"The Interfraternity Council has chosen not to open up expansion for any new groups at this time," said Jay Anhorn, Elon's director of Greek Life. "Neither the university nor the office of Greek Life provides any support, services or programs to this unrecognized organization."

Currently, the fraternity has 12 members. But its small numbers do give it many advantages.

"Every member in our fraternity knows every brother extremely well," Brown said. "We are a very tight group and we would do anything for each other. I love all my brothers."

"Each member has an equal say in just about every matter, regardless of their position or office in the fraternity," said junior Ben Marsh, chapter president. "There is a lot of room for leadership and advancement in Alpha Chi Rho."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Juniors Ted O'Connell, Ben Marsh and sophomore Al Brown raise money for their "Freezing to Feed the Children" philanthropy event.

# Irish dancer jigs alone

**Sarah Beth Costello**  
Reporter

Irish dancing requires devotion and determination. Jessica Moran knows this first hand; she has been an Irish dancer since she was five years old. This means hour-long practices, seven days a week, on top of school and other activities. Moran grew up in New Jersey, where Irish dancing is very popular.

"Every town has their own [dancing] school," she said. "So I joined."

During high school, Moran developed her skills under the coaching of teachers at the DeNogla School of Irish Dancing. When she was a sophomore, she got the opportunity to travel to Belfast, Ireland, to compete in an Irish dancing championship with English, Irish and American dancers.

Between 160 and 200 girls participate in this annual international championship. Moran had to qualify in New Jersey in order to compete abroad. Although this was an exciting opportunity, it was intimidating. She said that both the English and Irish are "born and bred" into Irish dancing.

During the competition, the teams danced on a stage in front of a panel of five judges. They were judged on appearance, rhythm, foot placement and endurance. Each team dances two rounds. The judges average the scores of the first two rounds to determine who will move on to the third round of the championship.

"I am really worn out after I do a competition," Moran said. The competitions usually begin at 8 a.m. and end around 1 a.m.

During her first competition, Moran did not place in the top 30 percent but was proud of her work.

"I did pretty well for an American," she said.

Moran returned to Belfast the following year for a more competitive competition: the World Championship.

"You have to be at a certain level to qualify," Moran said. "Either at the top five percent in your region, or the top 10 percent in the nation."

She did better in the championship this time, but still did not place in the top 30

percent. This year, Moran placed among the top five Irish dancers in her region, and will be participating in the World Championship on March 30.

Now a college student, Moran has difficulty fitting dance practice into her busy schedule. She's an economics major and has other commitments now, aside from dance.

Because of her hectic college life, she only practices five days a week, rather than seven. Elon doesn't have an Irish dancing program, so Moran practices on her own. Sometimes, she calls her dance teachers from DeNogla and asks them to listen to her rhythm as she practices.

To prepare for the upcoming World Championship, Moran plans to fly to Ireland on March 20 to spend 10 days practicing for the competition.

"Because it's my last year doing [the championship], I want to do really well," Moran said. Next year, she will be too old to participate in the competition, so she hopes to place in the top 40 or 50 percent in this year's competition.

Though it may be her last opportunity to dance in the World Championship, Moran still has set other high goals for herself.

"I definitely want to do Riverdance before my career ends," Moran said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Freshman Jessica Moran's mother, Eileen, traveled with her daughter to support her at the North American National Championships in Ottawa, Canada.



KAITLIN BUSCH | Photographer

## AND IT'S OFF!

Alex Barake kept his word and did not shave his beard for 26 days in honor of his Cuban family and in remembrance of those negatively impacted by the Revolution. He received a variety of responses from the Elon community. Many people noticed his unshaven face and questioned his reasoning, giving him the opportunity to shine light on his cause.

"I accomplished my goal," Barake said. "When I explained the cause to people, they understood it. My buddies even offered to do it with me."

Barake said it is refreshing not to have a beard, but it feels awkward since he was so used to have an itchy, rough face. His peers recognized that a beardless Alex meant a conclusion of his tribute to Cuba.

*Alpha Xi Delta*  
*Congratulations to the new sisters of Alpha Xi Delta*

Sara Baker	Thea Libbos
Kate Balderston	Lindsay Mann
Andrea Bernick	Kaitlin Marvin
Rachel Bertone	Meghan McCrystal
Melissa Bibbs	Jen McHugh
Tamara Burnett	Amy McLeod
Katie Burtzlaff	Katie Metts
Tessa Conte	Maggie O'Neill
Erin Culotty	Meredith Reedy
Lorelle Dennis	Chelsea Rice
Abby Dietly	Eileen Rogan
Erin Fitzgerald	Stephanie Schott
Caroline Fox	Jacki Shipp
Anna Hulett	Anna Stephenson
Anna Hunsucker	Erin Talgo
Alex Lawrence	Suzanne Uliano
Chelsea LeValley	

*sati*      *thanks. for. joining*

# Call of the Wild

## Alaska, Nature and Imagination

Summer Adventure and College Credit in Alaska

**Interest Meeting**  
Date: Tuesday, April 1st  
Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Location: Alamance 218

Come meet Dr. Angyal and the representative of Alaska Personal Journeys and learn more about the course!

**Summer 2008 June 2 - July 3**

200-level Literature, or  
200-level GST, and ELR credit.

**Spend 2 weeks in Alaska!**

For more information, please contact Dr. Andrew Angyal at: [angyal@elon.edu](mailto:angyal@elon.edu).

# Arts & Entertainment

## Singing FOR A CAUSE

Pi Kappa Phi hosts an event that brings together Elon's musical talent for philanthropy

Jacqui Seidel  
Reporter

Elon University is active and always moving. For junior Ben Kaufman, this presented a problem.

Like many Elon students, Kaufman had the daunting task of finding a new way to raise money for a community service project. With so many organizations and causes trying to raise funds on campus, it is difficult to find a way through the clutter.

Fortunately for Kaufman, he had a voice and a solution.

As the Push America Events Chair for Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and a member of the Twisted Measure a cappella group, Kaufman organized a musical performance last week at Whitley Auditorium featuring his group along with two other campus a cappella groups, Sweet Signatures and Rip\_Chord.

"I always wanted to get the three a cappella groups to perform together," Kaufman said. "And when I became the Push America Events Chair, I immediately knew what my first event would be."

Kaufman said he was well aware of the fact that a cappella groups on campus always draw large audiences. In addition, hosting a concert on campus has few out-of-pocket expenses, making it an ideal fundraiser for Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy, Push America.

Push America is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1977 with the mission of helping people with disabilities in need. In the Burlington area, Pi Kappa Phi members visit various locations and build ramps that make living life with a disability easier.

"I was excited to get all the a

cappella groups together for a show," Kaufman said. "And the cost of admission will turn back around and help people with disabilities; it's the best of both worlds."

"Push the Music" was held March 13, and Twisted Measure, Sweet Signatures and Rip\_Chord's strong vocal arrangements were finely tuned and an overall hit with the audience.

A packed house made this first-time event a great success. All proceeds will go directly to Push America and help disabled people across the nation.

Kaufman said the fraternity hopes to make the fundraising concert an annual event.

Between performances, the members of Pi Kappa Phi gave presentations about Push America. Elon University seniors Josh Donde and Kevin Rate were featured in a video for their commitment to a summer-long bike trek across the nation in 2007.

"The trip was an awe inspiring experience," Donde said. "There were certainly challenging days but we all kept our mission and purpose planted squarely in our minds so that when we reached difficult times we were able push through and continue cycling."

The 10-week bike tour is a national event called Journey of Hope. Participants ride from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., and make various stops along the way, building ramps and raising funds and awareness for the disabled. There are 90 participants from various chapters across the country that all ride together.

"Getting to D.C. was an incredible experience," Donde said. "Looking out and seeing so many familiar faces was an incredible feeling and I feel so lucky to have such great brothers and friends."



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

Senior Lauren France leads Sweet Signatures in their closing song, "Mercy on Me."



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

ABOVE: Senior John Fiander leads Elon's co-ed a cappella group Twisted Measure. RIGHT: Junior Kelly Wardle leads Twisted Measure in their version of "Rehab."



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

Rip\_Cord members Josh Tate, Max Korn and James Gorsuch, sophomores, sing at the event.

## Wind Ensemble to play along with silent film tonight

Amanda Kennison  
Reporter

Tonight, Elon will be treated to a night of excitement and lightheartedness. Elon's Wind Ensemble offers a night of "Fun Music and a Movie." In addition to performing an array of cheerful selections, half of the group's performance will be dedicated to providing a personal soundtrack for a classic silent film.

Since their upcoming show in May has serious undertones, Director of Bands Tony Sawyer wanted to take a complete departure for tonight's performance.

Borrowing from a genre that is becoming more popular, Sawyer decided that the music and a movie idea would give the ensemble a comedic break, while stretching its abilities.

"The original silent films usually had some type of

music playing, whether it was an organ or sometimes orchestral accompaniment," Sawyer said.

But those original performances were usually just background noise. Sawyer and the ensemble progress beyond those old productions.

"We're going a step further," he said. "We've actually tried to make the music match up with the movie scenes."

After looking through the silent movies Belk Library offers, Sawyer found one that presented the energetic atmosphere he wanted. Buster Keaton's 1921 classic, "The Goat," provides humorous mishaps and mistaken identities. Its continuous action offers a solid background for the Wind Ensemble to play increasingly stimulating selections.

For the 20-minute showing,

the group will perform a variety of musical pieces from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Music chosen from the silent film era will help make the production more realistic.

Since the beginning of spring semester, the ensemble has poured its efforts into tonight's show.

Many hours of mistakes, hard work and dedicated practice have gone into perfecting the performance. It has proven to be an experience unique from anything many of the members have encountered.

"This performance took a lot of trial and error rehearsals," freshman Casey Collins said. "We had to try different cuts of the music to find the best fit for the scene. We also had to find and bring out certain melodies that represented the character or his situation. The biggest

challenge is to keep focused on the music while something funny is happening in the background."

The careful planning pays off. A mixture of ragtime tunes, circus marches, special sound effects and unusual music techniques will stage an amusing medley of music that gets at the heart of the film.

In addition to the movie soundtrack, the first half of the Wind Ensemble's performance will be dedicated to playing an assortment of songs connected by the night's common theme of fun and vivacity.

These pieces range from Bach's classic "Grand Serenade for an Awful Lot of Winds and Percussion" to a modern Japanese composition, "Applause." The selected pieces work together to evoke the spirit of merriment, easily transitioning from

typical concert to cinematic production.

Tonight's show will offer a completely different view of orchestra concerts.

"This show is unique because it gives the audience not only an auditory experience but a visual experience that is most likely new to them," junior Colin Harden said. "It gives the feel of a live movie score."

Collins acknowledges that people tend to "associate band concerts with boring music and typical arrangements." This isn't the case with tonight's show.

"Even people who wouldn't normally go to concerts will be able to connect with the show," Sawyer said. "It's a lot of fun music, and everyone can relate to watching a movie."

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre.

**FOOD REVIEW ★★★★★**

# Benjamin's Seafood an account from a seafood snob

Seth Gleeson  
Reporter



Coming to Elon from South Florida proved more difficult than just the move; it brought about the question of non-fresh seafood. Whether it is fish, shrimp, lobster or crab Florida, like New England, is synonymous with the best seafood you can find. So, with this in mind, finding a quality seafood establishment in landlocked Burlington was unexpected.

The first time walking into Benjamin's Seafood Room more than a month ago, concerns about the freshness of the seafood were in mind. The manager explained that everything on the menu was fresh and shipped daily. Anything that couldn't be brought in fresh was left off the menu. To a "seafood snob" of the South or the Northeast, this could ease the nerves of the most die-hard seafood fan. But the real test was yet to come.

On Friday and Saturday nights, Benjamin's offers an all you can eat snow crab special for \$25. As college students, \$25 for dinner is a pretty serious night out. But it's a solid price for what is in fact all you can eat.

While the restaurant was packed, the bar proved to be the best place to enjoy the feast. The service was also impeccable, with possibly the best bartender in town. Although the bar was packed with other people, service was friendly and attention was paid to all of the bar's patrons.

After a small fiasco with one of the orders, we received our meals, which consisted of the crab and coleslaw as well as a choice of side, some of which are quite similar to the sides found at Thanksgiving dinner. The platter also came with a candle, which was lit under a bowl of drawn butter. We could have sat there all evening and eaten pounds of crab.

Despite the concerns of freshness, Benjamin's Seafood Room proved to be top notch. Central North Carolina can still get fresh seafood. Whether you'd like a quick lunch or an all-you-can-eat meal, Benjamin's is a quality choice for good seafood in the area. Enjoy some seafood, and charge it to your Phoenix cash, which the restaurant gladly accepts. And for those of you 21 and over, Monday night offers half priced peel-and-eat shrimp along with dollar Bud Light drafts.

Restaurant location:  
Benjamin's Seafood Room  
2455 S. Church St., Burlington  
336-227-7311

Download lunch and dinner menus at [www.benjaminsseafoodroom.com](http://www.benjaminsseafoodroom.com)



Paul Mirek  
Reporter

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF [HTTP://ORG.ELON.EDU/WSOE/](http://ORG.ELON.EDU/WSOE/)  
nights from 7-9 p.m.

If you've been in Acorn recently, you may have noticed the brightly colored pamphlets entitled "Slap Dash." The paper features comic strips, essays on music and culture and a listing of upcoming local concerts around the Burlington and Chapel Hill areas.

It also features a complete schedule of the programming on WSOE 89.3, Elon University's campus radio station. If you've never heard of WSOE before, you're not alone.

"It's surprising how many people don't know we have [a station]," WSOE Program Director Ryan Sweeney said.

"Slap Dash" is only one of the projects that Sweeney and other members of the executive staff, led by General Manager Erin Fox, have in the works to change this reality. The goal of "Slap Dash" is to add a visual element to the radio station, Sweeney said.

In the article "Who we are" from the first issue, he wrote, "Radio is sound, not vision. While sound doesn't always need vision, the combination of the two results is something much more effective and powerful."

On Feb. 29, WSOE hosted a live free show in The Zone by a Durham band, The Future Kings of Nowhere. Sweeney said The Future Kings are expected to return at E-lawn-fest 2, the second annual outdoor music event which began last year.

In addition to The Future Kings, Sweeney said music fans can expect to hear other local North Carolina groups such as Red Collar and Early Morning Swim, as well as many bands that he has interviewed on his radio show, The B-Cuts, which airs Tuesday

There is a variety of new programming this semester as well. On Thursdays, listeners can tune in from 5-6 p.m. to hear "The Professor Hour," in which an Elon professor plays his or her favorite music. The first edition of this show aired on March 6, with Bob Russ, assistant professor of English, playing a variety of classic hits while Sweeney controlled the radio soundboard.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday there is an "Interview Hour" with Melanie Williams, where you can hear interviews with rising stars on the music scene. At 7 p.m., there is a revamped news program which will keep listeners up-to-date on current events. In addition, WSOE is currently developing a radio drama in the style of classic radio serials like "The Lone Ranger," but with its own twist.

The WSOE radio station is located on the second floor of Moseley. Any Elon student can be a DJ. Students can either have a format show, in which they choose music from a variety of CDs selected by WSOE Music Director Matt Blalock, or student have a specific idea for a show, they can apply for a specialty show with their own particular theme. Shows can be either solo or with groups, and the station runs 24 hours a day.

Anyone who is interested in a show, volunteering at the station or has questions about the radio schedule can contact Ryan Sweeney at [rsweeney2@elon.edu](mailto:rsweeney2@elon.edu). In the meantime, be prepared for more new programming and more issues of "Slap Dash." In "Who we are," Sweeney stated his ultimate goal: "to develop a cultural dialogue on Elon University's campus by collecting writings, drawings, poetry and any form of visual expression."

# SGA

## Student Government Association



Interested in Making Your Voice Heard?

Come to Open Forum

Thursdays at 7:30PM

Moseley 215

**SERVICE. LEADERSHIP. EXCELLENCE.**

# Students pitch marketing ideas to NCAA officials



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Associate professor of Leisure Sport Management Tony Weaver, senior Jason Williams, juniors Brad Holloman, Brandie Pifer and Chris Stearns and associate professor of LSM Hal Walker take a moment to relax after the team presented to the NCAA officials at the Greensboro Coliseum.

**Michelle Longo**  
Sports Editor

It is not every day that students are presented with the chance to sit in front of an esteemed panel of NCAA Division I and ACC administrators. It is equally unlikely that while they are seated there, they have the opportunity to pitch their own marketing proposals. Even more unlikely is the fact that one of those proposals will be adopted.

For six Elon students, the unlikely turned promising this past Winter Term.

On Jan. 31, juniors Brad Holloman, Brandie Pifer and Chris Stearns, and seniors Jason Williams, Megan Farrell and Scott Wajda presented marketing proposals aimed at increasing ticket sales for the Division I NCAA Women's Basketball Regional Tournament, which will

take place at the Greensboro Coliseum from March 30 to April 1.

"It was a great opportunity to network, meet people and market women's basketball," Holloman said. "It allowed us a chance to work closely with professionals in the same field we want to work in."

Five members of the group are leisure and sport management (LSM) majors while Chris Stearns is a corporate communications major with an LSM minor. Advisors Tony Weaver and Hal Walker, both associate professors of LSM, also worked with the team.

The volunteer project meant spending Winter Term analyzing the market of the NCAA, conducting research, testing ideas and concepts and evaluating their own work. The team met everyday for at least two hours and once it got closer to crunch

time, they would meet for no less than six or seven hours a day.

"The fact that this was over Winter Term was commendable," Walker said. "It was a pitch made to see who was interested and they chose to get involved at a time when they did not have to. That speaks for the kind of individuals that were involved."

In front of a panel of some of the most influential individuals in college basketball, including ACC Commissioner John D. Swofford and his wife, the students proposed three different plans. One targeted regional youth groups, focusing on the Girl Scouts of America. Older, active adults and senior citizens were also targeted in the other proposals.

"During the presentation I was trying to relax and not

freak out," Pifer said. "I was expecting something smaller."

Elon's proposal, the only undergraduate representative, was judged against other proposals submitted by graduate students at Virginia Commonwealth University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Two proposals were said to be well written and thoughtful, but would not allow enough time for implementation, as the tournament was only two months away. The immediate panel accepted the other proposal, but a higher office of the NCAA decided against it.

After the nerve-wracking presentation, the students received a tour of the ACC offices, meeting and interacting with people in various areas of the sports

world, including faculty from each graduate program.

The students did not stop working after their presentation. They collaborated with the Greensboro Coliseum and other representatives to provide a discounted offer for interested parties.

On Tuesday April 1, the coliseum is offering LSM majors a \$4 ticket and students an \$8.50 ticket to the Elite 8 game. Student tickets are usually priced at \$32 each. Discounted tickets, \$39 for students and \$20 for LSM majors, are also available to hear Commissioner Swofford speak at the symposium earlier the same day.

"Overall, it was a great experience," said Holloman. "It was a good opportunity for networking and to promote the Elon LSM major and the good things that are coming from the program."

**We can't send you to the Final Four... but we can give you free movie tickets!**

Fill out a bracket at [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) and email it to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or bring it to the office on Williamson Avenue by Friday, March 21 at 11:59 p.m. for a chance to win two free movie tickets.

**THE STRENGTH TO HEAL**  
*and learn lessons in courage.*

The pride you'll feel in being a doctor increases dramatically when you care for our Soldiers and their Families. Courage is contagious. Our Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) helps you reach your goal by providing full tuition, money towards books and lab fees, a \$20,000 sign-on bonus, plus a monthly stipend of more than \$1,600 (more than \$1,900 as of July 2008).

To learn more about the U.S. Army Health Care Team, call 888-568-9828, or visit [healthcare.goarmy.com/info/mchpsp1](http://healthcare.goarmy.com/info/mchpsp1).

©2007. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

**ARMY STRONG.**

**got pool?**

**Phoenix Villas Luxury Condos**  
LUXURY CONDOS WITH POOL

**FOR SALE OR FOR RENT**

For Sale \$139,900\*  
\*Reserve for purchase by Feb 29th & receive a complimentary 50" plasma  
For Rent \$450 per bedroom (Utilities included)  
Only 2 blocks from campus

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 336-214-3955 | [WWW.PHOENIXVILLAS.NET](http://WWW.PHOENIXVILLAS.NET)

During Spring Break,  
We may leave our worries behind,  
But not our good judgement.

Of students who choose to drink,  
most will set a limit  
before they start.

**Elon students drink less than you think.**



**Data is from the Fall 2007 Corporate Campaigns Class Survey with a random sample of 356 Elon Students  
Funding for this item provided by the U.S. Department of Education Grant to Prevent High-Risk Drinking**

## Sports

# Men's tennis continues home winning streak

Michelle Longo  
Sports Editors

All athletic teams enjoy playing their respective games at home, but the Elon men's tennis team gives a completely new meaning to the phrase "home-court advantage."

No. 66 Elon downed Georgia Southern University 6-1 Friday afternoon at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center to capture its fifth Southern Conference win of the 2008 campaign. Elon also stretched its home winning streak to 30 matches.

"[The streak] became something we want to protect," junior Damon Gooch said. "It just happened, then once it did, we wanted to keep it."

Alberto Rojas and Mason Schermerhorn raced to an early lead at No. 2 to grab the first doubles victory for the Phoenix 8-1.

"We struggle in doubles, so it was good to jump on that early lead before singles," Schermerhorn said.

Chase Helpingstine and Cody Stauffer-MacDowell could not overcome the Eagles at No. 3 doubles, evening the score. Gooch and Philip Nemeč won No. 1 doubles to claim the doubles point for Elon 8-4 in an intense match.

"So far, we have been strong one through six," head coach Michael Leonard said. "We have a lot of depth and are well-balanced."

Nemeč, Helpingstine, Schermerhorn and Oscar Podlewski all tallied singles victories for the Phoenix before the Eagles pulled out one at No. 4 when Borja Malet defeated Rojas.

At No. 1 singles, Gooch barely edged GSU's Emmanuel Nkouleue 6-4, 6-4. Last fall, Nkouleue participated in the International Tennis Association Indoor Regional, featuring 256 nationally-ranked players. He made it all the way to the third round of play before falling.

The Phoenix is set to play Drake University at 2 p.m.



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

Damon Gooch returns a serve in the match versus Georgia Southern.

today at the Jimmy Powell Center.

Drake is undefeated at 12-0 and is ranked No. 33. They have won the Missouri Valley title two years in a row and earned a bid to the NCAA tournament both years, losing in the first round.

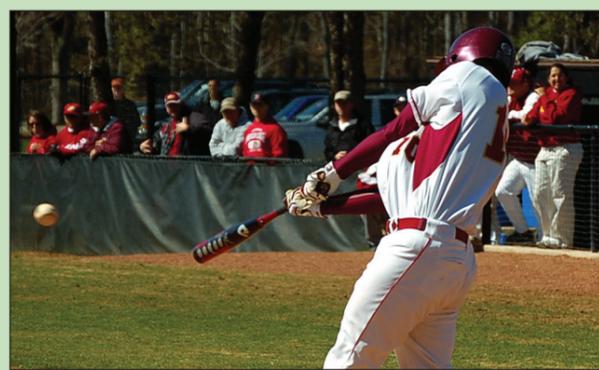
"Our next stretch of matches are the toughest," Leonard said. "They are against some really good teams. It is probably going to be a seven-match series with a battle every time."

Trying to protect the home-match winning streak

against Drake will be one of the season's hardest tests. Meanwhile, Elon also has some tough competition in the Southern Conference.

The Phoenix still has to battle Furman University and Davidson College on home court, arguably its two toughest conference opponents. Davidson owns the two spot in the standings, while Furman is holding the three spot.

"The record looks good right now," Leonard said. "But we have a lot ahead of us."



STEFANIE MEYERS | Photographer

Sophomore catcher Mike Melillo hits a double on Sunday.

## Phoenix baseball begins conference play with two wins against Bulldogs

Russell Varner  
Reporter

Elon took two of the three games from Southern Conference powerhouse The Citadel and improved its record to 17-2 and 2-1 in conference play.

The 17 victories for the Phoenix are the second most in the nation, only trailing No. 17 Kentucky at 18 wins.

"A lot of people want to talk about our start," head coach Mike Kennedy said. "But when you get into conference play, it doesn't matter what you did the first 15 games. It's nice to get the first one under our belt."

The Phoenix took game one of the series 7-2, led by another strong pitching performance from Steven Hensley, who went eight innings and gave up six hits and striking out eight. The eight strikeouts moved Hensley to third all-time on Elon's career strikeout list, giving him 234 punch-outs and passing Whit Bryant. He now stands four strikeouts behind Bill Schultz in most all-time strikeouts.

"We've started out really well, playing really well," Hensley said. "We're very underrated. Some people have us playing a soft schedule. We're coming

out here trying to prove ourselves. We're out to prove we're the best team in this conference year in and out."

Elon also had strong performances from senior Chris Dove, juniors Bennett Davis and Pat Irvine, sophomore Daniel Britt, and freshmen Cory Harrilchak and Neil Pritchard, who all played key roles in every game of the series.

In game two of the series, Elon's bats were shut down by the pitching of the Bulldogs as they lost 5-4 in a rain-delayed game that was forced to finish on Sunday.

The Phoenix scored two in the bottom of the ninth, but went scoreless the rest of the game.

Game three came down to the last batter in the final inning. Elon came back from a 5-0 deficit to win 8-7 and take the series. A six-run sixth was enough to propel the Phoenix to victory, with Irvine's two out, two RBI double giving Elon the lead for good.

"It's a huge win," Kennedy said. "You don't want to start your Southern Conference season by going 1-2 at home. Citadel's good and they've got a good club. They're gonna beat a lot of people, but this was a huge win."

# Women's basketball coach leaves after 14 years

Michelle Longo  
Sports Editor

Just three days after her team lost a heart breaker to Western Carolina University in the semi-final round of the conference tournament, women's basketball head coach Brenda Paul received notification that she would not be given another chance to lead her team to the conference tournament as her contract was not going to be renewed.

Athletic Director Dave Blank announced the move Wednesday, March 12, Paul's contract had expired and after 14 years as the icon of Elon's women's basketball program, it was time for a new head coach.

"[Paul] is a great person and a great coach," Blank said. "She has seen Elon through many transitions. Not many people can do what she has done here in the span of 14 years."

When Paul arrived in 1995, Elon athletics was still in the South Atlantic

Conference of NCAA Division II. By the 1999 season, Elon was entering its first full year in Division I in the Big South Conference. Still, Elon was not done growing and by the 2003 campaign, the Phoenix became apart of the Southern Conference, where it stands today.

This season, the team went 12-20 overall and 6-12 in SoCon action. After a rocky season, the women finished off the regular season winning their last three SoCon games. Advancing to the league tournament, the Phoenix upset the No. 3 seeded Davidson College, before falling to No. 2 seeded Western Carolina.

Paul leaves Elon with the reputation as an excellent floor coach and a great recruiter. Before leaving, she had already recruited key athletes for next season, some of whom already signed letters of intent with Elon.

"I have been in touch with those who have signed letters," Blank said. "They have been informed of the change, and the new coach will be

in touch with them as quickly as possible."

There were three assistant coaches under Paul last season — Shelly



Brenda Paul

Katkowski, Audrey Ramsey and Loretta Lawson. Katkowski has been at Elon for five years, Ramsey has been assisting for three years, and Lawson returned to her alma matter two years ago.

"I will work with [the assistant coaches] on opportunities available," Blank said. "If they wish, they can discuss with the new coach about staying with Elon."

Paul earned her 400th career

coaching victory in a 55-53 win over Davidson on Feb. 14, 2004. She has established a career coaching mark of 441-428 over the past 30 years.

Paul came to Elon after a five-year tenure as head coach at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

There, she was inducted into the inaugural class of the Northeast Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

The search for a new coach started earlier this week with the posting of the open position on the NCAA website on Tuesday.

"I want to look at the pool and do the best we can and find the right fit for student athletes and Elon University," Blank said.

The national search for Paul's successor is in full heat as the national women's basketball season is quickly coming to a close.

"I want to do it as fast as we can while making no mistakes," Blank said.