

THE PENDULUM

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North Carolina teacher tenure in peril

Study shows end-of-life care views differ based on circumstances, religion

Katy Canada
Managing Editor

A recent study by the Pew Research Center indicates changing trends in how Americans view end-of-life medical treatment. Down 7 percent from a 1990 survey, 66 percent of Americans now say there are circumstances in which medical professionals should allow their patients to die.

The study also showed an increase in recent years of people who said, for their own medical care, they would prefer to end medical treatment, depending on the exact circumstances. This group stands at 57 percent, as opposed to the 35 percent who said they would do everything possible to stay alive.

The study also signifies Americans' overwhelming belief that individuals have a moral right to end their own lives. On a case-by-case basis, 62 percent say that if a person is suffering and shows no sign of improvement, it is that person's moral prerogative to commit suicide. This is a 7 percent uptick from 1990.

But Americans have consistently disapproved of physician-assisted suicide. In 2013, 49 percent of respondents said they did not believe physicians have the right to end a person's life, up from 45 percent in 2005.

Options for end-of-life care

Elon University sophomore Tom Riley spent the last few months at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell County helping patients work through their advance care directives. Advance directives specify a patient's wishes and instructions in the event of a medical emergency during which he or she can't make decisions.

Patients at the hospice center are required to be in the final six months of their lives. Many have decided to discontinue medical treatment for serious illnesses.

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CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Jarrett Lancaster is one of seven adjunct professors in the Elon University Physics Department who does not have tenure.

Michael Bodley
News Editor

In North Carolina, state Republicans are pushing teachers to give up their tenure early, before it expires in 2018, in accordance with a law recently passed by the state legislature. To do so, lawmakers have provided an incentive for teachers willing to sacrifice tenure, part of a \$200 million bump to teacher pay throughout North Carolina.

The average starting salary for a North Carolina teacher is currently \$30,800, or about \$6,000 below the national average, not including the supplements individual districts often pay to teachers when county funds become available. Teachers holding advanced degrees used to earn 10 percent more than their colleagues, with the possibility of further raises stemming from seniority.

Supporters of the measure have called it a necessity in fiscally-troubling times, and as such, the Republican-led State Legislature slashed slightly more than a billion dollars from educational funding for the 2014 fiscal year.

In early February, Gov. Pat McCrory laid out a plan to increase the starting salaries of new teachers by up to 14 percent.

Teachers with more than four years of experience are mostly unaffected by the plan — a move thought to be in response to the criticisms from teachers after the legislature passed similar restrictions curbing teacher pay over the summer.

In July 2013, the state legislature passed a bill that removed pay incentives for teachers with master's and other advanced-level degrees.

"I'm concerned about the school system as a whole right now," said Joe Ferrell, principal of Walter M. Williams High School in Burl-

ington, to *The Pendulum* in Fall 2013. "Why would teachers seeking master's degrees come to North Carolina, where they're now not rewarded for their work in furthering their own education?"

In the wake of the budget cuts that raised caps on classroom sizes, Angela Owusu-Ansah, associate dean of the school of education at Elon University, called an exodus "imminent" for underpaid North Carolina teachers to neighboring states that better compensate their educators.

McCrory announced statewide pay raises for young teachers in early February, criticizing the starting salaries of teachers in the state.

"That's not even enough to raise a family or pay off student loans," McCrory said in a press release. "How do we expect someone to pay that loan with that starting salary?"

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Spring Break Spring Break						
30 <i>Welcome back!</i>	31 "Whirlwind Tour of Religions with L.D. Russell" Numen Lumen Pavilion 4:00 p.m.	1 Baseball vs. North Carolina A&T Latham Park, Elon 6:30 p.m.				

THE PENDULUM

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TENURE

from cover

McCrorry credited the salary increase to hard decisions made by the GOP legislature and blamed the absence of raises this year on Medicaid cost overruns and government inefficiency.

Ferrell's question has been echoed by many educators throughout the state in the wake of a new plan that calls for school systems state-wide to determine the top 25 percent of their teachers, who will be eligible for yearly \$500 raises in moving away from tenure. Supporters of the new plan have said the elimination of tenure mitigates the impact bad teachers can have on students.

The plan's detractors have pointed out that there is a system of "due process" for the removal of underperforming veteran teachers, which they say ensures no teacher stays in tenure past his or her prime. Although the general argument is that most teachers receiving the pay raises will be veterans, there are no provisions in the legislation blocking a new teacher

from joining the ranks of the top 25 percent.

Pay increases may not be benefiting the teachers who deserve it the most, according to Mark Jewell, vice president of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), because the incentives provided don't encourage a culture of advancement within the classroom.

"It's very disheartening, because these folks have also gone five years without a pay increase," Jewell said. "Whenever you give salary increases that aren't based on promotion, I don't care if you're in the public sector or private industry. Always, the best practice is that you give across-the-board pay increases."

All of this comes amidst a dismal ranking for the North Carolina educational system: 47th in the nation in terms of pay. The state was firmly entrenched in the top 25 percent of state educational funding in 2008, before the budget cuts began.

More than 25 percent of school districts throughout the state voted to oppose the new legislation, and a few formal lawsuits have been filed against the measure. The school districts

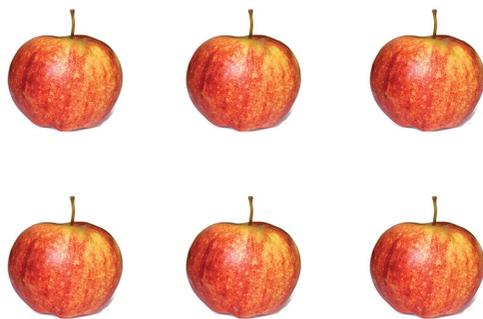
opposing the legislation have said that funding needs to be increased unilaterally across the board, not just for new or high-achieving teachers.

If funding is not increased at the state level, the dissenting districts said, high-performing young teachers will seek jobs in other states.

The educational exodus is set to continue, Jewell said, citing the 50 percent of North Carolina teachers fleeing the state after five years. The solution is not strictly raising based on seniority or merit or experience, according to Jewell, but a combination of the three that rewards the teachers who achieve the highest standards for their students.

"I think that telling a new person coming in that they have to wait 30 years to get the top of their salary increased is archaic," he said. "We need to collapse the salary schedule and the teachers should be able to advance up into certain areas of pay based on multiple measures — not just seniority but also experience, evaluations and the work that they do with their schools." §

Current NC teachers' starting salary



\$30,800 (each apple represents about \$5000)



5 Years since NC teachers have had a raise



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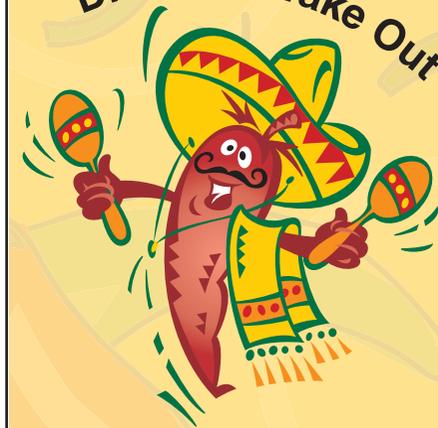
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END-OF-LIFE CARE

from cover

Riley said people in hospice haven't always completed their advance directives, especially if they've never been ill before.

"So many people don't have them," he said. "People above 60 who have had previous illnesses or a near-death experience are the people who have it."

The Pew study specified that 26 percent of adults 18-49 had written down their preferences for end-of-life care, while 61 percent of adults older than 75 had made a record of their wishes.

Riley said that it's not just the elderly or people who suffer from illnesses who need to consider decisions like these.

"It should be discussed more because it's

a topic that people usually ignore," he said. "People don't like talking about death, but it's a topic that's very real."

Because of his time at hospice, Riley said he is a staunch believer in individuals having the right to die on their own terms. A specific cancer patient who survived multiple rounds of chemotherapy and numerous surgeries whom Riley spent time with at the center solidified this conviction.

"He survived his illness but filled out an advance directive because there was a pretty good chance he could have a stroke or the cancer could come back," Riley said.

Patients at hospice are largely aware that death is approaching. Providing comfort and pain management is a main concern to ensure that patients can die with dignity, he said.

"Spending time in a hospice center, you

realize how grim it is. Seeing the misery and walking through the hallways — there's just silence. Everyone is just dying or waiting to die," Riley said.

Increasing options for ill

There are a growing number of end-of-life care options for terminally ill patients, including hospice care. Elon junior Kaitlyn Saal-Ridpath has seen it first hand.

Her mother was diagnosed with stage four rectal cancer in 2009. Five years later, she chose to discontinue treatments.

"Everything that could go wrong did go wrong," Saal-Ridpath said. "It finally got to the point where there were no more treatment options available."

In May 2012, her mother chose to stop treatments altogether, and she was placed in hospice care.

For the duration of her illness, Saal-Ridpath's mother was treated at the University of Pennsylvania. She was admitted into a program called CLAIM (Constitutional Longitudinal Advanced Illness Management), which focuses on palliative care.

"They're all about pain management," she said. "My mom chose that because she wanted to be at home, in her own house, with her own things and with her family."

The program provided Saal-Ridpath's family with a nurse who came to their house every day to manage her mother's pain and administer medications. CLAIM also offers counseling for up to a year after a patient passes away.

"It made it easier towards the end," Saal-Ridpath said. "When I was home for the summer, if I wanted to talk to her, I didn't have to go anywhere. If she needed a nurse, she could call in the middle of the night, and they would come to the house."

When her mother's condition took a turn for the worst in Nov. 2013, Saal-Ridpath took a leave of absence from Elon. The oldest of her three siblings, she said it was important for her to be there.

"I really value that time together because it gave us time as a family in her last couple of months," she said.

Saal-Ridpath's mother passed away in Nov. 2013.

Delaying death

While the Pew study shows Americans

generally support ending medical treatment when a patient is suffering instead of keeping them alive, there is little support for physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, which is prohibited by federal law under general homicide laws.

Philosophy professor Yoram Lubling takes issue with the illegality of euthanasia on philosophical grounds.

"Philosophy thinks about it differently than a politician," he said. "There is something sinister in the U.S. about prolonging a life."

Lubling lost his father to congestive heart failure a few months ago. After watching him suffer extensively, he said his father did not have any life to speak of. He was miserable.

"I have seen my father begging me to help him end his life," Lubling said. "In kindness and passion, I wanted him to be able to not suffer."

Because of his disease, Lubling's father lost his ability to eat. His heart and kidneys failed, and he lost half of his body weight. Every month and a half, he would go to a hospital where a doctor emptied the liquid from his lungs.

But Lubling said he was rational. He knew what he was saying when he asked for his life to be over.

"If people are rational, society should allow them the freedom to make choices," he said.

Religious law

Lubling said he doesn't foresee the political stance on euthanasia changing anytime soon. Politicians create laws based on how they feel religiously, he said, and in Judaism, Protestantism and Catholicism, suicide is a sin.

Based on the study, 47 percent of Catholics and 37 percent of Protestants believe a person has a moral right to suicide when they are ready to die or when life becomes a burden. While this number is higher in circumstances where the patient is suffering or has an incurable disease, more than one-half of religiously unaffiliated people said people do have a moral right to suicide.

Lubling said that, since America has a separation of church and state, religious views should not infiltrate the legislative system.

"With all due respect to people who have strong religious views, I feel it's just personal," he said. "Modern societies like America should not use religious guidelines or beliefs when creating laws."



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Some patients at hospice have not completed their advance care directives.

According to the Pew Report on Religious Affiliation, 83.1 percent of adults consider themselves religious.

“We saw how much Obama had to go through to prove that he was a Christian in the 2008 election,” Lubling said. “I can’t see it happening politically. You can’t get elected without proclaiming your faith in God.”

Lubling compares the issue of euthanasia to abortion. He said those who are pro-choice don’t force people to have abortions. But they would like their beliefs to be considered as well.

“People are free. Life belongs to them — not to the state,” he said.

Lubling said Elon is guilty of confusing knowledge with spirituality. He said the presence of religion in the lives of students often infiltrates reason and paralyzes rationality.

“Many people at Elon are very religious,” he said. “I respect their right to have whatever beliefs they want, but I’m not sure what religion has to do with knowledge.”

Lubling said he wonders what role personal faith has in the pursuit of knowledge. From his perspective, the placement of the Numen Lumen Pavilion directly across from the philosophy department is ideologically confusing for students.

“Education is about reason, logic, accountability and ending superstition. I would like to see a university committed to inquiry, not con-

fusing our beliefs with knowledge,” he said.

A slippery slope

Catholic Campus Ministry business Manager Trung Huynh-Duc said his religious affiliation plays a substantial role in his political decisions.

“Your religious beliefs should guide how you approach certain situations,” he said. “As a Catholic, my religious views do play into my political choices. You can’t separate the way a person with religious convictions would act politically.”

Huynh-Duc said, in the Catholic faith, all human life has an inherent dignity that should be respected at all times: from fetuses in the womb to the elderly and those at the end of their lives.

But Huynh-Duc recognizes a difference between ending a life and choosing not to fight an illness.

“I think if a person is suffering, and there’s no opportunity for recovering, then ending treatments is another thing,” he said. “But there’s a difference between taking a life and ending medical treatments.”

Huynh-Duc also said legalizing euthanasia could open the door to some other issues, especially when the patient in question is not suffering from a disease.

According to the Journal of Medical Ethics, arguments for euthanasia are countered by “slippery-slope” arguments that warn about the dangers of committing genocide, similar to the Holocaust.

As a person of Jewish heritage and the son of Holocaust survivors, Lubling takes issue with this argument against euthanasia.

“As a child of Holocaust survivors, I would like people to not use the Holocaust to justify their views,” he said.

But, Huynh-Duc said, the issue of euthanasia is complex, with many a gray area. He said that respecting the person in question is paramount.

“Above all else, part of how we should act is to make sure that those who are suffering, those who are on the deathbed, are cared for and given love,” he said.

End-of-life legislation

Physician aid in dying (PAD), or assisted suicide, is legal in the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Vermont. Oregon passed the Death with Dignity Act in 1997, which allows terminally ill adults in Oregon to acquire prescriptions from doctors for self-administered, lethal doses of medication, according to the Oregon Division of Public Health.

Since the law was passed, in 1997, 1,173

people have received prescriptions for lethal medications. In 2013, of the 122 patients who were administered these medications, only 51.6 percent of them died from them. Others chose to see their illnesses through until the end of life came naturally.

Patterned from Oregon’s initiative, Washington passed a law that permits PAD in 2008. The Washington law requires physicians to list the underlying causes of the patient’s terminal illness as the cause of death on the death certificate, after determining if a terminally ill patient is competent and has made the request voluntarily. Since the law’s enactment in March 2009, 376 people were prescribed lethal medication, and 353 consumed and died from it.

Montana became the third state to legalize PAD in December 2009. One of the justices who ruled on the case said in a statement following the verdict, “The right to physician aid in dying quintessentially involves the inviolable right to human dignity — our most fragile right.”

Vermont is the most recent state to allow PAD in May 2013. §



People nearing the end of their lives reside at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell County for its assistance with emotional and physical pain.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

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Cleanup in process after snow, ice damage Elon

Morgan Abate
Senior Reporter

As the remnants of snow and ice from the last two storms disappear from campus, Physical Plant continues its work to clean up debris.

While Physical Plant workers cleared sidewalks and brick walkways, Tarheel Tree Services helped remove the 100-year-old oak tree that toppled onto Henry Belk Pavilion.

Even though the storm is over, Elon faces long-term consequences.

Clearing the brick pathways and trees

By March 12, all major debris had been removed from trees and from student walkways according to Robert Buchholz, director of Physical Plant.

Buchholz said the focus last week was on the sidewalks and paths between the buildings, but there is more work to be done.

Trees that have white, broken limbs need

to be removed. When broken limbs are left, the tree becomes susceptible to disease, Buchholz said.

Even though most pathways have been cleared, students need to be cautious with broken limbs.

“Where there are trucks, students need to give a good distance from where they’re working,” Buchholz said.

To prevent students from getting too close, the university placed caution tape around potentially dangerous areas, but some students have ignored the warning.

There have been reports of students tearing down the caution tape by Williamson Avenue and the south side of Alamance Building, Buchholz said.

According to him, Campus Security has watched these and other spots after hours to prevent students from tearing down and taking the tape.

Belk Pavilion

Belk Pavilion was the only building that

suffered significant damage. Buchholz said the repair process will take several weeks once reconstruction begins.

He estimated the cost of reconstruction will be in the tens of thousands of dollars, especially because of the damage done to Belk Pavilion.

Dan Anderson, vice president of University Communications, said Elon is filing an insurance claim. No cost has been announced yet.

But Buchholz said they are getting close to deciding who will complete the repairs on Belk Pavilion. He hopes the decision will be made early this week.

Repairs will start with the classroom on the second floor. A classroom was not penetrated by the tree, but there was some water damage. A ceiling on the first floor also needs to be repaired.

Buchholz said the university is lucky. A steel beam caught the tree, preventing it from causing more damage.

“It would have ended up in the classroom and done a lot more damage,” he said

‘Pending the green light’

Professors in first floor Belk could not move back into their offices until the Alamance Building Inspector gave them the green light.

According to Assistant Provost Peter Felten, professors were permitted to move back into their offices March 14.

Other access to Belk Pavilion will be limited. Professors will not be allowed to have visitors.

“No students will be allowed in the building, and no one will be permitted on the second floor,” Felten said.

Professors will also have to abide by the construction company’s instructions when repairs begin.

Success despite challenges

More than 500 prospective students ventured to Elon for Fellows Weekend when the ice storm hit. Admissions and Fellows Programs worked to revise the schedule.

The Leadership Fellows itinerary differed from others during Fellows Weekend. Leadership Fellows needs two days to get to know the applicants and determine whether they would fit into the program. Interviews are a crucial part of that process.

“They are vital for us to make a decision,” said Steve Mencarini, director of the Leadership Fellows program. “It’s important that we learn more about students’ leadership experiences.”

He and other staff members from the Center for Leadership managed to reserve rooms in the Student Professional Development Center, upstairs Moseley and the Center for Leadership for the interviews — all done the night before.

On March 15, faculty, staff and students conducted 87 interviews in two hours. To accomplish this task, he said, faculty and staff conducted four interviews each. Students attended one to four interviews.

Despite the weather and time constraints, Mencarini said they succeeded in achieving their goals of meeting, interacting and interviewing prospective Leadership Fellows.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

Several trees were bent or lost limbs during the ice storm last week. Physical Plant crews are still working to clean up fallen branches.

Study finds political, religious detachment among Millennials

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

Millennials, the term coined for the emerging youth generation between the ages of 18-33 in 2014, are detached from political parties and organized religion, according to the results from a Pew Research Center study. The study also found Millennials are more connected to social networks and other technologies than past generations.

The study, released March 7, was based on a survey of 1,821 adults, including 617 Millennials, and was conducted in February. It also analyzed information from previous Pew and government studies.

Politics

The study found 50 percent of Millennials choose not to identify with any political party, more than any other generation surveyed in 2014.

Kenneth Fernandez, assistant professor of political science and policy studies at Elon University and director of the Elon Poll, said identifying as Independent is a more popular option now than it was for young people in the past.

“Generally, I think the trend happens because young people are new to this, and they don’t have much information,” Fernandez said. “There are more divides between Democrats and Republicans, which can be a turnoff.”

Despite the tendency to claim they are Independent, national exit polls from the 2008 and 2012 elections showed that a majority of Millennials voted for President Obama, creating a partisan voting gap between younger and older generations.

Fernandez said Millennials tend to vote Democratic because the party’s stances reflect their views on social issues. The study found that a majority of Millennials favor same-sex marriage and the legalization of marijuana, and Fernandez said Millennials don’t want restrictions on these and other issues.

Freshman Anna Dorsey said she has noticed that fellow students identify as political Independents.

“A lot of beliefs and customs change over time,” she said. “People don’t want to get wrapped up in a political party when they’re not 100 percent in agreement with those beliefs.”

Religion

The study also found that Millennials are less likely than people of other generations to identify as religious. In the February survey, about one-third of Millennials described themselves as religious, compared with a majority of people in other generations.

Adam Miller-Stubbendick, assistant chaplain and director of religious and spiritual life at Elon, is a Millennial and said he has noticed this trend when he works with students at the university’s Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

“Part of it has to do with what the

term ‘religious’ means, and there’s a certain amount of skepticism towards institutions,” he said.

Millennials are also less likely than people of other generations to believe in God, with 58 percent of respondents saying they are “absolutely certain God exists.” Millennials are less concerned about the increasing number of non-religious people in society, according to the survey results.

“We all live in that life with a lot of things competing for our attention, for our values,” Miller-Stubbendick said. “But religion is not as central.”

Social Media

Other data from the study showed Millennials are more connected to each other through technology than people of other generations.

Fernandez said these trends might affect

young people’s attitudes toward the political parties and level of trust in government.

“The Internet age influences attitudes on privacy,” he said.

Miller-Stubbendick said social media outlets create a sense of community that is different from those found within religious institutions. He said organized religion helps to ground people, but it might not be the solution for everyone.

“We don’t have time to take a rest,” Miller-Stubbendick said. “Where is something that’s telling us to slow down?”

Dorsey said she has noticed social media gives young people a platform to share their views about politics and religion, so they might not be willing to join structured groups.

“With the Internet, people not only connect socially but also with people who share our ideas,” she said. “People share Bible verses or political articles.”



(From left to right) Elon University students Kevin Ridge, Elizabeth Benjamin, Cohlmia Carcio and Sean Patterson pose for a selfie.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY STONE

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

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

As more and more high-profile movies and television shows are starting to be filmed in North Carolina, the General Assembly is considering making the state's financial incentives for producers permanent.

The incentives, which started in 2005, give film and television crews a 25 percent refund on expenses and can even pay back crews more than they pay in state taxes. In 2012, North Carolina paid \$77 million in refunds to production crews.

Since the incentives were passed and increased from 15 percent to 25 in 2010, North Carolina has been the filming location for a number of blockbuster movies. The box office hit "The Hunger Games" was shot throughout the state, including Charlotte and DuPont State Forest.

"There's competition to get the cool position of having big movies filmed in

your state," said Greg Lilly, associate professor of economics at Elon University. "And film crews play states off each other to get the best benefits."

The production companies for "The Hunger Games" and "Iron Man 3," which was also shot in North Carolina, alone spent \$136 million in the state while getting around \$34 million in refunds, according to the state Department of Revenue.

The extension of film incentives has its detractors in the General Assembly, like House Majority Whip Mike Hager, who argued the state is diverting money that could be better spent on teachers or infrastructure.

Lilly said offering financial incentives to any company, whether it's a factory or a film crew, is always a gamble.

"Governments are always giving up a sure thing: The amount of revenue they get a particular year," Lilly said. "And you can't force a company that's failing to stay



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Major box office hits like "The Hunger Games" were filmed in North Carolina, where crews get a 25 percent refund on all expenses. The size of payments from the state were increased in 2010 from 15 percent.

in the state to collect taxes on them."

Freshmen Rhett Lawson, a cinema major at Elon, said financial incentives can have a big impact on where a crew chooses to film.

"For a major motion picture, that matters a lot," Lawson said. "You spend \$100 million to make a movie and you can try and save tens of millions of that in benefits."

He said the costs can rise quickly and sometimes get out of hand for would-be filmmakers.

"It all depends on what kind of movie you're making, but the equipment and renting the area are big costs," Lawson said. "And you've got to schedule around the rest of the crew, so it's a long process, too."

Smaller production companies also look for states with financial incentives for filmmakers according to Olivia Pohl, a senior cinema major at Elon, because for any type of narrative movie, the necessary crews have to be large

"It's specifically important as a freelance producer or director," Pohl said. "There can also be benefits with renting equipment, lodging and even catering."

If the state's incentives create a more static set of movie production experts in North Carolina, Lilly said that creates more incentive for producers to come here.

"You don't need to bring in a bunch of

Southern Californians. We have carpenters, we have sound engineers, we have camera operators," he said.

Lawson said western North Carolina is quickly becoming a well-known place to make movies.

"If the benefits become permanent, the filmmaking hierarchy might start moving to the East Coast," he said.

While North Carolina is deliberating these incentives, which expire at the end of 2014, other states like Wisconsin are getting rid of their film incentives.

"Once states look back and analyze the situation, they may see that they really are losing money," Lilly said.

Lilly referred to an economic concept called the "winner's curse," where bidders — in this case, states — offer more and more incentives to try to get business but end up hurting themselves in the end by making prices too low or giving up too much.

"Usually, the bids end up being so high that this type of bidding forces a state to offer too much," he said.

Lawson said that, while the incentives help moviemakers, film crews should repay North Carolina by hiring in-state workers on film sets.

"Right now, the benefits are going to things that don't relate to where the refund is coming from," he said.

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Cheat Sheet: Teacher tenure process in North Carolina



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By the News Editors

As education in North Carolina undergoes a series of reforms, one issue that is repeatedly brought up on both sides of the debate is teacher tenure. Tenure is the right for a teacher to have a hearing and go through due process before being fired.

Legal tenure in the modern form was put in place in the late 19th century, when the board of trustees or donors to a university had more power to remove educators. Legislators and judges, as well as several administrators from well-known universities such as Harvard and Columbia, sought to preserve academic freedom and pushed for policies that would require some sort of hearing for fired teachers.

The tenure process for an educator at a university is a long one that requires vetting and review. For teachers from elementary school to high school, usually five or fewer years as a teacher can ensure eligibility for tenure.

Supporters of teacher tenure say it is an incentive for teachers to stay in a low-paying job, while opponents say it protects teachers from accountability.

In recent years, state legislatures across the

country have changed their laws on teacher tenure. Some, like Virginia's, have increased the amount of time teachers must wait before earning tenure. Others, like Connecticut's, put laws in place to make it harder to renew a teacher's tenure contract. North Carolina has gotten rid of teacher tenure altogether.

Previously in North Carolina, all primary and secondary school public school teachers with five or more years of experience were eligible for tenure. Under the 2013 state budget, which eliminated teacher tenure, only teachers from kindergarten to 12th grade were affected. Teacher tenure will still exist until 2018 as the state transitions to the merit pay system.

Public school teachers in the state now have a tiered contract system that pays based on merit and rewards the top 25 percent of teachers with long-term contracts. Proponents of the state's changes point to a 2012 report by the National Council on Teacher Quality, which gave North Carolina a D- when it came to "removing ineffective teachers." As part of education reform in the state, North Carolina school districts will identify the top 25 percent of teachers each year and give them each a bonus of about \$500.

As a right-to-work state, N.C. teach-

ers are barred from collective bargaining or unionization. Organizations like the North Carolina Association of Educators have spoken out against tenure cuts. Opposition has also taken the form of legal action, as the Guilford County School Board sued the state over the law. In the lawsuit, the school board said the state is requiring school boards around the country to break contracts made in good faith and forcing teachers to give up a "vested property right."

Tenure in primary and secondary schools is thought of as a way to encourage teachers to stay longer and receive more job security than other careers. North Carolina has one of the country's lowest levels of teacher retention, and from 2012 to 2013, 14.3 percent of teachers in the state left their jobs, as opposed to 12.1 percent from 2011 to 2012. Nearly half of the more than 13,600 teachers who left in 2012 were tenured teachers.

In 2012, the North Carolina General Assembly also withdrew funding for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program, which gives scholarships to students pursuing in-state teaching degrees, requiring recipients to teach in North Carolina for at least four years after graduation.

News Briefs

NC unemployment falls to 6.7 percent

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased from 6.9 percent in December 2013 to 6.7 percent in January 2014 according to the N.C. Department of Commerce. North Carolina ranks 33rd in the country in unemployment.

This month's numbers show an improvement from January 2013, when unemployment was at 9.5 percent — one of the highest in the country. Economists say about 60 percent of the decline in the unemployment rate was caused by people abandoning their job searches, not by people finding work.

State troopers sue NC over salary

North Carolina state troopers sued the state over pay raises officers said they never received. The breach of contract lawsuit, filed March 17, argued that troopers were promised graduated raises after completing the academy, but these raises have not been given since 2009.

The state trooper contract includes a 5 percent increase in pay with each increase in rank.

Currently, only around 40 of North Carolina's 520 state troopers are included in the lawsuit, but attorneys say they are planning on reaching out to all state troopers within the next three months.

Elon Day draws big crowds, donors

Elon University's 125th Anniversary Celebration brought large amounts of alumni and other friends of the university, with more than \$116,000 raised in donations to Elon.

Around 65 percent of the donors on "Elon Day," March 11, were alumni, and more than 100 students in the Class of 2014 added their donations to the fund.

During the day, #ElonDay was among one of Twitter's top 10 trending topics nationwide.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Over the summer, North Carolina lawmakers voted to get rid of teacher's tenure. Other states have made it more difficult for teachers to get tenure.

Gone and forgotten? The ongoing saga of Williamson Avenue

Pandora's Pies and Acorn Coffee Shop are the only restaurants left standing on Williamson Avenue where Elon University students, as well as the local community, can enjoy a meal. Not long ago, the community had a third dining option, but the university did little to keep that restaurant in business. The result of Elon's inaction is an empty shell of a restaurant.

Since Town Table shut its doors August 16, 2013, there has been little attempt by the university to fill the space. Almost eight months removed from that date, the empty space leaves a void not only on the main road of Elon's campus but also in the options available to students to eat off campus on any given night.

The closing of Town Table combined with the closing of the popular College Street Taphouse was a one-two punch for the students of Elon. Since Elon sits away

from the majority of the local businesses in Burlington, the proximity of these local restaurants provided a welcomed change in palate for students. With no real city surrounding the university, students are hard-pressed for off-campus dining options.

Elon administrators cited economic reasons for the closing of Town Table. The owner of Town Table signed a 10-year lease with the university back in 2010. Not only was the owner an Elon alumnus, but the restaurant also provided students, faculty and prospective students with a place to relax and unwind. If Town Table truly closed for economic reasons, the university should be ashamed.

It is in the university's best interests to have an active and bustling "Main Street." Williamson Avenue is one of the first sights of Elon's campus new students and their families see when they visit. The Town

Table space is now dark and neglected, which reflects poorly on Elon, since it owns the space.

Over the past few months, little has changed in regards to the plans for filling the space. Possibilities include expanding Acorn Coffee shop, creating a new venue such as a tapas meal/wine bar and numerous local restaurants. Many restaurant owners have expressed interest in the space, including a noodle shop, an Irish pub and a Mexican restaurant.

Despite local interest in the space, the lack of action on behalf of the university is troubling. If there is as much interest in the space as the university tell the public, then it is on the university to step forward and make a deal.

According to administrators at Elon, the space can be rented or leased at a "market rate" price. The lack of clarity in the listing

price is evidence that filling the space is not a priority for the university. Elon is always striving to expand its campus with the hope of being more student-friendly. Its lack of action is confusing.

Another glaring concern is that, throughout the process of seeking a new owner for the space, the university hasn't shown interest in offering a discount price to help local businesses occupy the space.

The former site of Town Table is a scar on the face of Elon's campus. University administrators have always prided themselves on listening to the needs and wants of their students, yet, for some reason, student's requests for a new restaurant or bar in the spot have fallen on deaf ears.

Although Elon has made significant strides in expanding the campus in recent years, it must not forget about the area just beyond the walls of the university.



According to Elon University administrators, several local restaurants have expressed interest in the space, which is being sold at "market price." However, no one has made an offer yet.

When opportunity Knox Support actress, not act

Earlier this year, a freshman at Duke University was outed to the school, and later to the rest of the country, for acting in adult films to pay her tuition.



Kaitlin Dunn
Columnist

Media outlets flocked to the story. It's disgusting that so much media attention is being dedicated to something that is in my opinion is not newsworthy in any respect.

Thousands of women every year get paid to pose nude in magazines or have sex on camera, yet the media has focused on one young woman because she goes to a prestigious university.

Belle Knox (the girl's alias) does not fit into society's idea of what a porn star is. She is a smart young woman attending one of the best schools in the country. She wasn't coerced by anyone to join the industry. Knox turned to porn because she likes it.

The idea that a woman can enjoy having a lot of sex, not apologize for it and later be successful in life is threatening to the patriarchal values that dictate our society.

Her prowess in the bedroom does not affect her skills in the office one bit. It's maddening our society still so openly discriminates against sex workers.

Knox has proven her intelligence through her eloquent and well-structured responses to the buzz surrounding her career choices.

In her blog post on xoJane.com, Knox said, "My experience in porn has been nothing but supportive, exciting, thrilling and empowering."

Porn is not an avenue I would chose, but if she truly enjoys it, then kudos to her.

I don't want to see a woman being choked or whipped for entertainment. I would never want to be in that situation. But I also understand that the people on camera are acting and that some people might not have a problem with it.

Not everyone who watches these types of films just wants to see women being destroyed and devalued. It is possible to get

a thrill from watching something like this and still value the performers as people.

If you feel degraded watching certain lewd acts, your feelings are valid. Don't watch these scenes, and say no if anyone ever asks you to commit these acts. But if you enjoy watching it, there's nothing shameful about it.

As Knox said in a blog post, "Everyone has their kinks." There's nothing shameful about liking something as long as your partner consents to it.

There are a lot of issues with the porn industry. Rape and child pornography are not kinks — they're illegal and have no place in any aspect of society. Many women are forced into the industry. Sexually trans-

By now, many of us have heard of Belle Knox, a Duke University student who proudly and unapologetically self-identifies as a porn star. When she could no longer afford her education, Knox entered the porn industry to support herself financially.



Rachel Lewis
Columnist

Being a porn star was a position in which Knox found "unimaginable joy" until her alter ego was revealed to the public by a friend she trusted with her secret. The backlash against Knox

and if anything, I would argue that the industry is inherently anti-feminist.

As a result of the post, Knox has received both support and more hate from people who believe she should not have taken to pornography. This is not what we should be angry about, as Knox has made it clear she feels empowered as a member of the porn industry and discusses it openly in her post. Some women feel empowered as porn stars, and I'm not going to tell someone how they should or should not feel. As Knox stated, the desire to control the female body (especially in terms of its sexuality) is a part of the patriarchy, the fact that our society is male-dominated and actively oppresses women.

The sexuality-based slurs thrown at Knox in an attempt to shame her for her involvement in the porn industry are ironic, considering if opponents of Knox's involvement in the porn industry want to keep her body "pure" and save her from the supposed evils of porn, it makes little sense to threaten her with sexual violence.

With the exception of the few female-run pornography businesses, the majority of the porn industry is extremely misogynistic and employs practices such as unsafe sex and a lack of consent that run counter to the mission of the feminist movement.

Women have come out time and time again to discuss how their physical, psychological, and mental health has been damaged as a result of their involvement in the industry, and how many did not go into the industry willingly but were instead forced.

If we lived in a society where the dehumanization of women was not used as a means of sexual pleasure and excitement, would participating in pornography even be a booming business?

Knox deserves none of the hate she has received, but the porn industry cannot go unmarked — it is not flawless. The fact that Knox has had a positive experience does not mean that we should allow her voice to become the only voice, speaking on behalf of all of the women involved in the porn industry, silencing the many others who, as a result of their involvement in the porn industry, cry out for help.



The porn career of Duke University student Belle Knox has sparked controversy from various media outlets. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

mitted infections can be spread quickly to many people. These problems need to be addressed. The problem surrounding this specific situation is not the act itself. It's society's cruel and sensationalist reaction.

If you don't like porn, that is your choice. Don't spend your time on pornographic websites. Don't spend your money on Hustler or Playboy. It's that simple.

Similarly, it is Knox's choice to be in adult films. She's not harming anyone or breaking any laws, so frankly it's not the business of CNN, The Chronicle or anyone to judge her for what she does.

has been horrifying: a myriad of slurs and threats of death and sexual assault from anonymous internet sources to classmates. With her secrecy compromised, Knox came out openly, announcing her name and her pride in her position in a post on the website, xoJane. While I do support Knox in her endeavors and stand behind her 100 percent in the fight against the harassment she is currently facing, I am hesitant to blanket her positive experience as a member of the porn industry over the industry as a whole. One positive experience is not representa-

United States wins 2 gold medals in Paralympic Games

Kaitlin Dunn
International Editor

Evan Strong grew up in Hawaii with dreams of becoming a professional skateboarder. Ten days before his 18th birthday his dreams were shattered when he was struck by a drunk driver while riding his motorcycle. He lost part of his left leg in the accident.

But Strong did not give up on his dreams. He moved to Lake Tahoe in 2007 and took up snowboarding. He took home 15 gold medals in the winter X-Games in para-snowboarding, won the world championships and, on March 14, won the United States' first gold medal in the Sochi Paralympics in the snowboard cross competition.

Strong is one of many athletes whose strength and endurance helped them take home medals during the 2014 Paralympics.

On March 16, after nine days of grueling competition, the Sochi Paralympic Winter Games came to a close.

216 total medals were awarded during the Paralympics. Russia dominated the podiums, coming in first place in both

the gold medal count and the total medal count. They won a total of 80 medal, including 30 gold, 28 silver and 22 bronze.

This broke the record number of Winter Paralympic medals held by Austria since the 1984 Paralympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

The United States finished seventh in the overall medal count with 18 total medals, including two gold medals — one in hockey and one in snowboarding.

More than thirty years after the famous "Miracle on Ice" hockey game between the United States and Russia during the 1980 Winter Olympics, the U.S. defeated the Russian team in a gold medal match during the Paralympics.

Even with the tensions between the two countries, when the members of the U.S. team were awarded their medals, they were met with cheers and applause.

"When they announced us as the gold medal [winner] I was really surprised that the crowd cheered," U.S. forward Josh Sweeney said in a press conference after the win.

Sweeney, a former Marine, lost his legs and left arm five years ago when he stepped

on an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

NBC chose to change its schedule and broadcast the event live, making it the first live-action from the Paralympics Games shown on the network.

"I never thought that would happen," Sweeney said. "I never knew about Paralympics growing up, and hopefully what this will do is get more kids and more adults into sled hockey so we can grow this sport to be a household sport."

The U.S. took over the snowboarding competition in its debut year, winning a total of eight medals in cross and alpine events.

Amy Purdy took bronze in the first women's snowboard cross event. Purdy was a contestant on "The Amazing Race" and will be a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars" next season.

Led by Strong, the men's cross team swept the podium. Michael Shea and Keith Gabel took silver and bronze in the event.

"I'm ecstatic, I'm over the moon, I don't even feel like my feet are on the ground right now," Strong said in a press conference.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The United States men's paralympic hockey team won the gold medal by defeating the Russian team at the Paralympic Games in Sochi on March 15.

International Briefs

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Ukrainian cyber terrorists attack NATO websites

Several NATO websites were down for several hours March 14 after being hacked.

According to NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu, operations were not interrupted, nor was the integrity of NATO's systems compromised.

A Ukrainian website belonging to a pro-Russian group called Cyber Berkut claimed to have originated the attack.

Indian gang rape convicts granted stays of execution

NEW DELHI — The Indian Supreme Court granted temporary stays of execution to two of the men sentenced to death for the gang rape of a 23-year-old woman in 2012 that led to the woman's death.

Four men were sentenced to death in September. A juvenile was also convicted and sentenced to three years in prison.

The attorney for the two men filed a petition that said the appeals court did not consider their defense.

The court scheduled a hearing for March 31.

Syrian forces seize rebel town Yabroud

YABROUD, Syria — Syrian troops took over Yabroud, a key rebel supply town on the Lebanese border March 16, according to the Syrian state news agency SANA.

According some rebels have denied that Syrian forces are in full control of the town.

Syrian forces were backed by fighters from the Lebanese Shia movement, Hezbollah.

The seizing of Yabroud is part of a larger goal of the Syrians and Hezbollah to gain control of the area of Qalamoun, thus cutting rebel supply lines to Syria.

* All information in briefs compiled from CNN and New York Times.

Correspondent's
corner:

Students adventure to exotic locales

Argentina provides beauty in rare places

Erin Luther
International Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — I've been in Argentina for over four weeks, and I have loved every minute of it.

My family recently visited me, and we journeyed to El Calafate in Patagonia on a glacier trekking excursion. The glacier Perito Moreno is one of the only glaciers in the world still advancing and is part of a series of glaciers that makes up the largest mass of ice outside of Antarctica. We trekked across the glacier for an hour and a half and finished off the fun

with a refreshing glass of glacier water straight from the source.

Our final stop in the South was the Ushuaia, which is the southernmost city in the world and the capital of Tierra de Fuego. It is one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Ushuaia is located in the Martial range of the Andes mountains on the coast of the Beagle Channel. We hiked, canoed and got to see beautiful landscapes with lots of interesting wildlife and meet great people from all over the world.

My vacation left me excited for the next five months of cultural immersion.



Erin Luther explores a mountain in the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN LUTHER

Programs offer journeys through history

Allison Pichowicz
International Correspondent

SUSSEX, England — Sussex International travel company organized two trips in the past month I've been on: one to Stonehenge and Salisbury and one to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Stonehenge made for some great pictures. It was so beautiful, and it was amazing to see in person the background that graced my family's desktop computer background for so long.

Salisbury was an area that neither the students nor the guides knew well. We wandered around and stumbled upon the cathedral that holds the best preserved copy of the Magna Carta. It felt odd taking pictures inside the cathedral because some people use it as their actual

church. But it was so pretty, I couldn't resist. I'm a sucker for a good stained glass window.

My trip to Stratford-upon-Avon marked the start of spring vacation. It's such a cute little town, and as an English minor, I was very excited because it's William Shakespeare's birthplace. Naturally I had to visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and take selfies of myself with the statue of Shakespeare in the center of town.

It's strange thinking that hundreds of years ago, he would've walked in the same areas that I did. He grew up and went to school and a few centuries later, people are giddily taking photographs of those places.

This trip made Shakespeare seem like more of a real person to me, one who lived and died, as opposed to a figure in a history book.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON PICHOWICZ

Allison Pichowicz takes in Salisbury Cathedral, where a preserved copy of the Magna Carta is held.

Students interact with sea creatures in New Zealand

Anna Patterson
International Correspondent

KAIKOURA, New Zealand — Last weekend my classmates and I drove 11.5 hours to a small beach town called Kaikoura where we swam with more than 200 wild dolphins.

We sailed 30 minutes into the ocean until we found a big pod of dolphins. We all hopped out and swam around with the dolphins, making dolphin noises to attract them. We learned that dolphins like doing belly flops. It wasn't the quintessential dolphin-at-a-resort type of experience, but it was so much cooler just watching

them swim underneath and all around us. On our way back to the shore, I was excited to see an albatross and a humpback whale.

On Sunday we made our way to the Abel Tasman National Park in Motueka. We split up, and half of the group hiked to the campsite while the other half sea kayaked.

I hiked first to the campsite, where we spent the night in tents on the beach. There were lots of big stingrays swimming close to the shore. The next morning, I sea kayaked back. We saw lots of sailboats, some penguins and stingrays.

Luckily, we had the tailwind on our side, so we had smooth sailing the entire way.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA PATTERSON

Anna Patterson and other members of her group went on a kayaking excursion in New Zealand.

Dual-degree student struggles to say goodbye

Lindsey Lanquist
Features Editor

Elon University sophomore Aubrey Crawley has a schedule she adheres to each week.

Mondays are spent working at the Allied Churches food pantry with her boyfriend, Matt Lee.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Crawley and Lee go to Poverty and Social Justice class together, then Crawley heads back to Allied Churches to put in more hours at the food pantry.

On Thursday nights, Crawley grabs dinner with her roommate, then meets with her InterVarsity Christian Fellowship small group.

For someone who has become so settled here, Crawley said it's hard to believe that in just two months, she will be leaving Elon

for good.

Crawley is a member of Elon's International Business dual-degree program, which means she, along with three other Elon students, will spend the next two years at Reutlingen University in Germany.

There, she will get the opportunity to explore the European business sector while experiencing a different culture — something she said enticed her when she was first applying to colleges.

"It just seemed like a great opportunity everyone would take advantage of," she said.

Crawley said she knew in high school she was interested in pursuing international business. So, shortly after finding out about the dual-degree program, she followed up with the program adviser, Jefferson Pilot professor of economics Tom Tiemann, to get more information.

"I was like, 'Wow, this sounds cool. I'll apply to Elon,'" Crawley said. "Then in the spring I decided to come. I don't think I would have chosen Elon unless the dual-degree program was here."

Now the decision she made in high school is catching up to her. Her time at Elon is limited, and Crawley said she underestimated how hard it would be to say goodbye.

"I didn't think [leaving] was going to be difficult at all," she said. "I didn't expect to make close friends I would dearly miss and not want to leave."

Crawley's friend, sophomore Amory Parks, said she thinks Crawley's reluctance to go to Germany shows how much Crawley has changed in the past two years.

"In high school, she didn't necessarily form as close of relationships as she did here," Parks said. "I know from conversations we've had that she had no idea how attached she would get to people and how hard it would be to leave."

One of these attachments — and perhaps the most significant — is to her boyfriend.

"When I started dating Matt in September, I didn't know that we would make it and want to continue dating through Germany," Crawley said. "He was my first



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBREY CRAWLEY

Crawley (middle) said she's trying to make the most of the time she has left with her friends at Elon.

serious boyfriend. A three-month relationship was long for me."

Now Crawley and Lee said they're in love, and friends described the couple as inseparable.

"[Being with Matt] makes me really question all the decisions I've made," Crawley said. "It's hard to know that the closer I get to him, the harder it's going to make it for me to leave and for him to see me leave."

And Lee said he's struggling with Crawley leaving just as much, if not more than, she is.

"It's honestly one of the hardest things I've ever had to go through in my life," he said. "You find someone you truly love and you want to have for a long time in your life. Then it's like, 'Oh sorry. Gotta pack my bags and leave for the next two years. It's been nice knowing you.'"

The two said they're trying to make the most of their time together, but it's difficult knowing that time is limited.

"We always joke around that we're on the beach, but there's a cloud looming, and it's going to rain on us," Lee said. "It's just hard to make the best of that time while you're on the beach when you know there's something coming that's going to be a

huge obstacle for you."

Despite how tough Lee said it will be to see Aubrey leave, he believes she needs to.

"I joke around a lot, saying 'I'll pay you \$50,000 not to go' — not that I have that kind of money," he said. "But in reality, I would be doing a disservice not to let her go. She has to do what's best for her."

Lee said Keith Urban's song "Come Back to Me" sums up how he and Crawley feel about their current situation.

The lyrics are, "If you gotta leave, you gotta know: I love you enough to let you go. Hey, I want to hold you. I don't want to hold you back."

Crawley has the option of dropping out of the dual-degree program whenever she wants. In the face of all of these obstacles, she said she often has to ask herself, "Why am I doing this?"

And some days, she's not sure.

"I don't know what would be more worth it to me. Because obviously it's going to be an awesome experience, but what's the point of an awesome experience and getting ahead in your career if you don't have people to share it with?" Crawley said. "I feel like the end game is family and people that you love. And I have people that I love here."

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125th Anniversary Exhibit captures Elon's history

Kelsey Higgins
Senior Reporter

Elon University has grown tremendously since 1889 from a single building to its current size of 620 acres. This history is now on display in the 125th Anniversary Exhibit in the Isabella Cannon Room in the Center for the Arts.

It is no secret that this year marks the 125th anniversary of the institution's founding, and in order to celebrate, several departments on campus came together to create the quasiquintennial art exhibit.

"It was a joint effort between University Communications and the archives and special collections," said Katie Nash, special collections librarian and archivist. "They've got the expertise to write, edit and be able to tell a story. We've got the expertise to find photographs and provide them with research and information to help tell that story."

The exhibit was originally on display during Homecoming last fall, according to Dan Anderson, vice president of University Communications, and was reinstalled March 6.

"When we were discussing how to cre-

ate an exhibit that conveyed Elon's history and its 125 years, we knew it was going to be very difficult to put together a show that hit all the highlights," Anderson said. "And of course, it is a very subjective thing to try and determine what you want to convey about an institution."

The themes of the exhibit bring together some of the common experiences students have throughout different generations, Anderson said. They are illustrated in the exhibit, as a more modern image accompanies each photo from the older generations.

"They wanted to have pictures that people hadn't seen before, which we have a ton of, so this was a nice opportunity for us to find some good images that have not been over-used," Nash said.

When walking through the exhibit, students can catch glimpses of past presidents and homecomings, the birth of the Phoenix, the first African-American student and a map of the university comparing past and present facilities.

"We thought it would be very interesting to include the historic map to show people what used to be on campus, so that alumni

who come back and look at it can recall buildings that were there and what the campus was like when they were at Elon," Anderson said.

The exhibit is, in part, based on the book of Elon's history that was recently released by professor emeritus of history George Troxler, who spent three years researching and writing it.

"Both the book and the exhibit were intended to help celebrate the 125th anniversary," Troxler said.

Troxler said he has seen a vast amount of history unfold as it continues to evolve.

"I have been at Elon for 40 years and am interested in the history of this school. When I came here we had less than 1,500 students," he said. "I got into administration and got away from teaching. I was anxious to get back and be a historian, and the book allowed me to do something in history again."

The exhibit will be on display through April 8 and can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

"We do a lot of behind-the-scenes work, and this is something that is kind of front and center on campus, and it is nice to have



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Elon's history is on display at the 125th Anniversary Exhibit in the Isabella Cannon Room.

all that hard work come to fruition and be a really nice exhibit that people truly enjoy," Nash said.

Spring dance concert provides array of performances

Diana Stancy
Reporter

The Elon Dance Company held its annual spring dance concert titled "Looking Back to Spring Forward." The concert was held in McCrary Theatre and featured a collection of six contemporary and modern pieces choreographed by dance faculty members and guest choreographers.

The performance's first piece was "luminizta," a contemporary ballet work choreographed by Elon assistant professor of dance Jen Guy Metcalf.

The entire stage was completely dark with the exception of the back of the stage,

which was lit by lamps. This allowed the shadows to emphasize the elongated lines created by the dancers and enhanced the dramatic effect upon the audience.

Although very athletic, the piece maintained elegance rooted in classical ballet techniques. This combination of classical ballet and contemporary movement was reminiscent of famous choreographer and dancer George Balanchine's work.

In contrast, "passing platforms," choreographed by adjunct assistant professor of dance Sara Tourek, utilized a more modern emphasis. Clad in white pantsuits, the dancers kept perfect unison during complex sequences, often transitioning from rapid movements to finishing in a sustained pose.

Some pieces carried deep personal significance and were a physical interpretation of a life journey. Such was the case with "Evening Shade," choreographed by the

shows artistic director and associate professor of dance Lauren Kearns.

Based on her own life, Kearns' piece narrated a journey of a woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer. The dancers effectively demonstrated emotions of despair through their movements. Senior soloist Jenn McAllister trembled and aggressively threw her hands up in the air as she stood alone on the stage.

But there were also hopeful messages in the piece. Other dancers joined McAllister, and together, they supported one another. This piece was especially touching and heartfelt.

African influences were incorporated into modern piece "Sankofa," choreographed by assistant professor of performing arts Jason Aryeh. The upbeat music and energetic choreography engaged the audience.

In both "Sankofa" and "The Sisters of

Sardinia," choreographed by adjunct assistant professor of dance Natalie Marrone, the dancers demonstrated unparalleled athleticism as they exploded into powerful jumps and then gracefully retreated to the floor.

"Torrid Zone," choreographed by guest choreographer Diane Coburn Bruning, closed the show with passion and fire. This piece incorporated Spanish music and intertwined several themes.

In the backdrop, three black panels of fabric were lowered, allowing two panels of open space in which dancers could be seen. From the beginning, dancers leapt across the open space and were instantly hidden by the black panel, only to emerge seconds later in the other open space.

Overall, the March 13-15 performances were remarkable, and the caliber of dance exhibited by each of the dancers was exceptional. It truly left a lasting impression.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

"Looking Back to Spring Forward"
Our Rating:



Women's soccer team organizes 'Kickin' It With Colie!'



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Dennion (left) led the Southern Conference with 15 goals last season. She practiced through January before being diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma.

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

Amid a recent announcement regarding one of their teammates, the Elon University women's soccer players took a moment to gather their thoughts. Sophomore Nicole Dennion had been diagnosed with cancer.

But the silence didn't last long. Priding itself on its chemistry and family-like atmosphere, the team knew immediately what it had to do when it heard the news.

"It wasn't like, 'Let's be down,' it was, 'What can we do to support?'" said Mel Insley, a sophomore defender for Elon and Dennion's roommate. "It was an outpouring of love."

Dennion, the reigning Southern Conference Player of the Year known as "Colie" to her friends and family, was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, an aggressive, rare disease that infects the bone or the soft tissue around it. The diagnosis came after Dennion spent all of January participating

in team workouts and activities, showing signs of her star form from a year ago.

In mid-February after CT scans and x-rays, doctors discovered a tumor. A biopsy revealed the official diagnosis shortly after. Dennion, head Elon team physician Dr. Kirtida Patel and some of the athletic training staff were present to inform the team of the tumor before the diagnosis.

From there, the team began brainstorming ideas of what it could do to help Dennion and her family.

"There's no manual for it online," Elon head coach Chris Neal said. "You just ask for advice here and there. It was natural for this group of young women to do what was best for Nicole and her mother, Sharon."

Neal immediately created a page on gofundme.org titled "Kickin' It With Colie!" to raise money to aid costs of relocation, living expenses, care and travel. As of March 18, the account had raised \$30,600 of its goal of \$35,000 and had been shared online more than one thousand times.

Word got around the soccer community quickly, spreading to a number of universities right away. Clemson University dedicated its spring games to Dennion, wearing bracelets and raising money for the fund. Neal said he's received donations from people at Samford University, High Point University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, among others.

"The key is just keep raising awareness within groups that matter to Colie," Neal said. "We're hitting all different avenues and have received a tremendous amount of support, just from the [viral nature] of Twitter and Facebook."

The team has been constantly thinking of new ways to raise money, with bracelets, t-shirts and Relay for Life events all being talked about and considered.

"We're always keeping her in our thoughts," Insley said. "A variety of things have come up. Now it's all about organizing it and executing."

Dennion's mother is currently staying

with her, and the two will go back to their home in New Jersey. She plans to undergo treatment at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. According to Insley, Dennion has been tired and in pain, but Dennion's personality still remains with her. Her asking randomly for a doughnut — she hates green vegetables — suggests to Insley that she's battling this courageously.

"She says whatever comes to her mind," Insley said. "It's a new normal that we've had to adjust to, but we still hear her laugh. She's still the same person, just now she's fighting this."

According to the upperclassmen, the first time Insley, Dennion and the other four members of the sophomore class visited campus and arrived at camp, they were extremely awkward. They've broken out of that to become extremely good friends, and that reflects in Dennion's personality and performance on the field.

"She's a very strong young woman," Neal said. "All you have to do is watch her play one game and you know who she is. Her play is who she is. On the field, she's very aggressive, passionate, strong-willed and opinionated. She's the same way off the field, too."

Dennion's attitude has remained positive through the last few weeks, as has that of her teammates and coaches. The team hosted a St. Patrick's Day-themed fundraiser March 15 with a band and friends to raise money for Dennion's fund. Insley said, "Everyone knows that she'll beat this."

During the recent ice storm, Dennion lost power in her apartment, so she and her mother went to stay with Neal and his family. They spent time online watching donations pour in from people Dennion didn't know, something Neal said was a touching experience.

"That was fantastic, watching her light up when she saw that. That made her smile big-time, knowing other people were jumping on board to support her," Neal said.

To donate to "Kickin' It With Colie!" visit www.gofundme.com/7caql8 or call head coach Chris Neal at 278-6745.

Comfort, commitment key for men's club lacrosse team

Matt Mallian
Senior Reporter

The Elon University women's lacrosse team has gotten much attention in its inaugural season, but there is another lacrosse team on campus making a name for itself: the men's club lacrosse team.

The Phoenix, which plays in Division II of the South Eastern Lacrosse Conference (SELC), began the season ranked No. 12 in the preseason coaches' poll. But a 5-1 start to the 2014 campaign has merited a rise to No. 5 in the March 11 poll.

The team is accustomed to success, having won the North West division in five of the last six seasons and the entire Division II in 2008, 2010 and 2012. But this year is different than those championships seasons said Steve McDonald, team captain and club lacrosse president.

According to McDonald, the team has played as individuals in the past, while this year the team is playing more as a cohesive unit.

"Having a whole team atmosphere [has been key]," McDonald said. "The past few years we've had a lot of one on one, but we have a lot of guys this year — small gears working the big machine — who are working well together. We just have a really committed group."

This commitment described by McDonald has translated on the field to wins over teams ranked above them in the preseason rankings. The Phoenix topped the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) 16-11 Feb. 22, aided by a four-goal performance from senior midfielder Dylan Herbert. For the seniors, beating the team that has knocked Elon out of the playoffs in two of the past three seasons was a sweet feeling.

"[Beating SCAD] was awesome," said senior defenseman Hank Kean. "We've always had pretty close games with them, so it felt unreal to go down there and beat them on their own turf and silence them a little bit."

Wins against Indiana Institute of Technology Feb. 28 and North Carolina State University March 2 also warranted the rise in the rankings, as Indiana Tech was ranked



The Elon University men's club lacrosse team is off to a 5-1 start this season. The team is practicing for its next game April 5 vs. UNC Charlotte.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

No. 8 in the preseason poll, and NC State competes in Division I.

Production has come from throughout the lineup for the Phoenix. Upperclassmen like Herbert and junior midfielder Travis Elliot-Knaggs, who had two goals against SCAD, have led the offensive attack, while freshmen like attack Conor Brody, who had two goals against Indiana Tech, have broken through and contributed as well.

One of the team's top performers this season has been the man between the pipes, goalie Joey McLaughlin, a transfer from Saint Joseph's University. The sophomore is currently ranked ninth in Division II with a 6.5 goals against average. McLaughlin has provided stability to a position in which Elon had two players graduate from in 2013.

The Phoenix not only lost graduating players this season but also head coach Steve Bailey, who is on sabbatical. Matt Ward has taken the reigns in 2014, and the transition has been much easier than expected, since Ward has been an assistant coach for the team for the past three seasons.

"I think [Ward] has done a really great job," Kean said. "He knows the program and the players and has gotten a little more structure going, which is nice."

McDonald echoed Kean's comments, saying that the familiarity with Ward has made the switch easy.

"We're used to [Ward's] coaching style, and we respect him, so it wasn't like a completely new guy came into it," McDonald said. "And since the older guys showed him respect, the younger guys had respect for him right away."

McDonald and Kean said the younger players on the team have been tremendously dedicated this season, more so than in past years.

"If these kids can stay together, I think they're going to do really well," McDonald said.

The team will play its next game after spring break against division foes the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Davidson College. Having a layoff of nearly a month — from March 9 to April 5 — is a challenge for any team, but Kean said the team will be ready when the time

comes to play UNC Charlotte April 5.

"We're aware that we are taking a little bit of time off so it's really important, especially with spring break in the middle, that we come back that first week ready to work and keep producing wins," Kean said.

The team's rise in the rankings is something the players enjoy and pay attention to, but McDonald said they will not let the rankings get in the way of the team's ultimate goal: to win the conference and travel to regionals.

"It's a big number, and it's great. But I won't be happy until we're No. 1," McDonald said.

Elon has four regular season games remaining, the next being the April 5 game against UNC Charlotte. The game is tentatively scheduled to be played at Rhodes Stadium. The Phoenix will then travel for games against Davidson and Coastal Carolina University before returning home to face Briarcliffe College to close the regular season April 13.

For full coverage of Elon athletics, please visit elondependulum.com

Fortmann regaining confidence after rocky start

Jordan Spritzer
Senior Reporter

Junior Stefan Fortmann recently earned Southern Conference Men's Tennis Player of the Week for the week of March 3-9, making him the third Elon University player to earn the honor this season. But the South African's journey to all-conference accolades was by no means conventional.

Fortmann had a rocky start to the 2014 campaign, losing five of his first six singles matches.

"I had been struggling for a while now, especially in singles play," Fortmann said. "Playing sports at a high level, you're going to get into slumps."

Playing at No. 2 singles, Fortmann lost to Duke University's Fred Saba, University of Virginia's Alex Domijan and Samford University's Fares Kilani without winning a single set. Fortmann's struggles prompted Elon head coach Michael Leonard to make the tough decision to move him down in the lineup.

"It was really just to get him believing in himself a little bit more, putting him in a position where he's not overmatched," Leonard said.

Both Leonard and Fortmann agreed it was the right decision.

"Coach and I were very open about it to see what would be the best not only for myself but, more importantly, the team, and we decided that would be the way," Fortmann said. "Obviously, you want to play as high up in the lineup as you can, but coach and I have a very honest relationship. We sat down, and, by that stage, I wasn't really focused on individual accolades. I just wanted to be where I was winning for the team again."

Fortmann's struggles continued when he was moved down to No. 4 singles. Coming off a pair of defeats by East Tennessee State University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Fortmann had a chance to redeem himself against Brown University's William Spector. The Phoenix jumped out to a 3-0 lead after taking the doubles point and winning the first two singles matches, but Brown fought back to tie the match at three.

"I remember vividly when Brian [Kowal-

ski] had match point and lost in a third set tiebreaker, saying to myself, 'There's no use trying to make excuses now,'" Fortmann said. "I really took it upon myself to make sure to get through the match and win it for the team because I knew it would do a lot for my confidence."

Despite taking a nasty fall and hurting his ankle in the process, Fortmann rallied to earn a three-set 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory to give the Phoenix its fifth win of the year.

"That was definitely a turning point for my season," Fortmann said. "I was really happy to pull out that victory for the boys."

Leonard saw Fortmann's win against Brown as a major stepping stone in his season.

"He won against Brown, [started] to build up confidence, and next thing you know he's committing to the ball, he's playing with a lot of energy and athleticism like he always did in the past," Leonard said.

The junior said he believes a racket change played a part in his early-season struggles.

"Last year, I made a racket change to a lighter racket to get my arm to last a bit longer. The last two seasons, my arm has been so dead at the end because I've been using a stiff, heavy racket," Fortmann said. "I switched to a lighter racket and it felt good at first, but once we got into really competitive play it didn't work out as well as I'd hoped."

Since abandoning the lighter racket, Fortmann has played a big part in Elon's 3-0 start to Southern Conference play, winning all three singles matches as well as his three doubles matches with new partner junior Juan Madrid.

"They're getting better every time," Leonard said. "Juan's solid. He's a really good No. 3 doubles player, and he's had a lot of success since he's been down there. Stefan just had to realize Juan's really solid, and [he doesn't] have to overdo it."

Fortmann and Madrid managed to win matches despite having to learn how to play with each other on the fly.

"Who Juan played with and who Stefan played with were totally different personalities than playing with each other, and they had to figure that out," Leonard said. "The last match and a half, they've played phenomenal, and

they're playing at the level we think they can play at."

But Fortmann said he believes their similarities made it an easy adjustment.

"Out of all the guys on the team, Juan and myself are probably the most similar when it comes to personality on the court, which makes it easy," Fortmann said. "He's just right where I need him to be energy-wise. Mentally, he's always on the same wavelength as me, which definitely helps."

With renewed confidence, Fortmann is looking to put his rough start past him and achieve his goal of winning a conference title.

"When you're losing and not playing well, it's not always that fun, and it's easy to just dig yourself into a deeper hole, but for me it's just realizing that it's actually fun playing tennis and just trusting myself and going out there and competing," Fortmann said. "Ultimately, it was just a lack of confidence, and I'm glad I've got it back now."



FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE OLNEY

Junior tennis player Stefan Fortmann says he believes his confidence has returned following a slow start.

Elon's win streak sets stage for SoCon success

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

As the Elon University softball team entered the grind of Southern Conference play with a weekend series against Western Carolina University March 14, the team was 16-5-1, and beginning to gain chemistry.

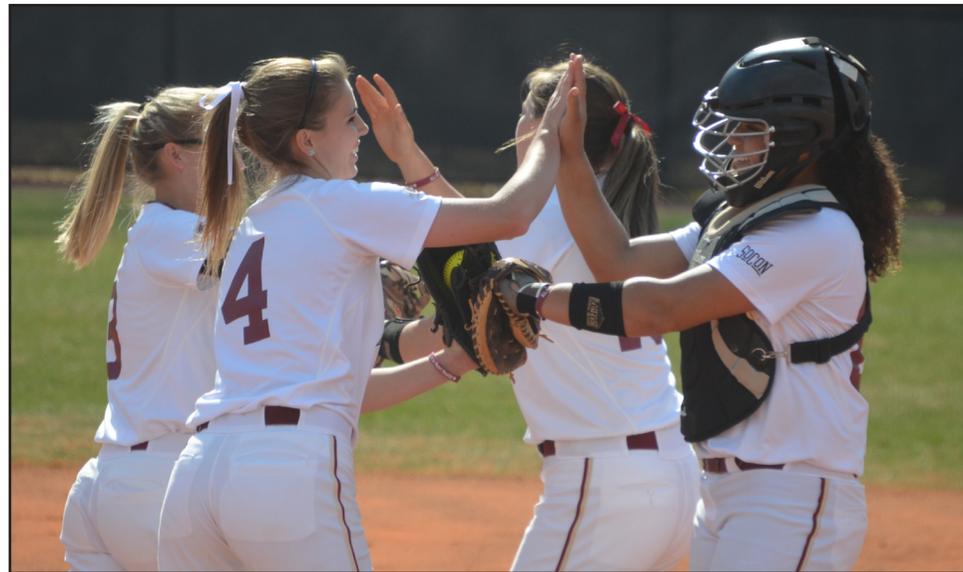
The Phoenix was on a seven-game winning streak and had dominated its two home tournaments to the tune of a combined 7-1 record when it was brought back to reality with a 5-0 loss to Syracuse University. The loss allowed the Phoenix to regroup and refocus for their series against the Catamounts.

The Phoenix began play in a Southern Conference that, as head coach Kathy Bocock said, is the strongest it's been in recent memory, with several teams having a realistic shot at winning the title.

"This conference is going to be strong, top to bottom," Bocock said. "We can't relax and think we're going to cruise through a weekend, because that's not going to work."

The Phoenix went to Cullowhee, N.C. to face Western Carolina, and although it didn't win the series — Elon lost two of three games — the Phoenix took away a bevy of positive signs from its tough weekend. Chief among them is the experience the underclassmen gained in their first games in a hostile atmosphere against a talented conference foe.

"It was like the young kids hadn't played any games yet because they were all really nervous," Bocock said. "They know now that this is what a SoCon game on the road is going to be like. They thought they had adjusted to the college game, but conference games are



FILE PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL

The Elon softball team will build off a recent seven-game winning streak to succeed in SoCon play.

a whole new adjustment."

Senior second baseman Lauren Oldham said it was the perfect opportunity for her and her teammates to see where they stood at this point in the season and what they still

need to improve upon.

"We struggled offensively," she said. "We were putting the ball in play and getting our hits, but we couldn't string anything together. So we need to go back to our mentality that gave us so much confidence earlier this sea-

son."

It's difficult to start the conference slate with two straight road series — Elon's next opponent is Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., starting March 22 — but it's

more experience for the underclassmen to grow, develop and become more comfortable in road settings.

"I think it's actually better to have two conference road series under our belts," Oldham said. "All our nerves will be gone, and we'll be able to handle road crowds better by the time we get home and get some of our losses back."

Bocock said she sees the benefits in playing early-season conference road games, difficult as they may be for a young, inexperienced team.

"It's tough," Bocock said. "You may not get a lot of wins early on, and you hope that doesn't go against your confidence, but you do what you can and pick up a win here and there and before you go home and level the playing field and recover some wins."

The Phoenix knows it will be difficult to win the conference given the quality of depth from top to bottom in the league. But it can find the motivation necessary to get the job done in the low expectations of the league's other coaches and media personnel, who picked them to finish seventh out of eight teams in January's preseason poll.

"Our ranking is in the back of all of our minds," Oldham said. "It's definitely given us a little bit of a chip on our shoulder and motivated us to go out every day and work a little harder to prove people wrong."

it's the fact that our kid got a free education while getting to play my favorite sport on the best of stages.

No — those things, while true, are all about me.

This is all about you. You, the Elon University community. You were the "apex of special" much in advance of our son's arrival. I just felt compelled to tell you that I realize it and thank you from the bottom of my heart for it.

And in closing, I hope that this letter might also reach some of those who haven't been so blessed to understand what an honor it is to be associated with the Elon University Community.

All the best to you,
Phil Isenbarger

An open letter to the Elon University community:

Just four years ago, you accepted our son Jack Isenbarger as a student athlete at Elon University. There are too many people to thank and not enough space here to complete my thoughts. The coaching staff, administration, student body, teachers, advisors, friends and supporters deserve mention by more specific names, but you know who you are. You are the people that have surrounded our son and family with love, support, encouragement, direction, hope and praise.

So many of you have said to me in one form or another, "Jack is a wonderful basketball player, but he is an even better person." You have commented that we, as parents,

should take credit for that. In fact, Jack is a better basketball player and a better person than I ever was or ever will be. I can take no credit. Only his mother can compete with him on the "good person" side.

For all of this I am thankful to God. But my intention here is to express to the entire Elon University community my deepest gratitude for the way in which you have conducted your affairs. Because of the way you approach every aspect of the Elon experience, our son has benefitted in ways too numerous to count. The Elon University community has a passion for its mission that is palpable. You can feel it when you walk onto campus for the first time. You can see it in the eyes and smiles of its people. You can sense it in the words of those that are responsible for its future (and its past). You can swim in the

stream of politeness and graciousness that flows from a student body that seems mature beyond its years. You can predict with confidence the future success of the school and its students.

I would like to thank every single person that has reached out to Jack during his undergraduate days. And to so many of you who have said to us, "We're so glad Jack is here at Elon." What could make a parent beam more than that? Only the realization that the words were in fact true. Only the understanding that Elon has given our family more than we could ever give it back in return.

Maybe it's the fact that Jack had the college experience I always wanted for myself but didn't find. Maybe it's the fact that I could escape the trials of the real world and lose myself in following Elon basketball. Maybe

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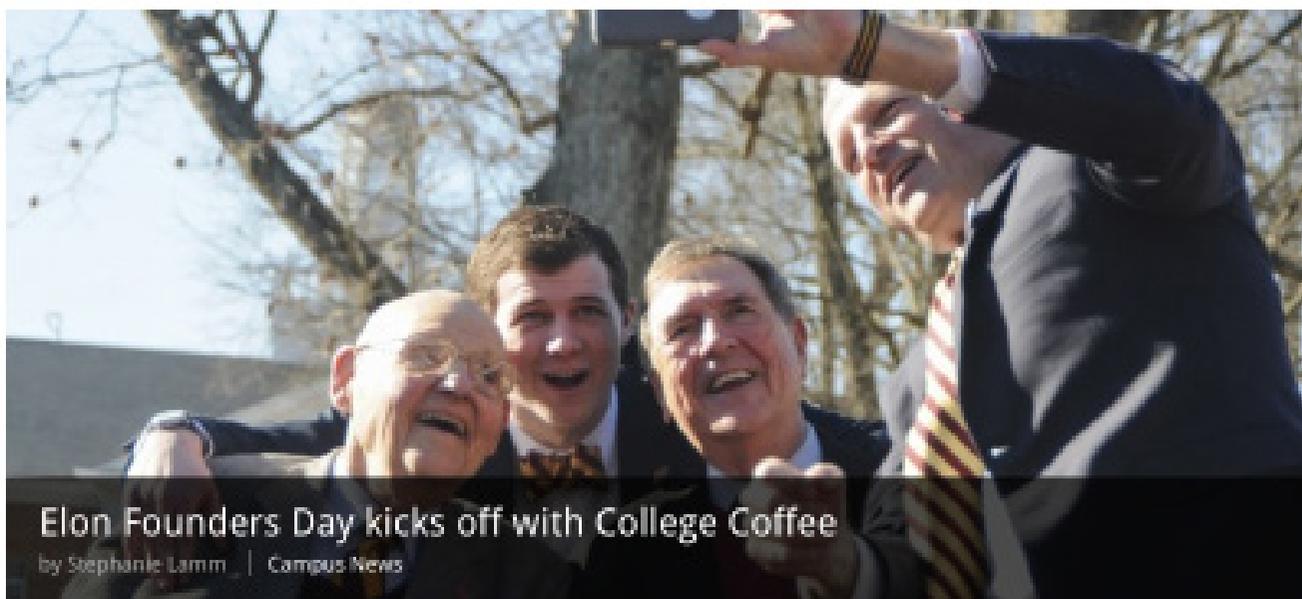
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