

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 • VOLUME 40, EDITION 9

www.elonpendulum.com

Kernodle Center considers opening campus food pantry

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

For college students across the state of North Carolina, living off of ramen noodles isn't something to joke about. Many of them have trouble making ends meet, prompting food pantries to open at colleges and universities. Campus food pantries are on the rise nationwide, serving mainly students but also faculty and staff members.

Elon University could join the eight North Carolina universities that currently operate food pantries. The Kernodle Center for Service Learning has been contacted by outside food-assistance groups to discuss the possibility of opening a food pantry on campus.

Student groups usually run the food pantries, which rely on volunteers and donations. Most campus food pantry programs, including the one at nearby Alamance Community College, were started in recent years.

John Evans, academic support specialist and student activities director at Alamance Community College, said there was a demand for a student food pantry before one started in 2012. At the Alamance food pantry, students can receive up to six non-perishable items each week.

"We have students who may be in low-income situations, and we wanted them to receive help in a non-threatening way," Evans said. "A lot of our students don't have transportation. We wanted a resource that's convenient."

In Alamance County, a food pantry recently started at a high school.

Tiffany King, culinary arts teacher at Career and Technical Education Center

See **FOOD PANTRY** page 3



From freshmen to seniors, many students who filter through the Student Professional Development Center are finding opportunities right down I-40 E in Raleigh. CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Morgan Abate and Stephanie Lamm
Senior Reporter and Assistant News Editor

Though the majority of Elon University students are not from North Carolina, many are beginning to call the Triangle home by finding jobs and internships in Raleigh. Time magazine recently profiled Raleigh as one of the fastest-growing economies in the United States, and Forbes rated Raleigh the third-best city for businesses and careers.

In recent years, Raleigh has become a technology and innovation hub, especially in the biotech and health care industries,

by attracting companies like Red Hat, Allscripts and PNC Bank.

According to Time, companies are coming to Raleigh to collaborate with and recruit from the top universities in the surrounding area. Many businesses seek out young talent from North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

"This is a market of, by and for smart young professionals," said J. King White, an Elon graduate and business consultant based in Raleigh. "Companies are attracted to this economic and community dynamic because their workers increasingly

EMERGING ELON INNOVATORS CONVERGE ON RALEIGH

demand a culture where they can live, work and play in the same vicinity. It seems like every week Raleigh appears on some publication's Best Of list, and such acclaim is entirely valid."

According to Forbes, the cost of living in Raleigh is 4.7 percent above the national average, relatively low compared to the cost of living in other major cities like Baltimore, which is 13.4 percent above the average. Because of this, Forbes cites Raleigh as one of the best cities for new graduates to launch their careers.

See **RESEARCH TRIANGLE** page 4

Table of Contents

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 • page 2

in this EDITION...

10

Student groups at Elon promote awareness of sexual assault



14

Students use unusual method of transportation to experience India



17

Autism Speaks U holds second annual benefit concert



19

Elon football resumes busy practice schedule



APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9 Percussion Ensemble Spring Concert Yeager Recital Hall 7:30 p.m.	10 James Honan: "The Future of Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities" McBride Gathering Space 5:30 p.m.	11 Holi, Festival of Colors Speaker's Corner 4 p.m.	12 Men's Tennis vs. East Carolina Jimmy Powell Tennis Center 1 p.m.
13 Softball vs. Appalachian State Hunt Softball Park 1 p.m.	14 Elon Hillel's Passover Seder McKinnon Hall 5:30 p.m.	15 Professor Tom Mould: "The Art and Artifact of the Tales we Tell" LaRose Digital Theatre 6:30 p.m.	16 "Living Downstream" movie screening KOBC 211 7 p.m.	17 Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert McCrary Theatre 7:30 p.m.	18 Baseball vs. Appalachian State Latham Park 6:30 p.m.	19 Softball at East Carolina Greenville, N.C. 1 p.m.
20 Men's Golf vs. Southern Conference Championship Pinehurst, N.C. 8 p.m.	21 Easter holiday No classes held.	22 "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero" screening LaRose Digital Theatre 7 p.m.				

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

Editor-in-Chief
Jonathan Black

Managing Editor
Katy Canada

News Editor
Michael Bodley

Opinions Editor
Nick Foley

International Editor
Kaitlin Dunn

Features Editor
Lindsey Lanquist

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Meghan Mahoney

Sports Editor
Tommy Hamzik

Social Media Editor
Leah Channas

Photo Editor
Caroline Olney

Design Chief
Kristen DeMaria

Copy Chief
Lauren Phillips

Multimedia Editor
Kathryn Jeffords

Assistant News Editor
Stephanie Lamm

Assistant News Editor
Michael Papich

Assistant Opinions Editor
Alex Francis

Assistant Sports Editor
Matt Krause

Business Manager
Abby Hawley

Public Relations Director
Allison Srour

Webmaster
Tom Neas

Adviser
Colin Donohue

For a complete list of our staff, please visit ElonPendulum.com/staff.

5th

.....
**NORTH CAROLINA HAS THE
 FIFTH HIGHEST FOOD
 INSECURITY RATE IN THE U.S.**

ACCORDING TO FEEDING AMERICA

FOOD PANTRY

from cover

(CTEC), helped the school start its food pantry. She said that she noticed students came to school without eating breakfast or lunch and wanted to help.

“As educators, we see what they need and we have to address it,” King said. “Some kids won’t come up to you and say ‘I’m hungry’ unless they’re comfortable.”

Students from all other high schools in the Alamance-Burlington School System can take classes at CTEC. The food pantry program allows these students to discretely put non-perishable foods in their backpacks to take home.

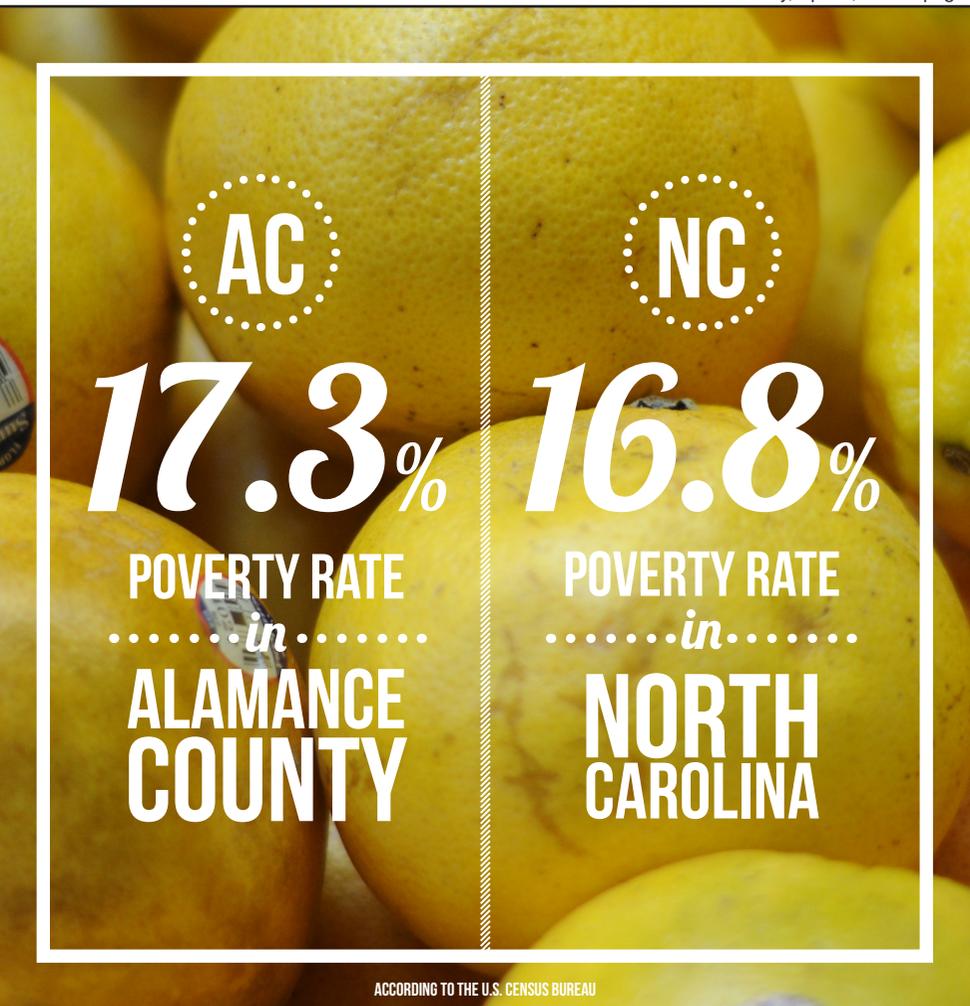
“The child who we think on the surface is fine because they have a cell phone or headphones in, sometimes their mom or dad can’t afford food,” King said. “Sometimes they don’t have the funds.”

CTEC is working to build a relationship with Elon University’s Kernodle Center for

Service Learning and Community Engagement. The relationship would help the high school develop a program that gives students access to local produce. Food-insecure families often can’t afford fresh foods, which can lead to obesity and other health problems.

From 2000-2012, North Carolina had the fifth-highest household food insecurity rate in the nation, according to Feeding America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Alamance County has a 17.3 percent poverty rate, compared to the 16.8 percent state average.

Steve Caldwell, coordinator for the Campus Kitchen Project at Elon, said the areas surrounding campus have some of the lowest median incomes in the Southeast. He also said that staff members at the Kernodle Center have talked about starting a food pantry on Elon’s campus. But the discussion stalled when Loaves & Fishes Christian Food Ministry, a high-volume local food bank, abruptly closed last fall. The closing forced other centers, including Allied Churches of Alamance County, to fill the void.



ACCORDING TO THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

GRAPHIC BY TERRENCE MCLAUGHLIN | Design Editor & PHOTOS BY CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

“We decided that the efforts and support of Elon would best fit the Alamance community through these efforts at Allied Churches,” Caldwell said.

Caldwell encouraged students who are food insecure to take advantage of the resources in Alamance County. But he said he’s open to revisiting the campus food pantry idea, saying that one at Elon could benefit students, faculty and staff.

“I think that it could help to provide more of a sense of inclusion and family if we had resources for certain people at certain times when things get tight,” Caldwell said.

There are about 125 campus food pantries across the country, according to Nate Smith-Tyge, director of the first campus food pantry in the country at Michigan State University and co-founder of the College and University Food Bank Alliance (CUFBA). CUFBA is a resource for colleges and universities that want to start food pantries on their campuses.

“Overall, food pantries help the institution in terms of getting students to graduate

on time [and] getting grades up,” Smith-Tyge said.

He accredited the recent national surge in campus food pantries to four main factors: increasing consciousness that some students can’t afford food, the economy, rising tuition costs and an increase in non-traditional students. He said that these factors exist in some capacity on all campuses. Campus food pantries have started at different kinds of institutions, from community colleges to big state universities. He said the growth of them in North Carolina could reflect a trend that he’s seen elsewhere.

“You will see one campus in a particular state starts one, and some peer institutions follow,” Smith-Tyge said.

Another trend that he’s seen is that students have led efforts to start campus food pantries, which he pointed out as an option for launching one at Elon.

“The campus-based food pantries have by in large been started by students who recognized the need,” he said.

RESEARCH TRIANGLE

from cover

“Raleigh is a great fit for Red Hat, and I would say it’s a great fit for any growing company,” said Kim Jokisch, Director of Employment Branding and Media at Red Hat. “It’s a fast growing city. It’s a vibrant city. It’s a great place to work. There’s some energy on the streets, and there’s nightlife for young professionals after work.”

Raleigh is also part of North Carolina’s Qualified Business Venture Incentive program, which offers certain businesses a refund on state taxes. This draws in manufacturing, processing, research and service sector industries.

North Carolina offers up to \$6 million in refund credit, with the majority going to Raleigh-based businesses. Because of these incentives, businesses have flocked to Raleigh in recent years.

White said the most desirable cities for businesses possess a large percentage of well-educated professionals, a culture of innovation, a spirit of collaboration, a progressive community mindset and proximity to urban amenities and natural resources.

White claimed Raleigh possesses all five of these qualities. He worked to tap into that potential to create a business-friendly climate.

“Several years ago, Raleigh community leaders began a very concerted effort to encourage entrepreneurship as part of a much broader strategy for economic development,” White said. “Through ‘Innovate Raleigh,’ a major initiative involving thought leaders from a wide cross-section of the community, we identified big-picture needs, established goals and made action plans.”

As more businesses enter the Raleigh market, competition has increased, which is not necessarily a bad thing for emerging companies who feed off each others’ success.

“This unique dynamic explains the speed of our success. In large part by deliberately fostering a grass roots culture that embraces innovation, greater Raleigh has crafted a culture that welcomes the creative class,” White said.

Elon goes to Raleigh

The Student Professional Development

RESEARCH TRIANGLE BY THE NUMBERS

#1

BEST CITY IN AMERICA
Raleigh • 2011

businessweek.com

HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE IN NC
Cary • 2011

American City Business Journals

#2

BEST PLACE FOR BUSINESS & CAREERS
Raleigh • 2012

Forbes.com

BEST CITY FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Raleigh • 2011

Forbes.com

#3

SAFEST CITY IN THE U.S.
Cary • 2011

CQ Press

BEST CITY FOR HEALTH & HAPPINESS
Raleigh • 2012

EcoSalon

The Research Triangle encompasses Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and surrounding towns. Its living and working appeal draws young professionals to the area.

Center encourages Elon students to look in Raleigh and the rest of the Research Triangle region for internships and jobs.

Unfortunately, getting into some of the bigger companies is challenging for Elon students and alumni.

The Triangle is home to some of the largest and most well-known universities in the country, whose students compete with Elon students for the most coveted positions.

Lauren Duffy, associate director of cor-

porate and employer relations at Elon, said students can leverage their Elon experiences, like study abroad or research, to stand out among other students.

“Elon experiences set [Elon students] apart from the pack,” Duffy, an ’09 alumna who recently moved to Raleigh, said. “We really encourage our students to talk about these experiences to a potential employer.”

According to Duffy, relationships play a key role. The SPDC hosts information sessions with companies from all over the

country. When students do not show up, she said it reflects poorly on the university and threatens the relationship Elon has with the employer.

“It’s crazy to pass up opportunities to meet employers,” she said.

Christine Mavraganis, a 2013 graduate, used SPDC opportunities to secure her job at Allscripts, a health care technology company based in Raleigh.

“They were the link to Allscripts because they got me to go to the job fair,”

Mavraganis said. “I found the Allscripts table, and when I introduced myself to the HR woman, she said she remembered my resume. I had an interview from there.”

Mital Patel, a 2010 Elon Law graduate, agreed networking can significantly help Elon students stand out.

“There are a lot of alums already here in leadership positions,” Patel said.

He recommended students travel to Raleigh for events like SPARKcon, a three-day career fair held in downtown Raleigh every September, to meet employers.

Learning a little bit about the geography of Raleigh is not a bad idea, Duffy joked.

“When I was a student, my perception of Raleigh was Southpoint Mall, which is really in Durham,” she said.

During fall break 2013, the SPDC led City Treks, an opportunity for students to meet and network with companies in both Charlotte and the Triangle. The group of students visited SAS, HQ Raleigh, Capstrat, IMG, Mullen and the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter.

Raleigh races forward

These companies are a part of a trend in Raleigh. Technology start-ups and the health care industry represent the biggest sectors of the city, according to Forbes.

“Industries cluster together. They need each other to survive,” Duffy said.

Patel said Raleigh will continue to grow in this way.

“Raleigh will be one of the hubs in the south for creativity, design and entrepreneurship, very similar to what Atlanta is,” he said.

According to Patel, Elon students can become a part of Raleigh’s transformation, and as a result, they can become leaders in the growth of the region as a whole.

Some alumni, young and old, have already made their marks on the region.

Graham Rountree, a 2009 graduate, currently lives in Raleigh and works there for TriMark Internet Solutions.

After graduating from Elon, Rountree moved back to his hometown of Raleigh. Since then, he has watched the city change.

“[Raleigh] has changed from a sleepy southern town to a more nationally acclaimed city,” he said.

But job opportunities aren’t the only reason to move to the Triangle, according to Rountree.

There is a growing restaurant, culture and crafts scene. Breweries are popping up throughout the Triangle and downtown Raleigh.

In November 2013, the Triangle Business Journal named TriMark as one of the top 50 fastest growing companies in the region.

“We’ve grown fast because of such talented people in Raleigh,” Rountree said. “Timing is a part of it, too. Ten years ago there were hardly any digital marketing agencies.”

Rountree said TriMark Internet Solutions and the tech industry as a whole will continue to grow.

Standing out in Raleigh’s market

Mavraganis, originally from Pennsylvania, did not choose Raleigh for the job opportunities — she had other options. She chose Raleigh for its environment and future opportunities.

“I liked Raleigh better because it’s a young environment,” she said. “There are a lot of opportunities here, and I wouldn’t have to move if I wanted to get another job in the future.”

After graduating, White spent five years as the director of alumni and parent relations at Elon. He then moved to Raleigh and helped establish the region’s original cellular telephone network, which is now Verizon.

He founded the Triangle Alumni Chapter of Elon and now works as a business consultant and networker in the Triangle region.

He said that each year, the number of Elon alumni working in Raleigh and the Triangle increases.

“Each year, more and more Elon grads discover Raleigh — likewise, the Raleigh community is becoming better acquainted with Elon,” White said. “Recent grads comprise the largest share of attendees at our Triangle alumni chapter events, and these events draw more from this area each time.”

For students looking to work in Raleigh, Mavraganis recommended taking initiative in finding internships and con-

nections.

“Don’t expect somebody else to help you if you’re not willing to help yourself,” she said. “If you don’t know what you want to do, even the SPDC can’t help you.”

Students who want to work in the growing technology industry will need computer skills, but also communications skills. Red Hat has had trouble finding young people with good communications skills.

And they still have 800 jobs to fill this year.

“It’s what you know, and that’s all your functional skill set, but it’s also how you go about doing your work,” Jokisch said. “We’re looking for students that will come to Red Hat with a lot of passion, who are energized by their work.”

Rountree said students who want to work in the digital fields need to have good speaking skills and strong leadership potential. They need to be able to handle stress and solve problems quickly.

Mavraganis, a strategic communications major, says she had no problem fit-

ting into the Raleigh market despite the heavy technology emphasis.

“I think sometimes communications majors don’t feel unique, but I was the only strategic communications major in our college graduates group at Allscripts,” Mavraganis said. “The leader that talked to our group said he thought communications is really one of the most relevant majors.”

Elon grads who enter the workforce with a well-rounded skill set, experience studying abroad and good communication skills would be wise to seek out Raleigh companies.

Raleigh has become a hub of new talent, innovation and creativity that is not only profitable but also exciting for new graduates.

“If I were a rising junior or senior at Elon today, I’d certainly have Raleigh on my short list of markets to vet,” White said. “It’s an innovative, open-source city. It’s an increasingly cosmopolitan city with a diverse set of young professionals, most of whom landed here after growing up elsewhere.” §

Take the fear out
of financial aid

Your body on **STRESS**

5 Effective
fitness fads

Get the scoop
before your interview

STUDENT
health101™



READ ON AT

<http://readsh101.com/elon.html>

SH101 allows readers to enter to win \$1,000 each month just by reading the magazine!

SH 101 IS SPONSORED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Pope Francis' progressive attitudes spark controversy, support at Elon

Hannah Wolfe
Senior Reporter

Pope Francis I has stunned and inspired the world with his humility since becoming the Catholic Church's 266th pope in March of last year. His devout following of the motto, "What would Jesus do?" has revolutionized the inner workings of the Church toward a less traditional future.

Since his election to the papacy March 13, 2013, Pope Francis has accomplished a number of firsts. He is the first "third world" pope and the first Jesuit pope.

With Easter right around the corner on April 20, Gerry Waterman, Elon University's Catholic campus minister, said now is an apt time to reflect on how the latest pope has shaped the direction of the Church. Setting it on a path that conservative Catholics have derided for being too much of a break from Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI.

Unlike other popes, Pope Francis has taken a vow of poverty, or a vow to live only with the bare essentials, giving away anything he does not need. He is the first to do so since the early nineteenth century.

All religious leaders within the Church are meant to live simply, but Pope Francis has surpassed this expectation by "deciding not to live in any fancy apartment, taking the bus to work, driving an old car and not wanting to wear some of the trappings of his office," Waterman said.

The Pope's disciples have largely responded enthusiastically to the simplification of his lifestyle in comparison to his predecessors. Waterman said it's a result of the public seeing the papal leader practice what he preaches.

"There's quite a welcome he's receiving from all these changes," he said.

Some Catholics have even gone as far as to criticize their own domestic leaders for living too luxuriously. They have requested their cardinals and bishops follow the Pope's example in living with only the necessities.

"For Pope Francis to identify himself personally with the poor and disadvan-

taged, going so far as to refuse some of the luxurious finery that traditionally comes with his office, appears to be part of a long overdue refocusing on what I understand to be the core of Jesus' teachings," said L.D. Russell, lecturer in religious studies.

"He's getting his hands dirty," Waterman said, echoing Russell. "He's not just making statements and telling us what to do."

Pope Francis has actively engaged in helping the poor. Instances of his humility, such as washing the feet of young detainees in Rome in March 2013, have been well-documented. Two of the 13 prisoners were women, which right-wing members of the Church called controversial, because the 12 whose feet Jesus was said to wash were all men.

The Pope is "broadening the dialogue within the Church regarding issues of gender and sexuality, re-emphasizing, not just in words, the central role of the church in recognizing, identifying with and caring for the poor," Russell said.

Addressing poverty has been one of Pope Francis' fundamental goals. He chose the name Francis after St. Francis of Assisi, who dedicated his life to serving the poor.

"I love that he does so much charity work," said Jenna Sonlin, a Catholic senior at Elon. "He makes an effort to get to know people in the community."

Pope Francis has gone so far as to make reforms to some of the most traditional inner workings of the church. He has appointed a group of eight cardinals to assist him in carrying out changes and overall governance.

"He stays current with the changing times, which I think is important," Sonlin said.

Although most Catholics are in support of the Pope's more modern alterations to tradition, it is still unclear what opinion those within the Church hierarchy have regarding these modifications.

Many church leaders share Pope Francis' innovative attitude, while others who are more conservative are less supportive of his tampering with tradition.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KAITLIN DUNN

When he's in the Vatican, Pope Francis greets the international faithful gathered there almost daily.

"Those who are progressive think this man walks on water," Waterman said. "Those who are more conservative are trying to hold on to the trappings of grandeur."

Russell suggested that the Pope's sweeping reforms could be washed away by a conservative new pope when Francis cedes the spotlight.

"Evolution comes slowly to bureaucracies, especially one as ancient as the Roman Catholic Church," Russell said.

Pope Francis' supporters have come from more than just the Catholic Church. Prominent members of other faiths, such as Judaism and Islam, have praised his policies of tolerance and compassion toward other religions.

"It's really awesome that he wants to build bridges between different religions and faiths to help them to coexist," said sophomore Jillian Kronemer, a member of Hillel.

Pope Francis called for more dialogue between faiths after his election into the papacy. He said he wishes to extend the Church's friendship to all people regardless of religion.

He has even preached that it is important not to marginalize the gay popula-

tion, which has been a move praised by liberal sections of Catholicism and derided by conservative groups within the religion.

"It's great that Pope Francis is so down to earth," Sonlin said. "It's nice to finally have someone in the Catholic community that respects gay rights."

Russell said that young people in particular have embraced Pope Francis' more liberal attitudes, given the tendency of youth to support gay marriage and gay rights in ways that older generations still do not.

In a March 2014 Elon University Poll, 51 percent of respondents throughout North Carolina said they still oppose gay marriage.

"His seeming openness to change has helped to dispel for some an abiding sense of intransigence and lack of compassion in the church," Russell said.

Waterman said Pope Francis is a hero to those he serves, particularly the poor who worship his dedication to aiding their needs, which he does more fervently than any pope before him.

"His greatest witness to the world is his humility, his desire to be like Jesus Christ," he said.

Cheat Sheet: A pope in line with the times, traditions

By the News Editors

As the leader of one of the world's largest religions, the pope is often in the news. But news coverage of Pope Francis I, the current pope, has been particularly notable.

Media coverage of Francis focuses on the statements that have made him a subject of debate between conservatives and liberals — regardless of religious affiliation.

Francis came onto the world's stage when the former Pope Benedict XVI announced he was stepping down in February 2013, the first pope to do so since Pope Gregory XII in the 15th century.

On top of the odd circumstances involving the need for the papal conclave to elect a new pontiff, Francis was the first Jesuit pope in Vatican history and the first pope not born in Europe in more than a millennium elected to the seat. Also, as the first pope to take the name Francis, he is the first to use an original name since Pope Lando in the 10th century.

Francis' statements can, at times, seem to go against traditional Catholic teachings or the direction of the Church, but they have sustained him through heavy news coverage

and public scrutiny.

In November 2013, Francis released an apostolic exhortation — a lengthy written recommendation to Catholics — on opposing the “idolatry of money” and said the hand of the market can no longer be trusted.

This got Francis considerable attention, both from those on the left who thought the Church had focused too much on social issues than economic inequality and from those on the right who found Francis' statements offensive.

The most notable reaction in the United States was made by conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh, who called Francis a “Marxist.” Home Depot founder Ken Langone said he considered stopping donations to Catholic charities unless Francis stopped making such statements.

On the other side, liberal political activists championed Francis' positions on income inequality, specifically his denouncement of “trickle-down economics” and giving more news attention to the stock market than to the poor. President Barack Obama even quoted Francis in speeches following his exhortation.

In response to criticism, Francis said, in an interview with Italian newspaper, La Stampa, that he rejects Marxist teachings, but said he knows people who are Marxists who are also good people.

Francis is not the first pope in the modern era to criticize capitalism. In his 2013 New Year's address, Benedict XVI spoke out against the divide between the rich and the poor in the world and discussed “the prevalence of a selfish and individualistic mindset which also finds expression in an unregulated capitalism.”

Francis created waves on social issues as well, saying, “If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?” This is a change in tone from Benedict XVI, who called same-sex attraction “a strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil” in documents he wrote as a cardinal in 1986.

His statement earned Francis praise from socially liberal groups, even those who are not religious. The Advocate, a leading LGBTQ magazine in the United States, made Francis its Person of the Year in 2013.

As Francis made his statement, other

Catholic officials quickly appeared on news programs to make Francis sound less controversial. Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and a leading conservative Catholic voice in the United States, said Francis' statement is within previous Catholic teachings to “love the sinner but hate the sin.” In subsequent interviews, Dolan has said Francis is alienating conservative Catholics.

Francis has also been criticized by LG-BTQ rights supporters, who said that if Francis is not opposed to LGBTQ people, he should speak out against the laws against homosexuality in predominantly Catholic countries like Uganda.

Francis was also named Time Magazine's Person of the Year in 2013, only the third pope to receive the award.

Something in the news you want explained? Email pendulum@elon.edu and tell us.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Visitors, both Catholics and others, gather around the entrance gate to Vatican City, the sovereign headquarters of the Catholic Church.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
POOLE COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT
 JENKINS GRADUATE SCHOOL

skema
 BUSINESS SCHOOL

GM
 GLOBAL LUXURY MANAGEMENT

The Dual Master Degree Program
 THE STRATEGIC BUSINESS FOUNDATION FOR THE GLOBAL LUXURY MARKET.

NC 01 / 02 FR
 YEAR / DEGREES

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

HTTP://POOLE.NCSU.EDU/MGLM

Elon Poll lists economy atop state concerns

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The latest Elon University Poll researched the daily lives of Alamance County residents and found that the job market and education weigh heavily on the minds of local neighbors.

In the poll, 21 percent of respondents said jobs and job wages were the most important problem while 16.4 percent said education.

In past Elon University Polls, the proportion of respondents concerned about the economy has gone down, from 37 percent in 2011. Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll and assistant professor of political science and policy studies, said the ranking is not surprising.

“It always shows up as one of the primary, if not the primary, concerns,” he said. “But here, you see more emphasis on education than in a statewide or national poll.”

In the November 2013 Elon University Poll, which asked citizens statewide about their top concerns, 2.4 percent of respondents said education was the most important problem.

Additionally, around 45 percent of respondents in Alamance County graded local schools from a C to an F, and 40 percent of North Carolina residents gave the same grades to their counties in the April 2013 Elon University Poll.

Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon University Poll and assistant professor of political science and policy studies, said when thinking about a county in comparison to a state, people think more about local schools, even in a county like Alamance, where 59.9 percent of respondents don't have children living with them.

“Even if you don't have kids in school, you might have gone to school in Alamance or you're thinking about having kids or you have grandchildren,” he said.

When asked whether schools face the problem of too few resources or misused resources, 58.6 percent said schools do not

get enough resources.

“There's a general consensus among both parties that our schools don't have enough money,” Fernandez said. “I think people realize we aren't funding our schools, and inner-city and rural schools don't have new books or technology.”

While a majority of respondents said schools need more funding, and 57.1 percent said the government should “spend more on the poor,” a majority described themselves as a conservative. Views such as these are not commonly associated with a conservative party affiliation. Husser said on a local level, political beliefs are not as clean-cut as they appear on the national level.

“You see some weird stuff when you look on a local level,” he said. “You can make statements about your ideology or principles, but when you look locally, you see people being more inconsistent.”

Ignoring the variety of concerns listed as “other,” ranging from the morality of young people to problems with neighbors, transportation listed as the third-largest concern of Alamance residents. Less than 2 percent of respondents said they used the only available bus system in the county: the Elon BioBus, which only services parts of Burlington and Elon.

“People from New York City or LA would laugh if they saw Alamance residents concerned about traffic, but it's all relative,” Fernandez said. “You'd be surprised how easily those small roads can get congested.”

While less than 2 percent of respondents said that health care or insurance was the most important issue in the county, when asked about times when they were not able to get health care, including dental and mental care, respondents often said it was due to a lack of insurance.

“The average family is concerned about jobs and job security, then schools for their children and then the health of their family,” Fernandez said. “Maybe not in Alamance County, but if you asked what was the biggest issue on the state or na-

tional level, health care would jump near the top.”

Fernandez also said economic and health care issues are often intertwined, especially when it comes to employer health insurance.

“When you're laid off, your first concern after not getting a paycheck is the loss of health insurance,” he said.

While respondents said there are problems in Alamance with the employment rate, education, transportation and many other issues, the poll did not ask Alamance residents to give reasons. However, based on some of the data, Husser said the poll showed an area of concern that residents can act on directly.

“The poll showed political discontent with county leaders,” he said. “It seems very small — around 4 percent — but there is a measureable amount of discontent.”

Husser said that while local politicians tend to be more trusted and more well-known, this is not usually the case for county commissioners.

Less than 1 percent of respondents said the environment is the most important issue facing Alamance County.

Though many other studies, including a March 2014 study by the U.N. Climate Council, show that environmental issues like climate change are having a real impact on the world now, Husser said most people do not think about things in terms of short-term versus long-term impacts.

“Any sort of proposal to combat climate change will be expensive. If it was easy, it would have been fixed by now,” he said. “You will see a lag in concern because of the effort needed to put solutions into place.”

As the Elon Poll looked at the lives of Alamance County residents, Fernandez said the results show there is no “average” or “typical” Alamance citizen.

“There's different pockets and different concerns,” he said. “If you polled the entire state, you get a lot more uniformity. But here, there's a lot of diversity.”

COMMUNITY CONCERNS IN MOST RECENT ELON POLL

44% of respondents know a close friend or family member without reliable transportation

1/2 of respondents know a close friend or relative dealing with a mental health issue

59% of respondents know a close friend or family member who has no health insurance

1/4 of respondents know a friend or family member who has been a victim of domestic violence.

North Carolina among top states for ACA enrollees

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

North Carolina was one of the top states in the nation for having citizens sign up for health care exchanges, despite recently electing a state government largely opposed to the Affordable Care Act. But some Elon University students aren't convinced that's a good thing.

Junior Julia Mueller, president of Elon's College Republicans, said aspects of the law are good, like barring insurance companies from denying someone coverage based on a pre-existing condition, but there are still many impacts the law will have that Mueller said the public doesn't know yet.

"The act was passed based upon a faulty premise touted by President Obama that you would be able to keep your existing plan and doctor, and that hasn't proven to always be the case," she said. "While 7 million people signed up for Obamacare, approximately 5 million people lost insurance plans that no longer meet the minimum requirements."

The Affordable Care Act is a 2010 law aimed at making health insurance more affordable and more available. This included creating health care exchanges meant to find people insurance that would better suit them, with penalties if people did not have insurance.

The deadline for getting insurance and not paying a penalty was March 31, and by that time, more than 200,000 North Carolinians signed up on the exchanges, making it the fifth largest in terms of enrollment. This was pleasing news for senior Jordan Thomas, president of Elon's College Democrats.

"I feel great about the Affordable Care Act and all the people who signed up for it," he said. "Mostly everyone benefits from the advantages this law gives."

North Carolina's government was not one of the more enthusiastic ones when it came to the Affordable Care Act. The General Assembly did not create a state-run health care exchange, against the wishes of Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. The state legislature also turned away federal funding to expand Medicaid, creating a gap of those making too much to qualify for Medicaid but

too little to afford private insurance through the exchanges.

Despite those restrictions, North Carolina had more enrolled than most other states.

"North Carolina is a swing state, so this is relatively unexpected," Mueller said.

The last Elon Poll to ask about the Affordable Care Act found more than half of those surveyed thought the law would make health care worse. Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon Poll, said the poll result and the high number of enrollees can be explained together.

"The average telephone poll respondent is more educated and more affluent and older than the general public," he said. "The people who are the target demographic for the Affordable Care Act are not the most probable telephone survey respondents."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, about 25 percent of those who enrolled for health care in North Carolina were under the age of 35. Fernandez said, for the Affordable Care Act to work, many younger, healthier Americans would need to sign up.

"People who are really sick signed up on the first day," Fernandez said. "Obama needs young people to sign up to spread the risk

pool around."

Both Thomas and Mueller said the use of health care "navigators," or people who would work one-on-one with people to get them signed up for a plan, helped North Carolina succeed. Thomas said the best pitch navigators had was outlining the law's benefits.

Fernandez said having in-person navigators could have been more effective in getting people signed up, pointing to the effectiveness in door-to-door campaigning for an election.

"If someone you know or someone with the same accent as you talks to you, it's more effective than if it's the president or a politician you don't know," he said.

A problem with enrolling people in the Affordable Care Act was the website. Mueller said problems with the website go beyond slow loading times.

"The security of the website used to sign up has been described as extremely lacking. In a time when identity theft is a concern, providing this type of security with such confidential information is unacceptable," she said. "This of course, is still speculation, but is a common argument we see coming from the right."

Thomas said the website had issues but did not find them too harmful to the law.

"There were some glitches, but that's to be

expected of the biggest overhaul of the health care system since Medicare," he said.

While the Affordable Care Act is still being rolled out, term limits are coming up, and Obama, who made health care reform one of his signature policy achievements, will soon be replaced with another president, possibly of a different political party.

Even when Obama is no longer president, Thomas said the Affordable Care Act will be supported by Democrats.

"I think Democrats will appreciate the Affordable Care Act. Only time will tell how expensive it is, but more people are getting covered than ever before," he said. "And every politician has someone in their friends or family who didn't have insurance before this started."

Mueller said the law will remain controversial even after Obama is out of office.

"If a Republican is elected as the next president, I believe there will be an attempt to revise and likely limit the act," she said. "The concept of the act has the potential to be beneficial, but its current design is simply not what many Americans had in mind and I think that is most definitely an aspect of the controversy to be addressed in future elections, regardless of who wins."



Navigators worked one-on-one with people, like these in Raleigh, to help them figure out the exchange website set up by the government, HealthCare.gov.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Lasting effects: sexual assault on college campuses



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

Elon University's on-campus feminist group, EFFECT, recently organized a walk to promote women's rights and raise awareness of sexual assault on college campuses.

Every two minutes an American is sexually assaulted, according to data collected in a recent study done by the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. That means roughly 237,868 American people will fall victim to an act of sexual assault this calendar year. Additionally, 80 percent of those 237,868 victims will be under the age of 30. There are 5,599 students enrolled at Elon University, meaning it is more than likely there are survivors of sexual assault within our student body.

Elon makes every effort to ensure university policies on sexual assault are visible to its students, faculty and staff. The university's website clearly outlines all regulations and policies regarding sexual assault in addition to offering students various courses of action if they have been sexually assaulted.

Though the university posts its policies online and offers different avenues for reporting these incidents, it does not take a proactive approach to the problem. The current practices in place are passive and do nothing to harbor victims after the initial assault. Elon also does little

in the way of directly educating students about what sexual assault is.

Thankfully for the university and the student body, student organizations such as SPARKS (Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge, and Success) and EFFECT (Elon Feminists for Equality, Change and Transformation) play an active role in teaching students about consent and what qualifies as sexual assault. But without these student organizations, there would be no active educational initiative on campus that discusses sexual assault and that is a problem.

Earlier this month, Harvard University created a task force with the singular goal of addressing the occurrence and prevention of sexual assault on its campus. The Harvard task force is comprised of students, faculty and staff who all work together to find the most effective way to combat this problem. Not only is this a huge step for the university because it seeks to solve the problem, but it also acknowledges the problem, which Elon needs to do before it can work to solve it.

Although Elon is making progress by including high-level administrators in student-run awareness campaigns, such as EFFECT's "white board campaign," the university is still dragging its feet when it comes to publically confronting this problem.

Elon is simply covering up the issue of sexual assault with a sea of rules and regulations rather than admitting there is a problem. This tactic makes no effort to fix the problem and does not prevent future attacks from happening.

As a university that is unafraid to make changes to remain relevant and attractive to both current and prospective students, Elon should have tackled this issue long ago. The longer the university waits to publically acknowledge that a problem exists on this campus, as it does on almost every college campus, more members of our community will fall victim to sexual assault.

The actual act of sexual assault is frequently just the beginning of several issues for the victim. Victims are three times more likely to suffer from depression, six times more likely to suffer from

post-traumatic stress disorder and four times more likely to contemplate suicide, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Underneath the facade of wild parties, mass consumption of alcohol and loose inhibitions that appear to dominate the weekend nightlife at Elon lies a much more serious problem. Unlike the risks and laws regarding alcohol consumption that are often taught in classrooms, this equally pressing issue is more often than not brushed under the rug to avoid "awkward" or "frowned upon" discussions.

Sexual assault is not receiving the attention that it needs in order for there to be effective change made. Elon's administrators should welcome the challenge of tackling this issue in the same fashion they tackled the rapid expansion of our campus. Slight changes to the first year orientation program would have lasting effects on the prevalence of sexual assault on the campus. That, combined with the need for administrators being willing to publically condemn this issue, would forever shape the campus for the better.

Political correctness has gone too far

In a world where an NFL team name perpetuates a 24-hour debate, organizations are kicked off college campuses for themed parties being “insensitive,” and New York City school boards try to ban the word “dinosaur” for fear of offending those who do not believe in evolution, political correctness, or “being PC” has gone way too far.

Political correctness deems certain topics, ideas, expressions and even symbols off-limits.

What once started as an effort not to offend has spiraled in to a cause of censorship, conflict and limitation of fundamental freedoms. In the past decade, political correctness has ballooned to unacceptable levels, threatening

the very ideals this nation was founded on. It is now spreading throughout even the most minute details of American society.

In this day and age those willing to make the biggest fuss, the PC vigilantes or PC Police, so to speak, seek to set the agenda for what constitutes offensive or unacceptable speech. But this violates the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

Fans of the “The Colbert Report” were taught a lesson in the current state of PC recently when a Twitter activist decided to call for Comedy Central to #CancelColbert after she took a tweet blatantly out of context and called for the shows cancellation. This incident serves as a perfect launching pad for some of the most ludicrous stories regarding the PC police in recent years.

For example: Halloween has been banned in some school districts for being “overtly religious.” In Seattle, “brownbag lunch” is no

longer allowed in government documents or programs, so not as to appear biased or racist. Some schools have changed “Easter Eggs” to “Spring Spheres” and in some places, movements exist to change the term “snowman” to “snowperson.” The list goes on and on, each example seemingly more preposterous than the last.

Other than just robbing us of our cardinal civil liberties, the over-the-top PC movement has further, unintended ramifications that are lost on all of those who further push its absurd agenda. Not only does political correctness wrongly censor personal opinions, but it does nothing to address any underlying problems driving statements and actions in question. Often times it just breeds increased resentment or relegates the topic to non-discussion — that is not progress.

When the policing of this thought crime occurs, minds are not being changed — but

hearts are being hardened. Consensus, understanding and acceptance can only come through open dialogue. You cannot change someone’s mind by censoring his or her thoughts or words. If we ever hope to overcome the underlying hostility that remains present in modern society, we must resist crying “bully” any time somebody hurts our feelings. Being occasionally offended is a small price to pay for the right to free speech that so many people around the world can only dream of.

At its worst, the overbearing political correctness is no different from the Orwellian idea of newspeak — the effort to change the way people think by changing the way they speak. We are at a point in this country where people need to grow up and realize that there are a lot real of problems out there that are more important than whether “snowman” is sexist.



Alex Francis
Columnist

Gun control starts with mental health care

A recent shooting at Fort Hood in Texas left three dead and 16 wounded before the shooter turned the gun on himself, fueling a debate on gun control and mental health on military bases.

Specialist Ivan Lopez bought a .45 caliber handgun before bringing the weapon onto the base, violating military protocol because the weapon was not registered there. This brings to question the validity

and safety of security measures where 50,000 people work if the shooter was able to bring an unauthorized weapon onto the base.

Some claim if the other soldiers on bases were able to carry defensive weapons then an escalation could have been prevented. Others say an increased presence of weapons on military bases would cause an overwhelming surge in the number of shootings occurring between soldiers as the result of

minor arguments.

A decision on whether or not soldiers should be able to carry defensive weapons on military bases will prevent a similar situation in the future the problem is rooted below the surface-level debate of weapon possession. The problem is found in the mental health screenings before people join the military and the amount of mental health care available to soldiers on base.

Lopez was undergoing evaluation for post-traumatic stress disorder and treatment for depression and anxiety, and he never even saw combat when he was deployed to Iraq. Just imagine what combat soldiers must experience. Some have been deployed multiple times. What people do not realize is how greatly being deployed multiple times affects soldiers mentally.

Right now, services for mental health care are seen as a last resort option. It is more of a reactive system that only addresses dire cases and lets many mental health problems go unnoticed. Yes, the current system may be able to a soldier who seeks out help after a serious problem has arisen. Unfortunately,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The shooting at Fort Hood, in Texas, is the second to occur there in five years.

the reactive mental health system is a bit too late for Lopez. If we want to help prevent a military base shooting in the future, mental health care needs to be re-evaluated and reformatted to include regular screenings and a personalized counseling system.

It is time to break the stigma of mental health problems in the military and start taking action before another crisis occurs. This is the second shooting at Fort Hood, and that’s two too many. Pre-screening

mental health exams should be able to target individuals who are risks, and provide on-site counselors that are applicable to individualized needs.

I am tired of reading the news and seeing another shooting incident flood the pages. War is a highly stressful environment, and rather than focus on the back-and-forth debate of gun control, focus on making sure the soldiers holding the guns have a healthy and stable state of mind.



Leah Channas
Columnist

20 years down the road: Reflections on Rwandan genocide



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG ZITELLI

This church in Nyamata, Rwanda is a memorial site which includes pews covered with the victims clothing for the nearly 10,000 people massacred there.

Greg Zitelli
Reporter

Genocide isn't something Elon University students think about very often. It's something that happens in far away places to other people but not to us.

The first time I truly learned about genocide was during The Global Experience class my freshman year. We studied

several genocides that have taken place in the last century but none resonated with me as immensely as the one that took place in Rwanda in 1994.

After the class's conclusion I continued to study the events that killed hundreds of thousands of Rwandans and what caused the international community to do nothing to prevent the atrocity.

Zitelli's Rwandan connection

This past summer I had the incredible opportunity to intern with the US Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda.

Known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills," Rwanda is covered by rolling mountains and dotted with pristine blue lakes. Tourists flock the country to visit its lowland gorillas and lush rainforests. But

its natural beauty is scarred by its violent past. Throughout the summer I visited numerous genocide memorials, often at the site of a mass grave next to a church or a school.

One of them is a church in Nyamata where over 5,000 Rwandans sought refuge from the killers, believing they'd be safe at a sacred place of worship.

Today, the church pews are still covered with the clothing of the victims who were killed when the killing squads stormed the church walls with grenades, machine guns, and machetes. Beside the church, one can descend to a catacomb-like basement filled with the skeletons of 5,000 people.

At a nearby church in Ntarama, the interahamwe allegedly separated the children from the adults giving hope that the children may be spared. However, these children were brought to an adjacent chapel where each child's head was smashed into a wall by holding onto their legs and swinging. The brick wall of the chapel is still stained from the blood of these children.

Stories like this are far too common throughout Rwanda. Fortunately, these stories are being preserved at genocide memorials and museums. They will hopefully inspire us to prevent this from happening ever again.

History of Rwandan genocide

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. It's an opportunity for us to reflect upon the nightmare that engulfed a small African country from April 7, 1994 through July 15, 1994 as the international community merely observed.

In 100 days, more than 800,000 people were slaughtered for being associated with the Tutsi ethnic group. Organized by Hu-

tu-led government officials, killing squads of local militias went from house to house murdering anybody with a Tutsi identity card along with moderate Hutus affiliated with the Tutsis.

Armed with machetes, spears and knives, these killing squads known as interahamwe left paths of destruction throughout the country, massacring Tutsi children in their schools and ambushing entire communities seeking refuge in Catholic churches. The elderly were killed in hospitals and mothers were raped in front of their children. The interahamwe showed no mercy.

These horrific events are difficult to wrap one's minds around, especially while conceptualizing the number of people who died in such a short time frame. At the peak of the Rwandan genocide, nearly 8,000 people were killed every day.

The death toll was equivalent to nearly one and a half times Elon's student body dying every day for 100 straight days. For a better visualization, Rhodes Stadium held 9,256 people on Homecoming last November. It would take more than 86 Rhodes Stadiums filled to capacity to approach the death toll of 800,000 people.

Bystanders of genocide

Beyond all the deaths, hundreds of thousands of survivors continue to carry traumatic images of streets lined with corpses, women being raped, pickup trucks filled with missing limbs, and other memories of horrific forms of violence. While Rwandans were experiencing a living nightmare, the international community merely watched. The United Nations deployed a poorly staffed and resourced observer mission to monitor the atrocities, but nobody was willing to end the crisis.

In retrospect, it's easy to look back and say something more should have been done. It's easy to justify international inaction by blaming the United Nations, accusing complicated international politics or citing a lack of U.S. political interest in a small country in central Africa. However, the blame for genocide ultimately lies on every single one of us.

With all of the technology connecting

people all over the world and nonstop media coverage that keeps us updated with major events and crises, it's not hard to be numbed from distant tragedies. We become bystanders to injustice and violence as a result of an overwhelming influx of information and images.

As Martin Niemoller explains in a poem he wrote during the Holocaust, "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist; Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a Trade Unionist; Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew; Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

Twenty years ago the interahamwe came for the Tutsis, and barely anybody noticed until nearly a million people had been killed.

Stories of courage

Throughout the tragedy, stories emerged of heroes facing evil and saving lives.

Carl Wilkens, an American, was serving in Rwanda as a missionary when he was ordered to evacuate with all other foreigners and flee the violence. He instead remained with his Tutsi coworkers and friends in Rwanda throughout the genocide, saving countless lives by relentlessly negotiating with genocidaires and seeking provisions for the injured.

General Romeo Dallaire, force commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda, refused to abandon his mission under any circumstances and eventually convinced the U.N. to deploy a larger force by July.

Not only did his role as an observer to the genocide allow the world to see the mass violence as it occurred, but his troops' mere presence also prevented interahamwe from killing more civilians.

Imaculee Ilibagiz, author of "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust," was a teenager when the genocide began and was forced to hide in a tiny bathroom along with three other women for nearly three months to avoid imminent rape and murder.

A local priest risked his own life to save Ilibagiz and the other women by concealing their existence in his home until the genocide ended.

Among all of the evil, many people courageously displayed small acts of love and compassion that saved thousands of lives and provided hope for the survivors.

Tragedy remembrance

This week is a national week of mourning and reflection in Rwanda. A flame of remembrance carried by young people will make a nationwide tour throughout the country with memorial ceremonies held at its many genocide memorials.

Although we are thousands of miles away from Rwanda, we must also take a moment to remember the innocent civilians who lost their lives as well as the survivors burdened with rebuilding a devastated country.

After the Holocaust, the United States proclaimed that it would "never again" allow another genocide. Twenty years after the international community ignored Rwanda we must reflect upon how we are fulfilling that promise today.

A common poem found in genocide memorials throughout Rwanda translated from Kinyarwanda says, "If you only knew me; If you only knew yourself; You wouldn't have killed them." Although people identify each other in categories such as Tutsi, Hutu, man, woman, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, straight, gay, rich, poor and thousands of other identities, we must remember that we are all people first.

While a tragedy as drastic as genocide may not be something we can relate to at Elon, its anniversary is an opportunity for us to remember the importance of viewing others without judgment. I hope we can learn to stand up to evil on a daily basis in our community. §

This summer, earn 10 credits while you gain valuable work experience as an intern.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Complete coursework that is relevant to your future career—and apply that knowledge directly in practice.

- Arts & Culture
- Business & Management
- Communication
- Graphic & Web Design
- International Studies
- Politics, Public Policy & Law
- Psychology Research & Practice
- Public Health & Social Policy



**BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SUMMER STUDY
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

MAY 19–AUGUST 15, 2014

Boston University Summer Term

Learn More.

617-353-0556

bu.edu/summer/internship

Rickety ride: Elon students experience adventure in India

Abby Franklin
Senior Reporter

It was dark in Udaipur, India. Elon University senior Jack Halligan and junior Jordan Nulsen had adjusted to driving rickshaws in the northern part of India, but not here. In Udaipur, a taxi driver had to take the wheel because the roads were too narrow to fit two rickshaws. They'd nearly made it up a huge hill when they saw headlights from the other side. The taxi driver yanked the rickshaw into reverse and let the vehicle fly back down the hill, pressing on the horn as he went.

This portion of Team Elon Tuk Tuk dodged a head-on collision thanks to the generosity of a native. To the taxi driver, instances of road-chaos are utterly normal. To Will Stirn, Ben Donahue, Maria Castine, Halligan and Nulsen, India's road rules were hard-learned. But that was the point.

The team of five embarked on a trip hosted by The Adventurists — an organization that seeks to “make the world less boring.” They participated in the Rickshaw Run over Winter Break and Winter Term and traveled approximately 1,800 miles on what the Adventurists call “glorified lawnmowers.”

The Rickshaw Run is one of six main “adventures” sponsored by The Adventurists. Its description is:

“At each end of the Run is a party of earth-shattering proportions, but what is between them is all down to you. And luck — good or bad. No set route, no back up, no way of knowing if you're going to make it. The only certainty is that you will get lost, you will get stuck and you will break down. It's just you and your mates in a wholly unsuitable vehicle traversing the subcontinent enduring whatever [stuff] the road throws at you.”

Stirn, the team's architect, said there were a lot of close calls when it came to driving.

“Imagine biking across the quad on the bike paths and trying to go as fast as you can while everyone's trying to get to class and also going the same pace as you,” he said. “You have no choice but to just go for it.”

Not only were the road rules virtually nonexistent in India, the rickshaws were guaranteed to break down, and vital driv-

ing mechanisms like traffic lights, at times, failed to work.

“There were a lot of intersections with traffic lights that weren't working, and everyone just goes but somehow doesn't get hit,” Halligan said. “It's just a game of chicken. You have to maintain speed and direction so people can slow down for you, but if you slow down, it throws off the whole system.”

The “just go” mentality brought the group together in the first place.

“We're just everyone that said yes to [Stirn],” Halligan said of the assembled team. “I'd like to think I was special, but I was just stupid enough to agree.”

This group of students said yes to a logistics overload in planning, fundraising more than \$1,600 for charity and being fully enveloped in another country's culture on rickshaws for 13 days. Despite this, the five went the full distance, asking questions and taking help when offered to ultimately cross the finish line.

With the trip approaching, the only thing to do was get there. Stirn spent the fall pouring over possible opportunities through Elon for financial aid, Nulsen sought out charities the team could raise money for, and the rest of the team assisted in whatever capacity they could leading up to the trip.

By the end of December, plans were finalized, and it was time to go. The students boarded separate planes to fly a whopping 36 hours to Jaisalmer, India, the starting line location.

They arrived Dec. 28, spent New Year's Eve on a palace rooftop with adventurers from abroad and approached the starting line Jan. 1 for the start of the Rickshaw Run.

“Don't die,” an Adventurist representative said in a British accent. “I have no other advice to give you.”

That was it for the checkered-flag speech — they were off. Team Tuk Tuk, divided into two rickshaws painted like Mystery Machines from “Scooby Doo,” began the first leg of the journey.

“We were bottleneck for 20 minutes adjusting to driving them,” Halligan said of the first few miles on rickshaws. “The goal for the first day was just to find somewhere to stay before dark.”

This task, although it seemed simple,

proved to be one of the team's biggest challenges.

“It started to get dark, and we were trying to find a hotel but couldn't find anywhere that was open,” Halligan said. “We were getting scared because we'd already gone to four hotels and none were open. Me and [Stirn] basically had a standoff with the manager saying we were going to just stay because we had nowhere else to go. He finally caved in and gave us some mats to sleep on, on the floor.”

Struggles like these were uncommon. The team said the people of India were among the most generous they've met. However, the hotel search brought up situations unique to the culture that threw the team for a loop.

“That was a sketchy night because Jordan and Jack thought they found a hotel earlier that turned out to be a ‘love hotel’ for younger people,” Stirn said.

Halligan joined in to continue the story. “They're like, ‘Are you two married?’ And we said, ‘No, we're brother and sister,’” he said. “They just gave us really weird looks and started laughing because they thought we were there to ... you know. That was the start of our night.”

They learned from this experience that in

that region of India, “Guest Houses” were in fact “Love Hotels,” which are under-the-rug places for teenagers to stay with significant others in order to remain in good standing with traditional Indian families — a lesson learned the hard way.

As the trip went on, the driving became monotonous.

“We just really wanted to be done at a certain point,” Halligan said. “We would wake up at six in the morning, get ready and drive until it was dark and only stop for chai [tea] or food or petrol. It was really weird because we were tourists in India but we weren't doing anything except driving. At the same time though I think it was the coolest way to see a country. It was also really cheap.”

When the team reached the finish line a day early, it was anti-climactic. There was no celebrating, confetti or spectators — only a free coconut.

“Let's get our free coconut and go to sleep,” Stirn said, recalling his reaction.

That's what they did. After completing the Rickshaw Run in one piece, the team finally got to be tourists, celebrate their journey with other Adventurists — Donahue nearly won a beard contest — and explore the country on two feet.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BEN DONAHUE

A team of five Elon University students completed The Adventurists' Rickshaw Run this past winter.

GREEK WEEK NOT FOR THE WEAK

Courtney Campbell
Senior Reporter

From April 3-9, those affiliated with Greek life at Elon participated in Greek Week, a week of competition among sororities and fraternities.

The Greek organizations participated in a variety of events, and the end of the week comes with the Greek Week dance competition — the culmination of Greek Week.

At this final event, sororities and fraternities compete against one another by performing five-minute long dances. A panel of judges selects the winners — three sororities and three fraternities — and sororities notoriously take the event more seriously than fraternities.

After bid day, sorority members volunteered to get involved in the dance. Then, the hard work began.

Most sororities met about three times each week to practice their dances, with each rehearsal lasting two or three hours. These practices became more frequent as Greek Week dance approached.

“We started practicing every night the week leading up to it,” said Katie Condon, a

freshman in Alpha Chi Omega. “It was difficult and stressful at times, especially because I want to do well.”

But the girls understand the hard work is necessary if they want to win.

“There is so much effort involved,” said Emily De Vito, a senior in Delta Delta Delta. “People have been planning this since the beginning of November.”

And for those who aren't dancers, this competitiveness means they have to put in additional hours in order to keep up.

“I had to practice outside of rehearsals,” said Serena Mirchondani, a freshman in Zeta Tau Alpha. “I spent at least an extra hour each week going over what we have done. I really wanted to do well for my sisters.”

Much more is involved in the preparation for Greek Week dance than practicing the routine. Organizations are responsible for compiling music, choreography and managing attendance at rehearsals.

“You have to be extremely organized and on top of things,” said junior and Delta Delta Delta's Greek Week chair, Elise Grigg. “Things change every second. Problems arise constantly.”

Grigg began planning in November and hasn't stopped since. She has spent countless hours picking out music, making sure the choreography flows, ensuring people attend practices and working out the logistics of the dance.

On top of that, each sorority comes up with a theme, which they keep secret until Greek Week dance, and coordinates costumes and props to go with it. Past themes have included: Alpha Xi Delta's “Pirates of Xi Caribbean” and Sigma Sigma Sigma's “Once Upon a Sigma” (winners of the 2013 and 2012 Greek Week dance competitions, respectively).

“The reason you keep them a secret is because you want the element of surprise with a lot of themes, so they have the biggest impact,” Condon said. “If I told I would potentially get in trouble, but that would be bad team spirit.”

Even members of the sororities that do not participate in the dance are not allowed to know the theme of the dance.

As the hours pass and the event approaches, Greek Week dancers say one thing is on their minds: winning.

“Of course I want to win,” Condon said. “I'm excited to perform because we've prac-

ticed for so many months. Also, I'm excited to see everyone else's dances as well because the themes are top secret.”

2012 winner Sigma Sigma Sigma hopes to come back from not having placed last year and regain a spot in the top three.

“We placed first the year before and that was such an amazing opportunity,” said Lee-Anna Matarazzo, a junior in Sigma Sigma Sigma. “When it happens, it's the best. But if not, it's still the most amazing time to perform your heart out after tirelessly practicing.”

For last year's runner-ups, Delta Delta Delta, the pressure is on as well.

“I know all of the hard work my girls have put into this, and they deserve [the win],” Grigg said. “Last year was the first year Tri Delta placed, so this year the pressure is even greater. If not win, at least place.”

The Greek Week dance takes place April 9 at 8 p.m. in the Alumni Gym. Tickets are on sale now for \$5 in the Greek life office.



Alpha Xi Delta sorority took home first place in Elon University's Greek Week Dance last year with a 'Pirates of Xi Caribbean' theme.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Study USA presents a new full-semester...

ELON IN NYC

INFO SESSIONS:

Thurs. April 10 12:15pm
Moseley 217—lunch provided

Fri. April 11 12:15pm
Carlton 209—lunch provided

Live, Learn, Intern
in the Big Apple!



Apply Online Now!
elon.edu/study-usa



Elon alumnus cast in 'Bring it On: The Musical' national tour

Meghan Mahoney
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In kindergarten, Elon University alumnus Tyler Bertolone stood nervously on the back of the stage with his hands in his pockets in his first performance, "The Wizard of Oz."

The California native laughed while discussing his debut in theater and said "it wasn't very impressive."

Bertolone, a music theater major, graduated from Elon in May 2013, and by November, less than six months after graduation, found out he had been cast in the "Bring It On: The Musical" national tour as Randall.

"I lucked out," Bertolone said. "It was my very first audition in New York City."

Bertolone said he and his little brother used to put on shows in their living room all the time. They would make tickets for a little theater and he continued to do theater in elementary school, high school and college.

Bertolone didn't realize pursuing theater as a career was an option until high school. He was working on a show and the pianist asked if theater was something he wanted to do. That's when he started looking into Elon.

"Elon was really great about the acting program," he said. "It's really strong. By the time I was a senior I had taken acting for the camera, acting theater classes and learned multiple acting techniques."

Kevin Otos, an associate professor of the theater at Elon, said the performing arts department works diligently to prepare students for careers as professional performing artists and professional actors.

"We work very hard to do that in a number of different ways," Otos said. "In one way it's to make sure they understand how the business works, and the other thing is to make sure they have something to offer the business. There's no point in understanding the business if you have nothing to offer."

Life as Randall

"Bring It On: The Musical" is about Campbell, the lead character, who goes to a big cheerleading high school. Campbell is cheer captain, and the musical takes place during her senior year when she transfers to a high

school with a hip-hop crew but no cheerleading squad. Campbell is forced to find a way to become a part of this new group and ends up creating a new squad and competing against her old school.

For most actors in "Bring It On: The Musical," being cast meant learning how to do cheerleading stunts and hip-hop. Bertolone said he lucked out because his character, Randall, is the disc jockey.

"He gets that high school is just something everyone goes through and it will be over someday and it's not the end of the world," Bertolone said.

Rehearsal process

Bertolone started the audition process senior year during the seniors' casting director series. He auditioned for casting director Joy Dewing and didn't hear from her until September, when he moved to New York.

"Early September I went in and auditioned for her and the assistant director. A week later they called me back in," Bertolone said.

He was put on hold after auditions were held in Los Angeles, which meant he was the first pick in New York, but it was possible they could find someone else in LA.

When the casting director returned from LA in November they had Tyler sing more songs and told him he got the part.

"One of the big things about this show was the original cast had a lot longer to put the show together than we did," Bertolone said. "So the creative team was very adamant about getting people that they knew had really strong training."

After finding out he was cast, Bertolone had one month until the rehearsal process began. Then after just three weeks of rehearsal, one week of tech and four preview performances, the "Bring It On: The Musical" national tour opened in Georgia.

"It's incredibly validating for a young actor. It's like, 'Wow I have something to offer,'" Otos said.

The cast is contracted through August. "We're spending July in Tokyo, which is really exciting. I've never been out of the country so it's going to be mind-blowing," Bertolone said. "It's crazy. I wake up some mornings and

get on the bus and literally have no idea where they're taking me and then wake up that afternoon and I'm like, 'Oh, OK, I'm in South Carolina now,' and we do the show and do the same thing the next day. It's crazy but also really fun."

Success from the beginning

While at Elon, Bertolone had success both in school productions and on national TV. He worked on the TV shows "Banshee" and "Revolution" while still in school.

"I definitely want to do more TV," Bertolone said. "It's a completely different experience. Although I just love theater, too, so I want to keep a solid balance."

Bertolone's favorite roles at Elon include Jack in "Into the Woods" and Beethoven in "Dog Sees God."

Otos directed Bertolone in the show "Hedda Gabler" and had high praise for his former student.

"Like a lot of our students here at Elon, Tyler was very talented, and that was clear when I first met him. He brought a very deep level of commitment to this character's journey and a kind of existential being or anguish – whatever's driving this character to keep searching," he said.

Bertolone's parents encouraged him to

dowhat he loves. He said that coming from a supportive family has been incredible because a lot of kids don't have that.

Otos said seeing Bertolone's and other Elon alumni's successes is empowering for current students.

"There's something very empowering about 'I sat next to this person in class, we went to some parties together on the weekends,'" Otos said. "You know them as a human being before [a] career's happened to them. I think that's wonderful for students to experience."

Being a role model is something that Bertolone said he finds "weird to think about."

"I remember coming in as a freshman and that was a huge thing for me," Bertolone said. "Taylor Trench had just gotten cast in 'Spring Awakening,' and he brought me into my audition. I thought he was so cool, and I still do. It's really funny thinking back on that, and that somebody may think that way about me. I still feel like a goofball."

Bertolone said music theater majors should remember to do what you love.

"It can get so hard," he said. "Just finding the joy in it every day is something I've struggled with it sometimes, but looking back on it, college was just the best experience ever. Just keep on remembering that this is something you love to do and you have to do, it because that's what your heart tells you to."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLINT TUCCIO
Campbell (Nadia Vynnytsky) and Randall (Bertolone) become close when Campbell transfers to Randall's high school and is forced to become a part of the school's new hip-hop group.

Elon kicks off Autism Awareness Month with benefit concert in Irazu

Kelsey Higgins
Senior Reporter

Junior Kelsey McCabe kicked off the Autism Speaks U benefit concert at Midnight Meals in Irazu with the staggering facts about autism.

"About one in every 68 children is diagnosed with autism," McCabe said.

Started in 2008, Autism Speaks U is a campus organization that works to raise awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families and society.

"A lot of it, in terms of student participation, are things like the benefit concerts, but also bake sales and College Coffee tables," McCabe said. "We also go to school gyms and play with kids with Down syndrome, autism and other disabilities, and we have babysitting things at night."

The first benefit concert took place February 2013, but this year, because of all the snow and ice days, it was delayed until April, which is National Autism Awareness Month.

"Autism Speaks U is an organization that's worth following because no one really ever truly knows what someone with special needs might be going through," said junior Ethan Wing, who played guitar during the show. "It's always good to get this sort of

information out there and get some more support."

The official color for autism awareness is blue, and many in attendance sported the color. There were free baked goods, pens, temporary tattoos, stickers and brochures with information about autism for all those who came.

The group will also help sponsor the "Face Off for Autism" lacrosse game at Rhodes Stadium on April 15, a "Rock Out Autism" band concert at Fat Frogg on April 23 and a panel discussion on autism on April 25.

"I actually came to Elon my freshman year wanting to do a benefit concert," McCabe said. "I was in a band in high school and the drummer started this concert called 'Rock Out Autism.'"

One of Elon's co-ed a cappella groups, Vital Signs, opened the show with "Who's Loving You," "Brave" and "Pompeii." The night also featured a few solo performers and Elon's all-female a cappella group, Sweet Signatures.

"I heard about Autism Speaks U through a couple of events they did last year," said junior Jenna Hokanson, who performed solo during the show. "Give Autism U as much attention as you can. They are a great organization here on campus, and they do a lot more than people think they do."



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Juniors Kelsey McCabe and Ethan Wing perform at the second annual Autism Speaks U benefit concert.

THE CREST AT ELON CAMPUS TRACE AT ELON



**INDIVIDUAL LEASES, PET FRIENDLY, FITNESS CENTER,
ALL-INCLUSIVE UTILITIES AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**\$465 PER MONTH
ALL INCLUSIVE**



 **Prei:ss**
OPPORTUNITY

3 3 6 . 5 8 6 . 0 2 6 9

**CRESTATELON.COM
CAMPUSTRACEATELON.COM**

Tasteful approach helping Casey Jones carry Elon

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

It doesn't take long for Casey Jones' focus to shift after Elon University baseball games.

After the Phoenix beat Campbell University 2-1 April 2, the junior first baseman/outfielder had one thing on his mind before head coach Mike Kennedy's postgame talk: candy.

"He came out to the huddle. He already had a bag of candy in his hand," Kennedy said. "I guess we shook hands, and he ran over [to the dugout] and grabbed it, or he had it in his pocket. I don't know how he got it that quick."

Referred to as a "sugar freak" by Kennedy, Jones has shown bursts of energy all season on the field for Elon. He's one of just two players to have started all 32 games thus far for the Phoenix, and for a good reason. He's hitting .398 with 34

runs batted in.

Amid errors and a constant rotation of 16 newcomers to the lineup, Jones has been a constant for Elon since February.

"He gets everyone going," sophomore catcher Danny Lynch said. "He's really carrying this team right now."

Jones is listed on the roster as a utility player. During the last two years, he's been a role player in the lineup as well. Though he started in 62 games in his first two seasons at Elon, Jones was not regarded as a source of power at the plate. He had just 13 extra-base hits in those two years and no home runs.

Playing primarily at first base with some stops in left field, Jones has changed that impression this year. He leads the team with 14 doubles and three home runs.

"This fall, I hit really well," Jones said. "I worked really hard, especially over Christmas break, those three weeks

where we were home. I was hitting every day. It's paid off for me a lot so far."

That impact was felt immediately, as he hit Elon's first home run of the season — in the team's first game — Feb. 16 against the University of Cincinnati. Jones has amassed 76 total bases, 29 more than the next closest Elon player.

"He's still not a home run hitter, he's a gap-to-gap doubles type of guy," Kennedy said. "We thought over time that would come. We didn't think he'd hit .400, but we thought he'd hit some doubles. His swing allows him to hit the ball in gaps."

Consistency is what's allowing Jones to stand out from his teammates. Of his 32 starts, he's hit safely in 28 of them. Jones is currently on an 18-game hitting streak, the longest of his career, and has reached base in each of the last 22 games dating back more than a month.

"I'm feeling good right now," Jones said. During this stretch, he has doubled eight times and homered twice while driving in 19 runs.

"His approach has gotten better," junior outfielder Quinn Bower said. "He knows what pitch he hits well. I don't know why they're giving it to him, but when they give it to him, he's not missing."

Jones has been able to square up opposing pitching well, and his teammates and coaches attribute that to his consistent work ethic. Kennedy said he takes extra batting practice every day and has improved in the weight room during his time at Elon.

Jones brings an easygoing, bright atmosphere to Latham Park each day, and it's translating for him at the plate. That shows in his walk-up song as well, which is "Say My Name" by Destiny's Child.

"It's unbelievable," senior pitcher Ryan Pennell said. "He's the same guy every day. He comes to the park and prepares the same way, doesn't get lax. He puts good swings on every single ball, and when you do that, you're going to hit .400."

After losing 16 players from last

year's Southern Conference championship team, Jones and other veterans knew someone had to step up and fill the void. He said he didn't feel much pressure to do so, which turned into a positive.

Jones said making up for changeovers on the roster would come naturally, and that's helped the newcomers settle in easier.

"For the most part, everybody's doing their role to play a part in our success," Jones said. "I knew I had to step up and produce a little more than I did last year. That's the goal every year."

When it comes to leadership, Bower said Jones has taken on more responsibility than in past years and is someone the team follows on and off the field. On a team with just two seniors, that was a must for someone in his third year at Elon.

Jones said he and other players have shown the new players the ropes and helped them adjust in more ways than one.

"I've tried to show these guys what to do to be a leader," Jones said. "Off the field as well, with freshmen adjusting to college. We have good chemistry on this team, especially with a bunch of new guys."

Off the field, Jones just likes to sit back and relax — and eat. He enjoys going to Anna Maria's Pizzeria and Restaurant in nearby Gibsonville, where he orders the baked spaghetti with garlic knots.

He also noted that while Chick-fil-A is his "go-to" restaurant, he only eats at the off-campus location because it has spicy chicken sandwiches and cookies.

"Everyone's like, 'I don't get it, all he eats is candy,'" Pennell said. "Candy and Chick-fil-A. That's where all his meal money goes."

But for Elon, it doesn't matter what sweets Jones is eating off (or on) the field, only that he continues to find the sweet spot on his bat.

For full coverage of Elon baseball, please make sure to visit elonpendulum.com and follow @pendulumsports on Twitter.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

After losing much of its offense to graduation and the MLB Draft, Jones has stepped in to fill the void.

Phoenix Football opens spring practice

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

“Atlanta! Atlanta! Go!”

The snap count of Elon University football junior quarterback Mike Quinn rings through the air of the Hunt and Tucker practice fields on a Monday afternoon.

At Elon, spring football in 2014 takes on extra significance thanks to the off-season coaching change from former head coach Jason Swepson to new leader Rich Skrosky.

Elon opened spring practice March 31 with the first session on the practice fields. The spring season will conclude April 26, when Elon holds its annual spring game in Rhodes Stadium.

In-season in the offseason

The NCAA regulates the amount of time teams are allowed to hold mandatory team functions. During the season, that number is at 20 hours per week, but from December through March, the number is reduced to eight hours per week. NCAA rules permit Division I football teams to hold 15 spring practices, including two scrimmages and a spring game. During spring practice, the number returns to 20 hours. Players get the feel for the season, though the end goal of each week is a little different.

“Knowing that there’s not a game on Saturday is definitely different than during the season,” said junior linebacker Odell Benton.

The team went through a rigorous set of weightlifting workouts and conditioning during the eight-hour weeks. All that preparation would lead to the extended spring season, but first, some changes needed to be made.

Adjusting schemes and working them in

As with any coaching change, Elon changed its terminology and systems on both offense and defense.

“Everything is totally different,” Skrosky said. “It’s kind of like going into a classroom and having to learn something

in a new language. There might be some things they’re familiar with, but there’s a different word for it. That saps the natural ability of the athlete until they get comfortable hearing it.”

Because previous special teams coach Scott Browne was retained and moved to running backs coach, much of Elon’s kicking game and special teams terminology has remained the same.

After several meetings, it was time to take the field and put the new terminology to work. In the last of those meetings, Skrosky laid a simple goal for his team over the course of spring practice.

“What I told the team was to get the foundation of the offense, defense and special teams in,” Skrosky said. “When they leave, they’ve got to be very comfortable with that foundation. After 15 practices, I want myself and the staff to be able to evaluate and say ‘here is where our people are at.’”

For the defense, laying that foundation meant working with new defensive coordinator Jerry Petercuskie, a coaching veteran who has had stints at Boston College and North Carolina State University. Petercuskie has brought a simple defensive style that allows the defense to just “play football,” as Benton said.

“He tells us all the time that the game is easy, but it’s hard at the same time,” Benton said. “It’s easy to know the plays but it’s hard to do what we do. He gives us a sense of ownership of the defense.”

Petercuskie will be the third defensive coordinator (following Ed Pinkham and Brad Sherrod) that Benton has played under during his time at Elon.

Back to square one

One of Skrosky’s first tasks as the new head coach was roster management. Throughout this process, in which he evaluated all of the returning talent on the team, Skrosky did not set a depth chart. Instead, he told all of his players that they were “starting from zero,” meaning that every returning starter had to re-earn his job and every player on the roster had the chance to earn playing time. As the



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elon football players participate in a drill during one of the spring practice sessions the team holds.

players took the field for spring practice, Skrosky said the competition would “light a fire under [them].”

For the veterans, the concept of “starting from zero” meant a return to the competition they saw earlier in their careers. Quinn competed with sophomore John Loughery for the starting quarterback job in the spring and summer of 2013 and eventually won the battle. Quinn pointed to that competition as a source of his improvement as a quarterback and said he hopes this year will bring more of the same.

“It will impact me positively,” he said. “Going back to last spring and summer, competing with John Loughery made us both better, and luckily, I came out on top. Hopefully the same thing happens: We make each other better, and at the end of the day, whoever can throw the ball better and read the defense better will get the job.”

Benton agreed, adding starters with job security can get “complacent,” so competition provides them with a boost.

“It brought out the competitiveness to make me a better player,” he said.

Summer matters

Skrosky said he expects his team to master their fundamentals before the spring game, and then the depth chart will become a point of focus.

“We’re going to let it go through all 15 practices and then through the summer,” he said. “The summer has become so important in Division I football.”

Skrosky said that during his time at Ball State University, where he previously served as offensive coordinator, he learned to observe how greatly players could improve over the course of the summer workouts. After the spring game, those sessions will be all that separates Skrosky from coaching his first season at the helm of the Phoenix.

Elon will visit Duke University Aug. 30 to open the 2014 season. Even though that game is more than four months away, spring practice will help lay the foundation for the journey ahead.

For updates at each spring football practice, follow @pendulumsports on Twitter.

Ramirez unifies Elon defensive unit

Kate Murphy
Senior Reporter

Thrill. Aggression. Confidence. These three elements form the foundation of the success of Elon University women's lacrosse goalie Rachel Ramirez.

"Rachel is a huge confidence builder. She brings an element of toughness and confidence to our entire team," said Elon head coach Josh Hexter. "You just feel like you're always in the game [when she's playing.]"

With its inaugural season underway, the Elon women's lacrosse team has maintained a strong defense that has driven its success. Ramirez, a freshman who has started and played every minute of every game so far this season, has led the team to five wins, averaging 12 goals against and a .451 save percentage.

"If you look at the whole picture with what she's doing with a first-year team, she's playing like an All-American," Hexter said. "If you just look at the stats, you think I'm crazy, but I think most opposing coaches agree she has the

potential to be one of the best goalies in the country as she gets older."

Unique style of play

Ramirez's stats are impressive for a freshman, and Hexter isn't the only one who sees her talent and potential. It's her aggressive style of play that is turning heads. Opposing coaches and the Atlantic Sun Conference are taking notice, as Ramirez has claimed A-Sun Defensive Player of the Week honors three times.

"Rachel, as a teammate, is one of the most active goalies I've ever had. She doesn't sit back and let the play go on, she asserts herself," said Erin Murnane, a freshman defender. "The way she intercepts the ball, reads plays better than any other defender, anticipates the ball and makes big saves is incredible."

Ramirez, isn't a typical goalie who just sits back in the crease. She's learning how to manage that style and transition from high school and travel teams on Long Island to the col-

legiate level through game experience.

"Unlike most goalies, I do come out of the cage, and I'm comfortable with being on the field, so I'm more of an inside defender," Ramirez said. "I pick off passes and handle pressure very well. I just wasn't taught to stay in and make saves and not do anything else."

She's athletic enough to step out and make big plays, and the coaches have let go of the reigns and encouraged her to maintain that aggressive style.

"That's one of her bright spots," Hexter said, "and we really try to encourage that instead of trying to hold her back."

Vocal leadership offers assurance

With the risks she takes, it'd be easy for many players to be nervous in front of her. Yet, she has gained the trust of her teammates.

"No matter how good the team is, she's always intense. She always seems to be on her toes and on her game," Murnane said. "You always hear her voice talking to you, telling you

where to force. She's like the quarterback back there."

With Ramirez's type of play, communication is essential to keep the defense balanced. A commanding vocal presence is tough to initiate and maintain, but Ramirez has stepped into a strong leadership role.

"She is one of our leaders back there, and it's hard to do that as a freshman," Hexter said. "And our field players are really stepping up and helping her, so she doesn't have to be that one commanding voice."

Megan Griffin, a sophomore defender, said Ramirez has a very big presence mostly because of her directive voice.

"She's very encouraging, and she's a good leader on the field," Griffin said. "She's very vocal with our whole defense, and that's really important because we need to hear that voice and we need direction from her."

Ramirez's intelligent vocal presence gives the defense an edge in stopping the attack.

"She's very motivating and is cognizant of players' skills and how they shoot and lets us know," Murnane said. "She makes sure all of us are on the same page by talking to us individually."

Looking back to move forward

Ramirez admitted she wasn't always completely sold on playing lacrosse. But looking back, it's a good thing for Elon she did.

"I was going to quit lacrosse when I was younger, but then I went in goal and liked it," Ramirez said. "I fell in love and stayed. I like the feeling you get when you make a save. Seeing the girl's face running at you, so determined to score and then you stop it; the adrenaline rush is my favorite part."

Ramirez has a certain confidence that is contagious. It emanates from her presence in goal and has spread up the field, through her teammates and coaches, bringing another unique element to the Elon women's lacrosse team.

"Rachel is the ultimate teammate, always trying to do what's best for everyone else, while at the same time is an incredible competitor and challenges her teammates to get better every day," Hexter said.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Amid the challenges of a first-year program, Elon women's lacrosse has not had to worry about its goalie play thanks to freshman Rachel Ramirez.

Freshmen play pivotal roles for Elon softball

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

Looking at the Elon University softball team's starting lineup on most game days, one would probably be surprised to see four true freshmen playing critical roles so early in their careers.

Two of the four — right fielder Alaina Hall and catcher/designated player Emily Roper — are everyday contributors to the Phoenix lineup, while starting pitcher Alli Burdette and reserve Carey Million have contributed from the bench. Those freshmen helped Elon to a 5-0-2 start to the season and an 11-5 record in nonconference play.

"They've all stepped up and done really well," Elon head coach Kathy Bocock said. "All four ladies are incredibly hard workers, and when that happens, you're going to be successful. We thought they could be good, so it isn't a surprise that they've caught on and are doing as well as they are."

After outfielder Tomeka Watson graduated last year, Bocock knew she and her staff would have to find a replacement, both in the outfield and at the top of the lineup. It turned out that Bocock found a gem in Hall, who was recruited by high-profile programs in the Southeastern Conference and around the country. But those schools lost interest after Hall's high school coach told them she didn't want to give

up pitching just to be a "slap" hitter.

It was then that she was pursued by Elon's assistant coaches and took a visit to Elon. After becoming enamored with the campus, Hall signed with the Phoenix.

"[Associate head] coach [Jess] Jacobson found me, and then [former assistant coach Mike] Steuerwald went after me hard," Hall said. "He was one of the main reasons why I came for a visit. When I came, I loved the campus and the coaches right away, so I knew that here was the best place for me."

Hall has succeeded in both the leadoff spot and, more recently, at the No. 2 and 3 spots in the lineup, where she has been moved as of late in order to drive in more runs. Hall admitted she's more comfortable now she's further down in the lineup because it's the spot in the order that she has the most familiarity with.

"I haven't batted in the leadoff spot in a long time," Hall said. "So when I got moved down to third, where I've been for the last two years, I knew I would do well because I'm familiar and comfortable in that spot. It's not a spot I'm trying to learn in-season."

As of April 4, Hall leads the team with a .369 average, has scored a team-high 28 runs, leads the team in hits with 41 and is third on the team with five doubles.

Roper, a highly regarded basketball recruit who was found by chance at a camp by Bocock and her staff, has also put together a fantastic

rookie campaign.

"I got really lucky to be able to come here," Roper said. "I came down to [Elon's] camp and they liked me, and they offered me a scholarship, which I wasn't expecting. But I took it."

She's taken advantage of her fortune, hitting .299 and sitting in second on the team in doubles with seven, home runs with six and runs batted in with 28.

She said the adjustment from high school to collegiate softball was easy thanks to the team's offseason workouts and training program.

"It was hard to adjust to the college game in the fall," Roper said. "But I think after we got the fall under our belts we got more comfortable."

Burdette was plugged into the Phoenix's pitching rotation right away alongside juniors Chelsea White and Caitlin O'Shea. Despite being teamed up with two savvy veterans who have a ton of big-game experience, Burdette has held her own.

Burdette has appeared in 16 games, nine of which she's started, going 3-1 with a 5.14 earned run average. In 47.2 innings, she's struck out 33 opposing batters.

"[Burdette has] bought into the program that Coach Jacobson has laid out for her, and because of that, she's having success," Bocock said. "She's gotten knocked down a couple of times this year, but that's going to happen. She believes in herself and her teammates, and that belief will bring confidence and success."

Million, meanwhile, is a key reserve who has contributed three home runs and driven in 10 despite having just 73 bats.

"Carey [Million] is a really important piece to our team," Bocock said. "We can bring her in or start her and know that she'll give us what we need from her. She's come up with some big plays for us in big moments."

Senior outfielder Carleigh Nester saw the potential in this year's freshman class from the beginning and knows the future is looking bright based on what the four have shown her so far.

"After seeing them work their butts off in the fall I expected them to be doing great," Nester said. "And they have. The best part is that they're only going to get better in the next four years."

Cheers, coach

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

I remember arriving at Rudd Field and hearing a loud, thick English accent overtaking all other noises.

That voice, of course, belonged to former Elon University head men's soccer coach Darren Powell. It was hard not to hear him frantically yelling during the game, and it was one of the staples from my first Elon soccer game.

Powell resigned April 3 after nine years of leading the Phoenix. He tallied 94 wins, a program record, and won consecutive Southern Conference Tournaments to advance to three NCAA Tournaments. Powell will now make the jump to the Major League Soccer level, accepting a position with the Orlando City Soccer Club, an expansion club.

It was a bit of a surprise, but it was inevitable he'd receive higher offers after what he's done for Elon's program. In less than a decade, Powell took a team that had finished 1-5-1 in SoCon action during its first two years in the league and turned it into a national force.

His resignation marks the end of an era at Elon, a time in which "Pack the Fence" and "Rudd Magic" became phrases synonymous with Phoenix soccer. Crowds filled Rudd Field to watch Elon take on and beat national powers such as Wake Forest University and Coastal Carolina University.

An announced attendance of 3,348 at Rudd saw Elon beat Clemson University in penalty kicks this past year to advance in the NCAA Tournament for the first time ever.

During those penalty kicks, Powell paced up and down the sideline, unable to watch the action. After the game, with his hands folded behind his back, he'd calmly tell the media he had confidence in his players.

Powell, always clad in a baseball cap, would hop out of his chair near the Elon bench, most of the time exclaiming his dislike of a call. No matter what he was saying, his voice carried.

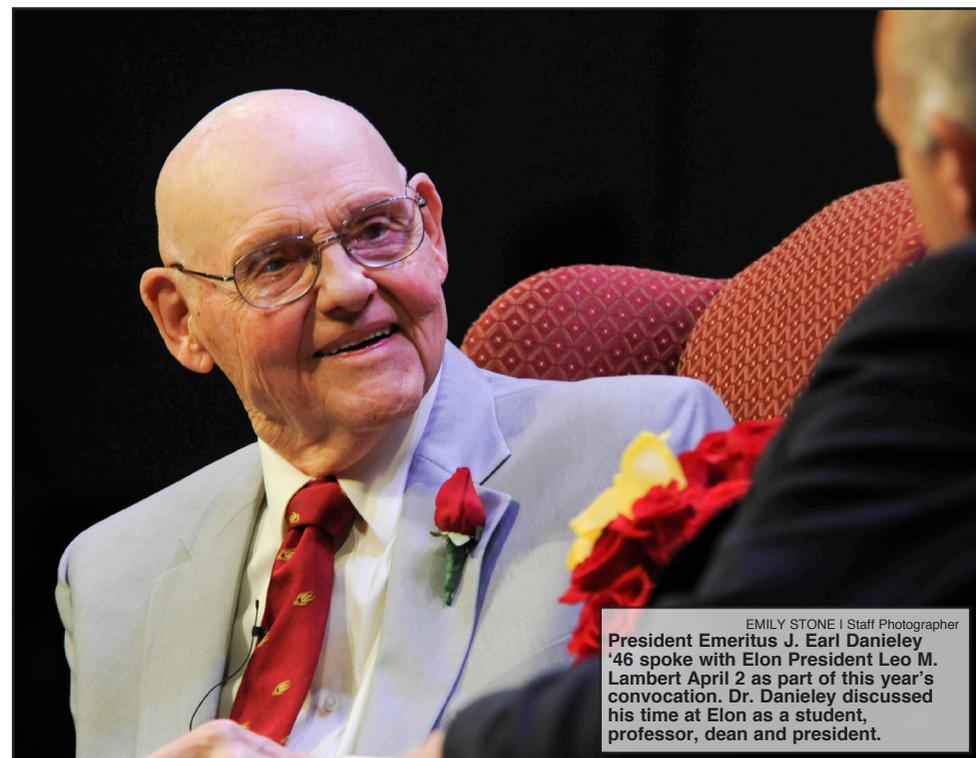
I strolled by Rudd Field April 5 to see Elon competing in a spring game. The first thing I heard? A strong English accent from near the benches.

That's something I'll miss come the fall. Here's wishing the Englishman the best, wherever his travels take him.



EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer

Freshman catcher Emily Roper is one of several new everyday contributors to the Elon softball team.



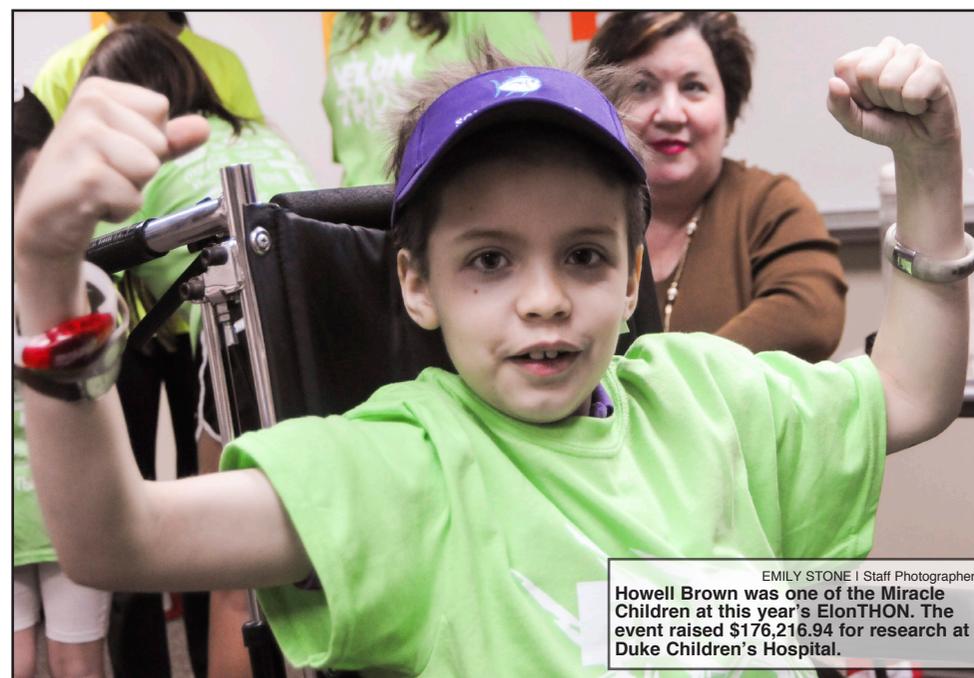
EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer
President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley '46 spoke with Elon President Leo M. Lambert April 2 as part of this year's convocation. Dr. Danieley discussed his time at Elon as a student, professor, dean and president.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Even though the season is four months away, Elon football is hard at work on the practice field.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer
Elon Feminists (EFFECT) walked to protest victim blaming April 3 from Moseley. The walk was part of EFFECT's first Support Survivors Week.



EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer
Howell Brown was one of the Miracle Children at this year's ElonTHON. The event raised \$176,216.94 for research at Duke Children's Hospital.

A young man in a blue and white striped button-down shirt is singing into a microphone on stage. He has his right hand raised. Behind him, other band members are visible, including one in a plaid shirt. A sign with the word "MUSIC" is partially visible in the background.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Vital Signs performed April 3
at the Autism Speaks U benefit
concert in Irazu.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer
Music theater majors perform "Turkey
Lurkey Time" from "Promises,
Promises" in Grand Night 2014 April 4.

A group of young women are dancing in a dark room. They are wearing black tank tops with "ELON THON" printed on them. Some are wearing name tags. One woman in the foreground has a name tag that says "Leah Hayes". A red ribbon is visible on the right side of the frame. In the background, there is a sign that says "ELON THON" and a red exit sign.

MEAGAN CASAVENT | Staff Photographer
The members of the Morale Committee
lead the dancers at ElonTHON in this
year's Morale Dance April 5.

ADVERTISE ONLINE

THE PENDULUM

Elon University's Student News Organization

ADVERTISE
HERE

Target the **Elon
Community**
directly

News ▾ Opinions ▾ Sports ▾ Features ▾ Arts & Entertainment ▾ Multimedia ▾ Blogs ▾ The Edge

Ads clicked **10
times more**
than Facebook
Ads



Elon Founders Day kicks off with College Coffee

by Stephanie Lamm | Campus News

12,000 page
views per
week.



Millennials detached from politics, religion, study finds

by Simone Jasper | on March 17, 2014 | in National News | 0 Comments



NC debates keeping financial incentives for movies, TV shows shot in state

by Michael Papich | on March 17, 2014 | in State News | 0 Comments

ADVERTISE
HERE

Contact business
manager Abby Hawley
at pendulum@elon.edu

More information at
[http://elonpendulum.com/
advertise](http://elonpendulum.com/advertise)