

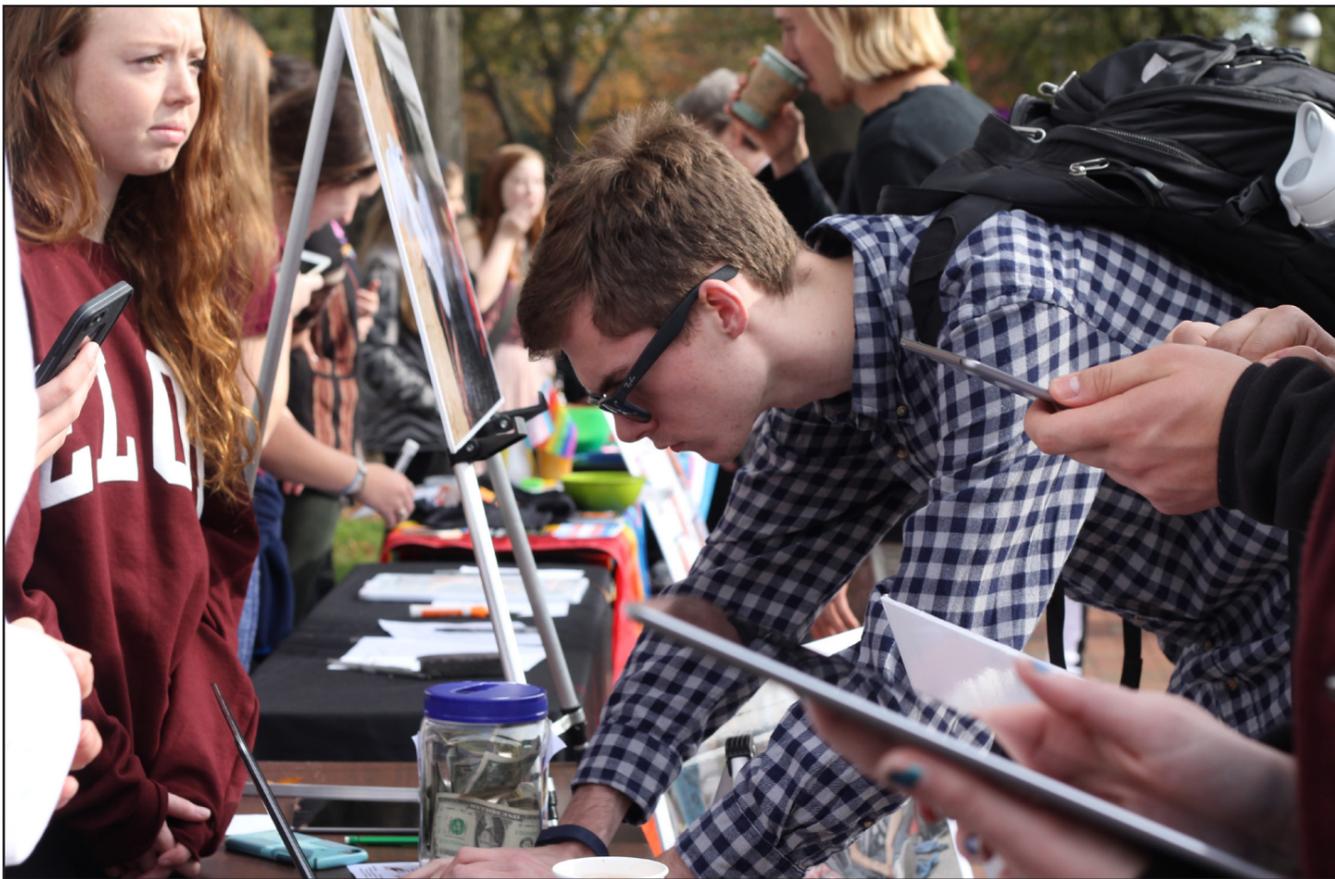
THE PENDULUM

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Students support Syria

Letters to NC governor criticize refugee decision



Freshman Colton Cadarette sends an email to Gov. Pat McCrory urging him to reconsider his decision blocking Syrian refugees in the state.

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

With three iPads, a computer and two mobile smartphones at Tuesday's College

fee, a small group of students hoped to make a change and make their voices heard.

The students are Core members — members of the executive staff — of a

recently formed Elon organization called Speak Out for Syria (SOS), a group whose mission is to raise awareness and funds for the refugee crisis in Syria.

“I feel like people are interested in learning and hearing about the issue,” said Albert Waters, SOS president. “Some students might not follow the news so this organi-

zation and our mission gives them a way to be better informed.”

See SYRIA
pages 4

Remembering Demitri Allison

Gatherings celebrate life of Elon junior

Tommy Hamzik
Managing Editor

No one said anything, because no one knew what to say.

No cameras flashed. No cellphones glowed. The only lights were the streetlights



Demitri Allison

New normal: Road win gives football team temporary escape from reality pg. 7

Editorial: Speak now, not later pg. 10

and the dozens of candles brought by those in attendance, and of the shooting star one person saw as he arrived.

Gathered in remembrance of junior Demitri Allison, a wide receiver on the Elon University football team, hundreds stood in silence.

Then, they prayed. They held hands. They cried.

They remembered their friend, teammate and classmate hours

after he committed suicide, according to a UNC Police report, by holding an impromptu midnight candlelit vigil outside the stadium he used to play on Saturday afternoons.

See ALLISON
pages 8-9

Mosque to open near campus in Burlington

Plans reflect growing Muslim population in North Carolina

Simone Jasper
Assistant News Editor

As the Muslim community in North Carolina grows, a local group is planning to start a mosque in Burlington. The board of directors for the proposed worship center — Burlington Masjid — is set to buy a building on South Mebane Street in January.

Arshad Sheikh, member of the mosque's board of directors, said the number of Muslims living in Burlington has grown in the past decade, and community members believed they should start a worship center.

“Right now, there's a community center that we temporarily use as a mosque,” Sheikh said. “The community decided we should have a mosque, so a cou-



This building, a former church, is slated to be the site of a new mosque in Burlington.

ple of years ago we sat together and started planning it.”

According to the U.S. Religion Census, an estimated 26,000 Muslims lived in North Carolina in 2010 — a 29 percent increase from the number of Muslims living in the state 10

years earlier.

To address the expansion in this area, the mosque's board of directors plans to spend \$650,000 to buy and renovate a church building at 1908 S. Mebane St. The approximately 10,000-square-foot space

includes a prayer space and a two-story building housing classrooms, a library, a kitchen and a multipurpose hall.

The mosque group estimates that renovations will end in June or July. To gain money for the building and renovation costs, Burlington Masjid has held fundraisers and requested donations from people at other mosques in North Carolina.

The Burlington Masjid also plans to expand its free clinic program, Al-Aqsa Clinic. Through the existing program, doctors volunteer free care twice a month.

“We're planning to merge the clinic with the mosque,” Sheikh said. “Every Saturday, there will be a free clinic for anyone who doesn't have insurance or enough money to go to

the hospital.”

Anna Torres-Zeb, Muslim Life coordinator at Elon University, said she hopes students of different faiths can volunteer together at the clinic and with other programming the mosque might offer.

“It's a great opportunity for all students on campus to get involved,” Torres-Zeb said. “It's good to volunteer with people from all backgrounds.”

Torres said the mosque will allow Muslim students to worship closer to Elon — instead of in Greensboro or Durham.

“For students on campus, it's very beneficial,” Torres-Zeb said. “It's a smaller population, so we can't do all the programming that [universities] with a larger mass of population can do.”

NEWS

Local group aims to change perception of confederate flag pg. 5



STYLE

Elon senior interns in LA, gains fanbase on Youtube pg. 12



SPORTS

Men's soccer to host Winthrop in NCAA Tournament pg. 16

Intersect speakers address privilege, bias

Hannah Silvers
Copy Chief

Within minutes of sitting down for the opening session, attendees of Elon University's Intersect Diversity and Leadership Conference were back on their feet.

They were challenged by sophomore Olivia Ryan, student director for the Intersect Conference and opening speaker, to introduce themselves to two new people and share the story of how they came to be at the Intersect Conference.

"Tell your truth," Ryan said. "Telling your truth is as simple as meeting someone new."

And it wasn't too difficult to find someone new. Thirteen higher education institutions from across North Carolina and surrounding states came together Nov. 13-14 and formed a crowd of more than 250 people throughout the Moseley Center and Lakeside meeting rooms.

Presenters from Elon, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and other nearby schools engaged attendees with difficult discussions about privilege and bias in arenas spanning from multifaith efforts to analyzing rap music to preventing sexual assault on college campuses.

Karina Gonzalez, a sophomore at Salem College in Winston-Salem who traveled to Elon for the conference, said conference attendees demonstrated respect and open-mindedness when engaging with these difficult discussions.

"I think that everyone was willing to listen to everyone else's perspectives with an open mind," she said. "I think everyone exercised that [open-mindedness] really well, which was really awesome, since people can be closed-minded about these topics."

That open-mindedness was appreciated — especially since, according to several conference speakers, with current conversations about bias in university set-

tings and the recent attacks in Paris, Beirut and elsewhere, Intersect couldn't have come at a better time.

"There are obvious things that are happening that lead to disharmony and disconnection," said Dean of Multicultural Affairs Randy Williams Jr. in his keynote speech, specifically referencing recent events at the University of Missouri and Yale University. "Some people aren't able to tell their truths."

The discussion of how and why some people have the privilege to tell their truth when others don't followed attendees out the door of McKinnon Hall and through the rest of the two-day conference's sessions and speakers, all the way to teacher, poet and doctoral candidate at Harvard University Clint Smith's closing keynote.

"I think it's important to examine why we mourn the lives of some and not the lives of others," he said. "We should push back against the preconception of who is worth being grieved for."



"Other students are having experiences they don't feel they can share about because they don't feel safe in talking about it. Some people can't tell their truth . . . and that's a terrible thing."

SOPHOMORE OLIVIA RYAN
STUDENT DIRECTOR FOR INTERSECT CONFERENCE



"I have never seen as much radical and rapid change, and I lived through the 1960s. It's a scary moment, but my God, it's exciting. What an opportunity."

L.D. RUSSELL
SENIOR LECTURER IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

"Listen for the small sound of something big."

PAULA PATCH
SENIOR LECTURER IN ENGLISH



"I think people are recognizing they have agency. You can demand something different than the world as it is."

CLINT SMITH
TEACHER, POET AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Asian Resource Room draws size critiques

Max Garland
Assistant News Editor

The Asian Studies Club had a problem. Members were running to and from different rooms in Elon University's Moseley Center to get enough chairs for the unusually high number of people present for its biweekly meeting Nov. 5.

Some had to sit at the entrance of the Asian Resource Room where the meeting was held, as there were too many people to fit comfortably in the small space. As more attempted to file in, freshman Annie Yang spent some time guessing the room's maximum capacity.

"It's about the size of an office," she said. "It can't be any bigger than that. It probably holds a maximum of 10, I think? But besides that, I don't think it can fit anymore."

In all, 12 people attended the meeting in the office-sized room, admittedly more than it could handle.

Many attending the meeting said the room wasn't ideal for the growing number of Asian students on campus, or for representing their different cultures.

Students there said they hope the room does get redesigned and resized at some point to better represent the diversity of Asian culture. Freshman Barang Phuk suggested a livelier room with more chairs and Asian paintings. Freshman Aye Han said music from Asia, such as K-pop, a form of South Korean pop music, should be played in a renovated version of the room.

Though the Asian Studies Club

usually meets in the larger Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE), members said they wanted to make a point that night that the Asian Resource Room was being used, an attempt to show Elon an expanded version of it will be worth the cost.

"I feel like the room itself isn't even representative of Asian culture," said freshman Nikki Valente. "I feel like the artwork on the wall is very stereotypical. I don't think that's who we are. I think Elon's Asian student body is more than this and can be represented in a better way."

A couch, two chairs, a few pictures of Asian art and a large television that fits tightly in between two bookshelves make up the entirety of the room.

Phuk said the books on the shelves were mostly Japanese-language texts with a smattering of Korean, not accounting for the rest of the Asian languages.

Elon adds resource rooms

The Asian Resource Room isn't old. It was opened last fall as a part of a second-floor multicultural redesign for the Moseley Center. A new African-American resource room opened up at the same time, and the Hispanic/Latino resource room and the Gender and LGBTQIA Center opened the year before.

According to Carla Fullwood, Associate Director for the CREDE, the creation of the Asian Resource Room was the result of conversations with and requests by the Asian Studies Club and faculty involved



Students gather for a club meeting in the Asian Resource Room Nov. 5.

with the Asian Studies minor.

"The purpose of the room is to be a social space as well as a space of intellectual development and to raise awareness about Asian identity on campus," Fullwood said. "So while it is not a big room, there are meetings that are happenings in the room that the Asian Studies club has used it for, and general gatherings."

Students at the Asian Studies Club meeting said the space was not being used for events that often because of its size. Instead, they use it mostly as a quiet study space.

"If you look at the CREDE and you look at the Hispanic resource room or the African-American resource room, there is so much more there," Valente said. "And it's a comfier environment."

Sophomore Ezequiel Espitia, a frequent visitor to the Hispanic/Latino resource room, said he uses the space to get work done and hang out with friends. It comprises a common room with several small-

er office-sized rooms. Sophomore Andres Cruz shared Espitia's sentiments.

"I'm definitely here a lot for studying," Cruz said. "I don't know why it's so big compared to other resource rooms, but my friends and I use it to relax."

Securing a larger space

The Asian Resource Room is the only space dedicated exclusively for Asian students on campus, a demographic that has grown from 96 students in the 2012-2013 academic year to 124 in the 2014-2015 academic year, according to the Elon Fact Book.

That's roughly 2 percent of Elon's undergraduate population, but Valente said she feels Asian students are left out of larger campus discussions. Phuk said the climate won't change much until Elon gains a bigger Asian presence.

"I think Elon does a good job

overall to try and get Asian students involved around campus and in student organizations," Phuk said. "I think that right now because we don't have that many Asian students, we have only a small space for us."

Fullwood said CREDE is actively listening to the concerns of Asian students through forums the center holds.

"We've been closely working with the Asian Studies Club to hold these forums for students that identify as Asian to gather together and to start naming the positives and what's challenging here," she said. "It helps us to consider what is important as a university and factor in these student experiences on campus."

Melody Harter, a program assistant for the Center of Leadership, said challenges for Asian-American students are common across the United States, but it largely depends on the size of the Asian population in that location.

"I think that at Elon our Asian demographic numbers are small, which can make it harder for Asian students to feel connected," Harter said.

One of the top priorities for the Asian students is securing a larger room.

"I find it interesting that we have a TV in here, but we can't hold a movie event in here because you can only fit like seven people in here," Valente said.

Fullwood said she isn't aware of any upcoming changes to the current room. As of now, Asian Studies Club meetings might have to remain cozy.

Silence, consoling words for Paris by candlelight

Community mourns lives lost in terrorist attacks at Sunday vigil

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

For one long moment outside Elon University's Alamance Building Sunday night, dozens stood in silence, pained and confused faces illuminated by 130 candles, each representing one of the dead in the Paris terror attacks Nov. 13.

In opening the vigil, President Leo Lambert invoked not only Paris, but also Beirut, where 40 died in another ISIS attack the day before, and Egypt, where a Russian jet went down from what has been deemed a likely ISIS bombing, killing all 224 passengers and crew.

After the Paris attacks, Facebook activated its "Safety Check" feature, previously used for natural disasters and not implemented in the Beirut bombings. The social network also gave users the option to paint their profile picture with the red, white and blue stripes of the French flag.

The outpouring online and intense media coverage has led some to criticize how the West weighs tragedies in the Middle East.

"We know much more human suffering is likely ahead," Lambert said. He added, "We stand here worried for the world our children and grandchildren will inherit ... It is important to ask, 'What difference can I make?' And I'm talking about actions deeper than changing your Facebook profile picture."

In opening and closing the vigil, University Chaplain Jan Fuller urged people to "remember that each light is a life," and that each life lost matters. According to news reports, 129 have been confirmed dead as of publication, but dozens more are in critical condition in French hospitals.

In the open mic session that followed, during which more than a dozen spoke, Kenneth Brown Jr., Class of 2019 president, said not knowing is the hardest part.

"It's going to take a while for us to figure out why," Brown said. "The universe gained 130 new stars. Heaven gained 130 new angels, and events like these teach us that life is short."

Shoulders draped with a French flag



Elon University students stand outside Alamance Building Nov. 15 in silence for the lives lost in the Paris terrorist attacks Nov. 13.

and joined by two friends, one of whom said she lost a friend in the attacks, junior Theo Hardy compelled the crowd to not associate the atrocity with the religion of Islam.

"There's no words to describe what happened," Hardy said. "These people, they're not Muslims, so please don't say they are."

The attacks have opened a long-running rift in the United States and elsewhere over the labeling of acts of terrorism. Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush tweeted, "we are at war with radical Islamic terrorism" during the Democratic debate Nov. 14.

Joel Harter, associate chaplain for Protestant life, prayed for an "end to Islamophobia and hateful mistrust" of all people during the vigil.

"Never forget to be human," said freshman Stefanie Milovich. "Never forget to care. Someone needs it."



President Leo Lambert pauses during a speech regarding the Paris terrorist attacks.

Diversity grant seeks student organizations

Fewer groups have applied to program this semester

Simone Jasper
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education (CREDE) awards grants to fund student activities that include a diversity education component. As the number of student organizations applying for grants has declined this semester, the CREDE is working to garner more interest in the program.

The diversity grant, which started last school year, awards up to \$500 for diversity-themed events open to the Elon community. The goal is for two or more student organizations to collaborate to host events that educate students about diversity.

Carla Fullwood, associate director for the CREDE, oversees the diversity grant application process. She said more than 10 organizations applied for grants last semester, but a handful of groups have shown interest this school year.

"I don't know why it has gone down — our strategies are the same," Fullwood said. "We're hoping to bolster [our efforts] more."

According to Fullwood, the CREDE has advertised the grants in its newsletters, emails to student organization presidents and on digital boards across campus. The center also worked to simplify the online application process.

"One change we made this semester is to make the application more accessible," Fullwood said. "We tried to make it more streamlined and easy."

Senior Alexandre Bohannon, president of the Black Student Union, said he first heard about the grant from an email he received last spring. He said he had an idea for an event for his organization — then called the Black Cultural Society — but knew it would be costly.

"The [application] process was extensive," Bohannon said. "But it was fine because I don't expect to tell them what I want and for them to give me the money."

The application asks organizations to detail costs of each event component — including food, transportation and speaker fees — and discuss how the programming incorporates diversity.

The Black Student Union completed the application process twice for "Identity Intersection: Black and Southern," an event it co-hosted with the National Pan-Hellenic Council in spring and fall 2015. The activities included an on-campus discussion followed by an experiential trip to Hillbilly Hideaway, a restaurant that serves Southern food. Bohannon said the event facilitated an important discussion on regional difference.

"Sometimes, it's difficult to focus on another part of our identities besides race," Bohannon said. "I identified an intersection between being black and southern."

Affinity, a student-led, non-denominational Christian organization, also recently applied for the grant to fund "Night of Worship" Nov. 5 in partnership with other Christian groups at Elon.

"It was great that we could use the resources to organize something on campus that we don't have the funding for," said sophomore Donita Sharkey, president of Affinity.

With the grant, the groups were able to

bring Christian artists Urban Doxology and Kelly Glow to campus. Sharkey believes the event incorporated diversity because it allowed students to worship in a non-traditional way.

"They use hip-hop as a way to express love of Christ," Sharkey said. "It was a way to bring together different Christian groups."

Both Sharkey and Bohannon said they would consider applying for diversity grants in the future to fund events for their respective groups.

"We don't tend to focus on regional and geographical diversity," Bohannon said. "I would like to partner with other organizations to look at all [aspects of] Southern culture."

Fullwood hopes more organizations will be interested in applying for grants.

"I hope that it's something that could stay, especially with the Elon Commitment goal of an unprecedented commitment to diversity," Fullwood said. "We hope these events make it easier for students to see themselves in the commitment."

Triple the pitches, triple the impact

Student idea challenge sees growth in non-business areas

Max Garland and Hope Koene
Asst. News Editor, Copy Intern

TRIPLE IMPACT CHALLENGE WINNERS

There was a first-place winner in each of the five rooms, three in business and two in social entrepreneurship.

BUSINESS WINNERS

Good Grocers
Caretake App
Coffee Warming Sleeve

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WINNERS

Gift Card
Reusable Food Tray

More than 90 Elon University students pitched their ideas for business ventures and social entrepreneurial opportunities, ranging from a pet rental service to a hunger prevention app, at the Triple Impact Challenge Nov. 11 in Upstairs Lakeside.

The pitch competition, sponsored by the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, aimed to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among Elon students — even more so than previous iterations of the challenge that included non-business majors.

“There was a lot of growth in [social entrepreneurship pitches], which is what we want,” said Kevin O’Mara, executive director of the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. “Most of the innovation in the world comes from non-business people, from people who have deep knowledge in something, and the business people help it along.”

O’Mara also expressed enthusiasm at the competition’s expansion overall. The Triple Impact Challenge began in 2013, with just 11 students participating. Two years later, the event needed five rooms to showcase pitches, with a total of 46 teams presenting to 18 judges.

“The presenters did good overall,” said David Higham, adjunct instructor in marketing and a judge for the challenge. “We had a lot of them that actually had a prototype or something available, so they were able to show off more than just an idea.”

The competition was divided into two main categories, with three rooms dedicated to busi-

ness pitches and two focused on social entrepreneurship. Each room had roughly nine teams present, with three to four judges awarding the top three pitches they saw.

The judges were composed of entrepreneurs, Love School of Business faculty and graduates, including Burlington Mayor and Elon alumnus, Ian Baltutis ’08.

“The judges asked good questions that we hadn’t really anticipated,” said sophomore Connor Gress, who pitched an idea for a combined funnel and straw to make filling water bottles easier. “They asked us questions about potential problems with the straw that we really hadn’t thought of that kind of threw us off guard, but for the most part we were pretty well-prepared.”

Groups of one to four students had four

minutes to present their product to an audience of peers and the judges.

The following two minutes were allotted for questions. A multimedia presentation accompanied each pitch, and many offered research, community testimony, profit analysis and even prototypes to enhance their presentations.

Seniors Madison Tamblin, Laura Orr, Sam Lutz and Jackie Orr, winners of one of the business groups, provided judges with coffee insulated by their prototype of a heat maintaining coffee sleeve, called “EZ Heat.”

Tamblin said she thought of the idea for “EZ Heat” over the summer, and was able to develop it with her group in the management course, “Innovation Dynamics.” The disposable sleeve can maintain a temperature of 120 degrees in a cup of coffee for more than three

hours — and that’s just a prototype.

“We partnered with Dr. Evans in the physics department, and she helped us develop the prototype,” Tamblin said.

Other participating groups also took advantage of Elon’s resources. Many developed products in the Maker Hub, polled students and local businesses and reached out to professors representing specialized areas of study.

Groups also found inspiration from personal experience. Winners of one of the two social entrepreneurship groupings, sophomores McKenzie Floyd and Ansley Hamilton, developed the app “ICan: Get Ready” to provide morning routine prompts for people with special needs.

Floyd came up with the idea from the daily help her parents provided her younger sister who has special needs. She and Hamilton worked on their concept for the entrepreneurship course, “Creativity and the Doer/Maker Mindset.”

Several participants pitched their ideas as a course requirement, including senior Mathew Browne, who was part of the team that pitched “Good Grocer,” an application to connect people that have leftover food with those dealing with food insecurity. The team won first place in one of the three business groupings.

“We have to do this for our class — but if we knew this was going on without having a class requirement, we would enter because it was a great experience and something I’ve never been a part of before,” Browne said.

The first-place pitches in the other two rooms were “Gift Card” and “Reusable Food Trays.”

SYRIA from cover

The group, which was created only about a month ago, has sponsored tables at College Coffee in past weeks, but this was different.

As students approached their table, the group informed them about North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory’s Monday announcement in which he, joining more than a dozen other GOP governors, asked the federal government to stop the flow of Syrian refugees into the state.

Using an online contact form through McCrory’s website, Elon University students, faculty and staff wrote a personal message to the governor.

Students speak up

Freshman David Proano, who wrote to McCrory through SOS, said he hopes McCrory will consider both possible paths — either opening up the border to refugees or denying entrance.

“Whichever path they choose should be well thought-out,” Proano said. “[Lawmakers and politicians] should consider how it will effect Syrians and Americans.”

Some students wrote to McCrory out of sympathy for Syrians.

“If the situation was reversed, we would want people to help us,” said sophomore Sierra Seawright. “We shouldn’t reject Syrian refugees if they’re in need.”

State deals with immigration issues

Syrian refugees aren’t the only immigrants that North Carolina has dealt with in recent months.

Back in October, McCrory introduced HB-318, a piece of legislation that places limitations on the types of IDs immigrants can use.

Freshman Sary Martinez, from Honduras, saw similarities between McCrory’s denial of refugees and HB-318, which she said is causing some Latinos to struggle.

“[McCrory’s refusal of refugees] is another selfish way of seeing immigration,” Martinez said. “Everybody deserves equal opportunities and shouldn’t be judged by where they’re coming from or what they believe.”

Some link recent anti-Syrian outcry from state governors to the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris.

“From my perspective it’s more that McCrory’s decision relates with the attacks in France,” said Tyson Meredith, instructor in political science. “That’s what’s leading to 29 different governors coming out and stating that they don’t want to accept a certain number of individuals.”

According to the U.S. State Department, the United States had accepted 1,854 Syrian refugees as of September 2015.

While the United States hopes to welcome about 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next year, many Democrats, including Hillary Clinton and Martin O’Malley, hope to see that number increase to 65,000.

Freshman Jess Pusch, one of the six Core members for SOS, said she hopes the organization’s work on campus is raising awareness about Syria amongst students.

“I think anyone who has ever felt at home somewhere has an obligation to people who do not have a home,” she said.

Facing homeless head-on

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week kicks off

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

Clad in a Superwoman shirt, Candi Darley recalled the incredulous, liberating joy she felt several years ago when she realized that, after being homeless for seven years, she could walk into her very own kitchen naked.

Sharing her emotional and turbulent journey without a home and the many years she spent grappling with chronic fatigue syndrome, Darley urged community members gathered Nov. 16 in Whitley Auditorium to never take anything for granted.

“Home is a concept, and a house is a roof over your head,” Darley said. “And that roof is so important.”

Darley was among one of three representatives from the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau, a group operating under the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), the oldest and largest coalition that advocates for the homeless, who spoke at Monday night’s Face of Homelessness Panel.

The panel was the first in a series of events organized by the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week on campus.

Steve Thomas and Alan Banks, the two other speakers at the event, also shared their own experiences with juggling



Once-homeless, Candi Darley now speaks to raise awareness at colleges.

founded, nobody could have ever imagined that 31 years later, homelessness would reach the highest point in history,” Thomas said.

The Top 5 reasons for homelessness according to the NCH are lack of affordable housing, lack of wages, lack of health care, domestic violence and mental illness.

With all three speakers discussing at least one of those five causes of homelessness, the stories of trauma, survival, recovery and hope were united by a primary theme.

Homeless people deserve respect, dignity and recognition, the speakers said.

“I hope students leave this auditorium knowing that the homeless are people are human beings,” Thomas said. “People don’t realize how much it means for someone to walk up to a

After struggling with a cocaine addiction for 30 years — an addiction he said resulted out of taking 30 seconds to experiment with the drug the first time — Thomas said the question, “Hey, how are you doing?” undoubtedly “saved his life” several years ago.

“That five-foot-tall white man [who asked me that question] made me feel like I existed and listened to my story,” Thomas said. “And I remember it every day.”

Though he was raised in an environment where he experienced frequent physical abuse, Thomas said the words hurt more than any of the scars, bruises, wounds and broken ribs he endured over the years.

It wasn’t close. “The words being yelled at me never left,” Thomas said. “They could never heal.”

Confederate symbolism challenges community



A local group hopes to change perceptions of Confederate flag

HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor

Members of Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County have gathered a few times this fall to discuss their support of Confederate symbolism. Despite recent negative feelings against Southern heritage, the group desires to keep Confederate spirit alive in the community and pass it on to future generations.

Christina Elias
Senior Reporter

For many in the South, the Confederate battle flag is a common sight. Following the shooting of nine African-Americans in a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina this past June, the flag has come under fire as a symbol of white supremacy and racism. A local group, Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County, aims to change its negative implications.

Because of the culturally constructed nature of symbols like flags, each person has different perceptions of symbols based on past experiences with them.

“The argument is that when the Confederate flag has been used publicly, more often than not it has been used in racist contexts,” said Tom Mould, professor of anthropology. “It’s hard to resurrect that symbol in public spaces and say that it’s not for racist ideology. People can still have that flag in their homes, individuals may still see that flag ... as not racist, but they’re in a position where they’re not threatened by that flag.”

Origins of Taking Back Alamance County

Taking Back Alamance County was founded after the removal of the battle flag from the South Carolina State House following the Charleston shootings. Another local group, Concerned Citizens of Alamance County, attempted to remove the Confederate memorial in nearby Graham.

In response, Taking Back Alamance County gathered more than 1,500 people from across Alamance County in a counter-protest, according to the group’s founder Gary Williamson. County commissioners voted to keep the monument.

Williamson said he found it disheartening that the Charleston shooter’s actions would overshadow what, in his mind, the flag stands for and therefore erase Confederate flag supporters’ history.

“This is something that needs to stay alive and pass on to our children,” Williamson said during an Oct. 8 group meeting. “A lot of people don’t understand why so many people still

cherish the flags of the Southern cause. I understand that [the misconceptions come] from only being taught the negative side and not the honorable side that true Southerners stand by.”

Williamson lamented the fact that the general public “doesn’t understand” the group’s purpose, saying that in order to change negative perceptions of Confederate groups, they are working within local communities to spread awareness.

Another member of the group added, “If we can do a charity and it reaches a school, people will see it.”

According to Williamson, most people only see the flag and their support for their ancestors instead of other initiatives the group is pursuing, like food drives and contributing to charity. Williamson emphasized that Taking

than just the South.

“We have to balance their right to have this flag — and no one is saying you can’t have that flag in your home or in private spaces or wherever you control the context,” Mould said. “It’s just that the public context has been so clearly articulated again and again for the past 50 years of being anti-civil rights and anti-black that it’s just hard to keep putting that up and not expect a large body of the population to see it as racist.”

Williamson cited the Charleston shootings as a turning point in national attention on the use of the Confederate flag in the South.

“What makes me feel like [they’re taking the history away]?” Williamson asked. “They’re taking down memorials, flags, everything, all over the country and they’re erasing it all -- or trying to, anyway.”

“THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO STAY ALIVE AND PASS ON TO OUR CHILDREN.”

GARY WILLIAMSON
CO-FOUNDER OF TAKING BACK ALAMANCE COUNTY

Back Alamance County has no ties to groups like the Ku Klux Klan, and that they will not stand for their flag being used as a tool for hate any longer.

“We will fight as hard against [hate groups] just as we will against any group that threatens to bring our country down,” Williamson said. “Many do not agree with our views, [but they] are very simple, and all we ask is to be left alone when it comes to our heritage.”

“We’re common people with common values,” Williamson said. “We’re also Confederates.”

The Confederate flag’s place in history

Mould argues that even though owning a Confederate flag doesn’t make someone racist, its historical use as a sign of white supremacy and racial hatred have made it symbolic of more

Bissett compared the soldiers who fought for the Confederacy to those who served the Vietnam War. While the war itself was “misguided,” that does not necessarily mean the soldiers as individuals should be demonized.

“Many of them did fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War,” Bissett said. “It’s not appropriate to dismiss them or attack them.”

Value of the Confederate flag

One of the group members in attendance, Phyllis Leggate, felt passionately about the Southern Confederate preservation cause. She related her patriotic feelings as a native of Scotland to the desires of Southerners to protect their own culture and heritage.

“You can’t lose history,” she said. “If you didn’t have history, you wouldn’t have a future.”

Toward the end of the Taking Back Alamance County meeting, Williamson reminded his fellow members to be proud of their cause and what they’ve contributed to the local community.

“Feel proud,” he said. “Some days I feel down, but then I get home and remember what I’m doing ... I’m standing up for my forefathers.”

According to Mould, the argument that the Confederate battle flag is a necessary part of preserving Southern heritage is flawed. There are many equally as important parts of the culture that could serve as a symbol of this culture.

“It has been used dramatically and recently as a symbol of racial hatred,” Mould said. “What I would suggest is there are all kinds of symbols of Southern heritage that you can hold that haven’t been used to very explicitly hold back a whole population of your Southern brothers and sisters. It just seems an odd choice.”

Mould doesn’t think public perception of the flag will change any time soon because of its history as a tool to sustain the status quo.

“As much as we want everyone to be able to bring their own interpretations to it, its dominant interpretation is so ugly that it doesn’t seem to outweigh the idea that it’s the only symbol we can possibly use for Southern heritage,” Mould said. “There are wonderful things about Southern culture. Let’s find other ways to memorialize them.”

Cheat Sheet: Response to recent terrorism acts



Within two days, acts of terrorism caused major casualties in Beirut and Paris, but media and global response differed vastly.

The Western world mourned and showed support for the city of Paris after terrorist attacks killed more than 120 people in the French capital Nov. 13. Major buildings from the Empire State Building to Las Vegas' version of the Eiffel Tower went dark to display sympathy, hashtags such as #Prayers4Paris began trending nationally and Facebook is allowing users to shade their profile picture with the colors of the French flag.

But many have expressed frustration toward mass media, Facebook and Westerners for their minimal concern of the bombings in Beirut that killed more than 40 people the day before.

As a result, discussion has spawned over whether the West — primarily North America and Europe — lacks compassion for the frequent deadly attacks that have occurred in the Middle East because of prejudices, apathy and distance.

What happened?

A small but coordinated team of extremists carried out attacks that injured more than 350 people Friday night. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks.

According to a CBS News report, 89 people were killed inside Bataclan Concert Hall during an Eagles of Death Metal show. Three gunmen entered the building and fired rounds at the audience, taking some hostage. They detonated their explosive belts as soon as authorities were about to retaliate.

Gunmen also attacked Paris cafes, and

suicide bombs were detonated near France's national stadium and Boulevard Voltaire.

A day earlier, more than 200 in Burj al-Barajneh, an area in southern Beirut, were wounded from two suicide bombings targeted toward Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group. The Sunni-based ISIS claimed responsibility for the bombings.

According to a BBC report, the explosions occurred just a few minutes apart, with one bomber detonating his vest near a Shia mosque and the other detonating his inside a bakery.

The attacks in Beirut and Baghdad weren't the only notable acts of violence. Other killings occurred in Baghdad. A suicide bomber killed 17 people at a memorial service in Baghdad on the same day the Paris attacks occurred. A roadside bomb also killed at least five people at a Shiite shrine.

How has the West responded?

Most media coverage has centered on the Paris attacks. As of publication, about 42.5 million results appear in Google News for "Paris attacks" while "Beirut attacks" generates only about 5.7 million results.

Most attention from Western politicians has centered on Paris, as well. World leaders at the Group of 20 summit Sunday in Antalya, Turkey, observed a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks. Closer to home, during Saturday's Democratic Debate candidates spent 35 minutes discussing terrorism and foreign policy sparked by the Paris attacks, according

to an MSNBC recap of the debate.

Social media giant Facebook also took an active approach to remembrance of the Paris victims. Besides the profile picture setting, it implemented a safety check feature for users in Paris to let friends and family know they are safe. Facebook did not offer the same feature during the Beirut bombings. The feature has mostly been used during times of extreme natural disasters, with the Paris attacks being the first time it was activated for a human-caused disaster.

What is the backlash?

Many have criticized Facebook for its lack of response to the Beirut bombings, or at least one equal to the attacks in Paris. In a comment on Facebook, CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote that the social networking site will activate the safety check feature for more human-caused disasters going forward.

In terms of criticism to general Western response, Lebanese blogger Joey Ayoub wrote Saturday in a viral post that deaths in Beirut are viewed as less important than deaths in Paris.

On social media, #PrayForSyria began trending days after #Prayers4Paris did. A viral Instagram post by Indian writer Karuna Ezara Parikh highlighted the little attention given to the war-torn Middle East.

"Pray for the world that blames a refugee crisis for a terrorist attack, that does not pause to differentiate between the attacker and the person running from the very same thing you are," Parikh's post read.

deliberately damaging it, according to a Town of Elon Police report. Police said the damages might be the result of jewelry scratching the car door while someone was attempting to open it.

Nov. 14 ROBBERY NORTH WILLIAMSON AVENUE, ELON:

An Elon University student was robbed of his cell phone Saturday morning on the sidewalk of Acorn Coffee Shop, according to an email from Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life. A man described as a 5'5" black male in his early 20s is listed as the suspect for the robbery. He reportedly took the phone and fled the scene on foot toward Lebanon Avenue.

Through a phone call with her father, police discovered the student was awaiting takeoff at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport to go home. Police then contacted the student, who said she had taken several Xanax pills.

Once a stewardess was alerted to the issue, the plane diverted back to its gate where paramedics and police were waiting. The student was taken by ambulance to Wake Medical Health & Hospitals for medical treatment.

Nov. 14 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY LYNN STREET, ELON:

An Elon First Baptist Church worker reported Saturday around noon that she noticed several scratches on a door handle of her vehicle and that someone might be

CRIME REPORT

Nov. 13 PHYSICAL ASSAULT AND WELL-BEING CHECK WEST TROLLINGER AVENUE, ELON:

Town of Elon Police responded early Friday morning to a call from a student saying another student had assaulted her in her own apartment and "beat her head into the cement," according to a police report.

Around 7 p.m. later that day, an officer contacted the student reported for the assault for a well-being check. The officer received information that the student made verbal threats that she was taking multiple pills in an effort to commit suicide. The student reportedly said in a Snapchat to a friend that the issue with the victim was ruining her life and she wanted to die.

News Briefs

Commencement 2016 tickets limited

Elon University announced that construction for the new School of Communications will limit seating for Commencement 2016. As such, every graduate will be allotted four tickets to be used for graduation. Family and friends of graduates who do not have access to a ticket can use alternate campus locations to watch a live broadcast of the ceremony.

The announcement of limited tickets for Commencement created conversation on campus and social media among some disgruntled students, which spurred action by SGA. A survey, the results of which are still unknown, was sent to the Class of 2016 with alternative options for the location of the ceremony.

Crazy Fire closed for tax payment issues

The Huffman Mill Road location of Crazy Fire Mongolian Grill was closed by the N.C. Department of Revenue Nov. 12 for nonpayment of taxes, according to reports by the Burlington Times-News. The owners owe more than \$100,000 in back sales taxes, Trevor Johnson, a Department of Revenue spokesman, said to the Times-News. There are three certificates of tax liability totaling \$103,861 on file for the restaurant.

NC governor asks to halt Syrian refugees to the state

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory asked the federal government to stop sending Syrian refugees to the state. McCrory joined more than a dozen other governors when he made his request Nov. 16, three days after the attacks in Paris. The response from the governors sparked a debate from human rights activists, according to a News & Observer report. But the Obama administration is sticking to the president's plan to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the United States next year, the report said.

Teen sues North Carolina over greenhouse gases

Hallie Turner, a 13-year-old middle school student and self-described environmental activist, went to court Nov. 13 to challenge a December 2014 decision by the N.C. Environmental Management Commission.

Back in December 2014, the commission rejected Turner's request for the creation of a rule that would require North Carolina to decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 4 percent each year.

Football attempts to move on to 'new normalcy' 27-22 victory at Maine gives team temporary escape from reality

Alex Simon
Sports Editor

At the conclusion of a week of unimaginable tragedy, the Elon University football team returned to campus late Saturday night after defeating the University of Maine 27-22 earlier in the day.

But recalling the week and the death of junior wide receiver Demetri Allison leaves head coach Rich Skrosky with some lingering thoughts.

"One of the coaches — and so many coaches reached out — not to say anyone specific, but a name most people would know, his words were, 'This week will be harder than last,'" Skrosky said, then paused, letting the words hang in the air.

The team's chaplain, Bob Disher of St. Mark's Church in Burlington, also reached out, sharing Psalm 23:4: "I walk through the valley of the shadow of death."

"Bob said, 'Rich, the key word here is 'through.' It's not 'to,' it's 'through.' We're never going to get over it, but you can get through it. You go through it — you go through it together,'" Skrosky said.

The team will attempt to continue on in the face of adversity and heartbreak by creating a "new normalcy," which Skrosky has reiterated to his coaching staff and players.

"We've got to get back to a normalcy. We've got to get back to a routine. One of the coaches pointed out that the kids are resilient — sometimes more resilient than a 50-year old guy," Skrosky said. "I just hope that they have enough resiliency to get through this week and continue to get through."

To play or not to play?

At the unofficial vigil held for Allison midnight Thursday, multiple football players said the team hadn't decided if it would play Saturday, but said there would be a meeting at 9:40 a.m. the next morning. It was unknown if the decision would come at that meeting.

After the meeting, Skrosky met with the team's leadership council of 12 players.

"I didn't know right and wrong in this thing — there's no book," Skrosky said. "I just felt like it was better to do it with the smaller group. We talked, and those are hard conversations, but real conversations."

The leadership council told Skrosky they wanted to play Saturday, but the coach said he hesitated.

"They knew there were going to be guys who had reservations about their decision, so I told them to get together," he said.

It was in a players-only meeting ahead of



Sophomore defensive back Chris Blair (8) displays a tribute to Demetri Allison, hand-painted by sophomore Rebecca Lucieer.

the Gathering of Friends Thursday afternoon that the team decided they would play.

"We walk out to that and I said, 'John [junior linebacker John Silas], we're going to have to say something.' He was like ... It was a personal moment," Skrosky said. "He literally grabbed me as we were walking into the Woods Center and was like, 'Coach, we're doing this, but let's not say [we are] right now.'"

After the Gathering of Friends ended, the two captains, senior defensive back Miles Williams and junior linebacker John Silas, told the media they hadn't come to a decision yet, while the equipment staff in the back of the locker room packed all of the team's gear.

"Everybody has their own way to heal," Silas said. "Me, personally, I need to do stuff and get involved. I decided to go up and play and take my mind off of it and get away from the state. Just get away as far as possible. Maine is ... pretty far."

Traveling to Maine

Skrosky said he and the team were aware of how difficult the situation was and were sensitive to the players who felt they couldn't play.

"I fully respect their decisions," he said. "You can't force a guy to play football."

Only three wide receivers made the trip to the University of Maine — sophomore Tre Lennon and freshmen Corey Joyner and Tereak McCray — as the rest of the available wide receivers elected to stay behind.

"I just know that Demetri would have

wanted me to go up there and play. I felt like, if I didn't, then I was going to let him down," Lennon said. "The team needed me — we was down in receivers — and I knew that, if I had asked Demetri what he wanted me to do, I know Demetri would have wanted me to go up there. I took it upon myself to go up there."

Riebock made sure his players knew that the coaches honored whatever decision they made.

"My biggest thing was that everybody knew that, no matter what decision they make, it's respected," said wide receivers coach Billy Riebock. "You're not thought of any less whether you're on the trip or not. Everybody grieves in a different way, and each one of my wideouts had to make sure they handled that situation in their best interests. They had to be selfish."

For Riebock, seeing his players hurting has left a lasting impression in the worst way.

"When you lose one of your own, and you see them that emotional ... Words can't describe it," Riebock said. "Now that Demetri left us, it's dealing with the hurt and emotions of those still with us. That is something I'll never forget, and it's an experience I hope nobody has to go through."

For those who decided to go, turning around and preparing to play left the coaches in an undesirable position.

"Again, there's no book to it," Skrosky said. "When we decided to go ahead with it, and we figured out who was going to be available, then it was about trying to do our best to put these guys in a position to be successful at Maine."

Skrosky said he was in the football facility until late Thursday night — "I don't know if I was in the best state of mind" — and started to put some notes together. The plane flight to Maine Friday afternoon is when the game plan came together completely.

Riebock said the lead-up to the game was the most difficult part.

"The easiest part probably was once the whistle was blown and they could put their mind, for those 60 minutes, somewhere else," Riebock said. "The warmups, the meetings, it was different. I'm not going to sit here and tell you that it wasn't."

Pulling out a close win

Maine held a moment of silence before the game, and the majority of the Elon sideline dropped a knee to remember Allison. Once the game was underway, the defense shone in the first half for Elon, forcing three turnovers.

Williams forced a fumble on the first defensive play of the game for Elon, which Mitchell recovered. On the next play, redshirt

freshman quarterback Connor Christiansen rolled right on a play-action and found Joyner open for a 16-yard touchdown.

Elon added 10 points in the second quarter, off of a 42-yard field goal from junior kicker John Gallagher and another touchdown from Christiansen to Joyner, this time from eight yards out. The lead was 17-0 at the half.

Maine responded with 16 straight points, but after a touchdown cut the deficit to one, Black Bear sophomore kicker Sam Lenson missed the extra point. Elon maintained a one-point lead.

On the next drive, freshman running back Malcolm Summers stepped up for the Phoenix, breaking out a 21-yard rush to get Elon to Maine's red zone. Two plays later, Summers went right and wasn't touched, scoring a 13-yard touchdown.

Elon's defense forced a turnover on downs in the next sequence, and after three plays, Gallagher hit a 33-yard field goal to make it a two-score game again.

Maine added a 7-yard touchdown pass as the clock expired, but without a chance to tie the game on the conversion, officials ended the game. Elon had won.

Both Skrosky and Riebock acknowledged that they didn't really think of Allison much during the game as they focused on what was on the field.

But for Lennon and Silas, Allison was constantly on their minds.

"I thought of him the whole time," Silas said. "I kept patting his number that they stitched on our jerseys. It meant a lot to be playing there for him."

"I felt like he was on the field with me," Lennon said. "I only practiced one time last week, and it felt like Demetri just took me through every play. It made it more easy on me and I just wanted to make him proud."

Riebock said he thought of Allison when the game ended.

"Once that whistle has blown, now you're back to reality — and reality, recently, has not been what we want," Riebock said. "We're trying to create a sense of normalcy — it's the new normal, so to speak — and we have to make the best of that in order to keep going on, and keep progressing off and on the field. I think that's what Demetri would want."

Riebock attempted to find a silver lining in the tragedy, believing the win will help make his position unit and the team closer. For Skrosky, all the factors that played into the week made the victory over the Black Bears special.

"For them to go on the road in those circumstances — not only distracted but then personnel-handicapped — to go out and win a football game is pretty cool," he said.



Wide receivers coach Billy Riebock high-fives Demetri Allison before a 2014 game.



REMEMBERING DEMITRI ALLISON

ALL GAME PHOTOS BY ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer



ALLISON from cover

They grinned at Allison's smile, one that could invigorate an entire room. They chuckled at the time he donned a Superman cape for a dunk contest. They roared with laughter about the time he won a ton of his friends' money in a video game tournament.

No one knew who organized this event, but it didn't matter. Rather, it showed how many people Allison influenced in his two-and-a-half years at Elon.

"I just got a text, so I showed up," said senior John Silas, a linebacker on the football team and a close friend of Allison's. "We were just remembering him. People who didn't know him, people who knew him. People who might've had one class with him, people who might've had every class.

"Everybody just came out, and it was just a great moment to see everybody he touched."

Allison missed team breakfast and classes Tuesday morning, Nov. 10, something Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of student health and wellness, said was out of character.

Allison's friends, family and teammates asked police to look for him because "they were concerned for his well-being and emotional state," according to an email from Smith Jackson, vice president for student life.

According to Patterson, messages from Allison with friends on campus Wednesday morning, Nov. 11, escalated their concerns and search efforts. His friends hurried to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to search for him as investigators pinged his phone to try and track him down.

Shortly after 4:30 p.m., the UNC Department of Public Safety began investigating an injury near Morrison Residence Hall.

Allison, 21, had fallen from the 10-story building, and was transported to

UNC Hospitals, where he died.

The Elon coaching staff told the team after practice Wednesday.

Around midnight Thursday, about 150 people arrived at Rhodes Stadium with candles to honor Allison.

"I was thankful that, when the news of Demitri's passing came, we were together," said Elon football coach Rich Skrosky. "The emotions that we experienced [Wednesday] night as a family, I'll never experience that again, and I've been doing this for going on 30 years."

With a crowd of about 400 convening on the Rhodes Stadium field the afternoon of Nov. 12, the football team filed in, hand in hand, to begin a "Gathering of Friends" in Allison's memory.

Silas and Tre Lennon held the hands of Lisa Hartman, Allison's mother. Skrosky walked with Mark Hartman, Allison's father.

Earlier that day, Lisa Hartman expressed gratitude for five play-

ers — Silas, Lennon, Dondre Howell, Demetrius Oliver and Efrim Borders — who were by her side Wednesday in the wake of Allison's death.

"[Allison] was an extremely kind and gentle, thoughtful person who was so humble," Hartman said. "I always felt like when Demitri came into our life, he was just a blessing from above to us."

Friends and teammates shared stories of Allison, many recalling his smile that was, more than once, described as "infectious."

There was talk of his many trips to Subway, where he loved to eat, and how he'd often ask for rides to practice and class.

Skrosky moved around the field, patting players and former players on the back, providing the literal shoulder for them to cry on.

"This is a man that will be missed by many," said Dave Blank, director of athletics. "It's been a tough 24 hours with reflection and sorrow, particularly with men on the football team. I couldn't be more proud of how they've handled this.

"If you could hear anything that was said, what you heard is that Demitri gave



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

“HE WAS AN EXTREMELY KIND AND GENTLE, THOUGHTFUL PERSON WHO WAS SO HUMBLE. I ALWAYS FELT LIKE WHEN DEMITRI CAME INTO OUR LIFE, HE WAS JUST A BLESSING FROM ABOVE TO US.”

**LISA HARTMAN
DEMITRI ALLISON'S MOTHER**



us something to hang onto. Maybe that's the best he thought he could do. Maybe in his moment, he was trying to give us his special gift, and that is each other and love. If you were in our football locker room, you would've felt that."

And there hundreds of people were, right on the 50-yard line, where Allison would line up on Saturdays in maroon and gold, feeling his presence still with them.

Allison, who played at Southlake Christian High School, north of Charlotte, saw action in 10 games as an Elon freshman in 2013, making one start and catching one touchdown pass.

Allison started all 12 of Elon's games in 2014, finishing second on the team with 55 receptions and 525 receiving yards.

He played in all nine Elon games this season, catching 12 passes for 123 yards. He didn't record a reception in the last two games he played, against Stony Brook University and the College of William & Mary.

Standing on the same field where Elon lost to William & Mary just last Saturday, junior safety Asunji Maddox led a prayer

to conclude the gathering shortly after "Amazing Grace" could be heard playing on church bells within earshot.

"A lot of sadness right now, a lot of pain," said senior defensive back Miles Williams. "A lot of hurt for my teammates and coaching staff and Elon community. At the same time, there's some joy. We know that Demitri's in a better place right now. He wants us to be happy and rejoice and remember the good times of his life, and the impact he made on all of us."

"Being able to get on that field and listen to the thoughts and reflections and memories that so many people had of his life brought tears in my eyes and other people's eyes. A lot of them were tears of joy."

Elon didn't officially announce until early Nov. 12 that it would travel to the scheduled football game at Maine on Nov. 14.

The 27-22 victory became another step in the grieving process.

At Elon, there are a number of resources available for those feeling overwhelmed.

Counseling Services, which can be reached at 336-278-7280, are free and open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays. They're located in the R.N. Ellington Center for Health and Wellness on South Campus.

For emergencies, students are encouraged to call 911 or Campus Police at 336-278-5555, where a counselor is on call after hours and on weekends.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a 24-hour resource at 1-800-273-8255.

Elon also provides anonymous mental health screenings online that determine if you or a friend may need to immediately contact a doctor or mental health professional.

Allison's friends say they wish they could've helped him.

Williams said they tried to make Thursday a normal day, but knew there was simply no way they could.

"When [Allison] walked into a room and started smiling, it would just bring instant warmth to your heart," junior Alaina Hall said after the event. "It's hard knowing that he's not here anymore, and it's hard

knowing that I'm missing out on any time with him. That's probably the hardest thing I'm going through right now."

Silas spoke of the power the Elon community has when dealing with tragedy, and how countless people approached him and his teammates Thursday to offer their condolences, even if they didn't know Allison.

That, and the stories shared, touched Silas. Allison's memory won't leave him next week, month, year.

"He wouldn't want any of us to be sad," Silas said. "He would want us to be happy. He would just want all of us to be successful."

"I'm just remembering all the good times and wishing he was still here. I'm going to do big things for him."

This story was jointly reported by The Pendulum and Elon Local News. Elon Local News Executive Producer Lauren Cook, Elon Local News Senior Reporter Meredith Stutz, The Pendulum Sports Editor Alex Simon and The Pendulum News Editor Caroline Fernandez contributed reporting.

Please, don't be afraid to talk

HOW WE SEE IT

It's time to stop perpetuating the stigma around not being OK that prevents people from seeking help. It's time to talk, and listen.

Staff Editorial

There's not a lot to say. Some of us knew Demitri Allison. Some of us didn't. But we're all mourning the loss of a member of our Elon University community. More than that, we're all mourning the loss of someone we could have known.

Allison was a son, friend, teammate and classmate. He was the person you passed on the sidewalk on the way to class or the student you stood in line with in Lakeside Dining Hall. Whether you knew him well or not, he's touched all our lives.

And he should make you think. We don't know what led to Allison's death. But this is the second death of a student to

rock our community in the last year. That's two too many.

Allison and Trent Stetler, whose January 2015 death was ruled a suicide by the Burlington Police Department, are dearly missed, and their sudden absences have left us all breathless. But let's make them the last. We shouldn't be mourning such bright and promising young men. We shouldn't be mourning people who are so young.

We all know someone who is struggling against something. And that's OK. It's OK to not be OK. Not being OK can mean having anxiety, suffering from depression or facing ghosts from the past. It can mean none of these. But we're all dealing with something. So be gentle. Be kind. Care for others, in big ways and small.

There's a stigma in our culture — and especial-

ly in college culture — that there's something wrong with not being OK, that we have to be fun-loving, upbeat and cheerful all the time.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 60 percent of adults with mental illnesses didn't receive treatment in the last year, and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported that 35.2 percent of adults aged 18-25 didn't seek mental health care because of issues related to stigma.

It's time to stop that. It's time to accept that every day isn't great. It's time to validate all our moods and feelings, even the ones that bring us down.

Elon offers various services for those of us who need someone to talk to. We're all struggling with different things, so who you choose to talk to is your choice. But please, talk. Speak up. Ask for help, if not for yourself, for the people who care about you.

At the same time, be willing to listen. Listen to your friends, your roommates and your classmates. A little compassion and an open ear can do a lot, and it's something we can all do.

RESOURCES

- **Elon Counseling Services:** (336) 278-7280, open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
- **After-hours counselor on call via Campus Safety and Police:** (336) 278-5555
- **Truitt Center:** (336) 278-7729

Those who suffer from depression need people who care

I am a recent graduate of Elon University, and while I was at Elon, I struggled with depression.



Zachary Horner
Guest Columnist

I got decent grades, was involved in multiple campus organizations (including The Pendulum) and had many amazing experiences.

But all the while, I felt depressed. There were some nights I started to entertain the idea of ending my life, but I cut that off as soon as I could. Some of us who struggle with depression don't do that.

When I saw the report that junior Demitri Allison had died after falling from a 10-story residence hall on campus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I felt sad. Then I saw in the Smith Jackson email that there were concerns for his mental state. Then the

UNC police report said the death had been ruled a suicide.

I never met Demitri. He was a freshman when I was a senior, and I had finished covering football for The Pendulum — which I did for two years — the year before he came to campus. I don't know what exactly what was happening in his head that caused his reported suicide.

But I want to take this opportunity to encourage the students of Elon University, and anyone else who reads this, to begin or continue the conversation surrounding mental illnesses like depression.

Something about depression makes people like me who deal with it feel even more alone. We don't want to stand out around our friends as being weird or different. We don't want to ruin happy occasions like parties and video game nights and Cook Out runs with our late-night fears and demons in our heads.

We don't want our freshman year roommate to think we're weird when we tell him/her that we some-

times wish he/she wasn't around so we could just sit in our room and feel crappy by ourselves, because being around happy people can be exhausting.

The voices in our head tell us that opening up to others about our fears will lead to us losing friends, a near death-blow in college life. You're away from home, you're away from high school friends — losing college friends would just make it worse.

It seems like the only answer sometimes is to just escape. You go home for a weekend, visit friends at another school, drive around Burlington for a night (probably the sketchiest option). If nothing works, then, well, there's an option you can take that will get you out of all that misery permanently.

We who suffer with depression need other people who care about us. People who will put their own things aside for a moment to listen to our sometimes nonsensical ramblings about the fears in our head, however irrational. People who will read up on depression to learn more.

People who will be selfless.

I just recently got engaged to a girl I went to Elon with. She was a Teaching Fellow and involved in the same campus ministry as me. We started dating near the end of my senior year, her junior year. In the first couple months of our relationship, I began to share with her the struggles and battles that come with depression. I was a little nervous. I mean, it's not often a guy goes deep into what his weaknesses are when he's dating a girl, especially early on.

She was exactly what I needed. She listened compassionately. She offered to listen to me, not to fix me. She asked questions when appropriate and pointed me to things I could hold onto, truths I could believe.

That's the key — remembering what's true. Our minds make up lots of lies: I'm not worthy, I don't offer anybody anything, etc. Those of us with depression need to remember what's true for us, something outside of us. For me and my now fiancée, that had to do with our shared faith, but it can be anything that is foundational to you in your life.

I could write a thousand more words on this subject, but I'll wrap this up with two challenges.

First, to the Elon student body: If there's a friend of yours who has depression, commit to your friendship with them and show it to them. Whatever you think about Jesus, one of his statements can't be ignored: There's no greater love than a man who lays his life down for his friends. By putting your friend with depression first, even for a moment, you're showing an amount of love too big to be quantified.

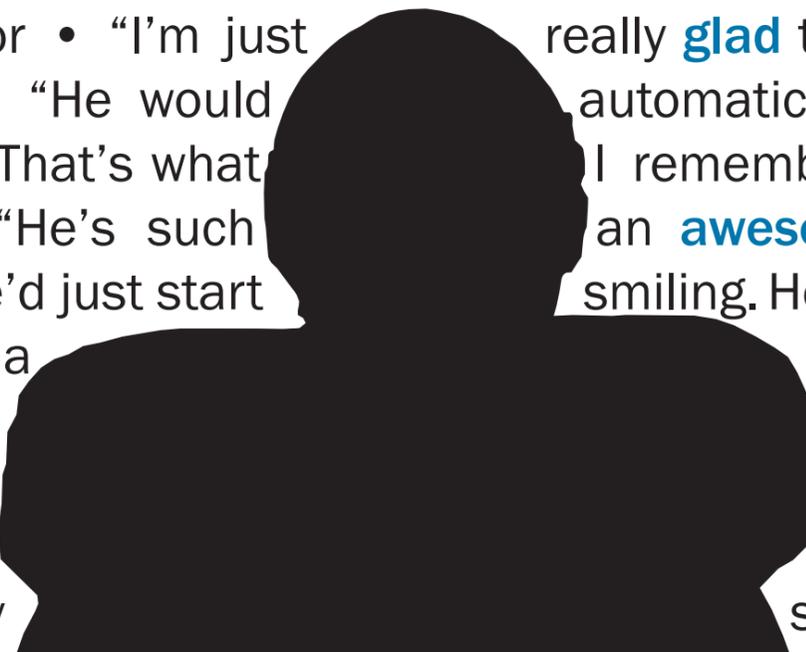
Second, to the Elon administration: Do whatever you can to make conversation around depression and other mental illness as painless as possible. There's going to be pain. Depression is a painful thing. But by doing whatever you can to make those who feel depressed not feel alone, you're making a step in the right direction.

That's what we who are depressed need the most.

Horner graduated from Elon in 2014.

MEMORIES OF DEMITRI

“People like him really made me rethink Elon. He made my time at Elon the **best**.” Soad Ibrahim, junior • “I’m just really **glad** to say I knew him.” Taylor Wilkerson, junior • “He would automatically **brighten** my day, and that’s all I needed. That’s what I remember him most for.” Merit Sharpe, senior • “He’s such an **awesome** person. When he’d walk into a room, he’d just start smiling. He just brought this **warmth** to your **heart**.” Alaina Hall, junior • “The thing that I will never ever forget about him is the way he would **brighten** a room, **brighten** any moment, just one goofy smile.” Emily Roper, junior



Help change Elon for the better

HOW WE SEE IT

Task Force efforts to improve the student experience outside the classroom need student input. Speak up if you want change.

Staff Editorial

There's a lot to like about Elon University. There's also a lot to dislike, as demonstrated by the popularity of Yik Yak and other venues where students are free to vent.

A new task force was created at the beginning of the school year to give students an opportunity to constructively vent. This task force is also acting on students' complaints to improve Elon.

The Presidential Task Force on Campus Social Climate and Out-of-Class Engagement is working toward making the Elon experience better for everyone here, but it can't do it alone.

It's giving students the opportunity to work with the Task Force and by extension, Elon's senior administration, to improve Elon.

So far, it has offered "idea walls" that serve as spaces for students to write their thoughts on what can or needs to change at Elon, two community town halls and small-group interviews, all meant to help the Task Force gather data on students' needs.

But this opportunity is meaningless if students don't take advantage of it. To make Elon better, students need to understand that this is the time to speak up about serious issues at Elon and, most importantly, to be heard.

We have the administration's attention: We need to use it effectively.

Unfortunately, not everyone understands this, as seen on the idea walls. Some students made valid suggestions and expressed real concerns regarding things such as limited dining hours and options for weekend activities.

But others wrote that certain administrators should be fired and that certain populations of campus should be removed. One contributor requested a bar that didn't allow freshmen.

There's a place for jokes. A venue that is meant to give students a say in how their campus changes is not one of them. Making useless comments there is immature and a waste of everyone's time.

There's a difference between complaining and identifying parts of our campus that aren't great and that can be fixed. The former doesn't do anything for anyone, except maybe to serve as a sort of catharsis. The latter contributes toward making positive change happen.

The Task Force needs this kind of information. It needs to know what they can change and what it can make progress toward improving. It needs to know what students don't like or want, but it also needs to know what kinds of solutions students need.

The Task Force is doing what it can. But it

can't gather the data it needs without help from us, the students — who, coincidentally, are the very people this Task Force is intended to help.

The Task Force is asking what students want. It's an effort by the administration to fix the (many) things students find to complain about. The Task Force can only work to fix things it knows about. Students who don't speak up about what could be changed to improve their college experiences can't expect things to get better.

The Task Force's next major effort takes the form of a voluntary survey, which was distributed to all undergraduates Monday.

This survey, according to Jon Dooley, assistant vice president for student life and a co-chair of the Task Force, is the best opportunity for all students to contribute to efforts to change Elon for the better.

And this change can happen as soon as next semester. "There are some early pieces of feedback that we got from students that the university will begin to act on next semester," Dooley said.

This is an opportunity to suggest ways social life and out-of-class experiences at Elon can change. It's a chance to point out problem areas on campus that the members of the Task Force may not be aware of, or to remind them of things that still need to be fixed. It's an opportunity for constructive criticism, not whining.

In their Nov. 4 letter to the editor, Task Force co-chairs Naemah Clark, associate professor of communications, and Dooley wrote, "Take the first step in helping us help you create your life story."

We couldn't have put it better ourselves.

PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL CLIMATE AND OUT-OF-CLASS ENGAGEMENT

- Co-chairs: Naemah Clark and Jon Dooley
- Members include 28 faculty and staff members and students from various communities across campus
- Contact socialclimate@elon.edu with any questions
- Go to www.elon.edu/socialclimate for more information

Letter to the Editor: Why weren't we told about a ticketed Commencement?



Kristen DeMaria
Senior

Since last year, there were rumors going around that graduation may be affected by the construction on the new communications building. But those were just rumors.

My class never received any form of official communications from Provost House, Jeffrey Clark or the Senior Class Officers — the people behind this decision — about this issue, and instead heard from our parents that grad-

uation would be ticketed.

For a university known for its communications school, I hoped to receive better and more transparent communication from the administrators and student leaders involved in making decisions about graduation.

Not only do I take issue with the fact that this was never communicated directly with the students, but more importantly, that these decision-makers displayed such a clear lack of transparency in making this decision.

How many seats of the 14,500 that were set up for graduation this past year would be lost due to the construction? How did they decide on giving each student four tickets for his or her family? Why was the senior class not told this was an issue before a decision was made and communicated with our families?

These are just some of the many questions that my fellow senior classmates and I deserve to have answered.

Yes, they gave us the opportunity to vote on a choice between two locations, but even then, how were those choices selected? Did they consider holding graduation in a larger area like Rhodes Stadium?

While I am certainly not advocating for the latter option because I have been looking forward to graduating Under the Oaks for the last three years, the decision should have been transparent. Giving seniors the choice between two options, one of which is clearly relayed in a biased manner, is not acceptable.

And sending out what might now be premature and inaccurate communications to our families is a waste of time and money for all parties involved.

So now I ask all of these people to re-evaluate their decision making process and place themselves in the shoes of the rest of the senior class.

Would they appreciate hearing rumors and secondhand infor-



FILE PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL
Elon's Commencement ceremony has typically taken place Under the Oaks. Construction on the new School of Communications building is limiting the space available to graduating students' families and friends.

mation, and yet still be expected to know what is going on with graduation? Would they appreciate having their voices treated as an afterthought and only a response to negative feedback?

That is how they are treating the Class of 2016. The next time they are making a decision that directly involves me, they need to tell me directly and give me the opportunity to provide my input.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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

#MondaySessions bring covers to Youtube

Senior grows fan base after LA internship with music production

Alexandra Schonfeld
Senior Reporter

Senior Taylor DeBlock has always had a passion for music, but when he stepped on campus freshman year he was set to be a business major.

That was the plan until sophomore year when DeBlock was on a weekend retreat and was asked about his career path.

"A guy who worked there asked me, 'What are you studying?,' DeBlock said.

DeBlock answered and received the simple question of 'why?' to which DeBlock didn't have a response. The man then asked, "What's your passion?"

"Music, always has been," DeBlock said.

That weekend, DeBlock changed his major to music production and never looked back.

Pursuing a passion

Growing up, DeBlock was always singing. He was in choir all throughout high school and an elite chamber choir.

With a passion for both performing and producing music, DeBlock traveled across the country with Elon in LA this past summer to gain more experience in the business.

After arriving in LA without an internship lined up, DeBlock made plans to meet up with a friend of his parents who lived there.

They agreed to go to a Bible study that was started for celebrities. Members of the group include Justin Bieber, the Kardashian sisters

and many more, lead by pastor Judah Smith.

DeBlock befriended Smith and his friends, which is how DeBlock ended up at dinner with Justin Mayo, executive director of Red Eye, a nonprofit that works to help lower class youth achieve their dreams, who knows almost everyone in the business.

After learning DeBlock didn't have an internship yet, Mayo pulled out his phone to help.

"He said, 'I can probably get you an internship, hold on' and he takes out his phone and takes a picture of me," DeBlock said. "He texts his friend and asked me if I knew who Rodney Jerkins was."

Rodney Jerkins is one of the biggest producers in Hollywood. Known by his stage name "Dark-Child," Jerkins has worked on tracks for everyone from Michael Jackson to Beyonce, including Justin Bieber's "As Long as You Love Me."

Mayo quickly showed DeBlock's resume to Jerkins and he told Mayo that he would get back to him.

A week later while sitting in his apartment, DeBlock received a text from Mayo asking him if he could get to Jerkins' house in 30 minutes.

"I got ready in two seconds, jumped in the car and drove over there," DeBlock said. "I was in Burbank, and he was in Calabasas. So, I got there and went through security — he lives in the same neighborhood as Kanye and the Kardashians."

After an introduction of his name only, Jerkins hired DeBlock as an intern for the summer and didn't interact much with him after.

DeBlock was told he would be



Taylor DeBlock sings in a recording studio for his cover of 'Omen' by Sam Smith on his channel TaylorDeBlockMusic.

getting coffee and to not expect much. But he got more out of the experience than he imagined.

"[Jerkins] only said his name, that was it for two weeks," DeBlock said. "I mostly talked to his engineer and with time we got really close."

Once he began interning, DeBlock got to be hands-on in the control room working on music.

"The first day he had me tracking out beats into Protools [a music mixing software]. I got hands-on experience," DeBlock said. "I think he made 130 beats in the time that I was there. In my last week, he actually had me write a song for one of his beats."

Building a fan base

DeBlock has plans to move back to Los Angeles after graduation and hopefully work with Jerkins and his team again. Elon's music

production program also gave him a good foundation.

He said it goes beyond what you learn in the studio and allows for a more hands on experience.

"A lot of it is owning it on your own — learning it, teaching yourself, practicing, recording musicians," DeBlock said.

DeBlock, a member of Rip_Chord, Elon's all-male a cappella, decided with graduation approaching, it was time to build up a fan base. In the spring, he will be releasing his first EP, but leading up to that, he has begun his own YouTube channel TaylorDeBlockMusic, where he posts covers every Monday as a part of #MondaySessions.

"I wanted to build up a fan base or just some people that would be able to see it and not just 'Facebook friends, check this out,'" he said, "I knew that YouTube was a great avenue to reach a lot of people. It's a lot

of fun, I love doing it."

DeBlock films and edits music videos for each cover, with the help of other students. Sophomore Kellcee Batchelor, collaborator and friend, has been featured in a few videos.

"[Professors] will tell you all the time it's a really interpersonal business, it's really about putting yourself out there so people can get behind you," Batchelor said. "I think that's what Taylor has been doing lately, what I've been doing, what we've been doing together. Creating content to put out there so other people can tap into it."

His video for "Hello" by Adele, featuring sophomore Rosemary Joaquin was the first time one of his videos reached over 9,000 views.

"Typically it's a few hundred, or a couple thousand tops," DeBlock said. "But, it's getting a lot more recognition with time, so that's cool."

Small House creates 'Jazz Jams'

Caroline Perry
Senior Reporter

Many students walk into The Oak House expecting a relaxing and comfortable place to hang out with friends and decompress. What many customers don't realize is that if they walk into the coffee shop on the first Friday of the month, they can expect jazz music from Small House.

Small House is a jazz band comprised of six Elon University students. Senior Brandon Mitchell, one of the band's members, always had aspirations to start a band.

Once they begun comprising

original pieces, they got their first gig at The Oak House — "First Friday Jazz Jams."

"It's been good so far because people are really coming by to show their support," Mitchell said.

Small House started as a collaboration between Mitchell, senior Jack Garno and sophomore Brandon Atwell.

"We all shared an interest in playing jazz and the like, so we figured we'd start writing and performing originals together since both of the Brandon's already had a few songs in the works," Garno said.

The band describes themselves

as jazz fusion with a touch of many types of different music.

"We pull our influences from bebop, Latin, funk, blues, rock, R&B and numerous other genres," Garno said. "We fuse all these together to produce colorful arrangements."

The band's members all contribute something unique to their sound. Mitchell plays vibes, piano and percussion. Garno plays bass. Atwell plays vibes, piano and percussion. Sophomore Carey Bina plays alto sax. Hampton Smith plays drums. Freshman Andrew Trautmann plays guitar. Sophomore David Williams plays keys.

"Our sound palette is expanding alongside the music," Garno said.

For its Friday performances, Small House follows a loose routine. First, the band plays some of their original compositions.

"Now we have around 10 original compositions that are constantly evolving, with more on the way," Garno said.

Then, after taking a short break, they open the floor up to anyone who wants to collaborate.

"Vocalists can sing with us, instrumentalists," Mitchell said. "From there we branch out and do whatever people want to do. We kind of like to reach back to the community and

reach back to other musicians."

Because of this the three original members added three more.

"The addition of new musicians who play different instruments and bring their own unique influences to the table helps keep ourselves and our audiences interested and inspired," Garno said.

One of Small House's purposes is to remain connected with those who listen.

"Jazz in general is a universal language," Mitchell said. "It really does bring people together. We're really trying to focus on the community aspect. We're trying to introduce this music to people. We want people to share this experience with us because it really is an experience for us too."

Mitchell, a music performance major with a concentration in percussion, has been collaborating with members of the band for a while.

He met Garno, another member of the band, the very first day he came to Elon.

"We had Elon 101 together," Mitchell said. "For the first year we just played basketball together. But then we ended up getting in the same ensembles and musical groups. That's when we really started our musical relationship together."

The group's name came from a play on of the small size of the music department.

"Our music department here at Elon is pretty small and so we're really personal with each other in the department," he said. "We were always collaborating, even before Small House started. We each had this idea that we're a small house but we're promoting big ideas."

So far, the group has had two Jazz Jams. They plan on playing during December and Winter Term as well. The Jazz Jams have given the band a good foundation for their future careers.

"We're looking to record an album over winter term and hopefully have it ready to go by spring semester," Mitchell said.

The group is planning on using the new recording studios on campus at Arts West, said Garno.

"At that point we might try to get out and tour a little bit. We might try to go to Raleigh or the Greensboro area and really try to see where this all goes," Mitchell said.

The group still plans on continuing to perform at The Oak House.

"The Jazz Jams have been very successful and fun so far, so were excited to keep doing them," Garno said.



Small House performs jazz at The Oak House every first Friday of the month.

Overcoming injury for solo performance

After vocal chord surgery, music education major sings again

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor

On Nov. 18, 2014, senior Krystee Cross went into surgery for her vocal chords. On Nov. 18, 2015, she will perform her senior recital at 7:30 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium.

During her sophomore year, Cross, a music education major with a concentration in vocal performance, found she was having trouble producing sound and it was painful to sing — a result of cheer-leading for 14 years without using proper vocal technique, which overworked her voice.

After a visit to Duke Medical Center in fall 2012, when doctors found a nodule and polyps on her vocal chords, Cross went through six weeks of intensive speech therapy. She was required to take a semester off, but the therapy allowed her to sing for another year. It looked like everything was back to normal. But in October, the pain returned, and Cross needed to go into surgery.

“They told me going into surgery that there was a 50-50 chance I’d never sing again, and I was terrified,” Cross said. “I couldn’t talk for a week after surgery — you can’t say a word. I went back a week later and they said, ‘You can talk now,’ and I just started crying because I was so happy.”

Cross has been working toward this performance since her freshman year, a requirement to complete her major.

For the recital, Cross plans to sing in five different languages and across music eras. The performance will begin with Italian from a Baroque opera by Handel, then move into a German lieder by Hugo Wolf and sev-



Krystee Cross practices her repertoire with an accompanist days before her senior recital.

eral songs in French, Spanish and English.

“We just always knew that we had to do more than just English in our recitals,” Cross said. “So, it’s a lot of score study and learning the translations in English and then trying to relate that to what your singing. It makes it a lot easier to know the meaning of it.”

The songs were chosen by Cross’s applied teacher Beth Carter, adjunct lecturer in music. Each fits the requirements of the recital and highlights Cross’s vocal abilities.

The last song Cross will sing is called “Lorey’s Song,” which talks about the future and of graduating — fitting in with

Cross’s situation as she prepares to receive her degree.

“I chose them because they are challenging in many ways, but I felt they would display clearly what is most beautiful in Krystee’s voice,” Carter said. “I think Krystee’s voice is a lovely instrument — it is very clear, and has music in it.”

Despite her injury, Carter believes Cross got back on track with the care and guidance of Duke Voice Wellness Center as well as her determination to heal her voice. According to Carter, Cross’s vocal exercises have to be done consistently, in order to retrain the muscles.

Outside of the music education de-

partment, Cross has been involved with the University Chorale, elan and Camerata. She has also begun teaching students from kindergarten to eighth grade in the Burlington area with Music in the Village, where students learn piano, music technology, choir and percussion.

“I’ve loved music my entire life,” Cross said. “I’ve been singing since the day I could talk and I had never thought of actually pursuing music until I got to high school, which is where I met my choir director, who I want to be.”

Originally, Cross was planning on pursuing musical performance, but her choir director encouraged her to consider music education as a backup because she would still be able to potentially perform in the future with an education background.

Cross, who has been surrounded by kids her entire life — both her mom and sister are preschool teachers — decided it was a better path for her.

“I really love working with kids and I love seeing the passion that kids have for music and finding the kids who really want to do it,” Cross said. “I guess seeing what my teacher saw in me, I love seeing that in my kids.”

After graduation, Cross hopes to return to her hometown in Wake County and hopefully get in a job at her old high school, where she is still in contact with her old choir director, or at least still teach in the area.

For now, she is patiently waiting for her solo performance.

“I worked really hard — we’ve all worked really hard for recitals,” Cross said. “It’s not something you can do without trying. It’s been a long time coming.”

Students show off songwriting in Electric Ensemble

Ally Feinsot
Senior Reporter

Elon University’s Elon Electric Ensemble will present its Fall Songwriter Showcase at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 in McCrary Theatre. Students will perform original music, including indie, pop, rock and folk songs.

This is the fourth year that the ensemble will hold a fall showcase solely featuring original music.

Students have taken composing classes to help develop their songwriting skills, such as “The Art of Song Craft,” which focuses more on the musician side of the in-

dustry, and a composition and orchestration class, in which students learn how to write for an orchestra and to compose classical music.

Todd Coleman, associate professor of music and director of Electric Ensemble, said students begin by coming up with lyrics and the basic chord structure and melody.

“We will sit down and discuss, ‘Do you imagine having drums, bass, background vocals?’ and we work with the songwriter but also heavily on the musicianship of the people in the ensemble,” Coleman said.

The ensemble was created in fall

2009 after Coleman realized that music production majors did not have many performing opportunities outside typical ensembles, like orchestra and band.

For their first concert that year, the ensemble’s performance was called “The Birth of MTV,” an ode to the early 1980s. The group will also perform cover concerts in the spring, a great educational opportunity, to Coleman.

“A lot of students in our program have had the experience of playing in a band before, but they tend to play slightly simplified generic versions rather than really learning the details that make the songs amazing,” Coleman said. “I try and pick genres and styles of music that will benefit them that way.”

Before attending Elon, junior Brooke Greenberg found a video on YouTube of a performance from the ensemble. She knew she wanted to pursue music and perform her original songs, so she auditioned for the ensemble her freshman year.

“I get to come to class and play my own music and my peers’ music, which is what I imagined college would be like coming in as a music major,” Greenberg said.

Greenberg will perform her original work in the upcoming showcase with a new perspective on songwriting she gained this summer while interning in Nashville.

When she began writing songs

in eighth grade, she focused on writing pop and up-tempo music. After discovering different genres of music while in Nashville, she was inspired to write deeper lyrics and more intricate guitar parts.

“I heard what other people in the professional field were writing and how it sounded so much more professional, so I tried to mimic that and use them as inspiration,” Greenberg said.

Greenberg’s song writing process begins with a chord progression on her guitar. She then adds a melody and sings gibberish, and often a lyric will come to her.

“Sometimes I start with a title because then I know exactly what the song will be about,” she said. “My song on iTunes, ‘You Already Knew,’ I came up with the title first and the melody for the verse and eventually was able to fill in lyrics.”

Senior Addison Horner is a part of several other ensembles, including Camerata, elan, marching band, and Elon Music Ambassadors, but the electric ensemble is the closest thing Elon has to a rock band for him.

“Electric Ensemble has the most pop-rock set up,” Horner said. “It is the only ensemble where I can take actual music that I have written and perform it in a full band setting.”

Coleman said the most rewarding aspect of directing the ensemble

is seeing students’ growth over time.

“Different light bulbs come on about what makes a decent song idea an actual great performance,” Coleman said.

He also said that the ensemble gives students an opportunity to be exposed to a variety of music, such as performing a fall country concert.

“Country is an acquired taste, but the students really engaged in the material and had a good time,” he said. “There’s this notion that there’s good and artistry in all kinds of music.”

Horner has been a member of Electric Ensemble since his freshman year, and has been with some of the members for the past four years.

“The chance to have that interaction with them and watching songs grow and develop over time has been a really incredible way to bond with people,” Horner said.

Greenberg said the ensemble gives her the ability to bring her songs to life. When composing a song, it is just Greenberg and her guitar — but when she brings it into the ensemble, instruments like bass and drums and vocal harmonies bring the song to life.

“It is so cool to see my vision for a song and how it evolves and eventually becomes the song that we perform,” she said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AAASE Author of the Month
Alamance 302B, 12 p.m. Nov. 18

Krystee Cross Senior Recital
Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 18

Hunger Games Premiere
‘Mockingjay Part II’
Carousel Cinemas, 9 p.m. Nov. 19

Elon Electric Ensemble
‘Fall Songwriter Showcase’
McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20

From shot to safe on US soil

Professor remembers experiences as Bosnian refugee

Alyssa Potter
Reporter

Aleks Babic, adjunct instructor in public health studies and human service studies, said some of their happiest childhood memories were when an underground bomb shelter served as their family's home. When the bombing was too heavy, their neighbors would come to the shelter.

Beds filled with friends, jokes filled the room with chatter as evenings took place under candlelit card games while the outside world physically blew up around them.

"Those were the happiest times for me, especially when my family was all there and accounted for," said Babic, who prefers the pronoun they.

Babic was born and raised in Sarajevo, Bosnia, which, at the time, was a republic in Yugoslavia. The first 11 years of Babic's life were split between being a kid, being a survivor of war and escaping their home in search of asylum.

Living in wartime

Before the war, the family spent their days playing tennis and taking afternoon walks. Before the war, they spent months going to the beach and away-camps. Before the war, they had a childhood free from gunshots, death and displacement.

The war began part-way through Babic's first-grade school year and havoc ensued soon after.

"I was shot soon after the war started," Babic said.

After Babic was shot, their mother rarely allowed the children to go outside, confining them to life in a bomb shelter.

At age 9, already a gunshot survivor, Babic received more devastating news — they had lost their best friend.

"For me, that reality was so present because I was shot at the beginning of the war and I remember not understanding why I had survived and my best friend had not," they said.

Babic said they still don't understand, nor do they have any answers — answers to why, at age 9, they were processing death under the pretense that they could very well perish next, along with anyone and everyone else they knew.

"Being shot sounds terrible, and it is, but really the devastating part — assuming that you survive — is all of the toll that it takes on your family who has to care for you without resources and the fact that you're not able to run or carry anything," they said.

Resources were of paramount importance during war, Babic said, given frequent bombings and house raids.

"There is never a moment of

certainty that nothing terrible will happen," Babic said.

The road to freedom

Babic and their family used to go on vacation in Croatia, but during the war they found temporary safety in their seaside escape.

"We did not have documented status so we were essentially 'tourists,'" Babic said.

If they did not find asylum somewhere within a fairly short period of time, Babic said they would've been forced to go back to Bosnia.

They didn't go back.

Instead, Babic and the rest of their young, able-bodied family were selected to go through application for asylum in the United States.

But the hard part was nowhere near over. There were several interviews located throughout Croatia.

"We were lucky enough to have an extended family member who was able to help us get there each time, otherwise we wouldn't have had a chance of being interviewed," they said.

After getting cleared, Babic and their family flew to the United States with nearly nothing. No furniture, no household items. They did, though, have a three-year debt to pay.

When they flew, they didn't pay for their tickets — the U.S. government did. They had three years to pay back that cost of the tickets.

So, immediately upon arriving as refugees, Babic's parents had to get jobs in a country where they didn't speak the language, build a new life and hope to make enough money to pay back the plane ticket.

Babic's family was lucky enough to have a sponsoring agency that paid for their housing for three months and allowed Babic's parents to go to Guilford Technical Community College to learn English.

"This was a relatively short time to adapt to living under entirely new circumstances after just having left a war," they said. "I remember — and I've heard this story from so many others — ducking at the sound of backfiring cars or fireworks. It takes a long time for both the mind and the body to start believing that the new safety is real. At the same time, everything and everyone around is so new and unknown."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEKS BABIC
Aleks Babic, at age 12, poses outside the Food Lion in Greensboro, which they often walked to, since they often had no form of transportation.

Becoming a professor

After graduating from Guilford College, Babic became an instructor.

"I had wonderful professors as models for what it might mean to do fulfilling work," they said.

Babic found gratification in teaching. They loved learning and collaborating with others in their undergraduate experience, which led them down the path to becoming a professor.

"I am certain that this kind of work will offer me lifelong learning opportunities," Babic said.

But not everyone gets positive opportunities. Not every human fleeing war gets a safe and happy ending, as the media is showing with the present Syrian refugee crisis.

"One thing that is unique about the Syrian conflict is that the faces of the Syrian refugees have been at the forefront of media conversations," Babic said.

Tens of thousands of refugees are arriving in Europe from war-stricken, death-ridden areas — desperate for safety.

In public health, Babic said they talk about preventing a problem before it begins so, while the United States and Europe can focus on providing aid and stability to those without, they can also continue to focus on how to prevent global conflict that results in refugees in the

first place.

"It's important to remember that no nation is simply all good or all bad," Babic said, noting that during their time embalmed in war in Bosnia, Serbia was painted as savage for attempting to ethnically cleanse the nation of Bosnia.

Twenty years later, Serbia is now accepting refugees rather than being a catalyst in creating them.

Greensboro, too, is taking in refugees. It is a refugee resettlement site, which is currently serving a number of Syrian refugees. Babic said Elon should consider about how to help.

"How will Elon serve the local refugees?" they said. "How can current students contribute towards creating a space for refugees that have not even arrived? To feign concrete understanding can be an insult, but it doesn't mean that we can't try to understand history, and learn about and care for each other in a deep way."

A few years after coming to the United States, Babic and their dad were in an elevator. Someone else came in, and started to chat about how terrible it was that they lost electricity the night before.

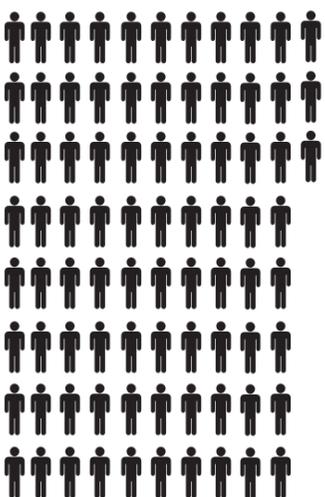
"Yes, it's terrible — we didn't have electricity for three years," Babic's father replied, demonstrating the impossibility of imagining what is outside the scope of how we understand and interact with the world outside our colonized land.

BOSNIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

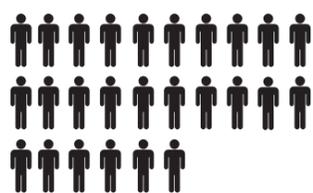
1992-2000

During the Bosnian War, over 2 million people were displaced within the country and abroad, seeking asylum.

Each  represents 100,000 people



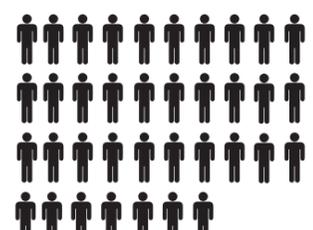
830,000 refugees internally displaced in 1999



263,000 refugees internally displaced in 2000



250,000 refugees displaced abroad at the end of 2000



369,000 refugees returned to Bosnia between 1995 and the end of 2000.

Source: U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Report, June 2001

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Elon Eats is a review of local restaurants surrounding Elon University.

Lea Silverman
Senior Reporter

Elon University students can be found flocking to many different restaurants in the Burlington area on weekend mornings to recover from a long school week and weekend nights. But there is one hidden gem on West Webb Avenue in Burlington, where more locals than students can be found.

Next to Salvage Sisters, a thrift store, and Audio Tech is a small, barely noticeable restaurant. From its run-down exterior, it's questionable if Grill Worx is even still open.

Though the outside isn't extremely inviting, the waitstaff at Grill Worx welcomes customers with Southern hospitality and the smell of greasy food. Because the restaurant is a bit small and unassuming, the large plates of delicious food contrast well to create a more relaxed dining experience.

The menu, which boasts all-day breakfast, is full of typical diner comfort foods. There are burgers, omelets, sandwiches and Southern barbecue dishes. The barbecue is not a dish that you might find at other diners, but it adds some variety to the menu, making Grill Worx more special to the loyal locals.

Grill Worx also has loads of sides — including baked apples, mac and cheese, green beans and mashed potatoes — that complement any meal at any time of the day.

Though the restaurant is not as classy or trendy as hotspots in Greensboro or Chapel Hill, it is one of the more popular places for Elon students to venture out to find brunch. The bland ambiance does not distract from the dining experience and the commute time is much better with less of a chance of traffic.

"It has a great atmosphere and great chocolate chip pancakes," said sophomore Sydney Dielmann.

Dielmann loves Grill Worx for

its food and friendly staff, who she said take orders with a smile.

The restaurant is filled with local regulars, making it an escape from the hoards of Elon students, giving it the feel of Luke's Diner in Stars Hollow from *Gilmore Girls*.

"I love how at Grill Worx you get a small town diner feel and great breakfast food at an affordable price for college students," said sophomore Kristen Bellini, who eats at the restaurant about once a month.

But those in a rush should not count on Grill Worx for quick service. The food can take a while to be served, but should not be inhaled as well.

Most meals are around \$6 or \$7, making it the perfect place to splurge on calories but not break the bank. Grill Worx is open on weekdays and on weekends for brunch and lunch until 3 p.m.

"The food is good and I like that it is a little bit homier than some other restaurants," said sophomore



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Grill Worx offers a variety of breakfast foods including a greasy omelette.

Nicole Pantaleone. "It is a good alternative to Lakeside brunch, especially now that Colonnades doesn't have a brunch,"

Though it's great for some good, greasy food and relaxing on the weekends, Grill Worx can get crowded. But during the week, the restaurant is more empty and allows for a calm atmosphere.

There are two additional loca-

tions apart from the Burlington location on 1233 W. Webb Ave. for loyal patrons and adventurous people alike. There is one location in Graham at 614 W. Harden Street and in Mebane at 528 W. Center Street.

No matter which location you go to, you can expect the same type of food and atmosphere from Grill Worx.

Awarded for community service

Student's dedication, engagement honored at state conference

Danielle Deavens
Senior Reporter

Senior Noah Sakin was a normal, highly involved Elon University student: He went about his day as a Leadership Fellow, Elon Volunteers! student leader and risk manager for his fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau.

But on Nov. 9, his face was splashed across the front page of E-Net under the headline, "Elon senior Noah Sakin honored for community service." Though Sakin was glad to receive the award, the coverage of this award took him by surprise.

"It's weird and sort of can be uncomfortable because I didn't realize it was going to be on E-Net and all this stuff," he said. "I just sort of thought it was to represent the Kernodle Center, Elon Volunteers!, Safe Rides, Alternative Breaks, the things that I'm a part of. I guess ultimately it is still about getting the word out about Elon Volunteers!"

North Carolina Campus Compact recognized Sakin with the 2015 Community Impact Award, which was given to student leaders from 21 colleges and universities across the state, honoring them for outstanding service in their campus and local communities.

At the Campus Compact conference earlier this month, Sakin joined an elite group of student service leaders — since the award's first class of recipients in 2006, there have been more than 200 Campus Compact Community Impact Award recipients. In addition to the awards ceremony, students who attended the conference had an opportunity to fellowship and network with students leading unique service projects on campuses all over North Carolina.

"I really liked going to the conference where they gave out the awards because we got to see what other people were doing at different schools," Sakin said. "It was really inspirational because their campuses are different than ours and they have different needs, local communities and people are really taking what they have and running with it in their local communities."

Though Sakin has been involved in service throughout his college career, he was not initially expecting to be nominated for the award. When the staff adviser for Safe Rides asked



HALEY LONGBOTTOM | Photographer

Noah Sakin, left, drives Safe Rides with Alli Wheeler. He is a member of their executive board.

him for his resume, he had some idea — but not that the Kernodle Center staff viewed him as a great candidate for the award.

Bob Frigo, associate director of Elon's Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, is the staff member who nominated Sakin for the Campus Compact Award.

"Noah has a deep commitment to partnership with others," Frigo said in an interview with University Communications. "Since he first arrived at Elon, he has really gone above and beyond."

Early commitment to service

Sakin holds multiple leadership positions in the Kernodle Center. He is head captain of Safe Rides, a position that puts him on the executive board, making decisions about the future of a program that is currently experiencing severe budget cuts.

Sakin was recently hired as director of Alternative Breaks, a program that sends students off campus to do service projects instead of going on vacation during breaks throughout the academic year. Though Sakin supervises program coordinators, the student leaders plan every detail.

"I just sort of oversee the coordinators, I don't do any of the planning," he said. "They're

student-led programs that focus on different social issues both domestically and internationally and they provide opportunities for people to apply and go on these programs and work on a specific social issue in a specific area."

Last year, Sakin went on his first alternative break. He traveled with a group of students and a student coordinator to Jacksonville, Florida, where they worked with immigrants and refugees. This was his only experience on an alternative break before overseeing the entire program, but he has been volunteering for Safe Rides since his freshman year.

"Safe rides has been my biggest thing," he said. "The fact that you're engaging with the entire student body and that it's open for every student to use. It's really cool that we get university vehicles and they trust us with those to operate and move a couple hundred people around campus every night. It's a sort of freedom, but a lot of responsibility too."

Leadership and service intersect

As a Human Service Studies major and Leadership Studies minor, Sakin has experienced two major aspects of community involvement. He finds that these areas of study collide often in his engagement both in and out of the classroom.

Studying leadership and being involved in

leadership fellows, you really get to learn those skills, how to plan something and make it work," he said. "Leading a reflection is something we do a lot in EV! [Elon Volunteers!] and it's something that I've learned how to do through EV! and also through leadership."

One of the greatest challenges, Sakin said, is keeping everyone engaged no matter why they initially got involved. In Sakin's experience with Safe Rides, there is usually a mixture of students volunteering their time and students who are there as a punishment for misconduct.

"How do I get that group to interact and engage and realize that no matter why you're there, you need to be enjoying this for us to be successful?" he often asks himself. "How do I help you enjoy it?"

Much of the reflection he participates in is from his coursework through leadership studies, a minor program that Leadership Fellows complete. When Sakin applied for the fellows program, he was mostly focused on the personal development opportunities the program would offer through relationships with other fellows.

"It's a core group of people who are going to be inspiring," he said. "It's always good to surround yourself with those kinds of people, who are going to be involved, sometimes over-involved, pushing you to do things. They're still your first friends at Elon, no matter what."

Before he came to Elon, Sakin had limited involvement with service because there were very few specific opportunities. When he visited campus, he saw the Moseley tables as a testament to the level of engagement that is expected of students.

"Elon has the environment that allows you to get involved and to do things that you want to do and take on leadership roles and make programs your own," he said.

In addition to other fellows, his fraternity and his friends, Sakin finds a great deal of support in Kernodle Center professional and student staff.

"Everyone who's involved in the service office, they make you want to keep going back and they figure out leadership positions that you'd be good for," he said. "They'll keep you involved and they're so passionate. It's just somewhere that you want to be."

Men's soccer returns to NCAA tournament

Struggling team will host Winthrop in the first round



Senior defender Nathan Diehl (19) celebrates his game-winning goal Oct. 31. JACK HARTMANN/Staff Photographer

Jordan Spritzer
Assistant Sports Editor

Senior midfielder James Brace grew increasingly nervous as the NCAA Men's Soccer tournament selection show neared its end, considering Elon University hadn't been announced.

Out of the 48 teams who made the tournament, Elon was the 46th announced, sending a wave of comfort through the team's racing hearts.

"When our name came out there was excitement, but a little bit of relief at the same time," Brace said. "It was a little nerve-wracking at the end, but I felt as a team we did enough during the season and we had a good chance."

After a one-year absence, the Phoenix will host Big South Conference champion Winthrop University Thursday in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The team awaiting the winner of Thursday's match is No. 2 Clemson University, the school Elon defeated in the first round in 2013.

While Elon expected to find themselves in this position before the start of the season, the Phoenix has limped its way to this spot, winning just one of its last five matches. Elon lost to Duke

University, No. 24-ranked Hofstra University, Radford University and the University of Delaware in a penalty shootout in the semi-finals of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) tournament. Elon's lone win during that stretch was a 1-0 overtime victory over College of Charleston.

Elon's offense struggled during the final stretch of the season, scoring four goals in its last five matches and getting shutout in two of the contests. During the Phoenix's program-record seven match winning streak to start the season, Elon scored 20 times and conceded only three goals, keeping five clean sheets.

Despite the recent struggles, head coach Chris Little said Elon's 13-5-1 record is a fair reflection of how the team played throughout the season. Little said the team has actually improved in some aspects, and the results have just not gone in their favor.

"In our last two games [against] Radford and Delaware, I thought we were the better team in both games," he said. "I thought we did a lot of things really well."

Little said it would have been easy for the team to accept defeat after falling behind 2-0 to Delaware and said he learned a lot about the team's character as he

watched Elon score twice in the second half to force overtime.

Brace said it was harsh to be eliminated in a penalty shootout but said the team can take a lot from the chances Elon created throughout the second half and both overtime periods.

"It would have been nice to make it to the CAA final, but it may be a blessing that we get an extra two days' training before the game on Thursday," he said.

Brace said he expects training to be business as usual, with Little having planned accordingly for a first round match tournament contest.

Winthrop has been on an opposite trajectory, losing only once in its last 13 matches. The Eagles won the Big South regular season and conference tournament titles after starting the season with five losses in its first six matches. Winthrop's defense has been particularly stout, holding all opponents scoreless in the month of November.

Winthrop head coach Rich Posipanko also is set to retire after his 27th and final year with the Eagles.

"He's obviously gone out on a real high [so far] and I'm sure they'll be trying to win for him," Little said.

Confident Thompson ready to become star 2-way player

Wesley Share
Senior Reporter

It was a revelation of a game for Elon University men's basketball sophomore guard Dmitri Thompson Nov. 13. In the season-opening 85-74 victory against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Thompson finished with a team-leading and career-high 21 points, shooting 9-of-12 from the field, with eight boards and two steals in 21 minutes.

Thompson played a modest role in his freshman season as a quiet but stout defensive cog. But he was able to flash some offensive production at Charlotte thanks to some timely backdoor cuts and good pressure defensively.

But there was also a palpable newfound sense of confidence about Thompson when he had the ball in his hands. He was putting the ball on the floor and driving to the hoop, and even let two shots fly from behind the arc.

"[Dmitri's] getting better," said head coach Matt Matheny. "And I thought, for the most part, he took the right shots [on Friday]. I think that's a marked improvement for him and for our team. It's the confidence that our offense, if executed properly, will get you shots."

Thompson says that the increased confidence is the biggest change in his game from last season.

"[To be able to have] the confidence to

do it, and do it consistently [is the biggest change]," Thompson said. "You know, I just hope to have a big year. Especially defensively, I want to be very good defensively obviously. But yeah, [on offense], I've been working on my game a lot, especially the confidence aspect."

Matheny preaches a process that leads to unmitigated conviction. Friday night, he spoke at length about the unfazed confidence in freshman guard Dainan Swoope, but his thoughts can be attributed to the mindset of any player.

"I believe that if you prepare, that gives you confidence. And we talk to our players about that a lot," Matheny said. "We have prepared, and we have worked, and our players have gained confidence from our preparation. And, it definitely helps to have played in August [in Europe]."

Thompson remains the humble but stalwart defensive piece, and has focused his goals on making the All-Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Defensive First Team. But his recent improvements on the other end of the court

could add an entirely new dimension to his game, and may make him the legitimate two-way threat Elon hopes he can be.

Matheny says Thompson's scoring outburst against Charlotte was "just system stuff," but putting the stat sheet aside, it wasn't difficult to see a fresh demeanor about Thompson. With the confidence he had in the opener, he has the potential to become Elon's most integral two-way piece.

"I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY GAME A LOT, ESPECIALLY THE CONFIDENCE ASPECT."

DMITRI THOMPSON
SOPHOMORE GUARD



Sophomore guard Dmitri Thompson (2) drives for a layup in Elon's season-opening win Nov. 13. ASHLEY KING/Staff Photographer

Seniors leave behind memories of leadership

Injuries, conference change highlight three departing volleyball players' careers



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elon University volleyball seniors Catherine Head (7), Ana Nicksic (10) and Megan Gravley (3) celebrated Senior Day against Northeastern University Nov. 15. Elon swept the Huskies 3-0.

Kyle Lubinsky
Senior Reporter

When the Elon University volleyball team took the court at Alumni Gym Sunday for the final time this season, only one of three seniors was healthy enough to play.

Middle blocker Catherine Head recorded six kills and five blocks in her last match for the Phoenix, a 3-0 sweep of Northeastern University.

Fellow seniors setter Ana Nicksic and outside hitter Megan Gravley both started the contest, but each had to return to the bench before a single point was played because of injuries.

But this year's senior class offered much more than just numbers on the stat sheet. The group has provided leadership, going through two seasons in the Southern Conference (SoCon) before making the change to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) ahead of the 2014 season.

"The leadership that they have given to this program is just incredible," said head coach Mary Tendler. "Not just to the program, but to the athletic department and university. They're just natural leaders."

The leadership has made a major impact on the underclassmen who will continue on for the Phoenix.

"Last year coming in as a freshman, they were the juniors," said sophomore outside hitter Sydney Busa. "They really just took us under their wing. They were our big sisters last year, and I think that bond formed across all last year and this year it's really strong."

Improving year after year

Head played in 21 games during her freshman season, starting four. She finished the season with 34 blocks, and had a season-best nine blocks against Appalachian State University.

As a sophomore, the Kernersville native

became a major contributor on defense. She finished the season fourth on the team in blocks, with 51, and third on the team in blocks per set. She also provided a presence on offense for the Phoenix, finishing the season with 60 kills.

As a junior, Head provided solid output on both offense and defense. Although she only played in 23 matches, she led the team

starting all but one. She led the team with 1,080 assists, putting her fourth all-time on Elon's record list in Division I play and seventh overall all in the SoCon for the season.

Nicksic also led the team with 26 aces on the season. Her best match came against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she recorded a career-high 55 assists in four sets. Her performance led her to a spot

in just 11 matches, recording 86 assists and 36 digs. She finished her tenure with Elon as fifth all-time in assists in the school's Division I era.

Crossing a statistical milestone

Gravley made a similar impact on the team her freshman season. Hailing from Apex, she played in all 32 matches her freshman season, starting 30. She led the team in kills and ranked tenth in the SoCon with 350. She tallied a career-best 24 kills against Radford, and recorded 173 digs on the season. She was named to the SoCon All-Freshman team. As a sophomore, Gravley again led the team in kills, this time totaling 341. She recorded 20 games with double-digit kills in 33 total appearances.

Gravley was named a captain during her junior season, but an injury limited her to just 24 matches. Despite the setback, she still finished third on the team in kills with 187. This season was a similar affair, as Gravley's season ended Oct. 17 at William & Mary where she sustained a torn ACL, MCL and meniscus in her left knee. Her heartfelt tribute to volleyball ran in The Pendulum two weeks ago.

Before her injury, Gravley started every match for Elon, and was able to pass the 1,000 kill mark for her career in the Sept. 25 match at Northeastern University. She ends her playing career with 1,073 kills, averaging 2.76 kills per set.

An eternal friendship

During their time on the team, this year's senior class has grown close. Head remembers bonding with Gravley and Nicksic on the court during their freshman season.

"The team's not just my team, they're my best friends," she said. "I can walk across campus and we'll just go to lunch together. Those will be the bonds that will go on for life."

“THE TEAM’S NOT JUST MY TEAM, THEY’RE MY BEST FRIENDS ... THOSE WILL BE THE BONDS THAT WILL GO ON FOR LIFE.”

CATHERINE HEAD
SENIOR OUTSIDE HITTER

in blocks per set, averaging a little over one block per set. Head was also second on the team in total blocks, with 85. She also continued to improve her game offensively, finishing the season with 93 kills. She posted a single-game-best against College of William & Mary, where she finished the match with nine kills.

As a senior this year, her numbers have continued to improve — she finished the season with 112 kills and 93 blocks.

Setting the way early

Nicksic's impact on the Phoenix came immediately. The setter from Valparaiso, Indiana, played in 31 matches as a freshman,

on the SoCon All-Freshman team.

"Ana's been my setter for the entire time until she got hurt this year," Head said. "A setter-middle bond is just something that's there."

As a sophomore, Nicksic led the team and was 10th in the SoCon with 818 assists on the season. She was also fourth on the team in digs, with 218. She recorded a total of nine double-doubles on the season. She also recorded a season best 50 kills against Radford University.

As a junior, Nicksic was limited to just 23 games, but she still led the team in assists with 508. She also finished the season with 131 digs. This season as a senior, she has also been hampered by injuries — she appeared

The Phoenix Focus

Updated as of Monday, Nov. 16

Men's soccer

RESULTS

Nov. 13  **2-2** 

	1st half	2nd half	OT	PKs
Delaware	1	1	0	5
Elon	0	2	0	4

NCAA Nov. 19  **7 p.m.** 

STANDINGS

	Conf.	Overall
Elon	6-2-0	13-5-1
Hofstra	6-2-0	13-7-0
Delaware	5-2-1	10-7-4
C. of Charleston	4-3-1	7-8-2
UNCW	3-3-2	8-8-3
James Madison	3-3-2	5-10-4
William & Mary	2-6-0	7-8-2
Northeastern	2-6-0	3-12-2
Drexel	2-6-0	3-15-1



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Men's Basketball

RESULTS

Nov. 13  **85-74** 
 Nov. 16  **68-88**

Nov. 18  **Home 7 p.m.**

Nov. 21  **Away 7 p.m.**

STANDINGS

	Overall
Charleston	2-0
Hofstra	2-0
UNCW	2-0
Delaware	1-0
Northeastern	1-0
William & Mary	1-0
Elon	1-1
James Madison	1-1
Towson	1-1
Drexel	0-1

Women's Basketball

RESULTS

Nov. 14  **67-29** 
 Nov. 16  **63-72**

Nov. 19  **Home 7 p.m.**

Nov. 22  **Away 7 p.m.**

STANDINGS

	Overall
Northeastern	2-0
William & Mary	2-0
Delaware	1-0
UNCW	1-0
Hofstra	1-0
James Madison	1-0
Elon	1-1
C. of Charleston	1-1
Drexel	1-1
Towson	0-1



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Football

RESULTS

Nov. 14  **27-22** 

	1st Q	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q
Maine	0	0	3	19
Elon	7	10	0	10

Nov. 21  **Home noon**

STANDINGS

	Conf.	Overall
William & Mary	6-1	8-2
James Madison	5-2	8-2
Richmond	5-2	7-3
Villanova	5-2	6-4
New Hampshire	4-3	6-4
Towson	4-3	6-4
Elon	3-4	4-6
Maine	3-4	3-7
Stony Brook	2-5	4-5
UAlbany	2-5	3-7
Delaware	2-5	3-7
Rhode Island	1-6	1-9

Cross Country

MEN'S

RESULTS

NCAA Southeast Regionals
Nov. 13 | Charlottesville, VA.

Runner	Place	Time
Nick Ciolkowski	37	30:38.0
Ryan Gwaltney	115	32:10.8
Ian O'Leary	137	32:37.8
Reed Payne	143	32:44.5
Greg Paugh	152	32:55.0

WOMEN'S

RESULTS

NCAA Southeast Regionals
Nov. 13 | Charlottesville, VA.

Runner	Place	Time
Kimberly Johansen	25	21:38.6
Elyse Bierut	40	22:01.7
Coralea Geraniotis	61	22:28.3
Kaitlin Snapp	76	22:43.5
Shelby Cuddeback	77	22:43.8

Top Photos



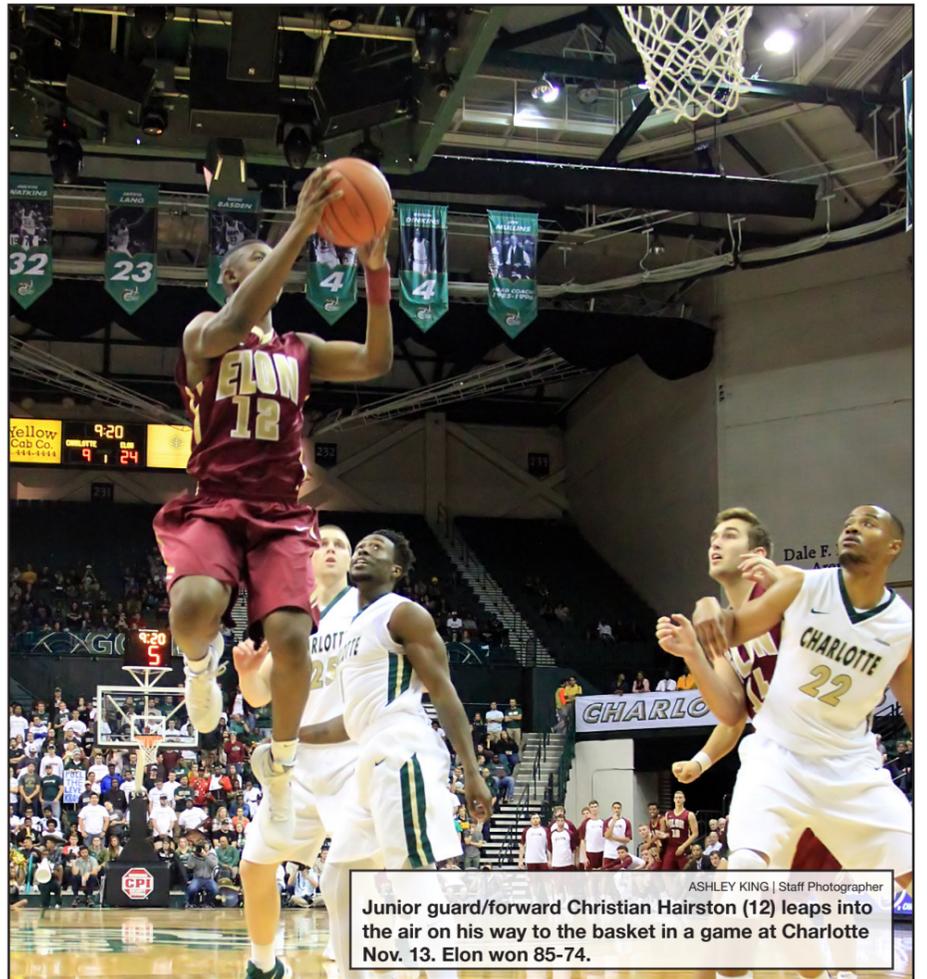
HALI TALUXE | Photo Editor
Attendees of the Intersect Conference wrote letters to their younger selves during a session Nov. 14. See pg. 4 for story.



NADIA NOBREGA | Staff Photographer
Alamance Building was lit to resemble the French flag at the Vigil for Paris Sunday, Nov. 15. See pg. 3 for story.



NADIA NOBREGA | Staff Photographer
At a vigil held Nov. 15, 130 candles were lit in memory of the lives lost in Paris. See pg. 3 for story.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Junior guard/forward Christian Hairston (12) leaps into the air on his way to the basket in a game at Charlotte Nov. 13. Elon won 85-74.



HALI TALUXE | Photo Editor
Mourners gathered in Rhodes Stadium to share memories of Demetri Allison Nov. 12. See pgs. 7-9 for coverage of Allison's memorial.



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