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## Cheers, mate!

Local Red Oak brewery growing in popularity across the state

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## Taking it to the net

The Phoenix pulls out 56-54 win over The Citadel

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# THE PENDULUM

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

## Students ask for DTV test during SuperBowl XLIII

Andie Diemer  
News Editor

When Wilmington, N.C. made the early switch to digital television in September, several Elon faculty members and students were on hand to assist with the transition. But as the rest of the nation prepares to make the official change on Feb. 17, many of the same Elon community members are urging for nationwide action to remind and assist with the move.

Connie Book, School of Communications assistant dean, had students in her broadcasting and the public interest class write a letter to NBC President Jeff Zucker on Dec. 4. They asked for a 30-second spot from the Federal Communications Commission that would interrupt the SuperBowl on Feb. 1 to spread the message about DTV.

After the class discussed how to best inform the nation, they eventually agreed that interrupting the SuperBowl would reach the largest number of people at one time, and be the best way to ensure people were aware of the transition, sophomore class member Bryan Rogala said.

"It's something that affects just about everyone in some way or another and not informing the public could prove to be pretty disastrous when you think about the effects of people not being able to watch TV during a natural disaster or similar crisis," Rogala said.

The class, which has been studying the DTV transition that has already taken place in some areas of North Carolina, is also examining the preparation the rest of America is taking.

Their letter was also addressed to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin and President of the National Association of Broadcasters David Rehr and was mailed overnight with a draft of the copy for the commercial spot.

Book echoed her students and said the SuperBowl is the one time of the year most TV households are all on the same signal.

"Broadcasters should seize that moment to alert citizens that the transition is impending," Book said. "The broadcasters reluctance to interrupt the SuperBowl because of the profit the game earns demonstrates the tension between what is in the public's interest and the media's primary objective to be a successful enterprise."

Book said this is a tension that is often difficult to simply explain in a lecture.

"The letter to NBC made the issue tangible and meaningful to the students in class," Book said.

The 30 students that were present in class that day, as well as Book, signed the letter. No one else was offered the opportunity.

Book said she heard the news of the story made it to New York City a few days later, after several alumni and friends contacted her to say they had heard about the letter being debated on sports talk radio.

"I was also hammered in a couple of forums," Book said. "One said I was a 'fancy school' professor and needed to learn how media economics worked and there was no way they would interrupt the SuperBowl."

But despite the stretch of their goal, Rogala said the class's wish carries heavy importance.

"The idea is that by interrupting the most-watched television event of the year, a large number of people will see the spot and figure out they need to do something in order to keep watching TV after Feb. 17," he said.

## Elon Illuminated

Holiday Lighting Ceremony starts winter season



ANDREW DODD | Photographer

**H**undreds of people turned out for Elon's Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 4. The event is marked by the lighting of more than 2,000 luminaries in the main quad on campus. Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance in the Little Blue Choo train, students from Hillel sang a blessing and lit the Menorah and community members watched as the lights on Elon's buildings and in the trees were switched on.

### > ONLINE

Visit The Pendulum Web site at [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) for a slideshow and video of the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Kwanzaa Celebration and the Moravian Love Feast.

### > INSIDE

Photos from the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Kwanzaa Celebration and Holiday Magic. **PAGE 2**

### > UP NEXT

Greensboro Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops, 3 p.m., Dec. 21 in Koury Athletic Center. **PAGE 17**



# Welcoming the holiday season

DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Elon's Holiday Lighting Ceremony, which took place last week, illuminated the campus and the spirits of the Elon community.



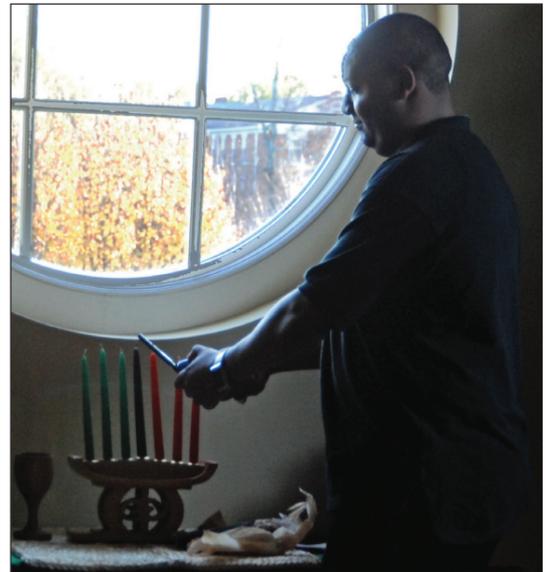
ANDREW DODD | Photographer

Elon's campus was lit by 2,000 glowing luminaries last week.



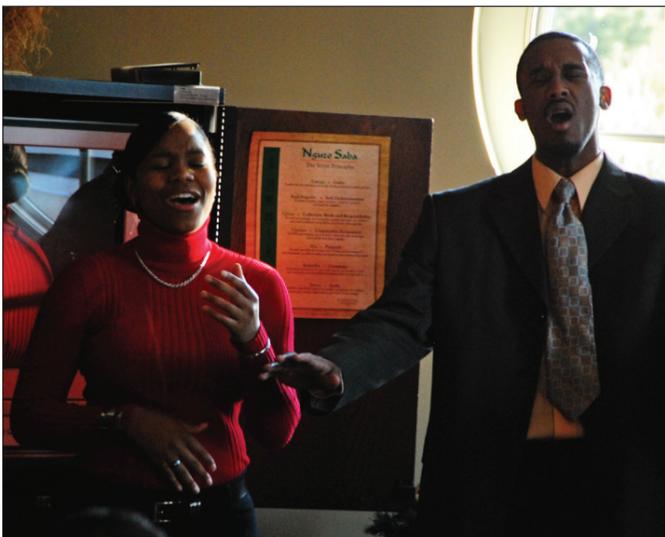
ANNA REYNAL | Photographer

From left, Elon senior Lauren Horney, sophomore Stefan DiMuzio, senior Kyle Wiggins-Rowan and senior Andre DiMuzio dressed as Dickens Carolers and sang Christmas songs at Burlington's Holiday Magic event.



LINDSAY FENDT | Assistant Photo Editor

Leon Williams, director of the Multicultural Center, lit candles at this year's Kwanzaa celebration.



LINDSAY FENDT | Assistant Photo Editor

Freshman Brittney Williams and sophomore Ryan Elliot sang at last week's Kwanzaa celebration.


**Visit [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) for video of local holiday events.**



ANNA REYNAL | Photographer

Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted eager children after lighting the Christmas tree in downtown Burlington.



LINDSAY FENDT | Assistant Photo Editor

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony featured hot chocolate and cider, Christmas carols and a Menorah lighting.

# Finals Fun

It's the most stressful week of the year, but that doesn't mean that there is no time to enjoy yourself! Check out these events to relieve some exam-time stress.

**Fitness Center Hours:**  
 Wed. 12/10 (Reading Day)  
 Fitness Center: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Thurs. 12/11  
 Fitness Center: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Fri. 12/12  
 Fitness Center: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: Closed

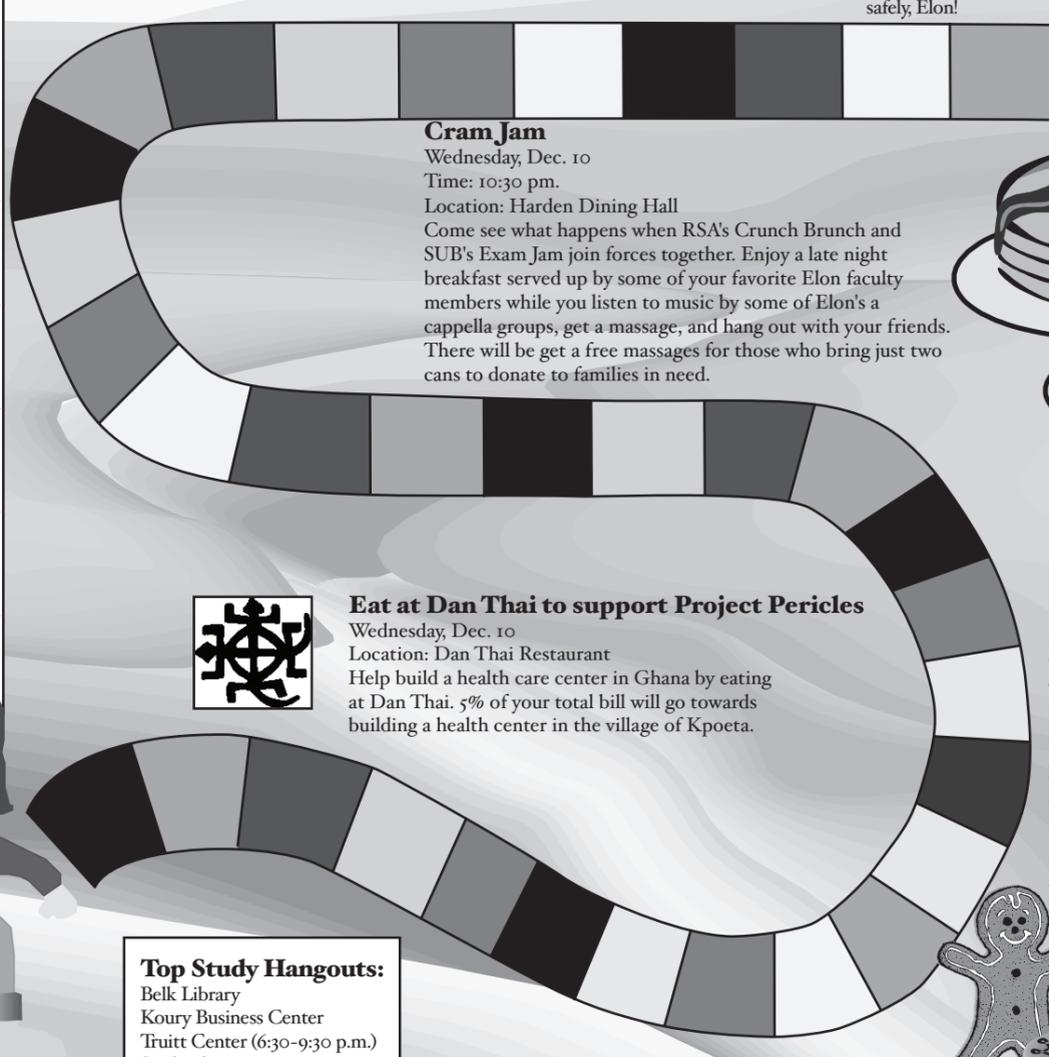
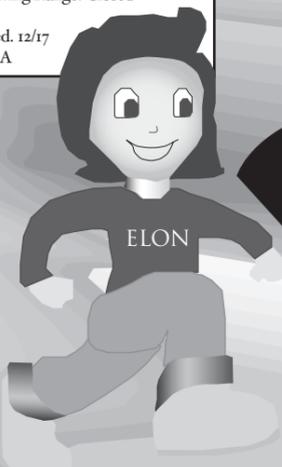
Sat. 12/13  
 Fitness Center: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: Closed

Sun. 12/14  
 Fitness Center: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: Closed

Mon. 12/15  
 Fitness Center: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: Closed

Tues. 12/16  
 Fitness Center: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Pool: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-8 p.m.  
 Driving Range: Closed

Wed. 12/17  
 TBA



**Exams are Over**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 17  
 Classes are over. Travel safely, Elon!



**Cram Jam**

Wednesday, Dec. 10  
 Time: 10:30 pm.  
 Location: Harden Dining Hall  
 Come see what happens when RSA's Crunch Brunch and SUB's Exam Jam join forces together. Enjoy a late night breakfast served up by some of your favorite Elon faculty members while you listen to music by some of Elon's a cappella groups, get a massage, and hang out with your friends. There will be free massages for those who bring just two cans to donate to families in need.

**Eat at Dan Thai to support Project Pericles**

Wednesday, Dec. 10  
 Location: Dan Thai Restaurant  
 Help build a health care center in Ghana by eating at Dan Thai. 5% of your total bill will go towards building a health center in the village of Kpoeta.



**Cookie Walk**

Wednesday, Dec. 10  
 Time: 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
 Location: McKinnon  
 Bring 2 canned goods or \$2 to McKinnon on Reading Day Wednesday December 10th between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (before Crunch Brunch) in exchange for unlimited cookies. All donations will go to Loaves & Fishes.



**Top Study Hangouts:**

- Belk Library
- Koury Business Center
- Truitt Center (6:30-9:30 p.m.)
- Starbucks

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# Annual babysitting night takes pressure off faculty

Alexa Milan  
A&E Editor

The second floor of Alamance may usually be occupied by students and professors, but on Dec. 5, the building was filled with excited children during Epsilon Sigma Alpha's annual Babysitting Night.

The members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Elon's co-ed service sorority, offered faculty and staff the chance to enjoy a night off by providing complimentary childcare for children age 6 months to 12 years.

The organization supplied games, puzzles, books, coloring and Disney movies to keep its young charges entertained.

"Children are excellent at coming up with their own games and entertainment, and we always have plenty of members there to play along with their creativity," said senior Kristin West, Epsilon Sigma Alpha's service co-chair.

Babysitting Night started two years ago and has occurred once a semester since then. The 35-member organization has had 15 to 20 children at each event, and many of the participating faculty and staff take advantage of the opportunity each semester.

"It's nice to be able to see the same faces from semester to semester, as well as the new ones that come," West said.

Elon's Delta Psi chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha was created in 1985 as a way to incorporate nationwide and local service. At this semester's Babysitting Night, parents were encouraged to donate money to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a Memphis, Tenn.-based facility dedicated to researching and treating life-threatening diseases in children.

"We began Babysitting Night as a

way to do service for both St. Jude's and the local community," West said.

According to West, the cooperation of Epsilon Sigma Alpha's members made helped Babysitting Night run smoothly. The planning process began by filling out the required paperwork for Elon activities. Then the organization's members split up into committees to prepare flyers, snacks, entertainment and other activities.

Rene Summers, program assistant for the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and the organization's adviser, sent out a mass e-mail to faculty and staff about the event. Epsilon Sigma Alpha members also passed out flyers and wrote E-net posts to spread the word about Babysitting Night.

West said coloring was the children's favorite activity and she was impressed by how well the children interacted with each other.

"The most rewarding aspect of Babysitting Night is seeing the mingling of Epsilon Sigma Alpha members with all the kids," West said. "It's especially meaningful to greet the kids who remember coming to Babysitting Night in the past and are excited to be at it again."

Babysitting Night marked Epsilon Sigma Alpha's last service event of the semester, but in the spring it will host its annual Wiffle Ball Tournament, which also benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The organization will also plan service activities with the Boys and Girls Club and Kopper Top, a therapeutic horseback riding center, as well as hold another Babysitting Night.

"Elon has some great faculty and staff members who work hard all year long," West said. "This is just one way that the members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha can say thank you and give them a night off to enjoy."

# Business School invades New York

Evann Clingan  
Reporter

The Elon in New York program, sponsored by the Love School of Business, will launch this summer, providing 20 rising seniors the chance to experience an internship in the Big Apple.

The program will run from June 1 to Aug. 15, 2009 and is designed to help Elon students develop professional skills, learn more about career opportunities and strengthen a resume for finding a full-time job after graduation.

Since many students have been interested in interning in New York, Elon decided to create a program that would provide housing and a professional development course in the city.

"Elon has the responsibility to really prepare students for life after college," said Mary Gowan, dean of the Love School of Business. "We want to give them opportunities now to help them stand out later. We think Elon students really have the ability to stand out."

Students interested in applying for Elon in New York must obtain an internship on their own before the program begins.

Those with confirmed internships in New York have an advantage in the application process, but it is not required that students already have an internship before applying for the program. Participants will receive four credit hours for their internship and should contact Career Services if they need help applying.

Gowan said the professional development course "will be like Elon's Career Strategies course on steroids."

This course, worth two credit hours, will meet twice a week and will be taught by Elon business faculty. It will provide students with networking skills, internship coaching and an opportunity to research companies in New York.

Students will also build professional skills by having an Elon alum as a mentor, attending an etiquette dinner and meeting with a wardrobe consultant.

"We hope that this course will help students to come back in the fall and hit the ground running in their job search," Gowan said.

Elon specifically chose Educational Housing Services on the Upper East Side because it is safe and convenient for students. This new, dorm-like

## How to APPLY:

To apply for Elon in New York, students must have completed their junior year by June 1, 2009, with at least a 3.0 GPA average and cannot have received an Honor Code violation in the past year.

While students do not have to be business majors, they should be interested in a business-related career. This can include administration and management careers. The trip will cost about \$8,500 for a double room and \$7,800 for a triple room.

Applications are available through the Love School of Business and will be due in February. Students should contact Margaret Miller at mmiller31@elon.edu with questions.

facility includes double or triple rooms, private bathrooms, televisions in every room, a fitness center, library, study rooms and laundry facilities that text message students when their laundry is done.

Educational Housing Services also has keycard access, 24-hour security and professional residence staff members.

Marketing and sales instructor Margaret Miller will accompany students for at least the first month of the program. After that, other Elon faculty members will visit the students in New York.

A faculty member will be in the city at all times.

"This course will provide an easier transition for Elon students from college life to the job world," Gowan said. "We hope this program will give students skills they could not learn in a classroom. We know the program will give them some extra polish."

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For more information and to apply, visit: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

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## Perks of Elon in New York

- New, dorm-like facility on Upper East Side
- Includes double or triple rooms, private bathrooms, televisions in every room, fitness center, library, study rooms and laundry facilities that text students when laundry is done
- Provides keycard access, 24-hour security and professional residence staff members
- Professional development course which pairs students with an Elon alum as a mentor, etiquette dinner and a wardrobe consultant
- Elon faculty member in the city at all times

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Helms projected one image from Ghana with a global AIDS statistic and one image of a college student with an AIDS statistic for the United States.

# Projecting TRUTH

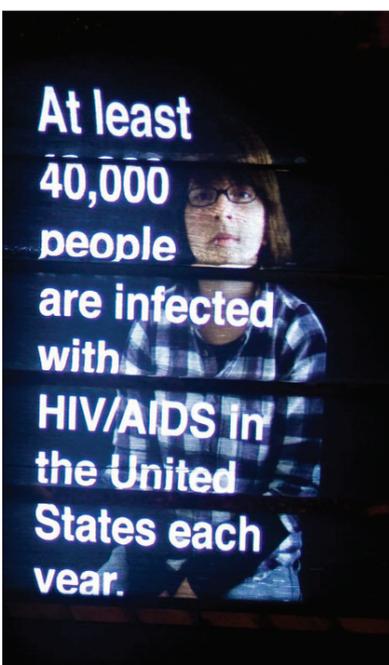
GRACE HELMS | Photographer

After reading statistics on Dec. 1, which is AIDS Awareness Day, junior Grace Helms was inspired to project collaged images with AIDS facts and figures onto public spaces in Chapel Hill to educate the community surrounding her.

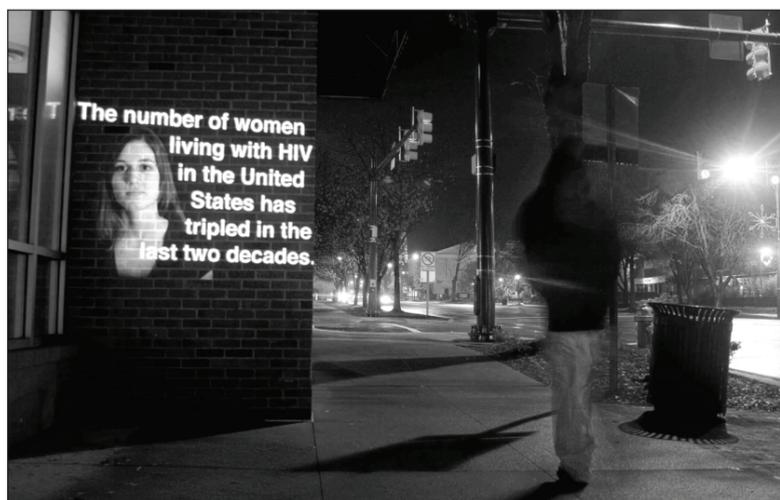
Helms went to Franklin Street on Dec. 7, which is a street located in the middle of UNC Chapel Hill's campus.

Between 8 p.m. and midnight — a busy time on the street since there are many popular bars and restaurants — Helms projected images on various surfaces, including buildings and trees.

Helms said many people stopped to ask her about the images and facts, which worked in hand with her exact purpose: to get the public talking about the issue.



By using images of both Americans and Africans, Helms was able to start a conversation about AIDS not discriminating between its victims.



"Most of the time, people think of AIDS as the developing world's problem, when in actuality, it is the world's problem," Helms said. "I was hoping that displaying these facts in public places this way would force people to pay attention."

**Facts included:**

- At least 40,000 people are infected with HIV/AIDS in the United States each year.
- At least half of all new HIV infections in the U.S. are among people under 25.
- Roughly 1.2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States
- 5,700 people die from AIDS every day...one child dies every minute

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Candidates for education dean chosen to visit campus**

Three candidates for the education dean were chosen to make campus visits by the education dean search committee. The committee asked the candidates to make public presentations about their vision for the School of Education. One candidate presented on Monday. Another will present today from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. in Belk Pavilion 208, and the third candidate will present on Dec. 17 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. in the same location.

**Bowling league during Winter Term**

Campus Recreation will host a bowling league at Country Club Lanes during Winter Term. The league meets each Tuesday and Thursday from Jan. 8 through Jan. 22.

The captain's meeting is Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. in Koury 141. Rosters and forfeit fees (\$20 per team) are due on Dec. 12 by 5 p.m. at the Campus Recreation front desk. Teams are five players, but there can be up to eight on the roster.

**Cram Jam tonight**

SUB and RSA will sponsor Cram Jam tonight at 10:30 p.m. in Harden Dining Hall. Faculty members will serve a late night breakfast and a free massage will be given to those who bring two cans of food to donate to families in need.

**Elon in Los Angeles meeting tonight**

There is an informational meeting for the Elon in Los Angeles program today at 3 p.m. in Studio B of the McEwen communications building. The program was launched last summer. A group of 20 students spent nine weeks in Los Angeles, earning six credit hours (two for their internships and four for a communications elective).

There are opportunities for internships with entertainment companies, including areas such as casting, distribution and entertainment journalism. Students will also take a course about the business of Hollywood and interact with entertainment professionals.

**Forty-five graduate DPT program**

Forty-five people in Elon's doctor of physical therapy program received their degrees on Dec. 7. The ceremony, which took place in Whitley Auditorium, featured remarks from President Leo Lambert and Jody Shapiro Gandy, director of academic/clinical education affairs at the American Physical Therapy Association.

**Students honored by Stanford University**

Four Elon students were recognized by Stanford University for their entry in the Elon Innovation Challenge, hosted locally by the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at Elon. The competition, which was held in coordination with the Stanford Global Innovation Challenge, asked students to add value to an everyday object.

Alan Duvall, Brent Gilmore, Katie Pietrowski and Mike Depace created the "Water Bottle-Powered Car." Stanford honored the entry with its "Most 'Auto'dacious" Award.

# McBride to deliver this year's commencement address

Speech will be one of McBride's last as he prepares to retire at the end of the academic school year



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

On May 23, 2009 the seniors are expected to cross the stage under the oaks, graduating after four years at Elon. But on that very same day, attendees will get to witness another type of graduation, 25 years in the making. Elon Chaplain Rev. Richard McBride will give the 119th commencement address at the end of his final year at Elon.

The offer came to McBride about two weeks ago as a surprise and he said he was honored by the invitation. The 10- to 15-minute address is usually given by prominent alumni, trustees, faculty or staff members, most recently including Douglas Finberg '94, senior vice president of international marketing for Paramount Pictures, and Kerri Anderson '79, CEO and president of Wendy's International.

McBride is the author of one book, "Inventing a Life: The Journey Through College and Beyond" which is based on his interactions and interviews with Elon students.

"I had my mind wrapped around doing the baccalaureate sermon which I had been invited to do," McBride said of the 25-minute long sermon that takes place the day before graduation. "And then they called and said [jokingly] 'How about doing something shorter?'"

George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs, is a member of the committee that makes suggestions for the commencement speaker to President Leo Lambert. He said that given McBride's contributions to the campus life and his length of service, he was a natural choice. Still, one of the most important attributes of a speaker is his speaking ability, and McBride's reputation as a good speaker was an important consideration.

The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life Office has put out an invitation to a new potential guest to deliver the baccalaureate sermon in

McBride's place. Despite not being the man behind the pulpit, McBride will still play a heavy hand in baccalaureate and plans to introduce the speaker.

McBride has already begun thinking about what he will say during his graduation speech, which may come at a time when graduates are less-enthused about the prospects of the future than they have been in the past.

"It's about the graduate experience so you have to speak to the transition they are in," he said. "I will address what it's like to be hopeful in a time when times are tough. Hope is the springboard that pushes us toward the future."

After graduation, most seniors will go on to graduate school or enter the workforce, but McBride's graduation will be a little less intensive. His plans include a "genuine sabbatical" as he takes time for reading, doing home repairs, traveling and playing his neglected trombone.

## Whitsett man shot and killed during convenience store robbery

**Andie Diemer**  
News Editor

A Whitsett storeowner was shot during a robbery at his convenience store on N.C. Route 61 early Sunday morning.

Authorities said they found Bobby Lee Taylor's body at 12:11 a.m. Sunday and that he later died of complications.

While the exact cause of death has not been pinpointed, an autopsy was conducted Monday.

At press time, no arrests had been made.

The surrounding community reacted by decorating his store front

in his memory.

Shirley Taylor, the victim's wife, told WFMY that he tried to help lots of people during his life.

"He done for people when he shouldn't have done for them, you'd do him wrong, and he'd give you another chance to up and do it again," Taylor said.

A lifelong friend of Taylor, Robert Tickle told WFMY that his friend always helped anyone that crossed his path.

"Bobby was the type of man that believes everyone can be trusted. It's not that type of world anymore," Tickle said. "He's the kind of person that would help anybody, if they came

in here without any money or nothing, he would help them."

Taylor's family told WFMY that Bobby spent his life inside the store, trying to create a place for people to gather.

This type of kindness is something he was known for and will be missed, Tickle said.

"You get mad, then you get angry, then you get sad, all kinds of feelings," Tickle said. "Somebody you've known all your life and they've been good to you, and you don't know what to do, you just feel lost."

If you have any information regarding this murder, please call Crime Stoppers at (336) 373-1000.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIGTRIAD.COM  
Whitsett store owner Bobby Lee Taylor was shot and killed Sunday during a robbery.

## First candidate for provost interviews on campus

**Lindsay Eney**  
Copy Editor

Dean of Elon College and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Steven House met with a panel of student leaders Dec. 4 as a part of the interview process for the position of provost.

He discussed his qualifications for the job, as well as what he would do if he were to get the position.

The biggest reason he believes he is the most qualified candidate?

"They [the other candidates] don't know the Elon way," House said.

House asked the student leaders what they see as the most important issues on campus that he would have to address. The quality of health services and career services were both mentioned, as was the importance of preventing burnout among students.

House specifically asked the student leaders if they feel challenged in their classes, but one question seemed most important to him.

"Can we challenge you more?" House said.

In response to this question, the student leaders discussed the differences between academic challenge and increased workloads.

They expressed concerns that some professors are just assigning more work for the sake of assigning it, rather than enhancing the academic experience.

House outlined some of the things he would work on as provost, including implementing a new type of liberal education, increasing study

abroad opportunities for students and working with faculty on increased scholarship.

"Right now, we have great teachers and OK scholars," he said.

He hopes to allow the faculty to participate in more individual scholarship, which may draw them away from the classroom but not away from students.

Thinking about his passion and energy for the university, House recalled the day that he first heard of Elon.

When he came home from work at Seton Hall University, his wife had the Chronicle of Higher Education open to the Elon listing.

He asked his wife if she had heard of Elon and she said, "I know Elon because they are stealing all our students from New Jersey."

After that, it was a pretty easy decision.

"Poof, I'm at Elon," he said.

Since 2001, House has devoted the majority of his life to his job at Elon.

As the dean of Elon College, he has spent a lot of time on Elon's campus since he started here. Between teaching, working with faculty and attending events within the College of Arts & Sciences, he said he is probably on campus more than any other person and has enjoyed every moment of it.

"I have 4,992 kids," he said. "And I get paid for this? I love doing it."

So why is House applying for this position instead of staying in his current spot as the dean of Elon College and the associate vice president for academic affairs?

"It feels really stimulating to reach for something this exciting," he said. "I've been called to do this."

The other candidate for provost, Elizabeth Paul, met with the student panel Tuesday in Moseley. The third and final candidate, Ivy Broder, will be meeting with students on Dec. 11.

## Law school dean candidates to visit Greensboro campus

**Bethany Swanson**  
Managing Editor

The Elon University Law School has been without a permanent dean since Leary Davis stepped down on Aug. 1. George Johnson Jr. was named interim dean from his position as professor of law and associate dean of academic affairs. Johnson was instrumental in the process leading to the American Bar Association accreditation.

After conducting preliminary interviews Nov. 20 and 21, the Law Dean Search Committee unanimously agreed to invite Richard Gershon of Charleston School of Law, and Mary Davis of University of Kentucky College of Law to Elon for interviews and presentations to faculty and staff Dec. 9 through 12.

**Richard Gershon**

Gershon is currently a professor of law at Charleston School of Law in South Carolina.

Gershon has a history with the Elon Law School, having served on a panel before the school opened and on a mock site team before the school received its accreditation.

"Charleston was a year ahead of Elon in the development of its school," he said. "So I was happy to share with Elon. I've been so impressed by everyone here. I watched the Elon Law School grow from the beginning. [This position] is a great opportunity, if nothing else."

Gershon served as founding dean and professor of law at the school from 2003 to 2007. Before that, he served as dean and professor of law, interim dean and vice dean at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, director of the Institute for Space Law and Commerce, as well as associate dean, associate professor of law, assistant professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law and assistant professor of law at Ohio Northern University

College of Law.

He specializes in federal income tax law, state planning, trusts and property laws. Gershon has written three books and several chapters relating to taxes and life planning. His titles include, "Guide to the Internal Revenue Code," "International Tax Guide: United States Income Taxation," and "Life Planning in Florida."

Gershon is also a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the State Bar of Florida and the United States Tax Court. He has served on the Southeastern Association of Law Schools mentor committee in 2007 and 2008 and as a panelist in 2006 and 2007.

**Mary J. Davis**

Davis is currently associate dean for administration and faculty development and Stites & Harbison Professor of Law at University of Kentucky College of Law.

She has served as a tenured associate professor of law and assistant professor of law at University of Kentucky College of Law, visiting professor of law at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas, visiting professor of law at Boston College School of Law, visiting professor of law and adjunct lecturer in law at Wake Forest University School of Law and visiting professor of law at the College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

She has worked professionally for law firms in Winston-Salem, N.C., Richmond, Va., and Atlanta and specializes in the concept of preemption, having written three articles in the past six years on the subject. She has also authored four books on products liability.

She is a member of the Bars of Virginia and North Carolina as well as the United States Court of Appeals.

Davis declined to comment on her qualifications and her mission for the school of law, instead said she would "like her history to speak for itself."



# Science Day brings children to McMichael

Margeaux Corby  
Opinions Editor

On Saturday, the serious and erudite silence of McMichael Science Building was shattered with peals of children's laughter and the crunching sound of eggs smashing on the marble floor.

The Society of Physics Students sponsored the Science Day for Kids last weekend and nearly 20 children from local elementary schools ran around the floors of McMichael to watch various science exhibits and demonstrations.

"Part of what we want to do as a physics club is to have an educational outreach event," said Martin Kamela, associate professor of physics. "We want to encourage children to ask questions and make sure they have a gung ho approach to exploring science."

Children from Elon Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary and Marvin B. Smith watched and participated in the egg drop, where guests were charged with creating a casing that would protect an egg dropped from the third floor of McMichael's atrium.

"That tarp was a good idea," Kamela said. "We ended up doing crowd control and paper towel duty."

The exhibits displayed were designed for the study abroad GST 236: Science and Education Development class Kamela will be co-teaching in India this winter term. On the trip, students will present a traveling science center to middle school students in Kerala, India, and some exhibits from the trip were shown to the children last weekend.

Displays include a demonstration on inertia based on mass using soccer balls and bowling balls. A plastic human skeleton was hooked to a doorknob so when children turned the handle they could see how the joints in the hand, wrist and arm moved to make simple motions.

"We wanted to show that science is cool," said Evan Dempster, president of the society. "It may be boring in a class but there are ways to make it awesome when kids are able to explore and learn on their own."

This is the second time the society has sponsored the science day. Kamela said they would like to make it an annual event.

"You need to encourage students to ask questions," he said. "We need to have children be open to the field of science."



LAURA BRADFORD | Photographer

Kids watch from a distance as sophomore Pierre Cieniewicz presses a button with a yardstick to complete the magnetic circuit, causing a small ring to launch into the air.



LAURA BRADFORD | Photographer

A magnifying glass connected to a computer shows close-up shots of anything that is put under it. Here, children study the blown-up image of money.

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# Student gauges interest for paintball club

**Brooke Kassner**  
Reporter

This year at Elon, sophomore Justin Berger introduced a new idea for a club sport — paintball.

Berger started first got involved in paintball in seventh grade, and his interest only grew with time. Last summer, Berger's interest peaked while playing paintball with a friend from the University of Michigan who was on a club team at school.

This got Berger thinking. After talking with fellow Elon students, Berger began to wonder why there was not an Elon paintball club. So, he started to put his idea into action.

He said support was instantaneous. Jason Springer, director of Elon 101 and assistant director of academic advising, e-mailed Berger in the beginning to offer his support and has been helping publicize it around campus.

Students have begun contacting Berger through e-mail and in person, and he has received a lot of interest from students around campus.

Much of the support comes from Berger's immediate friends, but recently the word has spread and interest as been rapidly increasing.

Berger said the biggest problem is

establishing a set group of people who are dedicated to the new club sport.

"I anticipate we would go to fields that are nearby and [practice] for the time being, use the rental equipment available if need be," Berger said. "But I would expect, if a team was developed, people would want to have their own stuff."

There has yet to be any resistance from people within this school toward the formation of this new club, Berger said.

"I do know that there are some restrictions with on-campus living that prevent some of the equipment being stored in dorms, but I suspect we could come to some agreement with Campus Security and if need be, store the paintball markers in off-campus residences," Berger said.

Plans for statewide university competitions have already been made, since nine schools across North Carolina already have teams established.

Some include Davidson College, Wake Forest University and UNC Chapel Hill.

"Once things are more formulated, at least behind the scenes, an interest group meeting will take place in the spring semester," Berger said.

As long as interest continues to grow for this club, Berger said it looks like Elon will soon join the official list of College Paintball Clubs.

## PROTECTING PAINTBALLERS

### What is Paintball?

A combination of tag and hide-and-seek where players fire "paintballs" (round, gelatin capsules) from a paintball gun, or "marker."

### What is the danger?

Compressed gas propels capsules at speeds up to 200 mph. Eyes can be injured if not protected. From 1997-2000, about two-thirds of paintball injuries were eye-related.

### Player Safety:

Players should wear a full-faced mask and goggles designed for paintball.

Play only in supervised games in organized facilities, not woods or basements.



# Colonnades Dining Hall wins national award for design

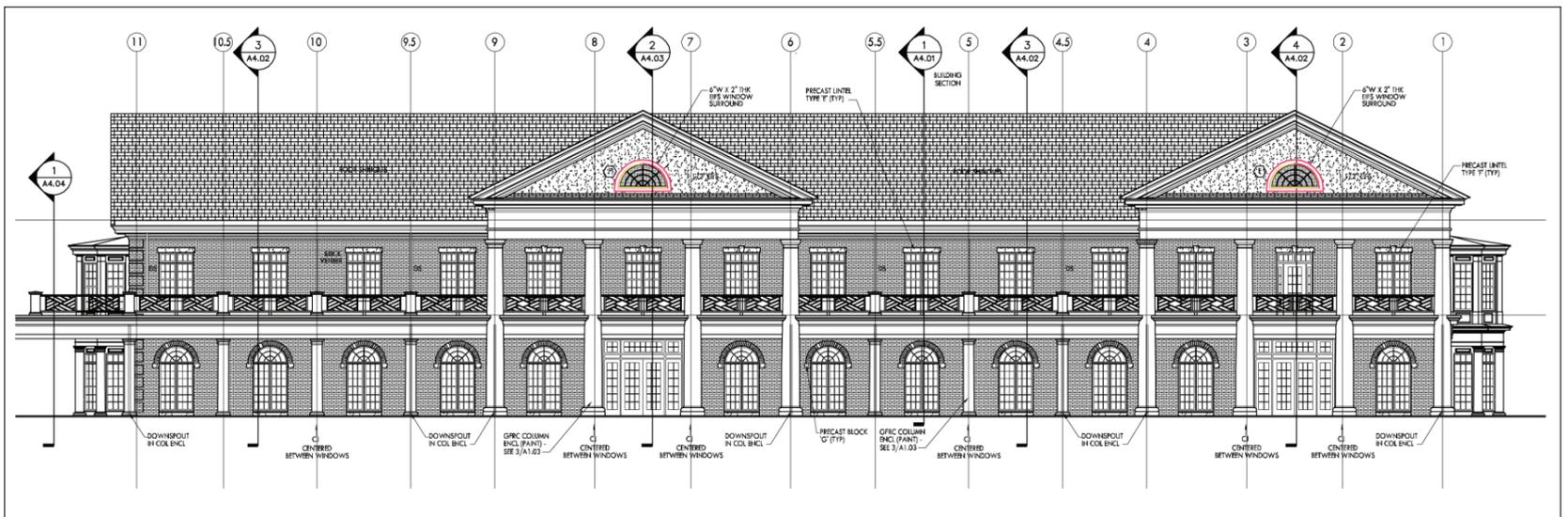


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPILLMAN FARMER ARCHITECTS

The elevation view of Colonnades Dining Hall shows the building's signature brick, white columns and covered walkway. These traits also appear on other buildings across Elon's campus.

## Quality, environment, scale and sustainability were key considerations for architecture award

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

Colonnades Dining Hall was recently recognized for outstanding design in American School & University magazine's 2008 Architectural Portfolio.

The award honored design excellence at 71 post-secondary institutions across the country.

Colonnades was designed by Spillman Farmer Architects out of Bethlehem, Pa.

The firm has also designed Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center, the Colonnades residence halls and all the buildings in the academic village including Elon's newest addition, Lindner Hall.

Quality, inviting and inspiring environments, appropriate scale and relationship to the environment and sustainability were key components that the five judges looked for when selecting the design from 252 applicants.

"We're always very pleased when we win an award because it shows that we're recognized for quality work," said Dan Harrigan of Spillman Architects. "We typically do our highest quality work when we have quality clients and Elon is one of our highest quality clients."

The exterior of Colonnades was made to mimic the architecture that already existed on campus using Elon's iconic red brick and tall white columns.

"If you have beautiful, established buildings like Alamance and Carlton, it behooves one to try to be evocative of the beautiful architecture and

continue that," Harrigan said. "It's creating a sense of place with the architecture, the style, the form and the palette of the materials."

The interior of the Colonnades was where the architects were able to be more creative and create a modern space for students.

Elon administrators asked that Spillman design the Colonnades so it didn't look like a mall food court, had separate spaces for eating and had a downstairs market with an upscale feel.

"You can see the entire space, but if you go in each individual area you feel like you're in a separate restaurant," said Tom Woods of Spillman Farmer. "One thing I think is really unusual is the upscale 1889 Grill Room. You don't find something like that very often on a campus."

The judges said the two-story, \$6.7 million facility is "a complete departure from a typical dining hall or food court and sets a new standard in campus dining."

One category that the judges looked at particularly was the amount of sustainable design incorporated into the building.

Spillman used a lot of recycled materials in the products used to build the Colonnades, such as carpet made from highly recycled content and unique mechanical and electrical systems meant to reduce the buildings impact on the environment.

The design firm's next building at Elon, Lindner Hall, will receive LEED certification, a seal of exceptional green design.

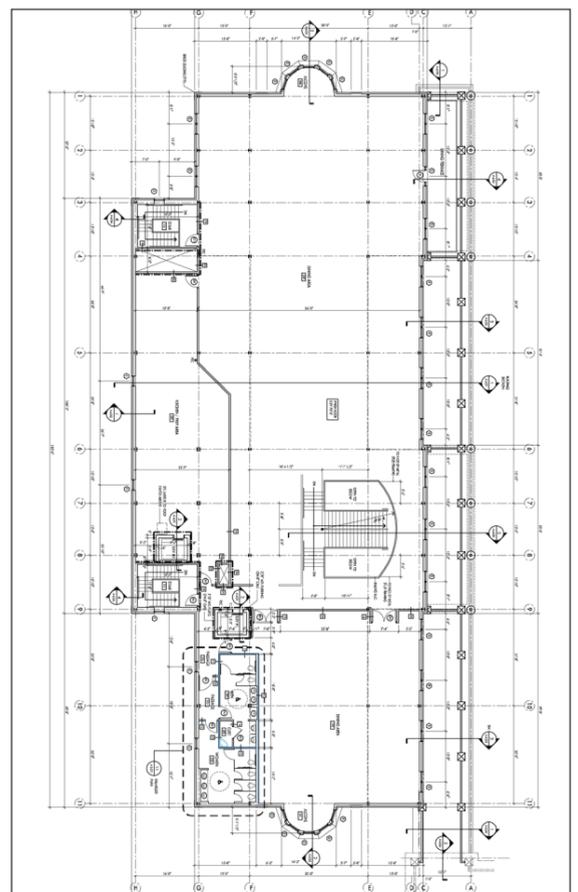


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPILLMAN FARMER ARCHITECTS

The second floor of the Colonnades Dining Hall is unique because of the different divisions of dining options.

# Students work to establish environmental education center at abandoned textile mill

Alyse Knorr  
Design Editor

Six environmental studies seniors are putting forth a proposal today to create an environmental education center in Glencoe Mill Village, an abandoned textile mill in Alamance County.

Glencoe Mill Village is a 105-acre cotton mill and village along the Haw River about three miles north of Burlington that was built in 1880s. The mill closed in 1954 and has been included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The site is divided into three main parts: the manufacturing and commercial complex, a residential area and a power and water system. The buildings on the site include the mill building itself, 32 houses, an office, lodge, warehouse, dye building and mill store.

The mill has recently been purchased by a developer called Hedgehog Holdings based out of Raleigh, and the future of the property has still not been decided.

Students in Janet Macfall and Michael Strickland's environmental studies senior seminar class were split into several smaller groups to work on a number of proposals for different aspects of the mill. One group is examining water quality at the mill's dam and another is proposing an apartment complex in the mill's main building.

The class presents its proposals in McMichael today to the Burlington Parks and Recreation Committee, the developer and members of the community.

Seniors Maggie Zimmerman, Katherine Lee, Bre Detwiler, Evan Ross, Rachael Rider and Chrissy



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
The Glencoe Mill Village is made up of 105 acres of houses, manufacturing and office buildings and a power and water system. It is a perfect example of a 19th century textile mill.

Orangio have been working throughout the semester on a proposal for an education center in the mill's dye building that will integrate the history of the mill, the surrounding village and the human and environmental impacts in the area.

At the beginning of the semester, the group conducted needs assessments for all the local parks and environmental education centers around Alamance County, as well as with local elementary and high school teachers.

The teacher meetings and surveys revealed that teachers needed an environmental education center in Alamance County.

"There is no environmental education center in Alamance County,"

Zimmerman said. "Without [a center] in Alamance County, the likelihood of students being able to travel and take field trips is nearly impossible."

Zimmerman said the group found that teachers cannot afford to send their students outside of Alamance County for field trips to environmental education centers.

The students examined all the environmental education centers within a 150-mile radius of Glencoe Mill and found a lack of educational programming for high school students. They chose to make this gap the main focus of their efforts.

"A lot of our programming focuses on high school students," Zimmerman said, adding that alternative energy sources, river ecology and the mill's



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEXTILE HERITAGE MUSEUM  
The Glencoe Mill Village's former barber-shop still stands on the property.

hydroelectric plant could all serve as educational material for high school students. The group has also proposed creating a garden at the mill.

Throughout the semester, the students have kept in contact with the developer and the other groups in the class and have also met with other environmental education centers such as the Piedmont Environmental Education Center in High Point.

"This started the first week of school," Zimmerman said. "This is all we do. We have a four-hour class once a week, but basically all we do is meet in the classroom for half an hour and then go off and work in our groups."

Zimmerman said that her group also met for two hours every Sunday in addition to the weekly class meetings.

Zimmerman said she hopes to see material open to all grades, after school programming and mobile units to take the programming to schools directly.

"There's such a need for this in the community," Zimmerman said. "The schools can't afford it unless it's here."

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# SGA

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# Editorial

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

## The 'War on Christmas' needs to come to an end UNC Chapel Hill's decision to remove trees highlights larger national trend

There is a new war being waged this holiday season, but the arsenal is in the form of lawsuits and the casualties are Santa's reindeer and Christmas trees.

Last week, Sarah Michalak, UNC Chapel Hill's associate provost of libraries, refused to allow the lighted Christmas trees that usually grace the main library entrances to be displayed this year. Michalak claimed that her decision was based on several years of complaints concerning the Christian nature of the decorations.

UNC's apparent ban on displays of Christian holiday decorations has not spread to Elon's campus. The leaf-barren trees are alight with glowing bulbs and wreaths, and red bows hang from Moseley Center and various campus buildings.

Although Elon is untouched by this "war on Christmas" it is a battle that is being waged nationwide and rears its ugly head every holiday season. Elementary school children were forbidden from singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" at a school performance in Wilmington, N.C., after one parent's complaint that the word Santa was an endorsement of Christianity.

Santa Claus's origin is both cultural and ethnic. According to Dutch legend, he was known as Sinter Claus, in Germany as Weihnachtsmann and as Pere Noel in France. No matter his name, Old Saint Nick was a benevolent figure, known for his generosity and munificence.

Yes, Santa Claus and the associated icons of Christmas trees, mistletoe and wreaths have a Christian origin. Can't these decorations be seen as symbols of the kindness and compassion that Saint Nicholas stood for rather than the religion to which he belonged? Does a message of caring, merriment and happiness become marginalized because it has roots in one religion as opposed to another?

All religious symbols of Christmastime, from the Hanukkah driedel to the Kwanzaa vibunzi should be included in this celebration. The universal messages of empathy and joy these symbols represent should be the overriding belief that is recognized by Americans.

There should not be such a petulant focus on the fact that the message of the holiday season may stem from Judaism or Christianity, but a realization of the broader and more encompassing meaning of love symbolized by misumma saba and menorah.

Americans live in a culture that is becoming increasingly politically correct and severe steps are sometimes taken so that all viewpoints can be included and complaints pacified. But the idea of making the holiday season politically correct is ridiculous. It is a celebration that is specifically based in the Christian faith, and to make the holiday devoid of any religious references it would have to cease to exist. From its very name, Christmas celebrates a religion.

In reference to the tree removal at Chapel Hill,

"We have Christmas as a federal holiday. If we're going to remove the Christmas tree, do we have to remove the holiday?"

Derek Belcher, president of Chapel Hill's College Republicans said, "We have Christmas as a federal holiday. If we're going to remove the Christmas tree, do we have to remove the holiday?"

The answer is yes. To truly make Christmas a religiously neutral holiday it could no longer be celebrated by time off for government officials, sales at department stores and charity drives that coalesce around the holiday season. The solution is to make sure that Christmas is not the only religion recognized and the celebration of the season extends to all faiths.

There are 365 days in a year and only 12 are considered holidays by the federal government. These are tough economic times in a world that is constantly changing and revolving with democracy and dictatorships itching at the trigger. Americans don't need one less reason to celebrate. Let's leave Christmas alone.

### ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES:

#### A VERY ELON CHRISTMAS LIST



LARS '08

Cartoon by Lars Bredahl

## Students studying abroad need to enjoy travels with caution

This last week of exams, papers and numerous pots of coffee will also be the last time some students see the campus until the spring semester. In the 2005-2006 academic year, 1,056 students participated in study abroad experiences. It was based on this statistic that Elon received recognition on the nation's top-ranked master's-level university for study abroad programs in 2007.

With 73 percent of students studying abroad at least once during their time at the university, becoming an international traveler is the norm for Elon students. The opportunities Elon provides for students to stretch their boundaries beyond domestic soil should be taken advantage of, but with caution.

Even though a trip may be arranged through the university, no program takes the relative safety of the Elon bubble to Madrid bars or the streets of Peru at night.

This semester there have been reports of attacks and robberies of Elon students abroad in London and Costa Rica. While these incidents are the exception rather than the rule, students leaving the country need to be vigilant.

Many see the lower, or sometimes nonexistent, drinking age in foreign countries as an open doorway to go blackout clubbing and barhopping. While these activities often come with the territory of being young and experiencing relatively new and exciting freedoms, precautions beyond those taken when walking home from West End need to be taken.

The buddy system cannot be overemphasized, even when students believe the situation is harmless. Always make sure someone in the group knows your whereabouts and, even in daylight, travel with a friend in the program.

Girls walking on the sidewalk need to keep their purses on the arm closest to buildings, away from the street. Thieves will commonly snatch purses from unsuspecting travelers when zooming by on mopeds.

When sitting down, ladies should also put their leg through their purse straps so they can feel a tug of pickpocket. Guys need to keep their wallets in their front pockets since snatchers are less likely to reach for a more private area. When carrying a backpack, it should be strung across your belly rather than your back and no valuables should be put in accessible first pockets.

Before touring exotic cities, be sure to know the train and bus schedules because no one wants to be stranded in the London Underground when the last train leaves. When making that late night walk home lace, your keys outward in your fingers so they can be jabbed at a potential attacker. Keys are effective weapons when jabbed up the nose or into an aggressor's eye.

No one should spend his or her study abroad experience scared in a hotel room and unwilling to experience nightlife or the exciting journey of exploring a new country. There is a difference between being adventurous and being stupid. Elon sends students abroad with every intention of having them return.

### THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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# Opinions

## Pendulum staff bids farewell to readers, supporters



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

December is an exciting and exhausting time all around Elon's campus. We're all busy putting final touches on semester-long papers (which somehow we get done in a week) and cramming for finals (swearing we'll procrastinate less on our readings next year).

But for the staff at The Pendulum, December is a month for reflection. As we hurry to put out the last issue of the year, some of us are acutely aware that we are working on our last issue ever. In January, a new staff will sign on to the year-long positions and our time on staff at The Pendulum will be over.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Elon community, for being such an integral part of the growth this newspaper has seen in the past year.

Since the 2008 staff began in its positions last Winter Term, we have added eight pages to the weekly paper, redesigned all aspects of the print product, launched a new Web site and produced three 32-page editions. But none of this could have been done without your feedback, support and helpful

criticism. You make us strive to be better.

It would also be hard to get through the tough times without the help and support of countless professors and administrators. Specifically, we give many thanks to Colin Donohue, Glenn Scott and Janna Anderson, who are a constant presence in our newsroom, physically and otherwise.

The Pendulum is very much a labor of love for those who work here. It is an office with tight deadlines and even tighter community.

To the 2008 Pendulum staff, you have exceeded the expectations of many. Be proud of how far you've brought The Pendulum in your short time here. I am certain that the work we have done has built a strong foundation for even greater things that are to come.

The workers at the Acorn Coffee Shop are also deserving of a heartfelt thanks from our staff. We know orders for 15 waters, six cookies, three milkshakes, two sandwiches and one non-fat half-calf iced mocha are the last thing you want to hear at 12:15 a.m., but your work fuels our staff, so a part of the paper each Wednesday is yours.

In a month and a half, the staff box will be full of many new names as well as a few old ones. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the next Editor-in-Chief, Andie Diemer. If you're an avid Pendulum reader, you will recognize her name from the countless stories she's written as both News

and Special Projects Editor. I know Diemer and her new staff will continue to grow and improve The Pendulum, and I cannot wait to see what wonderful things they will accomplish over the next year.

Diemer is joined by Ashley Barnas, who will serve as the first head editor for The Pendulum Online. Keep your eyes on our Web site, [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum), because Barnas has lots of great things in store for the next year, including more daily updates, more multimedia and special Web-only features.

I'd like to conclude this farewell piece by mentioning the seniors on The Pendulum staff. Whitney Bossie, Kaitlin Busch, Jessi Dexheimer, Lindsay Eney, Alyse Knorr, Shelley Russell and Bethany Swanson have each shown unparalleled leadership and I know that they will each go on to achieve great things in their futures. And I am sure they are all happy to leave behind the chilly newspaper deliveries at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Again, I give a deep thank you to all who have been a part of the paper in some way over the past year. My tenure as Editor-in-Chief may have come to an end, but the memories that you have supplied me will last forever.

Keep reading. Keep talking. The Pendulum is your forum. Use it.

## Cyberbullying is not harmless, virtual harassment has real life consequences



**Taylor Doe**  
Columnist

Thirteen-year-old Megan Meier exchanged flirtatious messages over MySpace with a boy named Josh Evans. After a few weeks, the messages turned nasty, and Josh told Megan that the world would be a better place without her. Meier responded with a message saying "You're the kind of boy a girl would kill herself over." Twenty minutes later, Megan's parents found her dead in her bedroom after she hanged herself.

In what may be one of the most horrific examples of cyberbullying to date, it turns out that "Josh Evans" didn't even exist. It was a fake user profile created by Lori Drew, the 47-year-old mother of one of Megan's former friends, who lived only four doors down from the Meiers. Drew wanted to humiliate Megan as a form of retribution for reportedly spreading gossip about her daughter.

What would provoke an adult to act in such an immature and irresponsible manner remains unclear. Although Drew has claimed that she created the account to gain Meier's trust and to see what she really thought about her daughter, friends claim that they heard her laughing about the exchanges, saying that she wanted to "mess" with Meier.

The events leading up to Meier's death are just as disturbing as they are sad. If parents are using the Internet to attack their children's preteen friends, what kind of behavior can we expect to see from the

kids themselves?

Adults should not be encouraging this type of behavior and certainly in no situation should they be harassing children.

Bullying is nothing new, but the form it has taken on the Internet has certainly taken the harassment to dangerous new virtual heights. It is not uncommon for people to post threats to their MySpace or Facebook pages that rip into their classmates and friends.

And of course, as the Elon community has seen firsthand, Juicy Campus is an anonymous venue where students can write any unsubstantiated piece of gossip they want without proof or consideration of the person being written about.

Each generation has had its way of bullying peers, but this is a whole different playground. Instead of the big, greasy-haired bully stealing the smaller, skinny kid's lunch money, there are now adults and teenagers alike emotionally bashing peers with wall posts and Facebook chat.

Using the Internet to harass, humiliate and isolate people is cowardly. Perhaps because it takes less courage to debate people in a virtual world, people are encouraged to be more ruthless and cutting.

Meier's story should serve as a cautionary tale for those who choose to engage in these types of behaviors. Like most teenagers, Meier was looking for acceptance, but what she got instead was a response so callous and cruel that it drove her to suicide.

So let this serve as a reminder that words always carry weight no matter if they are scathingly spoken or carelessly pounded out on a keyboard.

## Jewish students face challenges during Christmas, campus decorations not celebrated by all students

**Jesse Unger**  
Guest Columnist

Ignorance is expected when you're told to make Christmas crafts in elementary school, attend a Christmas dance in middle school, or even see the large Christmas tree in the lobby of the high school.

But when you attend a prestigious, liberal arts, so-called diverse university, ignorance should not be tolerated. The lessons should be learned. Tolerance should be required. And religious equality should be demanded. If Elon expects so much of me, shouldn't I be able to expect a little more from Elon?

Being Jewish at Elon during the holidays is like living in some strange Christmas wonderland, or not-so-wonderland, if you're like me. Walking into the library, straight ahead is a massive Christmas tree.

In McEwen dining hall, immediately to your right, is an ornate Christmas display. Even certain on-and-off campus restaurants are decorated with lights and trees.

I've almost developed a fear of Christmas. When

I walk into a building am I going to be flooded with Christmas lights? Am I going to get fattened up by some Christmas cookie bake sale? Is a tree going to topple over with decorations and knock out the students passing by? Am I really going to have to listen to one more Christmas song?

I can't imagine that you would want to hear "I Have a Little Dreidel" playing over the loud speakers. I don't want to hear "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," either.

I'm not a Grinch. I don't hate Christmas. I love the idea of this season being a time of giving, but why do we feel the need to decorate every open, public space with Christmas decorations? Does it really help spread that message?

I do appreciate some of the forward steps that have been made to incorporate other religions and holidays into this season, but it's still not enough.

So just try to think when you're putting up that Christmas tree on campus or playing Christmas music over the radio at your restaurant. Remember that Christmas is not the only holiday celebrated on this campus.

## Christmas cheer needs to extend beyond material items to real values

**Andrew Quay**  
Guest Columnist

Black Friday actually began to bleed during this year's holiday season.

For a Wal-Mart employee, the first day of his Christmas season turned out to be the last day of his life. While opening the doors to the beginning of a shopping frenzy, the man was trampled to death by eager shoppers who lined-up around the store corner on the eve of Black Friday.

By now, Americans have all seen the headlines of this unnecessary tragedy in a time that is renowned by many for religious reasons and celebratory causes.

A majority of Elon's student body looks forward to this time to return home to families and enjoy the simple pleasures life has to offer.

Many look forward to camping out in the living room by the subtle crackles of a quiet fire while watching a movie with family. Others look forward to that pleasure, the one devoid from the pressures of academia and a part-time job, where they can lounge in the comforts of their own home. But as Elon students enjoy the joys of returning to home, they should not forget the slain Wal-Mart employee.

Has consumerism absorbed American society so much that people are torn away from appreciating simple pleasures and need to be stimulated by gadgets and useless items invented for the profits of cooperate competition? Now, it appears that flat-screen TVs, laptops and the newest game-consoles have become our obsession.

Instead of enjoying an evening with family after a Thanksgiving feast, Americans set up camp outside Best Buy or Wal-Mart in order to be the first shopper to slip through the doors in the early hours of Black Friday. People should appreciate a good sale, but not at that expense.

This materialistic society has simply become overwhelming. This disturbing trend cannot be generalized to everyone because there are many people who find happiness that doesn't come with a price tag. Yet, as a whole Americans are spoiled brats whining in their cribs.

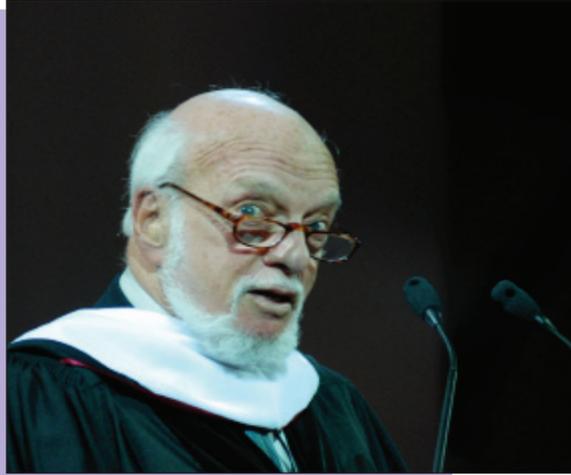
In the quest to make money or spend it, Americans are losing what is most valuable. The simple pleasures are different for everyone, but are all continuing to fade behind cash registers and credit cards.



# Year in Photos

Compiled and Edited by Shelley Russell  
Special Projects

The year was a historic time for Elon University with many events that took place. Some highlights included school campaigns and programs such as the Environmental program that are shaping the future of this university. "Sweeney Todd" and "Phantom of the Opera" including the first trip to the SoCon championship and the quarterfinals in the MCLA club lacrosse.



## The Arts



## Sports



Designed by David Wells  
Editor Photo Editor

iversity. The following images recap the  
clude visits from two major political figures,  
ver Elon and the Elon in L.A. summer  
s university, stunning theater productions like  
pera,” and a new era in Phoenix athletics,  
pionship for men’s basketball and a trip to  
se national championship tournament.



# Features



# Politics



# Style

## Red Oak Brewery bottles local favorites

**Sophie Duensing**  
Reporter

Malted barley, hops, water and yeast. These are the only ingredients allowed in beer making, according to "Rheinheitsgebot," the Law of Purity for beer makers, written in Germany in 1516. While the majority of American-brewed beers today use ingredients that include a list of over 400 additives and preservatives, the brewers at Red Oak stick with the four ingredients allowed by the Law of Purity, the oldest recorded food and drink regulation.

Red Oak Brewery is located 15 minutes from Elon University and is America's most modern computerized brewery.

Red Oak's beer is distributed directly from the brewery to surrounding areas in North Carolina. North Carolina is one of the few states that allows breweries to self-distribute. While this distinguishes Red Oak from other American breweries, the pure taste derived from its all-natural ingredients is what has won the company a growing fan base. All its beers are unfiltered and unpasteurized, creating "a more delicious, cleaner tasting beer," as described by "brew master" Chris Buckley.

"Our beer is good for you — in moderation — due to all the minerals," Buckley said.

### Interested in Red Oak?

The beer can be purchased on draft at local bars, such as Lighthouse Tavern and West End Station, and in kegs at Cruz-Thru.

Tours of the brewery are offered at 3 p.m. every Friday and include a full tour of the brewing facility, and ending with the best part — free taste tests of all three beers. More information can be found at their web site at <http://www.redoakbrewery.com>.

Red Oak has three signature brews. Hummin' Bird is its lightest lager, perfect for a warm summer day. What's one thing wrong with a humming bird? Most people can't think of one, and that's how this beer got its name: light and crisp, it's makers say it is impossible to think of a single complaint. One serving of Hummin' Bird also contains the daily recommended allowance of vitamin B.

The brewery's namesake beer, Red Oak, is an "old-style" lager and uses Spalt Noble Hops from Bavaria, the oldest hops in the world.

Its third and heaviest brew is Battlefield Bock, described as smooth and creamy with hints of chocolate and coffee. Battlefield Bock makes for an excellent holiday beer. Battlefield and Red Oak can be mixed, creating a "Red Bock" mixture that is the perfect balance of the two — strong flavor profiles from the Bock, yet less filling than the Bock by itself.

Buckley recommended that all of Red Oak's beers be served in a room temperature glass with a two-inch head. That little bit of foam helps release the flavor of the beer and keeps out extra unwanted odors such as tobacco smoke. It also releases a lot of the carbon dioxide found in all beers, making the brew less filling.

Red Oak Brewery's roots go back to Franklin's Restaurant located in Greensboro near Guilford College. The restaurant was known for its wine cellar. It flourished, soon branching out to six locations across North Carolina, including Greensboro, Winston, Charlotte and Chapel Hill. Inspired by a love for Swiss pubs and Bavarian-style brews, the owners of Franklin's developed the concept of a "brew-pub." Franklin's was remodeled, brewing equipment was purchased in and Red Oak Brew Pub was officially opened in February 1991, with all beer brewed in strict occurrence with the 1516 Law of Purity.

By 2001, Red Oak had become so popular that a larger brewery was needed. The next location selected was adjacent to I-40/85 outside of Greensboro, so many students may remember seeing the old location while driving past it on the highway. Still not entirely satisfied, the Red



BRENDAN O'CONNOR | Photographer

Buckley explains to tourists the machinery used to add hops to the beer. The machine has to be regulated to make sure that it adds the exact amount, as the flavor depends on its accuracy.



BRENDAN O'CONNOR | Photographer

Buckley demonstrates the process of producing kegs, showing how to clean and bottle kegs at the brewery.

Oak staff began building the current Whitsett location in 2005 and it officially opened in the summer of 2007.

Today, Red Oak's popularity continues to grow as more bars across

the state begin to offer its beer.

"In every establishment that a Red Oak beer is sold, it becomes one of the top three most popular beers," Buckley said.

## Heartwarming horses provide therapy at Kopper Top

**Maria Victoria Langman**  
Reporter

Love. Patience. Acceptance. These are three of the ingredients for friendship. But any horse lover knows that these are also some of the endearing qualities of the four-legged creatures. Because of this, horses are used to provide therapy to people with special needs, including autism, Down syndrome, depression and attention deficit disorder.

Equine therapy has led to improvements for countless patients. It gives patients confidence and boosts self-esteem by creating a link between the horse and the patient, improves communication skills because patients become more aware of their emotions and non-verbal communication and decreases loneliness in patient's lives. A rider also develops social skills by interacting with his or her instructor and the people in the barn.

Kopper Top Life Learning Center is located in Liberty, N.C., about 25 minutes from Elon's campus. The center was founded in 1990 by Deborah Meridith, a certified North American Riding for the Handicapped Association Instructor, and it has been accredited as a nonprofit, 501(C)3 recreational therapy center. This farm houses animals of all kind, from cats, dogs and horses, to goats, rabbits, and a chinchilla. The center has become a home away from home for individuals enrolled in its programs.

The barn currently houses 32 horses, 16 of which are used for lessons. These horses must prove themselves to be safe and trustworthy around riders of all ages and skill levels. Meridith relies on a team of volunteers to ensure the riders get the maximum benefits out of the lessons, and they tailor the



MARIA VICTORIA LANGMAN | Photographer

Kopper Top is home to 32 horses and various other animals. Sixteen of the horses are used for Equine Therapy, providing numerous benefits to individuals with mental and physical disabilities.

lessons to meet each rider's needs. Some disabled riders rely on modified tack to stay balanced on top of the horses. Through specially designed saddles, these individuals can learn how to ride. This opportunity gives some riders the opportunity to "walk," an experience some may never have on their

own.

At Kopper Top, there's always something to do around the barn, even if it is not directly helping in the lessons. The center relies on volunteers from local high schools and colleges to keep everything running smoothly.

Sophomore Jana Murdock began volunteering at Kopper Top to fulfill the community service requirement for her College Writing class. She has continued to visit the center, volunteering a few hours every month.

"The best part of Kopper Top is the idea of working together to really help people," she said. "Meeting all the volunteers and riders is an amazing experience."

Murdock hopes to continue volunteering at Kopper Top in the future, adding that the hands-on experience helps her unwind after a long week of classes.

"Being able to get your hands dirty is a great stress relief," she said.

Junior Jenna McNair is another long-term Kopper Top volunteer. She has been helping Meridith since her freshman year, and she says it has always been a rewarding experience. She said every rider has an inspiring story, and she loves to see the progress the kids make with each lesson. Though the progress made each lesson may be small, McNair knows that in the long run, the little things will sum up to make a great change in these kids lives.

"The best thing for these kids is how horses don't care if you're disabled or not," McNair said. "They love you regardless."

For more information, visit [www.koppertop.org](http://www.koppertop.org), email [Caseta@aol.com](mailto:Caseta@aol.com), or call (336) 565 973.

# Elon student and dad form company to support less fortunate in technological academic endeavors

Sarah Carideo  
Reporter

Ned Dibner doesn't spend his free time like a stereotypical teenager. Throughout the past several years, Dibner has devoted more than 1,000 hours to community service in his hometown of Durham, N.C.

Dibner's dedication to community service started in 2003. He noticed that some of his classmates at C.E. Jordan High School didn't have access to computers and their grades were being negatively affected.

"My friends were getting points off papers because they couldn't type them," Dibner said. "It wasn't fair."

So, the enterprising 14-year-old approached his father with an idea. Dibner suggested refurbishing used computers at home and then donating them to local honor roll students who needed a computer for schoolwork. Dibner's father, Mark, supported the endeavor and their company was born. They named the company 'Kramden,' a combination of their names spelled backwards.

In 2003, Dibner was honored by the Durham Herald-Sun as a "Shining Star" for his community service work through Kramden.

"I did what I had to do and got involved with whatever was needed," Dibner said modestly.

Kramden has come a long way in the five years since its formation.

"The first year, we made 30 computers in our basement, and now we've completed over 2,500 computers," Dibner said. "It's changed from being father and son to involving the community."

The Dibners acquire old computers and parts through donations from businesses or individuals. This practice is also environmentally beneficial because the equipment is put to use instead of being thrown in landfills.

Kramden volunteers then update the computers. The hard drive is wiped clean and replaced with a Windows XP Professional operating system. Kramden is a member of the Microsoft Approved Refurbishers Program, so it is able to obtain affordable copies of this system.

The volunteers perform a series of tests to determine what parts are working and what parts need to be replaced. Typically, each computer receives a processor, more memory and storage space, a CD-ROM drive

and floppy drive, a working Ethernet card, a keyboard, a mouse, cables and a clean 15-17 inch monitor. Software such as OpenOffice, Internet Explorer 7.0, ZipGenius, Avast! Antivirus and Budget Dialup is also added.

The refurbishing process primarily occurs daily at the Kramden headquarters, but the duo sometimes performs refurbishing work at other events like Wednesday Work Nights and Geek-a-Thons. Geek-a-Thons are weekend events where 140 volunteers work non-stop to refurbish 180 to 240 computers.

The final step in Kramden's process is to donate the computers to students who have been nominated by school officials, teachers or other community members. The company provides technical support for the life of the computer and will replace damaged computers or parts.

Originally, the program only benefited middle school honor roll students. The program has expanded to provide all students — kindergarten through high school — with working computers. Dibner said that Kramden made the decision to support all students after he missed the honor roll by one point and realized how disappointed he would've been if he had been one of the students working hard to get a computer.

One of the most important elements of Kramden is that it encourages community members to help them create change. Because Mark Dibner manages another company, BioAbility, and Ned Dibner is a full-time student at Elon, Kramden relies heavily on the seven members of its board of directors, as well as its large volunteer base.

Currently, more than 800 volunteers help Kramden. The company's Web site states through "Kramden's efforts, talented people and salvageable equipment can come together to create a valuable resource for kids in our community." Simply put, Kramden is able to give back to the community only because of the support given by the community.

These days, Kramden strives to inspire students to succeed by providing them with the equipment to better complete their assignments and empower them by educating them about technology. This gives them the opportunity for a better future. Eventually, Dibner hopes that Kramden will continue to grow, benefiting people around the world.



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Ned Dibner formed the Kramden organization with his father in 2003. Since then, he has logged over 1,000 rebuilding computers and distributing them to local students.

## Donation Requirements:

### Desktop Computers

- Must have Pentium III (or equivalent) 500 MHz or higher processor
- Must not be stripped of parts
- 15 – 17" screen
- Must be in good working condition

### Laptops

- Must have Pentium III 450 MHz or higher processor
- Should not have cracked screens or more than 3 dead pixels
- Should include AC adaptor or power cord
- Kramden cannot accept Apple/Mac products

### Equipment

- Hard disk drives
- Operating systems (Windows XP)
- Memory RAM sticks
- Sound cards, CD/CD-RW or DVD drives
- Copy paper
- Motherboard batteries

For more information or ways to get involved in Kramden, visit the Web site at [www.kramden.org](http://www.kramden.org), or e-mail Ned and Mark at [admin@kramden.org](mailto:admin@kramden.org).

## YouIntern.com eases the stress of internship searches

### Looking for an internship? Search some of these sites.

[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org) - Listings for internships and volunteer organizations at non-profit organizations

[www.inroads.org](http://www.inroads.org) - InRoads connects talented minority students to potential internships

[www.monstertrak.com](http://www.monstertrak.com) - Database of jobs and internships in all 50 states and virtually every field

[www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu) - The Washington Center helps students find DC-based internships in the public, private and non-profit sectors

You can also take advantage of Elon's resources

Christina Edwards  
Reporter

The current economic climate is practically enough to send any student scurrying back to a summer job waiting tables, rather than risk the chance of finding something a little more pertinent to future plans. The U.S. unemployment rate is currently at 6.7 percent — the highest it's been since 1993, according to the Department of Labor. At least 200,000 more jobs were lost than the average analyst estimate. This is also the biggest drop since December 1974. But even in an economic crisis, undergraduate programs push for real-world experience, namely internships.

So what does it mean for the average student's summer interning plans when regular jobs are scarce?

"We're actually seeing more internships being posted as the economy continues to worsen," said Anand Chopra-McGowan, co-founder of the Web site YouIntern.com. "For better or worse, employers see interns as a way to fill some of the resource gaps created by workers who've been laid off."

YouIntern.com was born from the ideas of Chopra-McGowan and Dan Chaparian while both were still attending Boston University. The site provides a place where students can search for internships in their career of interest, as well as look at employer profiles and access reviews posted by former interns.

"We each had personal internship experiences that were not what we expected going in, so the idea was to create a forum where former interns could review their experience and provide better information for current and future interns," Chopra-McGowan said. "We also then decided to bring in employers with open internships, allowing both parties to connect and meet their mutual needs."

Employer profiles on the site can include basic information about the company and links to the company's Web site and information, but also provide user generated reviews of how internships went, including descriptions of the office atmosphere and how much real world experience was provided.

Access to the site is free for all students. Employers can create standard posts for free, regionally targeted posts that are seen by students in their zip code for \$10 a week, or featured posts that stay on the homepage for \$25 a week.

The site allows students to narrow the search for potential internships by industry and offered compensation, both in course credit and pay.

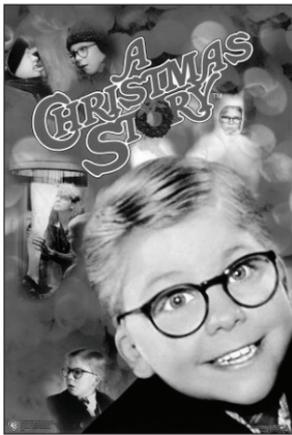
At Elon, internship credit is required for certain majors, such as communications and business.

"Students are having a tougher time finding jobs, and will have to use sites like YouIntern.com more and more," Chopra-McGowan said.

For more information, visit [YouIntern.com](http://YouIntern.com).

# Elon students share which movies **GET THEM IN THE MOOD** for the holidays

Compiled by Alex Trice  
Photos courtesy of www.movies.yahoo.com



"My favorite holiday movie will always and forever be 'A Christmas Story' because in my family, it's a tradition to watch it every year. They have a 24-hour marathon on TV that starts on Christmas Eve so I pretty much leave my TV on and watch that over and over. It's just a good, funny holiday movie. But I think 'A Christmas Carol' is overrated. It's getting old, and it doesn't put me in the Christmas spirit."

– Jessica Scales, freshman

"My favorite holiday movie is 'A Christmas Story.' The 'smiling' cooked duck is hilarious!"

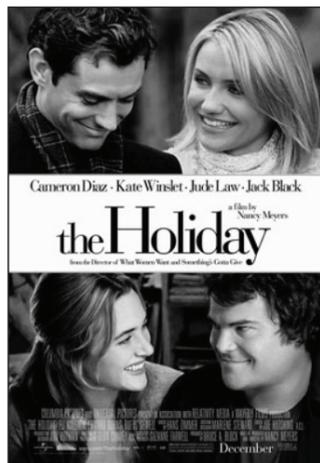
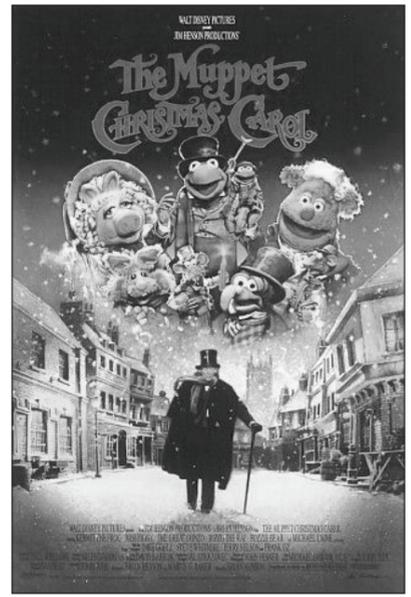
– Tori Davis, senior

"My favorite Christmas move has to be 'The Muppet Christmas Carol.' Reasons? One, Muppets. Two, Michael Caine. Three, the biggest reason is I just love the way it's a combination of nostalgic elements: The charm of the story of 'A Christmas Carol,' the hilarious Muppet humor and songs that I sing even when it's not Christmas time. And come on — Gonzo and Rizzo are narrators. What says 'Christmas' more than a hooked-nose blue alien and a rat?"

– Carin Metzger, senior

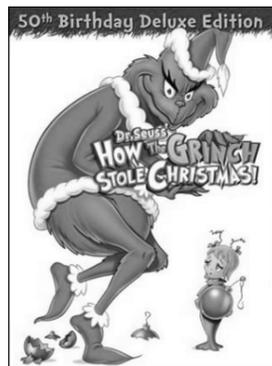
"'The Muppet Christmas Carol' is and always has been my favorite holiday movie. Michael Caine as Scrooge, the song 'One More Sleep Til Christmas' and a terrifying Ghost of Christmas Future are just a few of the hallmarks of this holiday classic."

– Paul Mirek, junior



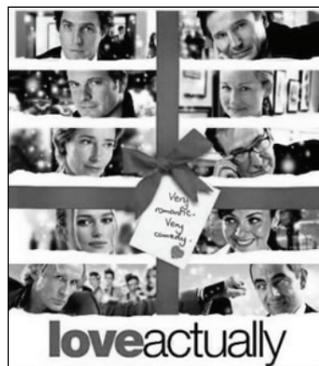
"'The Holiday.' I never get tired of watching it. That's probably why it's my favorite."

– Micah Boomer, sophomore



"My favorite holiday movie is 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' both the cartoon and live action versions, because it's a very touching story with a great adventure and a nice twist at the end."

– Dakota Keith, freshman



"I'm a fan of classic Christmas movies, but 'Love Actually' is probably my favorite. I really like the message that 'love actually is all around.'"

– Elise Delmerico, freshman

"'Love Actually' because it makes you realize how much you love someone, or it inspires you to chase after that one person you love. It is such a feel-good movie that puts you in such high spirits. It is the only movie, putting my man complex aside, that I actually smiled at the end and felt happy."

But Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' both animated and live action, I feel are very overrated. They don't make me feel that great about Christmas. They just make me think that because a green creature has been bullied by society because of his actions that he is going to steal all of my presents but more importantly my love."

– Raj Rawal, freshman

## Bridezillas throw down in the ultimate 'Bride Wars'

Alexa Milan  
A&E Editor

Right now students are counting down the days until holiday break, but when they get back from break they can look forward to a new comedy starring Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson.

"Bride Wars," due in theaters Jan. 9, follows a pair of lifelong friends, Liv (Hudson) and Emma (Hathaway). They have imagined every detail of their weddings since they were children, and now the big day is about to happen for both of them. Liv and Emma both desperately want to get married at New York's Plaza Hotel, and they schedule their weddings a few weeks apart so they can both use the venue.

But when a technical glitch causes both of their weddings to accidentally be scheduled on the same day, one of the girls must forfeit her dream location. Neither one will budge and Liv and Emma unleash their inner "bridezillas," playing dirty trick after dirty trick as each one tries to force the other to postpone her wedding date.

"We're human beings so I think we understand what it's like to be jealous, what it's like to be competitive or catty," Hathaway said during a conference call. "Maybe we don't indulge those feelings. Maybe we try not to live in that world. But I think those urges are understandable."

Hudson said neither she nor Hathaway would ever go to the lengths their characters do to stop a wedding, but it was easy to draw from real-life experiences to create the bridezilla mindset.

"I tapped into my inner bridezilla

by watching some of my friends go through some stuff and understanding the stress of it myself when I got married," Hudson said during the conference call. "We're very emotional creatures and sometimes you can get carried away. So for me, with this movie, it was so fun to be able to make fun of ourselves."

"Bride Wars" was in development for five years before filming began, and Hudson, who is also one of the film's producers, was immediately drawn to the project.

"I felt that this one, being such a high concept comedy, was really a nice one for me to be able to get going," Hudson said.

Though both actresses agree that the tricks Liv and Emma pull in the film wouldn't be as funny in real life, onscreen they provide plenty of hilarity. Hudson said her favorite scene is one where Liv messes with Emma's spray tan so she turns orange, while Hathaway said she enjoyed filming a scene in which Emma tricks Liv into gaining weight.

"That's low," Hathaway said. "That's something that girls don't do to each other. It's kind of fun to think that Emma was driven to such a point of desperation that she could justify it to herself."

Hudson and Hathaway can relate to their characters in that they formed a close friendship while working on the film. Hudson called Hathaway fearless, and Hathaway said Hudson has the rare ability to balance being professional with having fun.

But Hudson and Hathaway differ from their "Bride Wars" characters in



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.IMBD.COM

Liv, played by Kate Hudson, and Emma, played by Anne Hathaway, are lifelong friends vying for the perfect wedding in "Bride Wars."

their approach to planning a wedding. Unlike Emma and Liv, neither of them fantasized about every single detail of their future nuptials.

"When I was growing up, my parents weren't married, and we had it so ingrained in us that you didn't need to sign a piece of paper to say you're a family or that you love each other," Hudson said. "So for me it was really more about who was going to be the guy that I would spend the rest of my life with."

Hathaway also focused her wedding fantasies on the man she would marry one day, but in a slightly different way

than Hudson.

"In my fantasy I was like 'Leonardo DiCaprio and I will meet at some point and he'll just see me walking down the street and fall in love with me,'" Hathaway said. "I just assumed that Leo and I would find some kind of happy medium between our two aesthetics and have a glorious wedding. It doesn't look like that's going to happen, however."

Hudson can next be seen in the musical "Nine," and Hathaway is currently filming Tim Burton's adaptation of "Alice in Wonderland."

## MUSIC REVIEW ★★★★★

# 'Chinese Democracy' marks long-awaited return of Guns N' Roses

Chris King  
Reviewer

Before you listen to "Chinese Democracy," you have to stop and think, "I am about to hear a piece of history." To the uninitiated, "Chinese Democracy" has been the pet project of Axl Rose, the last remaining member of Guns N' Roses. For the last decade and a half, "Chinese Democracy" has been a joke, a legend, a myth, music's own Bigfoot.

And so, when one finally hears this mythical creature, how do you best soak it in? Is there truly any way to absorb this intangible thing, something so long believed to be no more than a name and a vague idea? "Chinese Democracy" is more than just an album. It is the last true "big release" of all time.

But what about the music? The title track opens with chimes, some ambient voices talking and a chill wind riding through. Then, cutting through the noise like a surgeon comes a heavy guitar riff. As the noise and the riff build, out of the ether comes a howl, that signature Axl Rose shriek that has so long been silent.

Fears that he had lost that powerful wail are quickly assuaged. The track builds into a crunchy, metal classic, filled with white-hot guitar leads and multi-layered vocals. This is a trend that sticks throughout the album.

In an era full of low-key, quiet indie rock, Axl Rose laughs. Subtlety has never been his strong suit, and this album is a perfect example of that. With guitars and vocals piled on top of each other like some sort of GarageBand freeway accident, the term bombastic seems like a great



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MEDIABISTRO.COM

understatement.

Yet, it all works. Songs like "Street of Dreams" sound like they could quickly devolve into nothing more than treacle, but Axl manages to keep them afloat, matching every hackneyed line with something great and more pathos than most bands can muster in a career.

When one listens to this album, it's almost impossible to separate it from its source material. How many of these lyrics directly relate to the album's labored creation, and how much is purely circumstantial? Are these lines of "leaving you behind" directed toward an ex-flame, or his band members? Or maybe he means an apology to them?

The lyrics of "I.R.S." are a Rubik's Cube of potential Axl drama. He talks about making a federal case (the hacker that leaked several of these songs earlier this year, who is currently facing federal charges?), "livin' inside of this song" (his obsession with the album?) and

being "just too tired to care" (the endless criticism he has had to deal with?). Separating the man from the myth gets to be difficult, where one ends and the other begins.

It has taken Axl Rose 14 years, many studios, millions of dollars and countless hours to bring "Chinese Democracy" to life. It is his magnum opus, a grand sweeping statement of all his ambitions. "Riad N' The Bedouins" finds him singing about "my salvation and all my frustration." Both are evident in this album, an effort that has made him a walking punchline, a recluse from the music industry, the J.D. Salinger of the recording world.

It is fitting then, that the album contains a song titled "Catcher in the Rye." This album marks his return to the world, and despite the unreachable expectations it faces, it manages to be one of the best rock records of the year. Welcome back, Axl. We missed you.

## Students victorious at voice competition

### Elon music and music theater students take top honors at state level

Corinne Ayoub  
Reporter

It was a great moment for aspiring Elon vocalists at the National Association of Teachers of Singing conference last month when they swept the competition away, taking top honors.

According to sophomore music theater major John Yi, in order to do well in the competition the performers not only had to learn the songs but study the meaning behind them. Yi placed first in the freshman/sophomore men music theater category.

"The most challenging aspect of this competition for me was making sure I did not focus too much on the technical aspect of musically learning the songs, but focus more on the story behind the music and how I would perform it," Yi said.

Hallie Hogan, associate professor of music and Yi's vocal coach, said teaching the students is very rewarding.

"All of our singers are extremely enthusiastic about what they do and I can assure you that our coaching sessions are always lively," Hogan said.

The preparation and help provided by the teachers was essential for success in this competition. Julie Celona Vangorden, adjunct instructor of music, said she likes helping students with this kind of work.

"I enjoy working with the students to prepare for the NATS because they are able to work toward a goal, accomplish it and receive feedback and critiques from singing teachers throughout the state," Celona Vangorden said.

The competition is a two-day process. On the first day, the students and members attend a workshop about audition techniques and how to prepare, taught by Cathy McNeela, professor of performing arts.

Sophomore Sabrina Bradley has been participating in the competition for four years and still gets the jitters.

"The morning I come, I sign in and then I go get a caffeine-free Coke or hot tea, my vocal remedies," Bradley said.

Bradley also said she believes in the importance of a good student-teacher relationship.

"I know there are times where I have been so upset and stressed out and gone through some hard times with my voice," Bradley said. "I don't know where I would have been if I hadn't gotten through it all with my voice teachers Polly Cornelius and Mary Matthews."

Freshman Britney Caughell practices her singing about 45 minutes a day, which rewards her greatly.

"The most challenging thing was to get myself to the practice rooms, but the most rewarding part is when you move people with the song you're singing," Caughell said.

NC-NATS is a statewide organization of voice teachers who may sponsor their students during two student audition weekends a year. The participants from Elon each had to prepare four selections from their music theatre repertoire.

"Overall it's so much fun," Bradley said. "The adrenaline rush is great."

The student winners are eligible to go on to compete at the regional level in April 2009.

## Greensboro Symphony brings sounds of the holiday season to the Elon community

Alexa Milan  
A&E Editor

Students may be heading home for break in just a few days, but that won't mark the end of Elon's holiday events. The university will host the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops concert Dec. 21 to benefit the Alamance County Salvation Army.

Ten businesses will sponsor the concert, which will take place in Alumni Gym, and admission is free with a non-perishable food item. The concert will include religious and secular holiday favorites, a sing-along and a visit from Santa Claus.

The same show will happen at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Greensboro Coliseum Arena. That performance will also feature the Summit Figure Skating Club of Greensboro.

This is the second year the orchestra will perform a holiday concert at Elon. The university previously hosted holiday concerts with the North Carolina Symphony but had to charge \$20 per person.

"No one should object to bringing canned food for the Salvation Army," said George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs. "This way you can bring your whole family."

This year's program, selected by resident conductor Bruce Kiesling, will feature songs ranging from "Amazing Grace" and "Hallelujah Chorus" to "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "O Holy Night." The 62-person orchestra will perform with the Choral Society of Greensboro, and Fox 8 News anchors Neil McNeil and Julie Luck will

host the event.

"It's almost like a Christmas variety show," said Lisa Crawford, president and CEO of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

The performance will also feature two guest soloists, tenor Anthony Griffey and country singer Lisa Dames. Griffey has performed in opera houses worldwide. A recording of one opera he performed in, "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahogany," was recently nominated for two Grammy Awards. At the pops concert, Griffey will perform traditional songs like "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Dames is a wife and mother who records in Nashville, Tenn., and whose fans call themselves the "Minivan Mafia." At the Pops concert she will perform "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)."

Other guests include Bill Flynn of Greensboro radio station 99.5 WMAG, who will conduct the "Armed Forces Medley," and Scottish bagpiper Sir Robert Bell, who always ends the orchestra's holiday program with "Amazing Grace."

Though the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra has done other concerts at Elon during the past five years, Crawford said it is this holiday concert that really made a mark.

"Last year this seemed to be the most successful concert we've had here," Crawford said. "It just seems like a good fit."

Troxler said that even though students will already be home for Christmas, the Pops concert provides a great opportunity for Elon to do

### Want to go?

What: Greensboro Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops concert

When: 3 p.m. Dec. 21

Where: Alumni Gym

Admission: Free with the donation of non-perishable food to benefit the Alamance County Salvation Army

Information: [www.greensborosymphony.com](http://www.greensborosymphony.com)

something beneficial for the greater Alamance County community.

"Unfortunately, except for the Paramount Theater, which isn't large enough for this, there is no civic center in Alamance County," Troxler said. "So we're making an orchestral concert available to the community."

Crawford said she considers Alamance County an extension of Greensboro, and she hopes people in this community will be entertained while contributing to a good cause.

"I hope it will put people in the Christmas spirit and that they feel good knowing they've done something for less fortunate people in the community," Crawford said.

# Wilmington's annual Cucalorus Film Festival provides essential industry connections for elondocs students

Amanda Kennison  
Reporter

Communications instructor Nicole Triche and a group of three elondocs students traveled to Wilmington, N.C., to attend two days of the 14th annual Cucalorus Film Festival, held Nov. 12 to 14.

The Cucalorus Festival began in 1994 as an intimate screening of 16 films, shown in a small restaurant on the banks of the Cape Fear River. Within three years, the festival grew from attracting the local arts community to bringing in interested filmmakers and film submissions from across the country.

"Cucalorus is a friendly festival where you get to see good films and meet lots of great folks," Triche said.

Triche produced a series of five short films, known as "The Bars and Tone Experiment," which was screened at Cucalorus. Her project mixes the music of local bands with images that reflect the songs' tones and messages.

"When I would go see [bands] play, various songs would ignite my imagination," Triche said. "I would envision imagery while I listened to the songs. From this experience, I came up with the idea of combining the two art forms, music and film, to form something greater than the two parts."

Although the Elon group didn't get to see Triche's film screen at the festival, they attended many other events. From screening a number of short films, to attending a mixer full of filmmakers from across the country to meeting the director of Cucalorus,

students made important contacts.

"Attending the festival was a nice lesson in how to handle yourself," senior Erin Barnett said. "You got to learn how to balance being professional and really asserting yourself toward other filmmakers and being friendly and interested in one another."

All the Elon attendees agreed that the Cucalorus festival was a great place for networking. Being exposed to people in the film industry from all over the country presented them with the potential to make lasting connections. Since Cucalorus still maintains its original intimate environment, full of people who simply love movies, students get to experience the industry from a level of equal opportunity.

"The best experiences at the festival were the filmmaker's gala and the closing party," senior Amy Reitnouer said. "It was a time when all the filmmakers could come together to mingle and talk about movies, the industry, life, etc. And everyone was on the same level. Even though I was just a film student, I was still chatting with directors and other people who had been in the industry for years."

In addition to meeting a number of interesting people, the students said they took away some significant lessons from the festival.

"I think it is very important for students to attend film festivals, because film festivals can be an outlet for their own work," Triche said. "By attending film festivals you can see what type of film programmers and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Seniors Erin Barnett, Amy Reitnouer and Conor Britain accompanied communications instructor Nicole Triche to the Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington, N.C., where Triche's short film series "The Bars and Tone Experiment" screened.

audiences are interested in."

The students agreed. "Being at Cucalorus was a great experience, if only to provide more ideas for where to go with our work, and inspiration for what we can do in the future," Reitnouer said.

It is that sense of inspiration that gives the students hope that they too will be able to produce works that could screen at similar festivals, they said.

"The most influential part of being at the festival was seeing that there

were both good and bad films there," Barnett said. "I got to see that it's not too much of a long shot to think that someone like a recent Elon graduate could get a film into the festival."

Though other Elon students didn't get to attend the Cucalorus festival, they can look forward to Elon's mini-film festival in the spring. Barnett, Reitnouer and senior Conor Britain will all screen original films. This is the first time in several years that so many original student films will be shown on campus.

## MOVIE REVIEW ★ ★ ★

### 'Punisher' only punishes viewers



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.IMDB.COM

Adam Constantine  
Film Critic

This film has been overshadowed by doubt since the original "Punisher" actor Thomas Jane was not cast in the new "Punisher: War Zone." The 2004 edition of "The Punisher" got mediocre reviews, but with the current success of the Marvel Entertainment franchise, they have decided to keep the superheroes coming. But this new "Punisher" was almost a redo of the 2004 "Punisher." But this version stays true to the comic books in the fact that it is much darker than the first one.

Frank Castle (Ray Stevenson) is a man driven by revenge. After a mob family executed his wife and children, he swore to punish the corrupt. The life of a vigilante is all he knows now and he will take whatever measures necessary to kill his enemies. But he comes face to face with a dilemma when an undercover cop is killed by his hand.

He must deal with the guilt and sorrow he has caused the agent's family while trying to defeat his newfound nemesis, Jigsaw (Dominic West). The rest of the film results in a bloodbath of slain villains.

"Punisher: War Zone" is, to say the very least, intense. It isn't necessarily intense in that viewers are on the edge of their

seats as much as it leaves audience members cringing at the mind-blowing violence portrayed on the screen.

Halfway through the film it is quite apparent that most of the focus is on how to kill each character as violently as possible. With barely a backbone of a plot, the movie violently struggles to a predictable conclusion.

But the movie is still quite entertaining in spite of its flaws. With bodies flying everywhere and weapons of every sort, audiences are enthralled with the anticipation of how the Punisher is going to kill the next villain, whether it be with a new state-of-the-art weapon or with his bare hands.

With all this weaponry in one man's hands, there is bound to be a multitude of factual flaws in the action sequences. For example, guns run out of ammunition. It is just how they work. Second, there is no way someone can punch a hole in someone's head.

This movie is definitely tailored to comic book buffs and those with an absolute thirst for violence. This would be a good movie to see during exams because it requires no thinking at all. But other than that, there are several other movies coming out soon that would be more worth viewers' time.

"Punisher: War Zone" is currently playing at Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossing.

## BOOK REVIEW ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### 'Beedle the Bard' will please die-hard 'Harry Potter' fans

Mary Nease  
Reviewer

If you've read "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," you have heard of "The Tales of Beedle the Bard." In the seventh Harry Potter book, readers learn that, just like the fairy tales everyone was told a kid, wizarding children heard the stories that were written by Beedle, which taught them some unfortunate truths about magic.

In J.K. Rowling's introduction to the book, she explains that in Muggle (non-magical) fairy tales, magic generally lies at the source of the hero's or heroine's troubles. But in "The Tales of Beedle the Bard," the main characters are capable of magic themselves, yet still have as much trouble as Muggles in solving their problems. To quote J.K. Rowling, the overarching moral of Beedle's stories is "that magic causes as much trouble as it cures."

There are many other morals within Beedle's tales that apply not only to witches and wizards, but to Muggles as well. The first story in the book, "The Wizard and the Hopping Pot," does not teach the rewards of kindness, but the consequences of indifference. In "The Fountain of Fair Fortune," readers learn the value of teamwork and that sometimes the greatest magic is not magical at all.

The third tale, "The Warlock's Hairy Heart," is quite gruesome, very much in the tradition of the Brothers Grimm. It teaches readers, in the words of Albus Dumbledore, that "to hurt is as human as to breathe." Dumbledore makes an appearance in this book by way of the commentaries that follow every story, treating readers to his insight, as well as entertaining them with anecdotes about ridiculous prudes and the reason

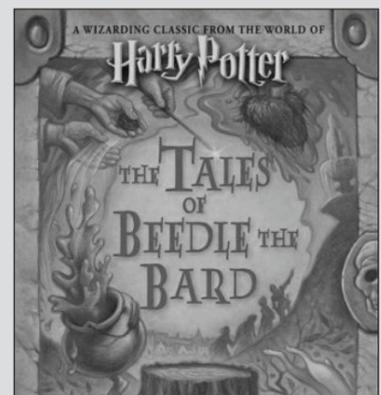


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SQUIDOO.COM

Hogwarts has no theater program.

The fourth tale, "Babbity Rabbity and Her Cackling Stump," provides a moral about the nature of death and how not everyone can be trusted. But it's the fifth tale that speaks the loudest about death and dying, and should be a familiar story to those who have read "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

"The Tale of the Three Brothers" is the legend of the Deathly Hallows, which teaches readers that death is inevitable. Dumbledore perhaps sums up the moral of this tale best in his observation that "humans have the knack of choosing precisely those things that are worst for them."

Overall, "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" is a very enjoyable, quick read. Besides the content, it is an excellent book to buy because the net proceeds go to the Children's High Level Group. J.K. Rowling and the Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne set up the organization in 2005, which aids children in large orphanages and other institutions, where they so often do not receive the care and education that they need.

# Saying goodbye six months early

Years of hard work pay off for students graduating in December

Jessi Dexheimer  
Features Editor

As winter break approaches, on-campus excitement mounts as students eagerly anticipate returning home. But for students graduating in December, the upcoming break is bittersweet — it marks the end of their Elon experience.

According to Associate Registrar Susan Patton, an average of 100 students graduate early each year. This year, that includes Fjolla Berisha, a broadcast communications major.

When Berisha was a freshman, she never thought that she would graduate early, but said the opportunity to do so was a welcome reward for four years of hard work. In addition to regularly taking 18-credit semesters, Berisha completed two four-credit summer internships, a four-credit independent research project and several online classes.

Berisha's full schedule has made it difficult to plan for the future.

"I haven't really had time to apply for jobs because I'm a full-time student," she said. "I'm going to use [spring] semester to do this, to apply for jobs and find out where I want to live before I have too much competition."

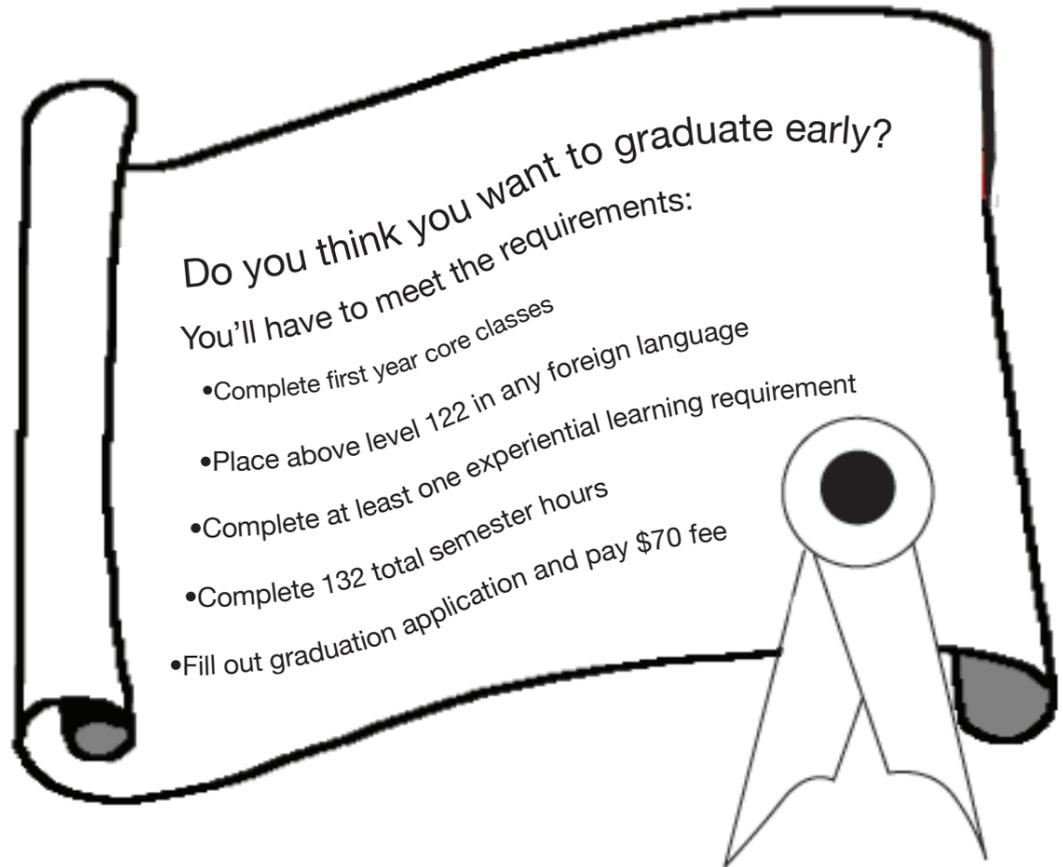
Senior Megan Kirkpatrick will be joining Berisha as an early graduate. When she entered Elon, the West Virginia native already had 12 credits under her belt that she received from Advanced Placement classes and a college-level course she took while still in high school.

"I had basically the equivalent of one semester when I came to Elon," Kirkpatrick explained. "I've been here for every Winter Term, and even when I studied abroad, I took a full course load. I never really took time off."

Despite her hard work, Kirkpatrick never planned to leave Elon early. In fact, it wasn't until last spring that she even realized she was a candidate for early graduation.

"I went in for my academic advising meeting in the spring of my junior year and my adviser told me that I only had three classes left before I could graduate," Kirkpatrick, a corporate communications major, remembers. "I had no idea that it was even a possibility."

After talking it over with her parents and



adviser, Kirkpatrick realized that graduating a semester early would benefit her in the long run.

"I'm basically saving \$15,000 in tuition and housing," she said. "I think my parents definitely appreciate that."

Like Berisha, Kirkpatrick is using her free semester to apply for jobs before the rest of her peers enter the workforce. Both students realize that the extra semester could give them the edge they need to get a job.

"With the economy the way it is now, I just think I need to do anything I can to get myself out into the workforce," Berisha said.

According to Patton, even if students have completed all requirements to graduate early, they won't receive a diploma until May. If students need proof that they fulfilled all of Elon's requirements, they must send her a written request to receive

their transcript, which she will give a "special" stamp. The stamp indicates that the students have completed all requirements and will officially graduate in May.

Both Berisha and Kirkpatrick say that they will definitely participate in May's commencement ceremony with their peers, but will probably come back and visit before then.

When asked if they are sad about leaving Elon, both students admitted that they have mixed emotions, but are ultimately happy with their decision.

"It's sad sometimes, but I don't feel like I'm missing out on that much," said Kirkpatrick. "We're all going to have to leave and say goodbye, I'm just doing it six months early."

## OVERHEARD AT ELON U

Junior Nick Massa created "Overheard at Elon U," a Facebook group that highlights ridiculous comments made by Elon students. The group features daily posts and hosts more than 850 members.

In Colonnades:

Girl: "Ok, we can get salsa or queso."  
Friend: "Wait, I don't understand the distinction."

- overheard by John Mullican

"These fossils come from orgasms ... I mean, organisms."

- overheard by Jenna Stout

Girl 1: "We're raising money for Sierra Leone."  
Girl 2: "Who's she?"

- overheard by Alex Lannigan

"Don't worry guys, I drank myself a sweater!"

- overheard by Kristen Feeney

## How to: Make a difference

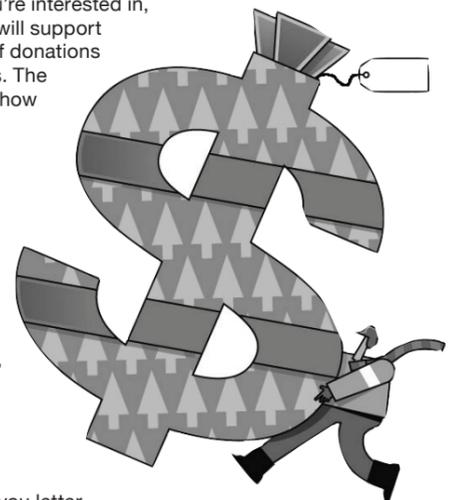
'Tis the season of giving, but for some, giving to charity can seem a little overwhelming if you don't know where to start.

**Find your purpose.** The first step in giving to charity is, of course, finding a charity. Are you passionate about AIDS prevention, politics, women's rights, the environment or civil liberties? Would you like to help children, the elderly, the military or people in developing nations? Once you find a cause you're passionate about, narrow it down even more. If, for example, your passion is AIDS prevention, decide if you want your money to support healthcare legislation, education campaigns or purchase medication for a needy individual. The Web site [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) matches potential donors with non-profits.

**Do the most good.** Once you find an organization you're interested in, do a little research to see how much of your donation will support the cause. Some organizations use up to 85 percent of donations to finance business operations, including staff salaries. The Web site [www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com) provides information on how various groups spend their donations.

**Make giving fit your lifestyle.** Maybe you're not in a financial position to donate a large sum of money to anything. You're still able to make a difference. See if the business can spread your gift out over a six or 12-month period: An automatic deduction of \$10 per month seems more do-able than a one-time gift of \$100. You could also contact a local non-profit and volunteer your time. Visit assisted living facilities, senior centers or schools. Donate gently used clothes, books and toys to local charities. Or, ask relatives to make donations to a specific charity in your name — it beats another gift you didn't want anyway.

**Save your receipt.** The majority of donations are tax-deductible, so make sure to keep the receipt or thank you letter so you or your parents can write off the expense come tax season. Also, some companies match donations that their employees make, sometimes doubling or tripling your contribution. Simply bring the receipt to the Human Resources department of your (or your parents') workplace and see what they can do.



# Intramurals 2008 Volleyball Champs



The women's champions are the Pink Ladies:

Jamie Millinski, Emilia Sotolongo, Allison Parker, Becca Bender  
Stephanie Pinch, Alison Schifli, Emily Favret, Eliza Mathew, Sarah  
Oldham, Stephanie Dortonm.



The co-ed champions are Campus  
Rec and Friends:

Sami Leonard  
Justine Falkowski  
Anne Stiles  
Sam Leaf  
TJ Herrmann  
Rob Cavaliere  
Matt Campbell

The men's champions are  
Rob and TJ's Team:

TJ Herrmann  
Matt Campbell  
Peter Dempsey  
Rob Cavaliere  
Jeff Kolodkin  
Steve Shulman



## Men's athletics make a strong run for SoCon Cup

Michelle Longo  
Sports Editor

After one of the most successful fall sports seasons Elon has ever enjoyed in Division I athletics, it finished a program-high second place among the 12 Southern Conference teams competing for the Commissioner's Cup.

The SoCon Commissioner's Cup is awarded at the end of each academic year to the conference team fielding the league's best all-around men's sports programs. It was first given in 1970 to East Carolina University and William and Mary University.

Although just halfway through the year, the strength of top-three finishes by the league champion men's soccer and third place football landed the Phoenix in its highest position ever for the revered trophy.

"The accomplishments of our programs to this point in the season serve as a testament to the tremendous progress our teams have made during our short period of time in the Southern Conference," Dave Blank, Elon Director of Athletics, said in a press release.

Appalachian State tops the cup standings with 34 points and leads Elon by five points. Next is Furman University (28) and Wofford College (19). The Mountaineer men won their fourth-consecutive SoCon football title, as well as their fourth straight cross-country title. Last year, Appalachian State won its 28th, and third consecutive, Commissioner's Cup.

On the women's side, the Germann Cup is awarded annually to the best women's athletics program, first given in 1987 to Appalachian State University. Elon currently ranks eighth in the standings behind volleyball's best Division I start ever with a 10-3 record, en route to a fourth-place finish in the SoCon North Division.

League newcomer, Samford, holds first place in the Germann Cup with 32 points, followed by Furman (29), UNC Greensboro (26) and College of Charleston (22). Samford's volleyball team finished the SoCon with a 16-3 record while the women's soccer team finished 8-1-2 in its inaugural season. Last season, Chattanooga claimed its first-ever Germann Cup, breaking up a possible three-peat by Appalachian State.

At the conclusion of the spring season, a decision will be made as to which SoCon team deserves the Commissioner's and Germann Cup.



### How Elon fared against SoCon opponents in all fall sports combined:

(Opponent: Elon wins and losses)  
Wofford: 5-1  
Appalachian State: 4-1  
The Citadel: 3-0  
Furman: 3-2  
Davidson: 3-2  
Western Carolina: 3-2\*

Chattanooga: 2-2  
Georgia Southern: 2-2  
UNC Greensboro: 2-2  
Samford: 1-3  
College of Charleston: 1-3-1\*\*  
\*\*knocked the volleyball team and the undefeated men's soccer team out of SoCon tournament

### Which school won the SoCon tournament in each sport?

Men's Soccer: UNC Greensboro  
Women's Soccer: Western Carolina  
Volleyball: Furman

Football: Appalachian State  
Men's cross country: Appalachian State  
Women's cross country: Chattanooga

# Softball prepares to win former battles

Conor O'Neill  
Reporter

Although spring sports are still months away, the anticipation has already begun.

Elon's softball team unveiled its 2009 schedule last week, which may be one of the first steps to a magical season this year.

Key dates in the schedule include Feb. 13-15, when the Phoenix will travel to Athens, Ga., to play in the University of Georgia tournament.

The Phoenix will also make the trip March 6-8 to cross-town rival Chapel Hill to compete in the University of North Carolina tournament.

Head coach Patti Raduenz thinks playing teams such as Georgia and North Carolina will be greatly beneficial to her team.

"To be able to go out and play teams like Georgia and North Carolina will push us to be at the level where we want to be," Raduenz said.

In addition to these tournaments, the Phoenix will also host two tournaments on its home turf. In the past, the Phoenix has not been able to host tournaments due to a lack of lights, but the new lights at East Field will enable the first-ever night games for the Phoenix women.

The first hosted tournament, officially named the Elon Phoenix Invitational, will be held Feb. 21-22 when Southern Illinois and North Carolina A&T visit East Field. The second tournament is the Elon Phoenix Classic, and will be played Feb. 28-March 1. Teams in that tournament will include Kent State University and Bucknell University.

"Anytime we can host games, it gives players the opportunity to play in front of the home crowd," Raduenz said. "We want the community to come out and be involved with our games."

Additional games other than league play include trips to Longwood University, North Carolina State University and UNC Charlotte. The Phoenix will welcome Siena University, East Carolina University, Southeast Missouri State and Campbell University to Elon to complete its out of conference schedule.

Several players, including senior catcher Jaimie Rao, said this season could be one of championship caliber.

"We want to be first in the conference," Rao said. "We have always been in third or fourth, but this year, we are taking it all. All of fall season not only have we been training physically, but we have been training mentally. Not only are we going to be the



FILE PHOTO

The Elon softball team released its 2008-2009 schedule last week. It will face five teams who were 2008 NCAA Tournament participants. Last season, Elon finished 26-27 overall, 12-11 SoCon and clinched fourth place in the SoCon Tournament.

best conditioned team in the conference, but we are also going to be the mentally toughest team."

Of course, the most important part of the schedule lies in the SoCon battles Elon has to play. Conference action officially begins with a three-game series against Western Carolina on March 14. The Phoenix will host a non-conference series before returning to conference play at Appalachian State March 21-22.

"Obviously our biggest team goal is to win the conference. But to do that we have to accomplish several smaller goals along the way," sophomore

outfielder Hannah Shelton said. "We have to beat the teams that beat us last year. Chattanooga and Georgia Southern are two that we hope to sweep in season play."

The Phoenix hosts both teams this year, with Chattanooga coming on March 28-29 and Georgia Southern arriving on April 11-12.

As the season steadily approaches, the team will continue to prepare a run at the SoCon Championships and with the release of the schedule, the team now has the outline of a potential championship season.

## Women's indoor track picks up where it left off last season

### Two Elon records broken in first meet of the season

Michelle Longo  
Sports Editor

The phrase 'records are made to be broken' is something the women's indoor track team takes to heart every time they take the track.

Last season, the outdoor team broke 16 records in the first invitational and the indoor team followed suit, shattering previous marks throughout the 2007-2008 season.

A new season does not mean a new set of rules. The indoor track team started off this season right where it left off last Thursday at the Liberty Kickoff Invitational.

Junior Monique Vines captured the triple jump title with a new Phoenix record of 37-03.75, while sophomore Justine Robertson set a new milestone in the weight throw with a hurl of 12.75 meters.

"It takes a lot of time and hard work to break records," Robertson said. "They loom in the back of your mind all season and when you do finally break one it is really exciting."

In addition to its record-breaking, the Phoenix won three events and tallied seven top-three finishes in Virginia. Junior Jennine Strange, a three-time All-Southern Conference athlete, won first-place in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:21.26. Freshman teammate Amy Salek sprinted to a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash with a time of 58.68 seconds.

"Our track program is young, but as our team grows, so does the strength of our records," Vines said. "We practice hard, and so when competition comes, we reach for a personal record, or even school record. When records



FILE PHOTO

Junior Meaghan Collins running on the heels of a Georgia Southern opponent in a meet late last season. The women kicked off their 2008-2009 season with a good overall showing.

are broken, if someone has a personal best, or a top place finish, that is a major indicator of our progress."

Elon's 4x400-meter relay team, freshman Lauren Wilmer, Strange, Melissa Turowski and Salek, also secured a second-place finish with a time of 4:05.83.

Vines and sophomore Veronica Day landed in first and second place respectively in the long jump. Robertson added to her resume for

the day with a third-place finish in the shot put, tallying a total of 11.73 meters.

"I am very excited at how well they competed," head coach Mark Elliston said. "It is a really determined group and I can see in the way they practice and how they really want to do well and climb the ladder of the Southern Conference. Individually, when they do their part, then it all comes together as a team when we go to the meets."

### Meet Results

**Justine Robertson:** weight throw- 12.75 meters

shot put - 11.73 meters

**Jennine Strange:** 800-meter run- 2:21.26

**Amy Salek:** 400-meter dash in 58.68 seconds

**Monique Vines:** long jump, 17-09.0

**Veronica Day:** long jump, 17-07.5

Like so many other athletic teams, the women get a break for exams, but they have to deal with perhaps the longest break of any Elon team. The Phoenix will not be back in action until Jan. 24 at the UNC Invite in Chapel Hill.

"We have to keep training hard and get the workouts in during holiday break in order to stay in shape and on point for when we return," Robertson said. "Now that we have a base, we have to keep that level of intensity and build on it."

January marks the beginning of the competitive season for the team in which team scores will be tracked and Elon will face the most SoCon opponents in head-to-head match-ups.

After UNC, Elon will participate in the New Balance Collegiate Invite and the Tiger Paw Invite, hosted by Atlantic Coast Conference member, Clemson University.

Then, the SoCon Championship Tournament is hosted before the start of the outdoor season.

"The rest of the season is filled with big meets against other big schools," Day said. "Those schools are out there in the cold training, getting one step ahead everyday we don't practice [during Christmas break]. Because none of the meets we go to are scored as a team until conference, we have to look at the big picture and focus on the end result."

# Women's basketball team faces tough competition, new teammate steps up

## Phoenix falls to Cougars, suffers eighth consecutive loss

**Pam Richter**  
Reporter

College of Charleston forced five Elon turnovers on the first five possessions of the game Monday night as the Elon women's basketball team fell 85-55 at Alumni Gym. The Cougars capitalized and never looked back.

They were led by sophomore guard Tonia Gerty who poured in a season-best 20 points.

Freshman Courtney Medley led the Phoenix in scoring with 16 points, a career-high, and a game-high, eight rebounds.

"I would just say that I was in the right place at the right time," Medley said.

Junior Urysla Cotton also contributed to the Phoenix victory, scoring 13 points and shooting 7-10 from the free throw line. Cotton would like to see the team to move forward from the loss.

"We can't worry about the past," Cotton said. "We have to keep building and moving on."

With 9:55 in the first half, the Phoenix took its first lead of the game on a three-pointer by Medley. The Cougars battled back and closed the half on a 36-11 run and held a 14-point halftime lead.

Poor shooting and a high number of turnovers contributed to the Phoenix's eighth consecutive loss. Elon had 21 turnovers in the game and only seven assists. The team shot 28.3 percent from the field.

Despite this, the Phoenix would not go quietly into the night. It went on a 9-0 run with 8:30 left in the second half to close the gap to 19 points.

"The team is up and down," head coach Karen Barefoot said. "They have spurts where they play hard and when they don't play hard. We're trying to get them to play hard every possession."

The Phoenix faces a tough challenge in its next game. After a nine-day break for finals,



LINDSEY FENDT | Assistant Photo Editor  
Junior guard Tiffany Davis tallied 7 points on 1-for-5 form the field and 5-for-6 from the line. She had 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 5 turnovers and 1 steal.

Elon travels to Chattanooga, the defending Southern Conference Champions, next Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Barefoot said the team needs to work on finishing and taking high percentage shots before its next game.

"I just hope that our mistakes

will be educational," Barefoot said. "Failure is education. So I hope that we can just learn and grow."

Even though the team doesn't have a game for a week, there will be little break for the players.

"We're definitely going to get after it at practice," Medley said.

## Freshman walk-on Courtney Medley inspires team



**Courtney Medley**

**Pam Richter**  
Reporter

Monday night's game against the College of Charleston was a career night for Elon's Courtney Medley. She had a team and career-high 16

points and led the team with eight rebounds.

Medley did all of this coming

off the bench. Oh, and she is a walk-on player. Unlike most of her other teammates, Medley doesn't have a scholarship to Elon.

Barefoot has known Medley since she was a freshman in high school. With the transition between coaches, there wasn't scholarship money for Medley.

"I just love her passion," Barefoot said. "I wish everyone on the team had what she has."

In the midst of an eight-game losing streak, Medley has kept her mindset on both sides of the ball.

"If we work hard on defense,

we can turn around our offense," Medley said.

It's odd for a freshman and a walk-on to be a leader, but Medley has been one of the leading players on this team so far.

"She never gives up and she's not scared of anything," Barefoot said. "It's pretty awesome for a walk-on to consistently come off the bench and provide us with energy. To have Courtney to be able to provide us with energy, answers and leadership, is a great sign to build this program. It's really exciting."

## Popular league's future in jeopardy

The famous Gatorade jingle in the 1990s had boys across the nation wanting to "Be Like Mike." Only



**Pam Richter**  
Columnist

recently, did girls have a basketball idol to look up to like Michael Jordan. Now these girls want to be like Lisa or Candace.

Leslie and Parker are two of the most popular players in the WNBA but their careers are beginning to look

as if they are in jeopardy.

Last week, the WNBA announced the Houston Comets would be disbanding. The team was owned by the league and will be shut down because new owners cannot be found.

WNBA president Donna Orender said in an ESPN.com interview that there is no indication the other 13 franchises are in trouble. But after the Comets folded, serious questions about the league's financial stability have been raised.

When I was younger, I was a huge Houston Comets fan. Cynthia Cooper, the leader of the Comets in the early years, was my personal basketball hero.

The Houston Comets are the league's dynasty. They won the first four WNBA championships. The team single-handedly sparked the league's popularity. If this franchise cannot survive, why should any other team be able to?

Once Thanksgiving rolls around, my eyes are glued to scores of women's basketball games across the nation. But recently I haven't been able to bring myself to follow the WNBA with the same dedication as I do NCAA women's basketball.

It is because I know a lot about the game that I have trouble watching the WNBA. In the early stages of the WNBA, the league established itself as having technically sound basketball. Players set proper screens and hit free throws. It wouldn't be odd to see a woman shoot 9-for-10 from the line.

Over the course of the past 12 seasons, the WNBA has changed. The women are trying to play more like guys. They try fancy moves as opposed to playing fundamental basketball.

While drawing male viewers, female viewers who enjoyed watching the technically-sound aspects of the game were lost. I am one of them.

Nothing would make me happier than to see a successful women's professional league in the United States. But the WNBA is slowly dissipating into the dark hole of other unsuccessful women's sports leagues in our nation.

Players get traded so frequently, it is difficult to follow a set team without it being entirely different the next season.

I would like to watch the WNBA again, but I simply don't like the style of the game anymore. I also want to watch a team that plays as a team and not a collection of players.

When the Houston Comets won four championships, they had a core group of players that was there through it all. Cynthia Cooper was the leader. Sheryl Swoops was the scorer. Tina Thompson was the hardnosed player.

I know my passion for the game can be compared to few, so I continue to ask myself, if I'm not even watching the league, then who is?

The WNBA is about to enter its 13 season in May. When the league's dynasty folds, it's hard not to question the stability.

In May, the WNBA will have one fewer team, but will anyone really know the difference?

## Dig for the Cure raises more than \$18K for cancer

The 11 participating teams in the Southern Conference raised \$18,750.22 through Dig for the Cure for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Davidson College led the way, raising \$5,400 for the foundation.

It is the first year nearly the entire league played for the benefit, with the exception of Samford. The schools joined over 125 colleges in five conferences in the fight against breast cancer.

"Normally we compete against our opponents," head volleyball coach Mary Tendler said in a press release. "It was nice to join forces with the other Southern Conference schools and do something together."

Dig for the Cure was founded in 2003 by former Davidson head coach Lisa Marston. Her focus was to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research and provide a united community service outlet



for the volleyball community. Since its beginning, Dig for the Cure has raised over \$340,000 for local chapters of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, including more than \$230,000 last season.



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Source: National College Health Assessment, Spring 2008, N = 987

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# Sports

## Men hang tough, capture first SoCon win

Phoenix falls in league opener, but pushes past SoCon foe The Citadel to secure one league win

Michelle Longo  
Sports Editor

Fresh off a win against UNC Greensboro, the Bulldogs of The Citadel marched into "The Nest" Saturday night eager and determined for the upset victory over Elon that would hand the cadets their second Southern Conference victory in a three-day span, already eclipsing their conference mark of 1-19 last season.

But Elon was able to hold on 56-54 in the last few seconds to grab its first win against a Division I school and its first conference win after losing a SoCon battle to College of Charleston Thursday night.

"The College of Charleston game was tough," junior guard Devan Carter said. "But we had to take care of business. We didn't want to lose two games in front of our home crowd. I told the team, 'This is a business trip and we need to take care of it like that.'"

With Elon leading by a basket and six seconds left in regulation, The Citadel grabbed a defensive rebound and guard Cameron Wells stormed up the court for a last push. He was unkindly greeted by Ola Atoyebi and Carter at the top of the key and Wells was unable to get a shot off in time.

"[Wells] was coming full speed, but we were right there to bottle him up because he had nobody to pass to," Carter said. "To be honest, if Ola wouldn't have stepped up, he probably would've had a layup."

Carter, the starting shooting guard, finished the night with eight points and a team-high eight rebounds. Atoyebi capped off his night as the only Phoenix ballplayer in double-digit points with 20. He was near perfect from the field and the line, going 8-9 and 4-5 respectively.

"I felt like my shot was off-balance before," Atoyebi said. "I felt like I was letting my team down so I tried to

be on balance with my shot [Saturday]."

The game was another low-possession, physical attack that typifies The Citadel's usual game plan.

"We needed this because this revalidates what we've been doing," head coach Ernie Nestor said. "You always win games of this nature with good defense. The kind of team we are, that's how we're going to have to win games, because we're just not a real overpowering team."

Elon (2-4, 1-1) will go on a 13-day break for exams before it starts up again at home on Dec. 22 in a non-conference battle with Lees-McRae College. The Phoenix will continue the holiday season on the court when it travels to take on University of Maryland Dec. 30 in its second Atlantic Coast Conference clash of the season.

SoCon action resumes for the Phoenix Jan. 8, 2009 against Appalachian State in Boone, N.C. The Mountaineers are 4-2 overall and 2-0 in the league, with wins over Furman University and Wofford College early last week.

"This is not a bad schedule for us," Nestor said. "Our team is much better when we have a lot of practice time in November and December to develop ourselves."

Carter and Atoyebi agreed it would leave a bitter taste and a lingering memory for the team if they were to lose two conference games before a major break. Defeating last season's last place team at home allowed for more relaxation and a better focus heading into the play-less stretch.

"We need to keep at this," Nestor said. "I saw things that make me feel better about the way we are playing. There are many peaks and valleys in the season. We have been in the valley a lot so I hope we start climbing up the other side soon."



LINDSEY FENDT | Assistant Photo Editor

Junior forward Ola Atoyebi grabs air over The Citadel's sophomore forward Daniel Eykyn for one of his eight field goals. Atoyebi went 8-for-9 from the field and 4-for-5 from the charity strip for a total of 20 points.

### Saturday night's starting five box score:

Ola Atoyebi- 20 points, 1 rebound, 1 block, 1 steal, 8-9 in field goals, 4-5 in free throws

Chris Long- 9 points, 8 assists, 2 steals, 2 turnovers, 3-7 in field goals, 1-1 in free throws

Devan Carter- 8 points, 8 rebounds, 1 turnover, 3-6 in field goals, 1-3 in free throws

Brett James- 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, 4 turnovers, 3-11 in field goals, 0-2 in free throws

T.J. Douglas- 3 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 1-3 in field goals, 1-3 in free throws

### Upcoming Schedule

Dec. 19 vs. Lees-McRae, 7 p.m.

Dec. 22 vs. Lipscomb, 7 p.m.

Dec. 30 at Maryland, 8 p.m.

Jan. 5 vs Navy, 7 p.m.

Jan. 8 at Appalachian State, 7 p.m.

Jan. 10 at Western Carolina, 7 p.m.