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'A' is for 'Average'



High number of A's increases average student GPA, could lead to more rigorous teaching

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Following the recent trend in distinguished grades at Elon University, 25 percent of grades given during the fall 2010 semester were A's while 12.8 percent were B's, bringing the standard GPA to 3.17.

Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said his worries are more centered on the rise of A's and B's among students rather than the increased GPA.

"The average grade percentage being 3.17 doesn't really bother me at all," House said. "What bothers me is the percentage of A's. If you look at our catalog, it says the A is reserved for distinguished performance, and when a quarter of the students are getting a distinguished performance, it raises the question of how distinguished an A really is. It seems that faculty are doing a disservice to their very good students that are really doing distinguished work."

Peter Felten, assistant Provost and director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, said he believes an issue lies in the understanding of what grading is about and what its purposes serve.

"I think we don't have a common understanding of what grades are for," Felten said. "Within the same department, there are some instances where there are two faculty teaching the same course to the same number of students, but each have very different grading methods. One may be curved, while the other is criterion-based, and to me, that doesn't seem entirely fair. I think it would be helpful if faculty within the same department agreed on what grades are actually for."

House said he and faculty have pondered several reasons for the grade increases in order to better understand how to address the issue.

"There are a number of reasons that people use to explain why grades

are going up," he said. "One, students are smarter and faculty are better teachers. Faculty teach differently then they used to, i.e. they used to say, 'Hand in your paper, I'm going to grade it, and that's your grade.' Now, I give it back to you with some suggestions so it's more back and forth, back and forth."

In response to the suggestions, House said the administration has advised faculty to execute more rigorous academic teaching and supply thoroughly descriptive rubrics.

"I think this is a faculty-led initiative," he said. "They're the ones who are going to have to be responsible for making sure they give rigorous exams with appropriate grading to give good feedback to students and recognize them for the work they're earning. That being said, my job will be to back them up, and right now, I think the best way to address this issue is to be transparent with the information."

As the university executes policies pertaining to minimum GPAs, both Glenda Crawford, director of the Teaching Fellows, and Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, director of the Honors program, agreed students feel pressure to earn A's and B's to remain in good standing within academic programs. They also said students' tensions should not place pressures on faculty to easily hand over higher grades.

"The requirements of the (Honors Fellows) program make it incumbent on the students to achieve and are not intended to put any pressure on faculty assigning grades," Vandermaas-Peeler said. "A combination of hard work, ability and intellectual curiosity enabled students to gain admittance into the program, and we expect these qualities to be enhanced in college."

Crawford said she believes it

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What are you waiting for? NEON TREES scheduled to perform at Elon

Lauren Ramsdell
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Students are already chomping at the bit to learn who the artists for this year's popular Spring Show are going to be.

Unfortunately, the announcement is still weeks away. The Student Union Board promises a reveal event like no other during the Feb. 5 men's

basketball game versus Appalachian State University.

There is limited information surrounding who the opening and main acts will be, and only certain people within SUB know the full details. But, Neon Trees, an electric rock quartet from Provo, Utah, has announced on its Facebook page and its band's website a 2011 tour stop at Elon University.

Neon Trees was a contender in the Spring Show survey released this fall for an opening act slot for a still-unknown featured performer. The stop is on Friday, May 5, the same day as the Spring Show.

SUB President My Nguyen and adviser Bobby Dunlap, assistant director of student activities, both said the organization cannot comment on the bands selected for the Spring

Show because of technical and legal reasons.

"The official word from SUB is that we will give no comment regarding the actual artist or artists until the day of the Spring Show Reveal," Nguyen said in an e-mail exchange.

But for Neon Trees fans, regardless if the band is coming for the Spring Show or not, a stop in Elon on the tour is more than enough.



ARAMARK expands composting program to Octagon with help of Office of Sustainability

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

In a joint effort between ARAMARK and the Office of Sustainability to expand the existing composting program in Colonnades and Harden dining halls, a pilot-composting program was introduced in Octagon Café this month.

Composting, which reduces the amount of solid waste entering a landfill, has existed in the “back of the house,” or essentially behind the scenes in the kitchen of the dining halls, since fall 2008, according to Elaine Durr, sustainability coordinator for Elon. Conversations have been ongoing about increasing student involvement in the process.

“Elon’s food waste is picked up three times a week by a third party who operates a commercial grade composting facility about an hour from campus,” she said. “The pilot program taking place in Octagon is for front of the house compost.”

Because the program already existed on campus, the

addition didn’t require many extra resources. Ryan Moore, assistant food services director for ARAMARK, said the program was introduced during Winter Term because of the decrease in traffic at the dining halls.

Typically, ARAMARK staff members are responsible for sorting out compostable materials when students and faculty deliver their trays of leftovers to the kitchen. Under the new pilot program, students are responsible for sorting the material.

—ELAINE DURR,
SUSTAINABILITY
COORDINATOR

“We’ve taken out the safeguard of a trained staff,” Moore said. “With more student involvement comes more risk for contamination.”

To ensure students are knowledgeable about the process, ARAMARK and the Office of Sustainability created fliers, an informational page on their website and sponsored a booth in Moseley the week before the pilot launched, Moore said.

Students from the Green Team who expressed interest

in volunteering for the program are also available to answer questions.

“During high traffic times, student volunteers are educating Octagon patrons about composting and what materials can go in the compost or biodegradable container provided in Octagon,” Durr said.

Senior Molly Strayer, who is passionate about making campus activities more environmentally friendly, currently serves as a compost bin volunteer, after manning the Moseley booth in early January.

“The composting program is extremely exciting because it is only really being started on college campuses,” she said. “If Elon is successful with this program, that will be a really meaningful achievement and make us an example to other colleges.”

Volunteer Sarah Gerald, a junior, who became involved through the Eco-Reps program out of the Office of Sustainability, said she was initially surprised by the lack of knowledge many students have about composting.

“It is hard to tell if some students just don’t want to spend the time to sit down and think about what goes where and why, or if they just really haven’t been educated about the



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Students now have the option to compost materials in Octagon Café.

composting process,” she said. “I think the average student knows the very basics of composting leaves and vegetables, the basic organic stuff.”

Gerald, Strayer and other volunteers will be required to spend one hour per week at the bins through the remainder of

Winter Term and all of spring semester.

“It’s not hard to figure out, once you have a little practice,” Gerald said. “That’s our goal.”

According to Moore, there are currently no plans to expand the program to other dining halls.

University award recipient under investigation for fraud

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Bill Hillar, a 2010 recipient of the Hometown Hero award from Elon University for his work as an advocate against human trafficking, is currently being investigated for fraud by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security.

The investigation began with the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Department in Portland, Ore. and has since moved to the federal level, according to Keith Bickford, director of the Oregon Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

Hillar was given the Hometown Hero award, along with Meaghan Murphy and Mark Watros, after being nominated by freshman Savannah Chaisson.

“I nominated Mr. Hillar to speak at Elon after he had spoken at a church in my town last year,” she said. “I did not know about any of the accusations before nominating him or even before he came to Elon.”

Chaisson said she submitted an essay and an application with his contact information, including e-mail, phone number and address, to nominate Hillar to speak.

Phil Smith, university chaplain, said freshmen nominate people for the award based on their interactions with them. Freshman class officers select the final three recipients.

“In this case, not as much was known personally, but it was still someone who had an impact,” he said. “Anytime you don’t know someone directly, there’s just less you know about them, but his story was very impactful.”

Suspicious come to the surface

Concerns regarding Hillar’s background were first raised a few hours before the Hometown Heroes ceremony took place on Nov. 8. Smith said the university received a vague e-mail with an anonymous tip. The tipster claimed military involvement and accused Hillar of misrepresenting his military record.

“I did consult around a little bit to find out what would be a good thing to do here,” Smith said. “With some good advice, I went and met with him.”

Smith said he explained to Hillar the university had received an e-mail questioning the validity of his military record.

Hillar said it had happened once before.

“At that point, you’ve got a person you’re about to give an award to, and you question whether the accusing person just didn’t like them,” Smith said. “You can’t just not give them the award because someone said that an hour before. And it had nothing to do with the award, which was for advocacy against human trafficking.”

On Oct. 28, a week before the Hometown Hero ceremony, Jeff Hinton, a retired Special Forces Master Sergeant involved with the association of Professional Soldiers, published findings questioning Hillar’s military experience.

Professional Soldiers is an online forum for members of the Special Forces. According to Hinton, Special Forces alludes to only one unit, the Green Berets, of which Hillar claimed to have been a part, specifically a retired colonel of the United States Army Special Forces.

“Over a year ago, we got an e-mail asking who Bill Hillar was,” Hinton said in an interview. “That e-mail, once it hit Special Forces command, went out to the ‘who’s who’ of Green Berets.”

The small unit, which has existed for 54 years, has around 2,000 members around the country at any given time, he said.

“It would have been very hard for this guy to not have been known, and it went out and no one knew who he was,” Hinton said. “I made it my goal to expose this guy. Nobody wants to question someone’s credentials when they are viewed as a hero, but someone has to do it and not let them continue to scam (people).”

Probing for truth

Hinton began by sending for Hillar’s records at the National Personnel Records Center. All members of the United States military have a record known as a DD214, which is part of any member of the military’s resume when he or she applies for a job. The record also includes when the person left the service and how he or she was discharged, whether dishonorably or honorably, and what medals the person was awarded.

“You can get any person’s DD214, the records are not classified,” Hinton said. “Even after finding his date of birth and social security number, I couldn’t get anything.”

Hinton next enlisted the help of Mary and Chuck Schantag, who also work to expose

Green Beret frauds across the country, and discovered Hillar served eight years in the Coast Guard and was never a member of the Special Forces.

After more research, Hinton said he discovered Hillar had conned multiple law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

“I asked the FBI how he pulled this off, and they never thought to question his credentials,” Hinton said. “The thing is, we get involved because no one else is going to question this guy.”

Within two to three weeks of Hinton’s published accusations, Hillar’s website, citing his credentials and advertising his training workshops, was removed from the Internet and Hillar had essentially gone into hiding, according to Hinton. Around that time, he confirmed with the FBI that they were on his case.

“This is not the first time we’ve done this,” he said. “We don’t go after the guy who claims it sitting at the bar. We go after the guys that make themselves public figures and say they can offer training. We don’t take lightly to people using the title to scam innocent people, especially for money.”

Ending the ‘scam’

Claiming to have qualifications as an elite member of the military, Hinton said Hillar charged individuals and organizations for military training.

This included the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, Calif. Hillar was contracted to lead a 15-hour, three-day workshop, worth one academic credit in 2005. Since then, he has led one workshop per semester, most recently on human trafficking in October of last year, according to Jason Warburg, executive director of communications at the Institute.

In early November, a student from the workshop came to the administration, expressing concern over whether Hillar’s claims about his background were true. Besides claiming involvement with Special Forces, Hillar also asserted in a resume that he held a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. Around the same time, postings from Professional Soldiers came to the attention of the Institute, which triggered an investigation, Warburg said.

“We reviewed the information, communicated to him that we needed documentation, and there was no response,” he said. “We confirmed with the University

of Oregon that he did not have a Ph.D. We concluded he has misrepresented his academic credentials and issued a statement of findings.”

In the statement, Monterey Institute President Sunder Ramaswamy apologized for the incident and placed responsibility on the Institute for failing to uphold the quality and integrity of the instruction received there.

According to the statement, the Institute will offer students who attended Hillar’s workshops the option of either keeping the credit on their academic records or removing it and enrolling in a comparable workshop at no cost.

Though Hillar, as a workshop instructor, was not subject to the pre-employment background check typical for all employees, the Institute has since changed its policy.

“Workshop instructors ... typically come to the attention of the academic administration through recommendations and a resume, proposed syllabus and list of references would generally be considered sufficient,” the statement read. “However, as a result of this incident, the institute has extended the requirement for a full pre-engagement background check to any person who provides classroom instruction for academic credit.”

Attempts to contact Hillar have been unsuccessful.

Precedent for the future

According to Smith, Elon’s experience with Hillar will likely have little bearing on the future of the Hometown Hero award.

“If someone has misrepresented themselves, I’d hate for that to mean we have to scrutinize everyone who’s nominated,” he said. “We’re not going to do the same level of checking you would do if you were having someone come and teach or someone offering credit.”

Smith said there has never been a situation presented in which a recipient of the award would have the recognition retracted. If the officers and nominator choose to do that, Smith said it could be a potential discussion.

“I don’t feel like I’m giving the award as an individual, I feel like our office is sponsoring the award and it raises the question of whose award it is to rescind,” Smith said. “This is an institution of higher education and we learn something every day. I imagine we’ll learn something from all of this.”

Physician Assistant, DPT programs to be housed together in newly-named Francis Center

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

After gaining final approval from the Board of Trustees this month, Elon University will welcome the inaugural class in the Physician Assistant graduate program in January 2013 alongside the Doctoral of Physical Therapy program in the newly renamed Gerald L. Francis Center. Preparations are currently underway to establish a School of Health Science, which would encompass the two programs.

A goal that first began more than two years ago through a science initiative proposed by Provost Steven House and Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs, will become reality as the program will work over the next two years to gain accreditation, recruit and admit students and build faculty.

In an effort to strengthen the university's science program, House said Elon considered the addition of pharmacy and physician assistant programs and conducted feasibility studies for both options.

"We spoke to people in the community, people in the industry at Duke (University), Alamance Regional Medical Center and Moses Cone (Health Center), as well as students and faculty," he said. "What we saw was, there are jobs available, the new health care plan will add 30 million people to the roll. The feasibility study for a PA program came back favorably."

According to House, the proposal was presented to the graduate council, academic council and faculty, and each responded positively. The proposal was then brought to the Board of Trustees, where the plans were approved.

"At that time, when we brought it forward, we knew you needed about \$2 million to start the program," he said. "We thought we could bring in students by the fall of 2012, but we have now discovered, because of changes in accreditation guidelines, we can't bring them in until January of 2013."

The projected \$2 million cost includes renovating the space, creating work labs, admitting students and hiring faculty and a medical and clinical director.

After fundraising through various foundations, Elon received \$900,000 from the Duke endowment, in conjunction

with Alamance Regional Medical Center and Moses Cone Health Center. House said other foundations have contributed money as well.

After the approval of the program, House said the real question was its location. With a competing offer from downtown Greensboro, where the Elon School of Law is located, the university decided to keep the program on campus.

"We purchased the Francis Center, the former Smithfield Ham building, (earlier this year) and were already moving the DPT program there," he said. "We decided it was good to keep the programs together."

The naming of the building after Executive Vice President Gerry Francis came at the suggestion of President Leo Lambert, House said, in an effort to reward the commitment and excellence Francis has upheld as an instrumental part of making the university what it is today.

Francis, who will retire after spring of this year, said he is not only honored by the recognition, but also pleased to be associated with the health sciences.

"Working at Elon has been a true pleasure and I have enjoyed every day of it," he said. "When all the work pays off like it has in Elon's success, it makes it even more satisfying. I offer a huge thank you for all of this recognition."

The building, which will undergo renovations to accommodate the addition of two programs, should be completed by December 2011, House said, in time for DPT program classes to begin in January of the next year. While the facilities for the PA program will be finalized at that time, the program itself will not accept students for another year.

Mark Archambault, vice chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, was selected as the first director of the PA program and will play an integral role in building the foundations of the program before students arrive in 2013.

"We had several very good candidates, but he was a fit for Elon," House said. "His vision for international experience and a service learning component represents all of the things that we really pride ourselves in in the undergraduate departments, and he wants to bring



PHOTO SUBMITTED
The newly named Francis Center will house the Doctoral of Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant programs.

them to the graduate program."

Archambault said he has long been impressed with Elon's reputation and believes his personal values align with those of the institution. His initial goals include building a highly qualified faculty and student base and building collaborative partnerships on campus and in the community.

According to House, students of the program will meet the needs of the community through primary health care.

"We hope that a key component will be to serve an underserved area like Eastern North Carolina," he said. "There are plenty of doctors in Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Burlington, but what about some of the rural areas? We're hoping these health care providers can fill that niche."

The 27-month program, which will admit 36 students a year, includes a year of primarily classroom work followed by 15 months of clinical rotations. A clinical director, hired by Archambault, will be responsible for determining locations for clinical work around the region and state.

Accreditation, which must be earned before students can be admitted, will be based on curriculum, faculty credentials, facilities, student work and, most importantly, where clinical rotations will take place.

"The PA program will provide students with a quality education that ensures they are not just capable clinicians, but also humanistic in their approach

to treating all patients as individuals," he said. "The program has the ability to fully embrace the mission of Elon and directly serve societal needs."

Archambault says he will work with Elizabeth Rogers, associate dean of physical therapy, to determine the interactions between the PA and DPT program.

Rogers suggested sharing faculty, facilities and equipment among students of the two programs. A common space in the center will also allow student groups to meet socially, as well as professionally.

"There is the opportunity to create interprofessional opportunities for the students in both programs," she said. "It is expected that many other synergies will be identified, including the possibility in the future for the development of an on-campus clinic in the Francis Center."

The proposal for the creation of a School of Health Sciences will come before the faculty in the spring, House said, prior to the time the programs move in.

"While new programs and curriculum have to be approved by faculty, the creation of a school is the Board (of Trustee's) idea," he said. "It doesn't have to go through the same channels. It's just packaging, it already exists."

Proposals for a roadway connecting the Center with Danieleley Center are also underway, including the addition of a sidewalk along Haggard Avenue, as well as landscaping, trees and playing fields.

A different kind of Smith Jackson e-mail: Working to prevent potential cyber attacks

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Just before the end of fall semester, Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, sent an e-mail to the entire student body warning students about the effects of cyberbullying. Following recent events involving students across the country, specifically the suicide of a freshman at Rutgers University, Jackson said he felt it was important to call on the good will of the student body to avoid cyberbullying, even though Elon University can do very little to regulate it.

"The question comes up, 'can you block it from the servers?'" Jackson said. "And we just feel like if we go down that slippery slope, then are we going to start censoring things? Are professors going to start saying, 'we don't like what students post about us on Rate My Professors?'"

Jackson's Dec. 14 e-mail, which detailed the seriousness of cyberbullying, also noted that publicly writing malicious comments about fellow students is against the university's Honor Code.

"Freedom of expression and civility are not antithetical values," Jackson wrote in the e-mail. "In fact, they go hand-in-hand in our community. While one may express an idea freely, it is unethical to knowingly lie about another person or spread false, unsubstantiated rumors."

any specific websites in his message, freshman Krysten O'Hara said she was shocked by some of the things she saw the first, and only, time she visited CollegeACB.com, a website known for campus gossip.

"I never even heard of College ACB until I came to college," O'Hara said. "I was genuinely curious."

O'Hara said she first stumbled upon

be funny to make him think she liked him.

"We were all questioning in the months after his death what we could have done differently to prevent him from doing this," Claude said.

Claude, who lived across the street from Halligan, said she never got to know him as well as she knew the rest of his family.

"While we may not agree with each other's expressions, we must take responsibility for what we say and do. Posting malicious rumors anonymously on a Web site instead of censoring this site, we will hold students accountable when we know they are violating the honor code."

- Smith Jackson
Vice President and Dean of Student Life

threads about sororities, and noticed threads asking for comments on the "sluttiest freshmen."

"Once I got to something about somebody I knew," O'Hara said, "I was like, this is a waste of time."

Junior Casey Claude witnessed the devastating impacts of cyberbullying at a young age when Ryan Halligan, a fellow classmate, hanged himself at the age of 13 in 2003.

According to a memorial website created by his family, Halligan spent the summer before eighth grade building an online relationship with a popular girl in his class. He was later rejected by her in person, in front of several of her friends, when she told him she was joking online and wanted nothing to do with him. She

"It just really didn't seem real to me because I knew everyone in his family except for him," Claude said. "Everyone was in shock and I think the shock lasted for a long time. It made a lot of us stop and think."

O'Hara said the effects can be devastating.

"You see it on the news," she said. "People commit suicide because of stuff people put up online. You don't know everything about people, if they have an underlying condition or if they are depressed, and you have no idea how it will affect them if they end up finding it."

Jackson said he tells students to ignore the comments when they go to him with instances of cyberbullying.

to do, but the university can't really control those sites," Jackson said. "Even if we block it from our servers, they're still accessible readily off campus."

According to Jackson, one of the main problems with websites like CollegeACB.com is the factor of anonymity.

"We don't know who's doing it, so it's hard for us to respond with as concrete of a way as sometimes people hope that we would," he said.

Claude encouraged students to not separate themselves from reality when on the Internet.

"It's easier not to have to see their reaction or realize that they're a real person who's going to have some emotion to what you're saying," she said. "I realize that you don't want the confrontation or whatever, but think about how what you're saying is going to have an impact on someone."

Jackson said that even though freedom of expression is encouraged throughout campus, the university is working to establish a speaker's corner on the West Lawn to enable students to voice their opinions openly, and with accountability.

As for the websites, Jackson said he wishes no one would look at the sites at all.

"There are a lot of times when people are criticizing those extreme comments and I think that's positive, but I think the best thing is if people would just say 'I

Successful blood drive at Elon vital to Red Cross

Hannah DelaCourt
Reporter

Elon University held the second of its three annual blood drives Wednesday, Jan. 12. There is a constant need for blood donations to save the lives of accident victims, cancer patients, premature babies and others.

"There are a number of reasons why someone would arrive at a hospital needing a pint of blood," said Andrea Sjogren, an American Red Cross donor recruitment representative. "Yet, there is only one way to have that pint on the shelf at the hospital, and that is from a volunteer blood donor."

According to Sjogren, blood drives at colleges and universities are essential to the Red Cross. "We tend to collect more pints at college and university blood drives because the population we can reach and educate is larger than, say, a church or business," Sjogren said. "Also, young, college-aged

blood donors are a very important part of our future, and college is the perfect place to find and educate this demographic."

Sophomores Hannah Nelson and Dionne Richardson were the Elon Volunteers coordinators of the second annual blood drive. Nelson agreed that it is important to hold blood drives at colleges. "If (students) start giving blood now, they can make it a lifetime habit," she said.

Students who have donated in Elon blood drives agree that giving blood is important.

"I think it's important for everyone to give blood because it's a resource that everyone has, and it doesn't affect you to give it up," freshman Chandler Machehl said.

Sophomore Lauren Culy said she gives blood to help more than one person. "Each person's donation saves more than one life," she said. "The effect of giving is magnified."

Students also say it is an easy way to help others.

"I think it is something small that you can do, and it makes a big difference," freshman Callan Spicher said.

The American Red Cross is continually working on better ways to market to the college-aged donor base, but they often use the tools that the campus already has, Sjogren said. Elon Volunteers promoted the blood drive with posters, Facebook pages and a sign-up table in Moseley Center. Fraternity Kappa Alpha and sorority Sigma Sigma also helped co-sponsor the blood drive.

The American Red Cross helps set a goal for each blood drive. The goal for this blood drive was 103 pints. Nelson said that Elon never really has a problem reaching its goal, but because of inclement weather and delayed classes, some people were not able to make their appointments.

Ninety-seven people signed in at this blood drive, including 28 first-time donors, but there were only



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Over 120 people signed up to donate blood in the days preceding the Elon drive.

80 usable pints of blood. Even though the goal was not met, Nelson said she still believes this drive was a success.

"We had over 120 people signed up to donate blood, so we believe that with walk-ins, we would have exceeded our goal, had the weather allowed," Nelson said. "Our promotion and sign-up system

with the co-sponsors Kappa Alpha and Sigma Sigma were very successful, and we still look positively at this drive. (Sjogren) was very thankful we were able to get the 80 pints that we did, as many recent drives had to be canceled due to the weather."

Elon's final blood drive will be held on April 6.

Elon selected to participate in pilot assessment program

Derek Wickham
Reporter

Elon University has been selected to participate in the Excellent Practice in Student Learning Assessment (EPSLA) a program designed to study whether students are actually achieving the learning objectives that colleges claim they will meet.

The pilot was hosted by the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability, a recently formed agency looking for ways to improve higher education.

"We're looking to make something like a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in education," said David Paris, executive director for the New Leadership Alliance. "LEED changed building practices by certifying people to do things in a way that helped the environment. We want to do the same here by accessing student learning and improving graduate education."

To be certified by this program, colleges would have to demonstrate a very high standard in education. They would have to show clear education

goals, and a long history of students meeting those goals.

"Education is changing," said Mary Wise, associate vice president for academic affairs. "For a long time we said 'here's what you will do.' That has changed to 'here is what students will learn.'"

Instead of listing assignments, professors are now starting to explain what kinds of skill sets students will have after leaving the classroom. Wise said this would aid prospective students in their search for colleges. Students would be able to pinpoint their specific desired learning outcomes and explore colleges that offer them.

"This helps colleges and universities make the big picture clear," Wise said. "We have 10 outcomes we want students to come out of our program with."

According to Wise, these goals include having effective writing and speaking skills, complex reasoning skills, the capacity for ethical decision-making and the ability to view issues from other cultural perspectives. These goals are in addition to any majors and minors that students would complete during their time at Elon.

Several schools across the country were selected to participate in the pilot, including Capella University, the University of Central Florida and the United States Naval Academy.

"We wanted a representative sample of colleges throughout America," Paris said. "We had one for profit, one military, some community colleges, public and private universities. Elon fell into the private sector. We also wanted institutions that were interested in gathering information on student learning and finding out how students are coming out with it. One of our advisers on the board offered Elon (as an option)."

The goal for the EPSLA pilot was not to certify a college. Instead, the New Leadership Alliance used the information gathered to refine the program.

"This program was to help us make reasonable judgments," Paris said. "It was to help provide guidance to help schools to look at what they are doing and to get evidence of student learning."

The New Leadership Alliance would use that information to amend the

process. These changes would help develop the pilot into a program that can accurately judge if a college is giving students clear educational goals and skill sets. Further information on how the program will change following the pilot is not yet available, as the information from the pilot was just submitted in December. Changes to the program are still being considered.

"We are going to revise the forms and host a mini-pilot in the spring," Paris said. "We hope to announce that schools can apply to be certified in the summer."

Certification would show that schools have clear educational goals, and students know exactly what they will learn at that university. It would also hold universities accountable for providing students with a higher standard in education. The exact guidelines regarding preparation for certification have not yet been finished.

"The New Alliance provides questions for schools to look at," Wise said. "To make sure that students will actually leave with the skills that the universities say they should."

Periclean Scholars use grant to promote environmental advocacy

Kyra Gemberling
Design Intern

As the Periclean Scholars Class of 2011 travels to Sri Lanka during Winter Term to promote global outreach, they will also use their recent grant from the Park Foundation, a leading American scholarship program, to support Sri Lankan environmental sustainability.

The scholars were awarded the \$12,300 grant in December to support their investigation of environmental issues in the country and to generate a quality media product to reflect their research.

The group will use the money for a variety of purposes, but mainly for the production of a documentary with an environmental focus.

"(The money) goes toward travel to and accommodations in Sri Lanka," said Tom Arcaro, director of Project Pericles. "Also, equipment is expensive, so the other part will be production costs (for the documentary), from duplicating the DVD, hard drives and so on."

Arcaro said the documentary will most likely focus on environmental issues associated with water and will reflect the themes of the LEAF Summit that the scholars will attend, which examines the tension between environmental stewardship and

CONFIRMED FILMING LOCATIONS

- Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery: charting the changing habitats of aquatic wildlife
- Kanneliya Forest: looking at deforestation soil erosion, and its pollution impact on water bodies and resources
- Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage: in water terrestrial wildlife
- Panangela School: a segment on environmental education and stewardship in the younger generations in Sri Lanka
- Temple of the Tooth: a look into the religious symbolism and importance of water and the environment in Sri Lankan life
- LEAF Summit: footage of keynote speakers addressing environmental issues


LEAF
Leaders in Environmental Advocacy Forum

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

economic development.

"Charles Smith, one of the authors of the grant, has expertise in water, so it will probably focus on water and access to water, purity of water, and water pollution," Arcaro said.

Senior Will Lyle, a member of the Periclean Scholars Class of 2011, said the documentary will also focus on how Sri Lanka is rebuilding itself in environmentally sustainable ways after the country's 26-year civil war ended in 2009. The war caused significant hardships for the population, environment and economy of Sri Lanka.

"(The documentary) is being used to raise awareness, and for fundraising and for helping our partner projects in Sri Lanka," Lyle said.

Lyle said junior Jack Dodson, who is a multimedia editor for The Pendulum, and seniors Jesse Lee and Chas Smith are working on the film. He estimates that it will be completed in three to six months.

"The students who are working on it will be filming during the summit," Lyle said. "They might be showing portions of the unedited film, though."

The documentary will incorporate footage from the conference and will include sound bites to support the narrative.

"The documentary team has been working on the narrative arc," Arcaro said. "The script is extraordinarily important ... we have a lot of expertise for a documentary that will be useful inside the walls of Elon and outside our walls, as well."

This is the fourth time the Periclean Scholars program has received grants from the Park Foundation, and each one has been used for the production of a documentary.

According to the foundation's website, their mission is to support scholarships in higher education, quality media that heightens awareness of critical issues and the protection of the environment.

The foundation also supports raising public awareness specifically about freshwater issues.

Junior Annie Huth, member of the Periclean Scholars Class of 2012, hopes to undertake similar pursuits during her class' trip to India next year.

"Our class is very excited about the summit the 2011's are holding, and we have begun to discuss the possibility of planning a public health summit for Winter Term 2012 in Pune or Mumbai," Huth said.

The class of 2012 also hopes to receive funding from the Park Foundation in order to make the most of their experience in global stewardship.

"In order to fund future work in India, we will certainly apply for grants from the Park and Redwood Foundations, as well as seek out other sources interested in funding our partnership," Huth said.

As A's increase, Elon addresses definition of distinguished grade

GRADES from PAGE 1

is important to address what grades symbolize and to distinguish the difference among different letter grades.

"It's important to pay attention to what middle work is," Crawford said. "If you just meet expectations and do exactly what you're supposed to do, that's B (grade) work. A (grade) work is more about going above and beyond and exceeding expectations, and we really try to stress that."

In addressing possible solutions, when asked if a grading quota would assist the process of decreasing the number of A's received, House said he believes the policy would be unfair to enforce, because its limitation could hinder the success of hard-working students in classes.

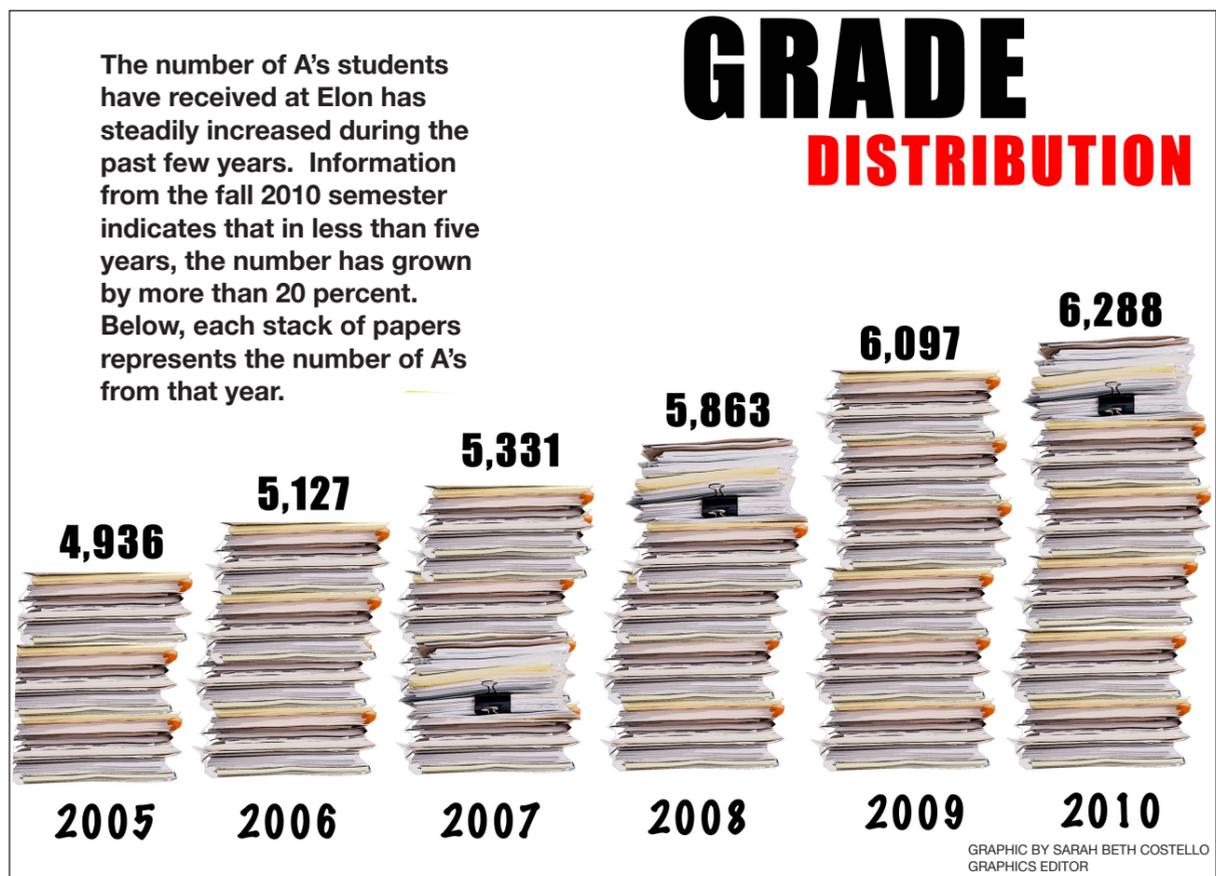
"I think if a student has earned a distinguished grade, by saying you can't give it to them because you already have so many A's is unfair, and therefore, I'm against it," he said.

House said he believes if students were to understand that the grading process doesn't begin at the A level, it would help solve some grading issues.

"You start with a C," he said. "You start with what is considered satisfactory work, and if a student goes above and beyond that, you get extra points. You work your way up. Faculty don't start at an A and mark points off."

Similarly, both Vandermaas-Peeler and Felten addressed how many students often came to Elon with the expectation of receiving A's and B's because they were accustomed to earning high marks in high school.

The number of A's students have received at Elon has steadily increased during the past few years. Information from the fall 2010 semester indicates that in less than five years, the number has grown by more than 20 percent. Below, each stack of papers represents the number of A's from that year.



"Sometimes (students) are shocked that the effort they put into their courses does not always correspond

to an exceptional grade," Vandermaas-Peeler said. "I think students, and sometimes faculty, tend to forget that

A's are considered exceptional and that studying hard doesn't always mean your product was exceptional."

Interfraternity Council increases required GPA for men's Greek Life, in line with Strategic Plan

Gabriela Szewcow
Design Chief

The Interfraternity Council at Elon University introduced the biggest change in recent years by raising the minimum GPA requirement for men's Greek Life from 2.5 to 2.7 last month, which corresponds with the priorities of the Strategic Plan.

With recruitment for men's Greek Life approaching, IFC President, senior Phil Moroni, said he thinks the recent change will keep a small number of men from rushing, rather than a significant amount.

"It might decrease the amount of men who rush by 5 or 10 percent," he said. "But that's a sacrifice we're willing to make to say they haven't done the work required to be able to join our organization."

Moroni said men's Greek Life had the lowest GPA required for

membership, among the three Greek organizations, which includes men's, women's and Panhellenic.

"We knew we needed to do something about it, and prove to everyone that we weren't just the lower end of Greek Life," he said.

Moroni said he believes that by raising the GPA requirement, the perception of Greek Life on Elon's campus would improve.

"It's something we really take seriously because we're such a visible organization on campus," Moroni said. "We are scrutinized heavily for it."

Discussions about a change to the required minimum GPA have been ongoing since last spring and were encouraged by President Leo Lambert and Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, according to Shana Plasters, director of Greek Life at Elon.

"It was brought on by a

challenge by Dr. Lambert to show that students can be successful academically and be a Greek student as well," she said.

Plasters said she believes it sends an important message to men and women who are thinking about joining, as well as those who are currently involved in Greek Life.

"It sends them the message that academics are important, and you're here to be a student first," she said. "Our organizations care deeply about (academics) and not just about a social aspect."

Plasters said it is important for all members of Greek Life organizations to have a strong academic foundation and a good sense of time management before they join a sorority or fraternity.

"Being part of a Greek organization does have its time demands," she said. "So if you are

currently struggling with how to balance all of those things, adding an additional piece onto that will not help you to become a successful student or a member of the new organization."

Moroni said the new GPA requirement would ensure that academically successful students would also become successful members of Greek organizations.

"Having at least a 2.75 is a visual indicator that shows that the individual does well academically," he said.

Greek Life is a privilege, according to Moroni, and it's something to be earned.

"If you want that privilege, you have to work for it and earn it by gaining time management skills and proving that you can balance things like that," he said.

After looking at the average student GPA and the average

male student GPA, the IFC was positive that changing the required minimum GPA would be a good move.

"The average student GPA last spring for a male student was a 2.94," Plasters said. "So what we're asking is that students wishing to rush are consistent with that of a male student on our campus achieves."

The IFC voted to pass the measure on Dec. 1 in a vote of 5 to 2. Each fraternity cast a vote on behalf of its organization. An amendment was also drafted, explaining why the change was made.

The minimum GPA requirement of 2.7 only applies to a student's eligibility to rush.

Each individual fraternity has individual requirements for its own organization. Currently, the minimum GPA requirement to be eligible for women's recruitment is 2.75.

Elon law clinic aids refugees, reunites families

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Elon University's School of Law Humanitarian Immigration Clinic opened this month, providing free legal services to refugees and those seeking asylum in the Piedmont area.

The clinic is currently operated by three staff members and Law students will begin their duties during the upcoming weeks. In addition to the current full-time staff members, the clinic will allow students to gain practical legal experience by conducting eligibility screenings and client interviews, as well as providing representation for clients to receive federal benefits.

Among its services, the immigration clinic will allow individuals to apply for political asylum and family reunification. Heather Scavone, the program's full-time clinical practitioner-in-residence, said the clinic will be serving individuals whose arrival to the United States is largely involuntary

and caused by war and conflict in their home countries. Some of these clients have also been separated from their family and children. "The need for reunification is more compelling than in many situations," Scavone said. "For example, a mother here in the U.S. who has resettled as a refugee may have been separated from her children in the country she was in before. Now, she's on another continent and wants to bring them here, and this is a long, grueling process."

Beginning with the spring semester, the School of Law will have eight students working in the immigration clinic. The number of students will be increased to 12 for the summer, fall and all semesters to follow.

Helen Grant, faculty adviser to the clinic, said students will be working in the clinic as part of their classes. Grant said that time in the clinic will count as two or three-credit points and students must clock 60 hours per credit point.

The School of Law has been planning for the clinic since last year.

"One of the things important to the American Bar Association is sufficient practical instruction for students," Grant said. The school had a report done by an independent consultant, who then recommended Elon grow its programs.

While the Humanitarian Immigration Clinic provides students with real, hands-on law experience, the School intentionally chose this type of clinic as a way to continue helping the community.

"We were considering expanding our clinic offerings," Grant said. "We definitely knew we were directed toward something that was community-based, something that would give back to the community."

According to Scavone, the clinic's client-direct services are going to give the students an important experiential learning opportunity.

"These are usually the clients who have cases that are harder to prove," he said.

In addition, the nature of the clinic requires students to deal with "an

entirely international client base," Scavone said. "That's already interesting and different for students."

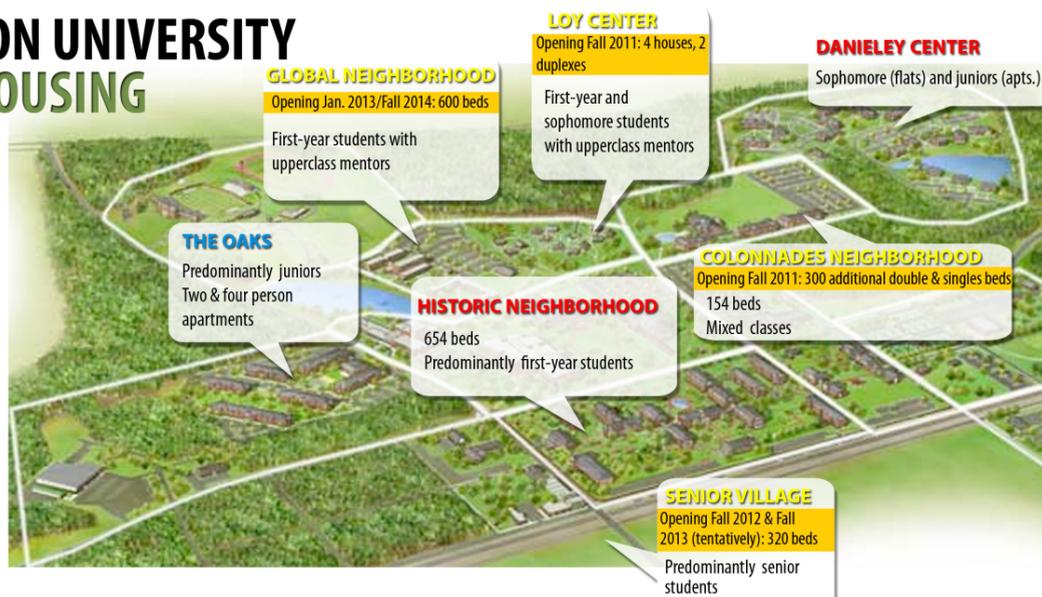
High client traffic and the students' "great degree of autonomy," Scavone said, "will create the feeling of working in a law firm."

Though some students have taken a refugee and asylum law course with Philip Craft, the School's director of communications, many will have had no prior exposure to this type of legal service.

The School of Law currently operates two other clinics. The Juvenile Justice Clinic works with the courts and school systems to lead juvenile offenders and victims through a process of meditation, Grant said. A second clinic represents low-income clients, such as individuals referred from Habitat for Humanity, to draft wills and provide assistance with other related documents.

Lutheran Family Services, which had previously provided refugees in North Carolina with free legal assistance, closed last year.

ELON UNIVERSITY HOUSING



By 2020, Elon University plans to enhance and redesign the residential experience for students living on campus.

This plan includes the creation of seven new residence halls, five Greek

houses and other town homes.

The new neighborhoods will be designed to transform the culture and climate around the campus.

"These neighborhoods will bring all of our students together so that

everything we value, including academics and engaged learning, is connected to the residential," said Jeff Stein, assistant to President Leo Lambert and secretary to the Board of Trustees, in a previous interview.

Plans for downtown Elon building delayed, construction set to begin by end of month

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Construction on the new 24,000-square foot building planned for the corner of Williamson and W. College avenues will ideally begin by the end of January, according to John McDonald, owner of EDG Property, LLC, the building's developer. The new building will house Elon University's bookstore and the new office for The Pendulum.

"It is fair to say that by the end of this month, the Elon University campus, community and town will see activity on the property," he said. "We're currently crossing our t's and dotting our i's."

While McDonald said he originally planned for construction to begin at the end of December, he did not have a clear view of the planning process and is now working for final approvals from the local government.

"During the last two weeks of the year, most people are taking vacations,

which we didn't anticipate, and it's hard to get people collected," he said. "As soon as we have everything done and signed, we will move forward (with construction)."

To begin this approval process, plans and speculations for the building were submitted to the Town of Elon officials, who formed a group called the Tech Review Committee to review the information.

After submitting comments back to McDonald, who then had a chance to respond, the Committee signed off on the final plans in a meeting last week.

"We are now submitting the same information to the county and North Carolina Department of Transportation (for approval)," he said. "We can only work as fast as other people."

Plans are also underway to address the impact the construction will have on downtown Elon, including noise, equipment and traffic changes.

"We will be rerouting the pedestrian

walkways for safety," McDonald said.

Elon's archivist will have access to the old building that formerly housed The Pendulum office, which will be torn down to make room for construction. A few pieces from the building will be collected for historical purposes.

Although construction has been delayed, McDonald predicted the building would still be completed by the goal date of Aug. 1 to allow time for the bookstore to transition into the new space before students arrive.

"We are very much focused on that," he said.

McDonald's company is working with the Samet Corporation, based in Greensboro, and the contractor of the building. He said the corporation has been a very good partner in the project and communication between all involved groups has been smooth.

"We, the university and the Town (of Elon) feel great about the plans," McDonald said. "And we are working feverishly to complete the (project)."

Campus celebrates, remembers legacy of MLK, Jr.

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and proposing strategies to make his dream a reality, Ronald Carter addressed an audience of Elon University faculty, students, alumni and community members on Monday, Jan. 17 for a commemorative program in King's memory.

Describing what he considers to be the "perfect storm" involving race relations that, if unchecked, could have disastrous consequences for the future, Carter encouraged all members of society to play an active role in determining America's vision. "The United States faces unprecedented challenges. We need everyone - men, women, black, white, yellow, brown, young, old, gay, straight, Jew, Protestant, Catholic, Hindu - to hold up the magnificent vision of this country," he said.

According to current population estimates, blacks will comprise 50 percent of the American population by the year 2050. If the nation continues on its current path, however, Carter predicts the emerging majority will have neither the willingness nor capacity to uphold America's vision, mainly because of their limited access to capital and political power.

"We have to come to terms with the inconsistent way African-Americans have access to resources and education," he said. "We need aggressive corrective actions. I want to believe we can avoid this perfect storm.

Though Carter said the warning signs have been imminent, Americans tend to avoid tackling the vexing issues of society, including the often controversial subjects of racial inequality and social justice, which he blamed on a "lack of moral courage."

Despite the odds, Carter said there is hope. He noted the importance of finding common ground among people, in order to cross boundaries.

"The only thing disconnected ideas can do is lead to mental dry-rot," he said. "Ideas have no meaning unless related (to) a purposeful outcome."

He also urged the transition from strategic to scenario planning, through which a group of people commit to a common vision.

"If we become leaders and come together, it's an opportunity for communities to become eye-to-eye," he said. "We will avoid the perfect storm and have 'we the people' and 'a more perfect union.'"

President Leo Lambert, who offered an introduction to the ceremony, praised the universality of King's message of unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence.

Referencing the recent tragedy in Tucson, Ariz., where six people died and 14 were wounded, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Lambert acknowledged that violence is still on the nation's doorstep.

"We must continue to work to recognize King's goals and celebrate the efforts of all those who champion his ideals," he said.

Since 2001, Elon's Multicultural

Center has sponsored the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Essay Contest for local middle and high school students to promote awareness of King's vision.

Local students Susan Nar, a seventh grader at Turrentine Middle School, and Anna Paige Kirby, a sophomore at River Mill Academy, were recognized at this year's ceremony for their commemoration of King's legacy through writing.

Nar, whose family came to the United States as refugees from Burma three years ago, and Kirby, who has won the award previously, were chosen by a selection committee from the university and were awarded \$200, tickets to an Elon football game and a plaque.

In closing remarks, Leon Williams, director of Elon's Multicultural Center, commended Carter for identifying not only the threat that exists, but also the opportunity to work for a more hopeful future.

"It is a charge that we will all walk out of the room with," he said. "We will continue to strive to graduate students that are part of the covenant of lifting up the sky."

Carter became the 13th president of Johnson C. Smith University, located in Charlotte, in 2008 and has more than 30 years of experience working with students and universities.

His career began at Boston University's Martin Luther King Jr. Center and since then, he has served as dean of students at both Boston University and the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

NEWS BRIEFS

LabCorp makes gift to benefit Elon Academy

The Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings recently created the LabCorp Endowment for Opportunity to benefit the Elon Academy, a college-access and academic enrichment program run by Elon University. The academy encourages high school students with significant financial need in Alamance County to earn college degrees and serve their communities.

Because students do not pay tuition to attend the academy, private gifts are instrumental in ensuring the daily operations at the academy continue.

In the past, LabCorp has supported the university's Earnest A. Koury Sr. Business Center and also established a summer internship program for Elon Academy scholars.

Elon School gains accreditation

The Elon School recently earned accreditation from the Southern Association of Independent Schools. The independent high school, which opened in 2007, is located in Elon and is run by the Elon Homes and Schools for Children.

To gain accreditation, the school was assessed in areas including curriculum, faculty, administration, athletics and the arts.

According to Fred Grosse, president of Elon Homes and Schools for Children, accreditation came earlier than is typical for a school.

While a school would normally pursue accreditation within two years of its first full graduating class, the school moved early in the process after making early progress.

Greenhouse gases drop at Elon

Greenhouse gas emissions at Elon University declined in fiscal year 2010 from baseline measurements first taken in 2008. The 4.6 percent decrease was because of less energy consumption, an E-Net article said.

The decrease mostly occurred between 2008-2009. Energy consumption is the largest source of greenhouse emissions. Transportation accounted for the second largest.

Alumnus named '10 to Watch' in the Piedmont-Triad area by Business Journal

David Powell, a 1986 alumnus, was named as one of "10 to Watch" by The Business Journal.

Powell began his duties as the head of North Carolina's Piedmont-Triad Partnership. He also worked as the vice president at NetJets, Inc. and executive director of Compete Columbus.

He graduated from Elon with a bachelor's degree in public policy.

Entire Elon Law faculty donates to scholarship

One hundred percent of Elon Law faculty and staff gave money to the Law School Faculty and Staff Campaign in 2010 for the second year in a row. The amount donated was the highest amount recorded.

MLK, Jr. Holiday celebrated with Peace Journey across campus

On Jan. 16, about 50 students, faculty, staff and community members gathered for the Beloved Community Peace Journey and Candlelight Vigil.

The annual event includes a march around campus designed to celebrate the development of the nation, state and local community. It also commemorates the lives lost and sacrifices made to eradicate hate across the country.

The march began at the Moseley Center and circled the campus, traveling along Haggard, Williamson and Lebanon avenues. Elon's Black Cultural Society and Gospel Choir led the demonstration.

After the march, the group gathered in the amphitheatre in the Academic Village. The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life sponsored the vigil, with remarks from chaplaincy resident Chet Denlinger, Town of Elon Alderman Lawrence Slade and Elon senior Eugene Daniel.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elon Dining is implementing a new sustainability initiative!

Starting January 10, we will begin composting at the trash bins in Octagon. One bin in Octagon will be designated as a compost bin and customers will sort their trash from biodegradable materials as they discard. We will partner with the Office of Sustainability during the first week to be available to answer questions and direct customers as to proper disposal of compostable and non-compostable items. During the 2009-2010 academic year, Elon Dining composted over 98,000 lbs of food waste in Harden and Colonnades Dining Halls.

Stop by the Moseley tables set up with the Office of Sustainability from January 4-7 for more information. We hope you will join us in expanding our efforts to preserve the environment.

Look for this symbol in Octagon for composting instructions!



In addition to all food waste, the items pictured to the left **ARE biodegradable.**

The items pictured to the right are **NOT biodegradable.** However, plastic bottles are recyclable.



{ Visit www.elon.edu/dining to learn more about our green initiatives! }

Below: Elijah pretends to wrestle with his buddy Brad Newcomb during weekly bowling practice that his mother Adele helps organize. He also participates in the Special Olympics. Right: Elijah looks through the rearview mirror of his mother's pick-up truck on the way to Walmart. Through the big brother program Elijah learns skills like shopping.



Elijah practices weekly at the Burlington YMCA with the Special Olympics.



In addition to swimming, Elijah enjoys bowling. Here he celebrates after knocking down most of the pins during

Playing the game for Elijah

16-year-old Elijah Newman has Down syndrome, but it doesn't stop him from doing the things he loves to do

Photos and story by Heather Cassano
Photo Editor

To outsiders, Elijah Newman has a disability, but to him and his family, it's just a part of his everyday life.

"He is just trying to act tough. He thinks he's being cool," said his friend Brad Newcomb as he stood across the kitchen facing Elijah. They had been wrestling. What started as play was getting serious, at least for Elijah. Soon, utensils were involved and the fight ended in victory for Elijah.

Brad has been working as a Habilitation Technician, or 'big buddy' for Elijah since August 2010. "I'm supposed to help him become independent," he said. Brad acts as an older brother to Elijah. He teaches him how to go shopping and other life skills Elijah will need if he plans to live independently in the future.

Elijah was diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth. Today, Elijah lives in Mebane, N.C. with his mother, Adele.

"Elijah doesn't see himself as a person with a disability," Adele said. "He really interacts well with typically developing peers as well as people with disabilities. He just fits right in."

Elijah does, in many ways, just fit right in. He plays sports, like many developing teenagers, and is a good bowler. Most of his athleticism can be attributed to his dedicated mother and the local Special Olympics program of Alamance County. Elijah participates in many of the Special Olympics activities offered in the area, like weekly swimming and soccer practices, as well as weekly bowling practices that Adele organizes.

"One of his favorite (activities) is playing his guitar." Brad said, "He doesn't know how to play it. It sounds like someone's taking the guitar and beating it over the side of the wall, but he loves to play it." Most days he plays his guitar along with a video of the Jonas Brothers. He usually doesn't let anyone interrupt this time in his room. He's also an

aspiring drummer.

Elijah has a love for Justin Bieber. This is obvious once inside his bedroom. His walls are lined with posters of Bieber and his other favorites like the Jonas Brothers and "High School Musical." He often searches magazines like OK! and People for stories about Bieber and other celebrities he recognizes.

For someone with Down syndrome, Elijah's biggest challenge is fitting in at school. He attends special education classes at Eastern Alamance High School, but is mainstreamed for gym and lunch.

"For the most part he does very well at school and has a lot of friends," Adele said. Since Elijah can't participate in sports at school, he frequently goes to watch his school's team, especially during the football season. According to Adele, Elijah has made friends with almost all of the guys on the football team. They often give him high fives before games and say, "We're playing this game for you, Elijah." Some players have even signed shirts for him.

When Elijah walks down the hallways at school, he knows almost every student who passes by. All the guys shake his hand and the girls give him hugs and ask about his day. When told that he is very popular, Elijah's cheeks turn red and he denies it.

But he does have difficulties at school. It is sometimes hard for other students to understand his disability. Even though everyone knows him, many students still poke fun at Elijah. It isn't clear whether he notices.

"His area of difficulty is in communication. He has low verbal skills, and sometimes that's frustrating when he can't express himself," Adele said.

One in every 800 babies is born with Down syndrome. Many have difficulty assimilating to the rest of the world. That does not mean that they cannot live independently, which is what many parents of children with disabilities hope for. Elijah will be 17 in July, and will have a few more years of school before entering the workforce.



weekly bowling practice. His mother organizes weekly bowling practices for Elijah.



Elijah does his homework at the kitchen table like many other high school students.

Opinions

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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Editorial:

More than good intentions required

It's three weeks in and the pressure's on. The cravings set in. Or apathy. Or the stress of a normal, hectic life. Around the end of January, the first twang of anxiety concerning a newly-selected New Year's resolution creeps to the forefront of the mind.

It's getting harder to find time to go to the gym every day, or the nicotine patches aren't cutting it anymore, and students vowing to be more creative, do better in school or have a more active social life are encumbered with the first roadblocks.

According to a study by Richard Wiseman, a psychologist at the University of Hertfordshire, a staggering 78 percent of people will not meet their goals and resolutions by the end of the year. If the allure of a new year, new start, is so strong, then why does only one in five people accomplish his or her goal and how can the other four stay on board?

Resolutions fail for a number of reasons, but the most common is lack of planning. A serious habit or lifestyle change takes effort and preparation. There are some lucky folks out there who can suddenly quit smoking or cut out all sweets with little heartache, but they are few and far between. For the rest of the world, it takes more thought and work.

The common thread for the majority of those who accomplish their goals is a plan of tackling their resolution in smaller, more manageable pieces, Wiseman's research showed.

Break the goal into smaller steps, reward yourself when you accomplish a goal, share your goals and progress with friends, focus on the benefits instead of the negatives and keep a diary of your progress.

We at The Pendulum think we can do better than one in five. We've put together

a project to help five staff members accomplish their New Year's resolutions. They'll establish goals and track their progress weekly through blog posts at pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com.

They'll chronicle their successes and their failures for one year and determine if they reached their goal. Follow their yearlong journey and tell us about yours. Send us your resolution and how you plan to accomplish it by e-mailing The Pendulum at pendulum@elon.edu or leaving your story in a comment.

The most important part of making a resolution is finding the will to change or, regardless of the steps taken, a resolution will never come to fruition. If you're ready to change, don't wait for a holiday-start today. Don't become bogged down in the resolution itself. Focus instead on how to achieve your goal and how this change can positively impact your life.



SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Cartoonist

Follow the stories of five Pendulum staff members as they try to stick to their New Year's resolutions!

pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

Think you can do better? Want to see your art published? Submit your drawing to Campus Box 7012 by Feb. 1 and you could be The Pendulum's next cartoonist!



MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

Read Ryan Maass' column on the aftermath of the Arizona shooting and Megan Murray's piece on teacher evaluations. And check out another staff editorial about the benefits of Winter Term at Elon.

Haiti left to own devices a year after quake



Edith Veremu
Columnist

Identity crises seem to be the new thing these days. People around the world are dealing with identity crises regarding the new dates for zodiac signs and the creation of a new sign. Even "Jersey Shore" personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is facing an

identity crisis. She no longer wants to be called Snooki.

In the midst of all this, Haiti is facing a different crisis. One year ago on Jan. 12, after the devastating earthquake that ravaged Port-au-Prince killed more than 300,000 people and left thousands more homeless and helpless, Haitian citizens are still facing the aftermath and are trying to rebuild their nation while also battling a cholera outbreak.

After the disaster, Bill O'Reilly said, "One year from today, Haiti will be just as bad as it is right now," and he wasn't

wrong. Most of Port-au-Prince remains in shambles and ruins, a sign of the little progress Haiti has made within the past year.

Politically, Haiti is far worse than it was last year. Riots and protests broke out last week after the results of the preliminary presidential election, according to a Jan. 8 New York Times article. The results showed former first lady Mirlande Manigat with 31.4 percent of the vote while Préval's protégée Jude Célestin had 22.5 percent. Another candidate, Michel Martelly, who received 21.8 percent of the votes, asked his supporters to protest peacefully. The U.S. embassy and U.N. Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon have questioned the irregularities of the Nov. 28 election, the article adds. This election is only standing in the way of progress and recovery in Haiti.

In response to the earthquake, aide teams from France, China and the U.S. arrived with medical supplies and other disaster relief. President Barack Obama promised Haitian citizens they "would not be forsaken or forgotten." Secretary

Hilary Clinton compared the disaster to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. "The Indian Ocean tsunami was such a terrible tragedy and with such high loss of life. This will be a very high loss of life as well," she said.

But here we are one year later and very little has been done to help the Haitian people. Some Americans may be looking for other ways to help, but don't know how because of the decline in coverage about Haiti. Before the earthquake, very few cared about this nation or even knew it existed, although it's less than 700 miles away from Florida.

Covering an earthquake is exciting. The devastation that follows is not. But anchors and reporters need to step up. A few tweets or the occasional mention of Haiti by Anderson Cooper or other like-minded bleeding hearts is not enough.

What do the Haitians have to rely on or hope for anymore? Gone are the days of continuous media coverage that shows their pain and suffering. Gone are the Haitians' windows to the outside world. Once again, a country is left to rebuild itself after a crisis.

'Cause what you don't understand is I'd write a blog for you!
www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com



Style



ALL PHOTOS BY LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor
Elon Cares' 2011 concert was Elon's fifth student-produced concert held to raise money for Broadway Cares, an AIDS research foundation.

'Elon Cares' and fights AIDS

Lauren Ramsdell
Arts and Entertainment Editor

AIDS is a scary, saddening illness that affects more than 40 million people worldwide. It has killed more than 25 million people in the years since the epidemic started in the '80s.

There is no cure for AIDS, but there is hope for those who wish to help fight the disease. For the fifth year running, students in the Elon University Department of Performing Arts have put together Elon Cares, a cabaret-style benefit concert with funds going to the larger organization Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

"Basically, they put

together cabarets and fundraisers to raise money for AIDS," said junior Katie Chung, a music theatre major and Elon Cares director. "They also donate money to other organizations across the country."

In the years that Elon has participated, Elon Cares has raised more than \$7,000 for AIDS research.

Chung said the Elon organization has been in direct contact with Broadway Cares, which is based out of New York City. The Elon concert has previously shared the Broadway Cares name, but was encouraged to make the event unique to the campus.

Elon Cares is entirely student-run, with Chung

directing, senior John Yee producing and junior Emilie Renier choreographing. But it's not just for performing arts majors. Elon Cares may also become a student organization outside of the annual concert and will be open to students across campus.

"It's not a department thing," Chung said. "We would love to have a science major belting on stage. We just want to get everyone involved."

Elon Cares's 2011 theme was "Keep Holding On," the title of an Avril Lavigne song performed at the end of the concert.

"We wanted to look at the positive of the situation. A lot of times

we feel like it's easy to get down when thinking about (AIDS)," Chung said.

AIDS is a serious issue, but the Elon Cares cast and crew took a lighthearted approach to raising funds.

"(We wanted to) just make it a positive evening and to raise money in that sort of light as opposed to a big downer of an evening," said Adam Kaplan, a junior music theatre major.

From popular songs like "Empire State of Mind" by Jay-Z and Alicia Keys to tunes from "Shrek the Musical" to a tap number straight from "Singin' in the Rain," Elon Cares had an element for everyone.

Not to mention the spot on cross-dressing in the number "Big Spender" from the musical "Sweet Charity."

The performance was in Yeager Recital Hall on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Lines stretched through the Center for the Arts, and some people arrived up to an hour early to secure good seats. The smaller space, even more so with around 40 cast members, could have been limiting to the scale of a Broadway cabaret, but it worked out in the end.

"I think the nature of this concert (is) really beneficial to be in Yeager," Chung said. "It keeps it a really intimate setting."

On a practical note, the

acoustics in Yeager make an ensemble of 40 sound like 100 and a soloist so powerful there's no need for a microphone.

"You can never sing on a better stage than Yeager Recital Hall," said Katie Zanca, a junior music theatre major.

The closeness also helped the audience get into the music and the message of hope.

"In such an intimate space, it's really nice to open up as a person to those people in the audience," said Amy McNabb, a junior acting major. "They're close and you can make eye contact with them and they're there with you. You decide those people are coming with you for that journey."

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★☆

'Black Swan' isn't for the faint of heart

Rachel Southmayd
Reviewer

From the opening scene, "Black Swan" is dark, twisted, athletic, emotional and keeps you wrapped around its little finger until the credits roll.

"Black Swan," directed by Darren Aronofsky, follows a ballet company as it prepares to perform a new, updated version of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake."

The rising ballet star, Nina Sayers, is brilliantly played by Natalie Portman. The story spirals from a simple girl fighting for what's rightfully hers to a jarring tale of obsession, hallucination and psychosis, where neither Nina nor the audience is really sure what is real and what is not.

Aiding Portman's outstanding performance are Mila Kunis as a new, sexually-charged rival, Vincent Cassel as the manipulative director of the ballet company and Barbara Hershey as Portman's mother, whose own excellently-executed obsessions give the audience a glimpse into the emotional landscape that may have shaped Nina's mind.

The meek and timid Nina is cast in the role of the swan queen, meaning she must dance the parts of an innocent white swan as well as a sadistic black swan. This exploration to expose her dark side on stage brings out her dark side in

real life, manifesting in self-abuse, vibrant hallucinations and a total loss of her grasp on reality.

But "Black Swan," for all its twists and turns, is never too complex for the audience to follow and never leaves the viewer behind, struggling to pick up on what has happened. Even with its sexual innuendos and implications, there is no nudity and offensive language is used infrequently, giving the movie a feeling of class unmatched by other psychological thrillers.

It be remiss to discuss "Black Swan" without commending Kunis and especially Portman for their intense devotion to the art of ballet, which they both danced with precision and ease indicative of years of intense training. Portman has credited her performance to her intense training regimen and to her psychology degree from Harvard University.

The dancing throughout the film is stellar and captured beautifully, creating greater intimacy unachievable by simply watching a ballet from the audience. Aronofsky keeps you in the action in the same way a combat film would, by putting the viewer smack-dab in the middle, making him or her part of the story and not merely an observer.

"Black Swan" is an emotional rollercoaster that left this reviewer shocked, breathless and even a little nauseated by the time the lights came up.

CD REVIEW

★★★★☆

West's newest album lacks defining song

David Turner
Reviewer

"My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" may become Kanye West's least successful album. The first single, "Power," peaked at No. 22 on the Hot 100 chart, despite being as bombastic as a rap single can get. Even with all of that swagger, "Power" clearly did not catch on with people the way past Kanye singles have.

The other two singles, "Monster" and "Runaway," despite charting slightly better at No. 18 and No. 12 on the Hot 100 chart, respectively, also didn't seem to catch on with popular radio stations or the general public. Upping the ante from his last album "808s and Heartbreak," "Fantasy" has Kanye focusing so much on his own issues that he seems to have forgotten that people relate to his music.

Kanye's apathy toward audience approval led to "Devil in a New Dress," originally a three-minute song full of frustration and anger in its original release, but transformed by Kanye into a near six-minute-long it with a booming Rick Ross verse surrounded by surging guitar solos. These additions take the song out of the single realm, but improve the song by heightening the emotional charge.

Instead of just letting "Runaway" end at the five-minute mark, Kanye lets the song go on for another three

minutes with his voice becoming so distorted and grainy, it becomes near impossible to understand what he is saying. This addition does more than make the song better, as it serves as a climax to the album.

Even with all these moving parts, the strongest aspect of "Fantasy" is Kanye's direction. The guests range from Fergie's recession-minded verse on "All of the Lights" to the distant echo of Swizz Beatz at the beginning of "Runaway" to Chris Rock's part at the end of "Blame Game." In "All of the Lights," even with a dozen different voices on one track, Kanye is able to keep it from falling apart. These moments of excess on the album may be why there has yet to be a hit single, but those efforts are what make the album work so cohesively.

Kanye is not trying to display himself as a good guy or even a relatable person on this album, unlike previous efforts where he came across as an average guy. The album takes the elements of his previous work in strong juggling of guests, never sticking to one production style and amplifying self-reflective lyrics. "Fantasy," in this way, builds on all of the work that West has done in the past decade and exceeds those previous efforts. The skill to make a great single or a great album is not mutually exclusive, but Kanye made a conscious decision to choose the album, while forgetting about the prospects of a great single.



Students 'ditch the workout' at Zumbathon fundraiser

Students arrived by the dozens in Jordan Gym on Jan. 14 to participate in Elon's first ever Zumbathon. Zumba, a Latin style aerobic dance routine, has popped up all over the country as a new fun way to exercise. Zumba is now a regular group exercise class being offered by Campus Recreation along with Kickboxing and Step classes.

Nicole Esplin
Reporter

Exhilarating, energetic and empowering: ask a gym junkie how to describe Zumba, and a large array of adjectives will be used to describe the feeling one gets after a session of the world's newest fitness craze.

If the word Zumba was used five years ago, it might have sounded like gibberish to even the most enthusiastic gym junkie. Mention Zumba to an exercise buff now, and you're in for a long, excited explanation describing the popular fitness craze, a modern Latin dance-based aerobic class that is focused on the concept of music moving you.

Modern Latin music, sensual dance movements, colorful balloons, an assortment of refreshments and more than 75 students transformed Jordan Gym's basketball court into a dance floor Jan. 14 for Elon's first Zumbathon fundraiser. The fundraiser was put on by Elon University's Group Exercise organization in an effort to raise money for the Alamance County Boys and Girls Club.

Elon student and group exercise instructor Christine Mavraganis proposed the idea to Campus Rec after attending

How many calories do you burn doing Zumba?

Wondering how Zumba stacks up next to other fitness classes and exercises? This chart compares Calories burned in one hour of Zumba to other exercises—with the range starting with a 115 lb person to a 200 lb person. To find the Calories for your exact weight, visit <http://www.myoptimumhealth.com/portal/ManageMyHealth/Calories+Burned+Calculator>.

Exercise	Calories burned in a 115 lb person	Calories burned in a 200 lb person
Zumba	500	800
Swimming (moderate effort)	400	725
Bicycling (moderate effort)	417	725
Yoga/Tai Chi	208	362
Running (9 min. mile)	574	998
Downhill Skiing	312	544
General Aerobics class	312	544

a Zumbathon at her local gym in Greensburg, Penn.

"Zumbathons are an easy way to raise money, and people love Zumba," Mavraganis said.

Campus Rec group exercise leader Nicole Parker knew the event would have a large turnout because of the high volume of students who attend one-hour Zumba classes offered three times per week at the fitness center. Parker said it is necessary to arrive at least 30 minutes early to secure a place in the

smaller weekday classes.

"Ditch the workout, join the party!" is the motto Zumba creator Albert "Beto" Perez invented for the class, and attendees agree that the vigorous dance moves incorporated in Zumba successfully combine exercise with fun.

"Zumba is awesome because you don't have to use different machines to work out," said freshman Hilary Leslie, a Zumba enthusiast.

A dancer since age 5, freshman Maria Cannon

encouraged even the most shy of her peers to "join the party."

"Anyone can do Zumba and get a lot out of it, and it's such an interesting blend of salsa and cardio," Cannon said.

For those who are looking to burn calories in fitness classes, taking this class for one hour can burn more calories than swimming, biking or running for the same amount of time, according to MyOptimumHealth.com.

"The class is essentially a dance party, where you can burn up to 800 calories in one hour," Mavraganis said.

After attending the Zumbathon, Zumba rookie Julie Hart is excited to take more classes.

"I feel refreshed and inspired. Anyone can take Zumba classes and benefit while enjoying themselves with friends," Hart said.

Zumba classes are held twice a week during Winter Term, and three times a week during spring term with Campus Rec.

"As of now, there are no other Zumbathons scheduled, but I assume there will be another Zumba event in the future, and we are planning a spring fundraiser," Mavraganis said.

FASHION COLUMN

The daily catwalk: Fashion for every day



Alexandra Johnston
Fashion Columnist

As the winter months get colder and warm weather seems only a memory, it can become increasingly difficult to find energy for fashion every day. The result is five days

of T-shirts and jeans and maybe one or two days where an effort is made to get dressed with care. With a bit of planning ahead and perseverance, everyday style can be fun and effortless.

Planning ahead: Although reminiscent of your mother in elementary school, planning ahead and laying out outfits the night before can save a lot of hassle in the morning. Before going to bed, take a look at what clothes are clean and pick an outfit that works. Try things on for fit and compatibility and take into consideration what is on the agenda and in the forecast. Planning ahead eliminates the stress of finding a good outfit in the 30 minutes between sleep and class, and it completely avoids that feeling that the outfit isn't working only five minutes before walking out the door.

Getting Organized: Everyone has favorite clothing items, but remembering what works together can be difficult. By picking out and remembering what clothes make you feel great, it is easier to look good every day. To remember what items work well together, try making a mini file of each outfit. Get a plastic recipe box and fill it with dividers labeled for different types of events and weather, such as work, class, social and rainy, sunny and freezing. Then, write each good outfit on a note card and file it according to the category to which it was worn. Then the next time the "nothing to wear" symptoms set in, pick up the box and recall the good outfits of the past.

Making resolutions: A great way to improve overall daily style is to make a fashion resolution and stick to it. The more specific, the better. It is easier to stick to one thing than to make a general "I will be more fashionable" statement.

A great example is removing sweatpants or other easy-choice items from the out of the house wardrobe. While loungewear is great, it doesn't really have a place in the fashion world. By making a resolution to not wear them out of the house, it will lead to better outfits. If giving something up all at once isn't appealing, try giving up pieces a week at a time by moving each item to a bottom drawer or somewhere where it is a less appealing choice.

Taking it out: It can be hard to get rid of clothing, especially if it cost a lot of money or has sentimental value, but removing unworn items from the closet will make it easier to see the good clothes. Take a trip through the closet and take out all the clothing that doesn't fit, is old or hasn't been worn in more than a year. If parting with some items is just too difficult, find a box to store some items in until they are ready to be donated or thrown away.

Taking the time to plan and organize everyday style can be an adjustment, but it will provide extra motivation to get dressed every day in something that inspires confidence and shows off individuality.

Black Box play mixes humor, drama

Stephanie Butzer
Reporter

"Crimes of the Heart," a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play first published by Beth Henley in 1978, is coming to the Black Box Theatre starting Jan. 20.

Directed by professor Fred Rubeck, this campus-produced play focuses on three sisters living in Mississippi who are confronted with a family crisis and other serious situations. In order to move past these events and into the future, they must face their pasts and examine the consequences.

"It sounds serious, but the play is full of humor as well as the drama," Rubeck said.

Seniors Maddie Franke and Benjamin Morris, juniors Kristina Loeffke, Arielle Fears and Alyson Wells and sophomore Luke Gunn make up the small cast of "Crimes," aided by a lengthy list of designers, managers and assistant directors. The cast and crew started rehearsing on Jan. 3 and have been working, sometimes from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Morris, who is also the assistant dialect coach, said the play, while written more than 30 years ago, is still relatable.

"One of the themes this play deals with is growth and dealing with past experiences that still have effects on the present," Morris said. "We also do a lot of growing up in college."

Loeffke said another important theme of the play is overcoming loneliness.

"(In college) it's very easy to get overwhelmed by the many requirements and feel separated from others," Loeffke said. "The show is a friendly reminder that you can be a strong foundation for the people you care about."

The past weeks have been rigorous work, but Loeffke said she knows it will pay off when it comes to the performance dates. She also informs the audience that experiences differ based on where they sit in the theatre.

"(The audience) should feel free to come back and see the show again to have a different experience in another section," she said.

It would be a crime to miss:

Elon students with an Elon ID have free admission. Tickets for the public are \$12.

Reservations can be made by calling the 24-hour reservation line at 336-278-5650.

Performance dates are Jan. 20-Jan. 24 and Feb. 2-Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m., with additional performances on Jan. 22 and 23 and Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO (Video-only story): Members of documentary club elondocs ask questions to a filmmaker who screened his film at Elon. <http://bit.ly/Pendulum-Documentary> (Jeff Stern and Grace Elkus)

Burst the Bubble lets students plan, dance, step and fly

Kyra Gemberling
Design Intern

From performing African dances to flying model airplanes, this year's set of Burst the Bubble classes offers participants a variety of intriguing topics, all taught by Elon University students.

This is the fourth year the Burst the Bubble program has been offered during Winter Term, giving students a chance to sign up for comprehensive courses on subjects that can't be found in a typical classroom.

Classes are free and have no homework, exams or textbooks, and are completely voluntary for students who want to participate and students who want to teach. Sessions are held once or twice a week throughout Winter Term, and typically last no more than an hour.

Brian O'Shea, assistant to the vice president for Student Life and dean of students, has coordinated the program for the last three years after its transition from academic support services to Student Life.

"It provides other activities for Winter Term," O'Shea said. "We felt like there was a need to have additional activities going on and it's a way for students to lead in the classroom. It's also a way for students to share their passions and hobbies. It's completely student lead and only students are allowed to teach or take the classes."

The process of teacher selection and subject selection begins when O'Shea sends out an e-mail to solicit student interest. Any student is welcome to apply and present his or her ideas for a class topic.

"I review applications and provide feedback and ways to develop the course even further," O'Shea said. "We've only said no to courses that aren't feasible money wise, or any course that we feel won't attract student interest."

Once accepted, student teachers plan each session and pick up supplies that are later reimbursed by Student Life.

This year marks the first time student organizations have the option of sponsoring a class, such as an event-planning class sponsored by Student Union Board, and a stepping class sponsored by the National Panhellenic Council Executive Board.

"We are definitely planning to keep offering the student organization aspect. It definitely has more potential," O'Shea said. "It's a good way for them to spread what they do and what they're about, and it's a way to recruit members, so that part will grow. More students will get involved as they become more aware of it, both taking and teaching."

Senior Meaghan Britain is a teacher for SUB's event planning class and gives students a basic introduction on how to plan events at Elon that tailor to student interest.

"My perspective and experience has been with smaller Elon activities and with booking activities, so I teach how to start and follow through with that process and also what would be a fun event and what people would want to come to," Britain said.

Before deciding to teach, Britain participated in a knitting class for two years through Burst the Bubble and said she enjoyed the chance to see her peers' hidden talents.

Freshman Maria Castine decided to attend the event planning sessions, and said the course will give her helpful tips if she ever needs to plan an event for a campus organization in the future.

"I wanted more stuff to do during Winter Term, and this sounded interesting," Castine said. "I also think more people should show up and I think they should have more classes to sign up for."

Sophomore Elisabeth Maselli is teaching a class based on watching episodes of the animated sitcom "South Park," and discussing the political issues each one represents.

"It's a show that I really like," Maselli said. "I've been watching it forever and I've been taking a lot of classes in political science, so I thought it would be interesting."

Maselli begins by asking class members what issues they are particularly interested in, from gay marriage to immigration, and finding an episode that pertains to that theme.

"I did a Burst the Bubble class last year on the history of Disney in America, and it was fun doing it with movies, so it thought it would be cool to base the class on a television show," Maselli said.

No matter what interests students may have, Burst the Bubble promises students diverse topics that will continue to develop as the program expands.

"I think more students should take advantage of it, not only as a participant, but as a teacher also," Britain said. "It's as formal and informal as you want it to be, and it doesn't have to be stressful. It's a fun way to connect with students, and share a unique talent."



LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor
Irish dancing Burst the Bubble teacher junior Meghan Gribbon (right) shows freshman Katherine Andrew how to Céili during a class Wednesday.

Burst the Bubble 2011 classes

- African dance
- Bursting the heteronormative bubble
- Body language: Learn how to read and use it
- Aeromodelism: The art of flying remote control airplanes
- Stomping on the beat: Stepping 101
- Event planning
- South Park politics
- Computer literacy
- Learn how to Irish Step Dance

Winterfaith lunches bring different faiths together to share several meals

Lauren Ramsdell
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Freshman Loise Ndegwa is the embodiment of Elon University's emphasis on global students. Originally from Kenya, Ndegwa has lived in Paris, Tanzania and Israel, with her Baha'i faith following her every step of the journey.

Ndegwa is scheduled to speak during one of the Truitt Center's Winterfaith Lunch-N-Learn events during Winter Term.

Each Wednesday, the Truitt Center, working with Elon Community Church, hosts up to 15-20 students and 10-15 community members in the church to eat and discuss world religions.

"The presenter is actually asked to speak around the tradition of food (within their faith discipline)," said Chet Denlinger, chaplaincy resident of the Truitt Center.

The meal is vegetarian soup and salad, in order to respect dietary restraints. After the meal, the presenter spends a few minutes highlighting his or her beliefs followed by question and answer time.

In the past few years, religions from Catholicism to Zen Buddhism have been discussed, as well as different Protestant sects,

such as Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. This year, the presenters have been from the Zen Buddhism, Unitarian Universalist and Baha'i practices.

Ndegwa was raised in the Baha'i tradition, a religion that emphasizes the oneness of all world faiths.

"(Baha'is) believe that all religions are from God, and that we all believe in the one God," Ndegwa said. "Even if we have different names, it's just different names we all still worship the one God."

Ndegwa's talk was canceled because of the snow last Monday, but the Truitt Center is in the process of rescheduling it.

It's part of the Truitt Center's mission statement to bridge the gap that may exist between faiths, and that means drawing awareness that, as Baha'is believe, many religions are similar in core tenets.

"Awareness and understanding draw us closer together as human beings," Denlinger said. "They kind of allow us to see the humanity in each other through spirituality."

Denlinger said the next step is cooperation. "You see the bumper stickers that say 'Coexist.' We're looking at ways to kind of take that next step from coexisting with each other



LAUREN RAMSDELL | Staff Photographer
Loise Ndegwa practices the Baha'i faith.

to cooperating - working together for the common good."

The cooperation comes in the form of peace across religious and nonreligious lines, Denlinger said. It can also help believers in different religions become more secure in their own faiths.

"When you share about your beliefs, you start to understand your religion because you see the similarities and differences," Ndegwa said. "But it's much better to focus on the similarities."

Denlinger was in agreement. "Surprisingly, or not so surprisingly, we're a lot more alike than we are different. The desire of religion and of spirituality is motivated by something that is very common and alike in all of us."

Alumna recognized for work with national AIDS organization

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

What first began as an interest has transformed into a lasting passion for 2006 alumna Britten Pund, who was recently recognized as a "Renegade to Celebrate" by nonprofit Housing Works for her efforts with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.

Pund, who first became involved with NASTAD in September 2006 as an intern, maintains the lists of states that have access limitations to their AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, as well as individuals waiting for services.

"During the course of 2010, states across the United States have had to limit access to individuals seeking medication assistance for AIDS medications due to level-funding and increased demand for services," she said.

NASTAD is dedicated to reducing the incidents of HIV and AIDS infections in the U.S., Pund said, through health care, prevention, education and supportive programs funded by the federal and state government.

"NASTAD provides national leadership to achieve these goals, and to education about and advocate for the necessary federal funding to achieve them," she said. "(It) supports and encourages the use of applied scientific knowledge and input from affected communities to guide the development of effective policies and programs."

According to a press release from Housing Works, Pund's weekly

list has become an integral tool in tracking the growing number of U.S. citizens unable to access medication.

"By staying in constant contact with state directors, Pund and NASTAD have allowed advocates and journalists to track the nation's most pressing AIDS issues since the 1980s," the release read.

Pund said she credits Cynthia Fair, associate professor of human service studies, with her interest in the topic of HIV and AIDS, after Fair offered her an opportunity during her sophomore year to conduct independent research on the topic.

"Since that moment, I have been encouraged to volunteer, intern and work at multiple HIV (and) AIDS community and national organizations to build my research and personal experiences with the topic," she said. "My life changed the moment Dr. Fair offered me the opportunity to conduct independent research."

Pund said her experience with extracurricular activities while at Elon allowed her to build interpersonal skills to have the ability to succeed in dynamic work environments. Pund served as junior class vice president for SGA and a new student orientation leader, among other activities.

"Elon always fostered the ability for me to pursue 'out-of-the-box' learning opportunities," she said.

Housing Works is a nonprofit organization working to end homeless and AIDS through advocacy, services and entrepreneurial business.



Jason Swepson is announced as the 20th head coach in Elon football history on January 10. Swepson was the former running backs coach at N.C. State. TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Swepson relishes role as new head coach for Phoenix

Ashley Watkins
Reporter

As students begin to think about spring semester, Elon's new head football coach, Jason Swepson, is also gearing up for a new start.

Swepson was formally introduced as the replacement for former head coach Pete Lembo on Jan. 10. Swepson was previously the running back coach at North Carolina State University.

Before to his time at N.C. State, he served in the same position at Boston College, his alma mater, where he was also a running back.

Knowing that he wanted to coach football since he was nine years old, Swepson is excited for the chance to lead his own program.

"I realized that football

was going to be part of my life since I was nine years old," Swepson said. "I trained myself and I was fortunate enough to be with (N.C. State) coach (Tom) O'Brien for 12 years to see how a program is run with integrity. My program will be just like coach O'Brien's at Boston College and N.C. State."

A big part of the transition for the new head coach will be learning and getting used to the team, as Lembo assumed the same title at Ball State University on Dec. 16. Senior running back A.J. Harris said he is looking forward to having Swepson lead the team.

"I think the team is excited that we were able to get a coach with this kind of resume," Harris said. "He's been up north and in the Carolinas in good conferences. We are

definitely excited to have someone of his ability and coaching knowledge with us."

Before spring practices start in March, the team will go through strength training three times each week and conditioning workouts two days per week.

So far, Swepson has made a good impression on the team.

"He's very professional and seems like he has a good handle on things," Harris said. "I think he takes his job very seriously and I believe he has been waiting a long time for the opportunity to be a head coach. He will be well prepared for this job."

There will be a few assistant coaches returning from Lembo's staff as well as the addition of some new coaches.

Swepson plans to hire an offensive coordinator and a defensive coordinator on the staff in the coming weeks, while basing his program around that of Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer.

"(In his program) the head coach is involved in all aspects of evaluation of the student-athlete. He gets to see them on both sides of the football and really sees the weaknesses and strengths of the student athlete and his team," Swepson said.

With spring semester on the way, the Phoenix is ready to get to work on next season and is confident about the prospects for a solid 2011 season.

"We will be champions in the classroom, we will be champions in the community, and we will be champions on the field," Swepson said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Former Elon coaches elected to Hall of Fame

Tom Parham and Jerry Tolley, two former coaches who amassed 35 years in Elon athletics, will be inducted to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame on May 12 in Raleigh. Parham was the head coach for men's tennis for 19 years and compiled a 279-115 record at Elon, and won the 1990 NAIA National Championship. Tolley led the football team to a 49-11-2 record, while winning back-to-back national titles in 1980 and 1981.

Barefoot earns 200th win as head coach

Karen Barefoot notched her 200th win as a collegiate head coach as the women's basketball team defeated the Wofford College Terriers 64-47 on Jan. 16. With the win, the Phoenix is tied for first place in the SoCon North.

Track and field to compete in West Virginia

The women's indoor track and field team travels to West Virginia University this weekend to compete in the WVU State Farm Games. This is the first time that the track and field team has competed in the State Farm Games, and it is the second meet of the winter season for the track and field team.

Men's tennis upsets No. 56 South Carolina

In their season opener, the men's tennis team traveled to Columbia, S.C. and defeated No. 56-ranked University of South Carolina in a 5-2 upset on Jan 16. Elon won two of three doubles matches and four of six singles matches to defeat the Gamecocks.

Barefoot signs two McDonald's All-Americans

Women's basketball head coach Karen Barefoot signed two McDonald's All-Americans for her 2011 recruiting class. Zora Stephenson, a 5-foot-10 shooting guard and Shannen Cochraham, a 6-foot-3 center will join the Phoenix in the fall of 2011.

Women's soccer announces spring slate

Coach Chris Neal has announced seven spring matches for the women's soccer team. The Phoenix will host four of the contests in the spring, with matches against UNC Wilmington, Duke University, UNC Charlotte and UNC Greensboro.

Women's basketball team surges to first place in division

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

The Elon women's basketball team has a grueling January schedule, with 11 games, 10 of which are Southern Conference tilts.

Given the way the team has played through the first half of those games, the team might not want to see February.

The Phoenix has won all five games in the month and grabbed a portion of first place in the SoCon with a 6-2 mark. The team is 11-5 overall.

Sitting atop the conference after dropping its first two league games of the season, the Phoenix is tied with Appalachian State University and UNC Greensboro.

In the team's last five victories, the Phoenix has won games by an average of more than 14 points per game.

According to head coach Karen Barefoot, the team's bench play has been instrumental in the streak.

"I look at the past and look at how we didn't have depth, and that's the key," Barefoot said. "For me, as a coach, learning the conference and learning the schedule, you need everybody."

One player who often comes off the bench for Barefoot is sophomore center Lisa Archie, who scored a career-high 11 points in a Jan. 14 win against Furman University.

She feels that the importance of the bench not only shows when those players get in the game, but when the players can cheer from the sidelines.

"I just feel energy from the bench all the time," Archie said. "It gets to the point when our whole team is on the court and we just have to

back off."

Because of the improved bench scoring, the team has entered the school record books. It is the first time since joining the Southern Conference that the team has reeled off six consecutive victories.

With its most recent win, a Jan. 16 win at Wofford College, Barefoot gained victory number 200 in her coaching career.

She is in her third season at the helm for the Phoenix, and has brought in a system that preaches intensity and hard work.

"If you play defense and play within the system, you can play for me," Barefoot said. "If you are committed to playing hard and rebounding the ball, that generates our offense."

Another point of emphasis for the team during its winning streak is to play well in the opening minutes of the second half, according to sophomore forward Lei Lei Hairston.

"We have to come out in the second half on top, because in the first five minutes (of the second half), whichever team is playing the hardest makes the statement right there," Hairston said.

The next time the Phoenix will have the chance to make a statement will be Jan. 19, when the team makes a short trip to Greensboro to play UNCG at 7 p.m.

Last season, the Phoenix was swept by the Spartans in two regular season meetings. When the teams met in Greensboro, Elon was on the wrong side of an 84-70 decision.

With both teams tied with Appalachian State for first place in the SoCon, the game against the rival Spartans will be an important contest for the two teams.



Freshman guard Tracy Harris shoots a layup against Furman University. TRACY RAETZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Phoenix steps behind the arc, barrage of three-pointers ensue

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

Dribbling down the court with the first possession of the 2010-2011 men's basketball season, senior guard Chris Long looks up at the shot clock.

He sees the seconds slowly ticking away and knows he has no time to waste. Long fires a three-pointer and buries it — with 19:52 left in the first half, only eight seconds into the season opener.

In 17 games, the Phoenix season has largely mimicked Long's initial shot attempt, with an emphasis on moving the ball down the court quickly and shooting when the game dictates it.

"Ultimately, if you're open, an open shot is a good shot," said junior guard Drew Spradlin, who is second on the team with 32 three-pointers this season.

The Phoenix is putting up impressive offensive numbers, scoring 74.6 points per game, which ranks third in the SoCon. What is even more noticable is how the Phoenix has scored those points, with a heavy emphasis on the three-pointer. Ranking 14th in the nation with 158 three-pointers made thus far, the team is shooting 37.9 percent from behind the line, which ranks second in the conference.

The up-tempo offense is nothing new to second year head coach Matt Matheny, who helped lead a similar offense at Davidson College, where he was an assistant basketball coach for 16 years. It took some time for the Phoenix to adjust to the nuances of Matheny's offense, in which the team

is constantly moving and looking for the open shot, often in transition and in the initial seconds of the shot clock.

"It's a style of play that's exciting, it's fun to watch, and it's what the kids enjoy doing," Matheny said. "We're able to run this style of play because we're developing depth and the fact that we have several guys that can shoot allows us to shoot more effectively."

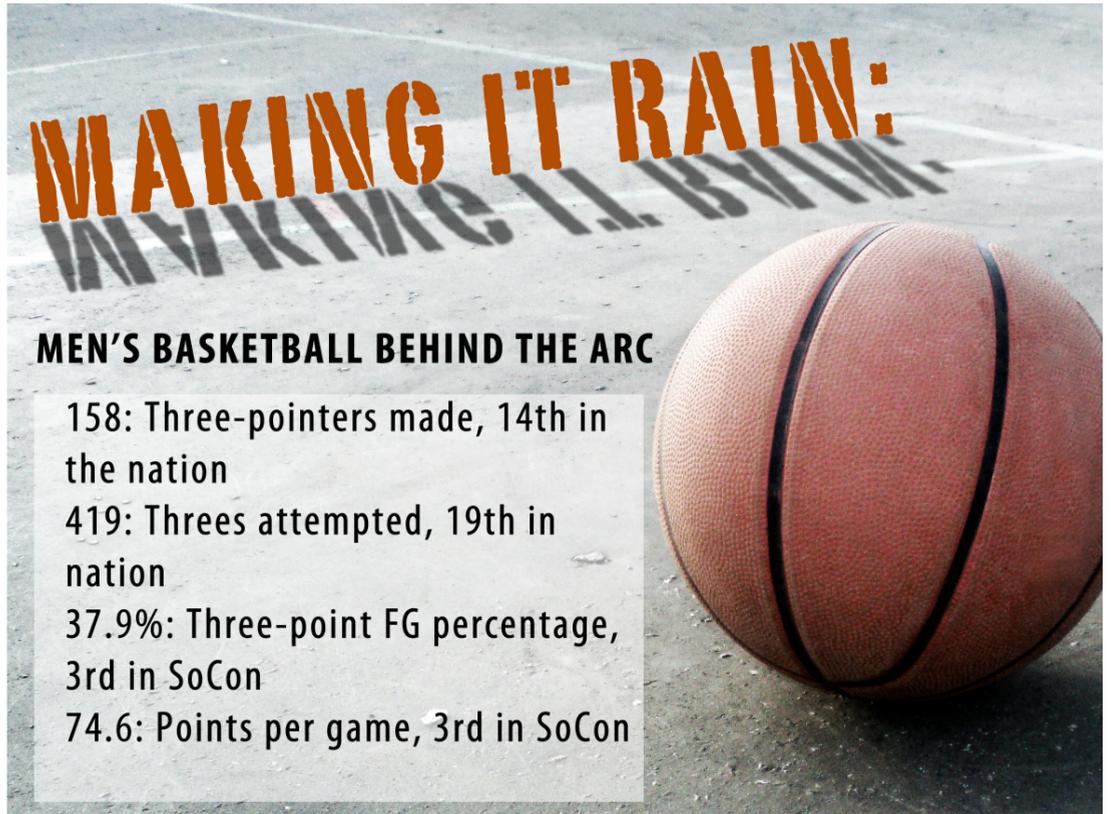
Points have come in bunches this season, especially from behind the arc, as the Phoenix has only managed to play four games in which the team has attempted under 20 three-point shots. For the season, Elon has made an average of more than nine threes per game.

With such a constant barrage of shots, it's inevitable that the team's scoring has ebbed and flowed throughout the season.

"Shooting will not always be constant, it will have its ups and downs," said freshman guard Jack Isenbarger, who leads the team with 39 triples this season. "Defense, rebounding and effort can always be constant. If you give good effort and are playing defense consistently, you will be okay."

This season, Matheny has preached the importance of when to take shots and where to take them from the floor. He refers to each player as having a 'shooting license'—where each player knows the shots they can take within the offense, and where on the floor they can take those shots.

"(Matheny) trusts us a lot. We've come to know



SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

our roles within the offense and who can shoot when," Isenbarger said.

Describing the team's offensive approach, Spradlin stated the importance of being aware on offense, knowing that a shot could go up at any time. Sometimes it's best to shoot early in the shot clock if it's in open shot, rather than forcing a bad shot at the end of the shot clock, Spradlin said.

"We believe, and our system says, the best time to attack is right away," Spradlin said.

With that mindset, the Phoenix looks to continue to run the floor and score in transition as it battles throughout conference play.

MORE ONLINE: SPORTS

VIDEO:

Football coach: Jason Swepson addresses the Elon community for the first time as the new head football coach.



Jeff Stern | Online Editor in Chief

link: <http://bit.ly/Pendulum-Swepson>

Be sure to visit our website for a post-game recap story on Thursday after the Men's basketball team plays the Davidson Wildcats.

Elon hockey club becomes official, defeats UNC-Charlotte

Zachary Horner
Reporter

Down 5-0 after two periods, the Elon Hockey Club scored five goals in the third period and the decisive goal in overtime to defeat UNC Charlotte on Dec. 5, solidifying the program's first win as an official club.

Elon scored three goals in a three-minute span to begin the third period. After notching another goal with nine minutes left to make the score 5-4, a breakaway goal with a minute on the clock tied the score at five. Elon then captured the victory in a shootout.

The 2010-2011 academic year is the first official year of the Elon Hockey Club. Team founder Terence O'Malley and his fellow skaters captured a championship last year and are looking forward to another strong year. The club started as a roller hockey club that had been in place since 1999.

The team made the switch

to ice hockey when O'Malley realized that his teammates all played ice hockey growing up.

"I knew everyone would love getting the chance to play ice hockey during their years at Elon, but it was just about doing whatever it took to create that opportunity," O'Malley said.

The ice hockey team began playing in the Adult Men's Ice Hockey League at the Greensboro Ice House in early 2010.

Realizing that money would be an issue, O'Malley set up a raffle in his hometown of Canton, Mass. After marketing and promoting the club, he raised almost \$1,000. The money went into paying the entrance fee for the league. O'Malley's father donated the jerseys, which read "Nole Hockey."

"Because we were not an official club at Elon, we could not use the Elon name," O'Malley said. "We decided as a group to use Elon backwards."

The initial season went from January to April. Playing once a week on Sunday or Tuesday nights, Nole Hockey played 13 regular season games and three playoff games. Nole Hockey was awarded the "Manley Cup," the league's version of the NHL's championship trophy after winning the league championship.

"Winning the championship meant so much to all of the guys on the team and really was something special for our program," O'Malley said.

This school year, the club became official. Bethany Massman, assistant director of Campus Recreation, was integral in the process of making the club official and is the club's adviser.

"This past spring, the club membership elected to change the name of the club to the Hockey Club," Massman said. "In addition, the membership voted to amend their bylaws to state that the club would vote to determine whether they



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Three members of the "Nole" hockey team celebrate after winning their league championship in 2010. The cup they are holding is the Manley Cup.

would play ice hockey or roller hockey on an annual basis."

Last year's team continues to play in the same men's league and is working on scheduling exhibition games with other university clubs in the area. With a new roster of around 35 members, O'Malley and his teammates had to

divide the group in half and put two teams in the league. In the fall session, the team finished second overall.

Next year, the team will join two collegiate leagues, the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association) and the BRHC (Blue Ridge Hockey Conference).

Sports



Junior guard Terrance Birdette drives to the basket against North Carolina State on Jan. 5. The Phoenix fell to the Wolfpack 87-72 after leading for the entire first half.

LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor

Improvement continues, Phoenix still climbing

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

It took the Phoenix men's basketball team until Feb. 20 to win its eighth game last season.

In a mark of improvement, Elon won its eighth game at the Greensboro Coliseum against UNC Greensboro on Jan. 10.

"Last year's team was getting better, it just took a little longer to get traction," head coach Matt Matheny said. "This year's team is getting better. Our goal, our mission is to be the best team we can be in March."

The team now sits at 8-10 overall, with a 2-5 record in the Southern Conference.

At this time last year, the Phoenix was in the process of ending a nine-game losing streak that spanned from Dec. 13 to Jan. 21.

The players have seen a difference between 2010 and 2011.

"I think there are noticeable differences with this team compared to last year," senior guard Chris Long said. "We're a lot more comfortable, which allows us to play a lot more confidently."

Sophomore forward Roger Dugas said the change could be attributed to an adjustment in team mentality.

"I think we have improved a lot and gotten better every day," Dugas said. "We still have a long way to go, but we have

been fighting a lot this year, and that's what I think is different."

One improvement the team has made has been in the rebounding department. In the victory against UNC Greensboro, the Phoenix won the battle on the glass 46-33. In the previous game, a 70-63 win against Samford University, the team held a 44-25 rebounding advantage.

"I think we're getting great effort on the glass, as a team," Matheny said. "We don't have anybody who you would classify as a great individual rebounder, so we have to be a very good team-rebounding team."

The team has six players who average at least three rebounds per game.

With the improved play, Matheny

pointed out that the team shouldn't settle for what it has done so far.

"What we said to our guys after the Greensboro game was, 'Congratulations, you're improving. That guarantees you absolutely nothing,'" Matheny said. "And our players understand that."

The Phoenix will have its next chance to improve when it hosts the Davidson College Wildcats Jan. 20 for a 7 p.m. contest.

Against Davidson last year, the Phoenix suffered a 99-96 loss in double overtime in the last game of the regular season. Revenge was sweet for Elon, though, as six days later the Phoenix garnered a 66-59 win in the first round of the Southern