

Ice bucket challenge raises awareness, mixed emotions

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# THE PENDULUM

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## 'Hands Up, Don't Shoot' unites Elon



Led by brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Elon University students rose hands in solidarity against the shooting of Michael Brown in early August.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Kaitlin Dunn  
Assistant News Editor

Nearly three weeks after unarmed Ferguson, Missouri, teenager Michael Brown was fatally shot by police on August 9, the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" movement has arrived at Elon University, in the form of more than 100 people posing for an awareness-raising photo on Phi Beta Kappa Commons Tuesday during the first College Coffee of the new school year.

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (APA) brought the movement to Elon's campus, beginning at College Coffee on August 26. Alpha Phi Alpha President Justin Pierce spoke about the issue and students, faculty and staff posed for a group picture with their hands in the air.

"Michael Brown, an 18-year-old male who had recently graduated from high school was planning on attending his first day of college two days after his death. To Elon's class of 2018 — Michael Brown could have been your classmate," Pierce, a senior, said.

Freshman Kara Rollock participated and drew parallels between the shooting and other inequalities in society.

"It's such a social injustice, and the shooting really exemplifies that even though we've come so far in our society, there are still so many injustices we face today," Rollock said.

When Michael Brown was shot by police, he allegedly called out "don't shoot" while holding his hands in the air. This event triggered a mass of protests and riots

in Ferguson, Missouri, where Brown was shot, and raised questions about the state of racial equality and police brutality in the nation.

In Ferguson, violent riots have broken out, in addition to peaceful protests, causing tensions to simmer in other urban communities elsewhere throughout the country, leading to a spill-over effect in less populated areas, such as Tuesday's demonstration at Elon.

People all across the nation were inspired to start movements, prayers and discussions about the events still taking place in Ferguson, including at Elon University,

Senior Lashaun Nunnery also participated in the photo and said his outrage was

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## Faculty takes on Ice Bucket Challenge

Kaitlin Dunn  
Assistant News Editor

Almost two-dozen Elon University students, faculty and staff members joined in the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) Aug. 24, by dumping buckets of water on their heads in front of Koury Business Center. Dining Services will be donating money to the cause for each person who participated.

Aramark Resident District Manager Pulkitt Vigg spearheaded the event. Coming into his new position several weeks ago, Vigg thought this would be a good way for dining services to interact with students.

"I think this is the beginning of the evolution of dining," Vigg said. "We had lots of fun and engagement."

The challenge is simple. Post a video of yourself being doused with ice water and nominate a few friends to partake, or donate \$100 to the ALS Association. Many participants have done both.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, "is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord," according to [alsa.org](http://alsa.org). Individuals with ALS eventually lose all motor functions, including muscle movement and speech. Approximately 5,600 people are diagnosed with ALS each year.

Vigg challenged University of North Carolina-Wilmington as well as the rest of the Elon faculty and staff for the ice bucket challenge.

"It was awesome, much better than I was expecting," Vigg said. "I'm so grateful

See ICE page 3

## Cross Country brings in new coach, keeps culture running

Kate Murphy  
Senior Reporter

The philosophy of new Elon University cross country coach Nick Polk is deep, but simple.

"A culture of confidence: knowing and believing in your training so that when you get to your starting line, you know exactly what you need to do," he said.

Polk was hired the same day the athletes' reported back to campus for preseason.

Just days before preseason training was scheduled to begin, the Elon cross country team lost head coach Christine Engel when she left for a head coaching job at Duke University. The runners were left not knowing if they would have a coach when they returned to campus.

"We were all shocked," said sophomore Kimberly Johansen. "It was like, 'what are we supposed to do now?' It made us think more about how we go about things and our program values. We see that and pass that down to our freshmen. That dynamic and culture doesn't change."

Heading into preseason, the team didn't know what was to come or who would fill in that gap, but the team captains knew they had to step up and address the team.

"We went from knowing what to expect all the time to not even knowing if we had a coach and we had to think, 'how are we going to approach this season?'" said junior captain Elyse Bierut. "We were going to carry on with a positive attitude no matter how much unknown

was there."

The team recognized this was a great opportunity for Engel, but hearing the news didn't come without some concern.

"It was really unexpected knowing her all these years, and I was really saddened by the news," said senior Luis Vargas. "After the announcement it was definitely hard to gather our thoughts. I was nervous coming in, but Elon always looks after us."

The process to hire a new coach moved quickly, and just a week after Engel's official resignation, Elon hired Polk.

"The potential on the roster is very high. The incoming guys and girls on paper should take the program to the next level," Polk said. "And this was a chance for me to become a head coach, so I wanted to take on that challenge as well."

As a three-time All-American runner and national champion at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan and assistant cross country and track and field coach at Grand Valley State for the last three seasons, Polk has experience. He was also a competitive runner for ZAP Fitness, a professional running team in North Carolina.

Polk said running at an advanced level and the experience of competing for a national championship has prepared him for the opportunity.

"It's being able to coach developmental runners and top-tier runners at the same time," Polk said.

With any new coach, a new style of coaching is inevitable.

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## FERGUSON

from cover

about the race of the victim and more about concerns about police brutality and violence in general.

"Someone just got killed by the police and he was unarmed," Nunnery said. "That's something that should never happen, no matter what the race of the person is."

The national Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity also covered the cost of Mike Brown's funeral to show solidarity with the black community.

One junior attended the demonstration after watching, from afar, violence unfold in her own backyard.

Junior Mia Watkins is from Ferguson and was there when the shooting occurred.

"Seeing my hometown, the streets I grew up with and even my backyard on local and national news makes me extremely anxious," Watkins said. "I came back to Elon early for RA training and I felt helpless as I watched my town erupt in anger from far away. I was watching 'Last Week Tonight' on HBO, and I saw that my town was one of the main topics. The next thing I knew, I was crying."

Watkins said when she came back to Elon, she was worried that she wouldn't

have anyone to talk to about Ferguson, but hasn't found that to be the case.

"I am glad that there are Elon students talking about it, being made aware about it," Watkins said.

"This isn't just for the black community," said senior and APA president Justin Pierce. "This is an open invitation for anyone who wants to be involved. It's not just a race issue; it's a police brutality issue."

Pierce reached out to other organizations on campus, encouraging them to support "Hands Up, Don't Shoot."

"The conflict in Missouri challenges our ideals and goals as Elon students, and it is our civic responsibility to show Elon in a great light on the first day of class," Pierce said.

The Michael Brown shooting hits close to home for Pierce.

"It could have been me," Pierce said. "It could have been any one of the brothers. It's heartbreaking."

For the most part, Pierce says he feels safe at Elon, but he personally has experienced racial slurs being thrown out and said it's an unfortunate, but common, occurrence.

Last fall, Pierce's walk through Elon with his girlfriend was interrupted by a loud racial epithet shouted out a car window. In the past, similar incidents



Pierce addressed the crowd at College Coffee on Aug. 26, urging for a peaceful resolution.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

have been condemned by Smith Jackson, vice president for student life, in a series of campus-wide emails.

"I was walking down Williamson with my girlfriend when a car drove by, and I heard a word shouted at me," Pierce said. "I just looked back at them, and I was mad at myself for looking back because they knew that I was angry and that was what they wanted from me."

Pierce said that although he has never felt unsafe at Elon, the incident made him feel more wary of his surroundings.

There are several other events being held in the upcoming weeks focusing on Ferguson and the larger issues at play. Organizers say the events foster conversation in bringing a national issue home to Elon.

The Multicultural Center and the university's Council on Civic Engagement are hosting "Race and Law Enforcement: Lessons from Ferguson, Missouri" at 7:15 p.m. Aug. 27 in McKinnon Hall.

Naemah Clark, associate professor of communications, will be nominating a panel consisting of Jim Bissett, professor of history, Ken Fernandez, assistant professor of political science and

policy studies, Robert Parrish, assistant professor of law, India Johnson, assistant professor of psychology and Sandra Reid, human service studies lecturer. Joe Incorvia, Student Government Association president, will also be making a statement, and Watkins will be sharing a reflection about living in Ferguson.

Protestant Chaplain Joel Harter is organizing a prayer for racial reconciliation Sept. 3.

"It will be in response to what's happening in Ferguson, but will focus on the larger issues of race, bias, inequality and ongoing racial tensions and prayer for healing and reconciliation of our society," Harter said.

According to Harter, members of InterVarsity, Gospel Choir and One in Christ are actively involved in putting together this event and he hopes to get several other groups involved as well, including Lutherans, Episcopalians and Friends and Catholic Campus Ministry.

"I think that this goes to show that Elon does not stand for social or racial injustice," Pierce said. "Coming to Elon, everyone should be treated equality. By standing up we're saying that equality is necessary to be a student here at Elon."



Some Elon University faculty and staff members joined the student-led assembly.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

## Truitt Center adds new leadership for Elon's largest faith groups

Kaitlin Dunn  
Assistant News Editor

Interfaith dialogue has always been an important goal for the Truitt Center for Religious Life, but this year the center is making it its No. 1 focus through new staff, programming and initiatives.

The Rev. Joel Harter was hired as Protestant Chaplain, Rabbi Rebecca Joseph was brought on as Hillel Director and Jewish Chaplain and Father Gerry Waterman was promoted to Catholic Chaplain. These three leaders represent the three largest religious subsets on campus.

"The restructuring was absolutely necessary. Different religions approach life in different ways and need a leader of their particular perspective to help guide them through the spiritual discussions unique to college students," Junior Alli Ginsburg, Hillel president said. "Being able to have a voice for each of these three makes the interfaith religious discussions less biased."

Diana Abrahams was hired as the multifaith and intern coordinator after graduating from Elon last spring. She will lead the Truitt Center interns and help coordinate the multifaith engagement program, which is new this year.

Twelve students will be taking part this semester and learning how to lead interfaith dialogue.

University Chaplain Jan Fuller said she expects to have fun with this group and with the other new programs this year.

Fuller is running a new series of lecture presentations starting in September called Unlikely Partners, with talks by multi-faith couples. The first couple presenting will be a Southern Baptist minister and her husband, a Hindu monk.

"This is really highlighting how two people are living across religious differences and how they make it work and maintain their integrity," Fuller said.

Harter will introduce a new program called One. It will be a Christian worship service Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

The first worship will take place on Aug. 27. It will be a Taize-style worship, which is a continuous worship style relying on songs, chants and meditation periods. There will be another Taize-style worship in partnership with Catholic Campus Ministry on Sept. 24 in Holt Chapel.

"I'm really excited about this," Harter said. "My experience is that this is a good way to not only get Protestants together, but to get Protestants and Catholics together on college campuses. I'm really hopeful it will resonate here."

Sophomore Carolyn Rauch, a member of LEAF (Lutherans, Episcopalians and Friends) said she is looking forward

to the protestant worship service and getting involved with other protestant groups on campus.

"There has been a lot of talk about multifaith initiative at Elon. I think it's important that Christian groups recognize that multifaith includes them," Harter said. "We are part of that diversity. We want to provide opportunities for all students to engage because multifaith includes Christianity."

While Ginsburg is pleased with the multifaith initiative, she would like to try to get more people involved in the community.

"I want to see more outreach," Ginsburg said. "The people attending these opportunities are those who are already interfaith-minded. Let's educate the broader community about religious experience outside of their own."

One way the Truitt Center is attempting to reach more students is through its interns. Each of the seven interns has been will be a residential contact for a different neighborhood on campus.

"We want them to give out information and hopefully bring students over and help us determine what the needs of the students are," Fuller said.

Numen Lumen, formally College Chapel, is the Truitt's Center's weekly program held on Thursday mornings at 9:40. Fuller wants to encourage more students to attend this semester. This

year, attendees discuss an enduring question each week.

"We want to be a part of asking the big questions, like 'What does it mean to be a human being?' or 'What does it mean to be a person of faith open to other people of faith?'" Fuller said. "So we'll have a different question every week and a chance to really discuss our answers."

According to Fuller, the Truitt Center will attempt to make students think critically.

"We're not trying to make students think a certain way or believe a certain thing, but we want students to really think about who they are and what they want and what kind of world they want to live in."

To read University Chaplain Jan Fuller's views on the subject, visit [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com). Fuller can be reached at [jfuller3@elon.edu](mailto:jfuller3@elon.edu). Contact [truittcenter@elon.edu](mailto:truittcenter@elon.edu) to receive a weekly newsletter describing opportunities or to request more information about programs, ministries or student organizations.

# Safety, health concerns prompt Winter Term cancellations

*Global Education Center removes four programs, offers alternative options*

**Michael Bodley**  
News Editor

Four Elon University Winter Term study abroad courses have been canceled — two because of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, one because of ongoing violence in the Middle East and one because of a lack of student interest in a Peru course.

The Isabella Cannon Global Education Center said such decisions aren't made lightly and are based on a combination of factors — including travel advisories from the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and global health concerns raised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Emma Burress, assistant director of Study Abroad, said it's hard to tell students who have been awaiting, and planning for, their international experiences that they can't go. She empathized caution and a No. 1 priority of keeping students safe.

"Whenever the university cancels a program or removes its support from students in a program, we do not do so lightly," Burress said. "It is a very tough decision for us to make, and we want students to have the opportunity to experience specific cultures — just as the students want that opportunity — but we have to balance risk and responsibility versus the potential reward."

The two canceled Ghana programs — one focusing on history and culture and the other on different forms of Ghanaian dance — follow a canceled Elon Global

Medical Brigades trip to the West African country over the summer. Even with no confirmed in-country reports of the deadly disease at the time, preliminary reports from the WHO and others indicated the disease could spread to Ghana and take up to six months to clear from the entire continent.

Adele Gibson had signed up for the Ghana cultural course. She saw the warning signs of media coverage of Ebola running rampant through West Africa but was still taken aback when she received an email last week that said the course was cancelled.

"When the Ebola virus came out, my parents began to be rightfully worried, but I was kind of like, 'Don't worry, Mom and Dad,'" the sophomore said. "Elon's not going to send me somewhere unsafe."

Elon did not. Gibson said the Center for Global Education handled the cancellations well by giving students the option of the new trip to Ethiopia and Tanzania and offering full refunds on initial deposits. Gibson will head there this January.

Though she was disappointed by the initial news, Gibson said her "inconvenience" paled in comparison to the thousands of infected people and the millions more who live in fear that they'll be next. "In the grand scheme of things, there's millions of people [suffering], and it was one cancelled trip for me," she said.

The two Elon professors leading the new trip — Brian Digre and Mussa Idiris — both either studied or lived in the

region, enabling the fast turnaround on the kind of program that usually has the benefit of a full year for planning.

"Ordinarily, we would have just cancelled it, but the stars were aligned in such a convenient way that we were able to do that so quickly," said Dean of Global Studies Woody Pelton.

Emphasizing the level of discussion and planning that goes into cancellations, Amanda Zamzes, business and data manager for the Global Education Center, said it was important to notify students of the cancellations as soon as possible, with the hope of many choosing alternative programs. Students on all programs looking to study abroad have until Sept. 8 to receive a full refund on the \$400 deposit.

"We're not just really fearful of any type of risk," Zamzes said, adding that study abroad cancellations are never permanent and reconsidered each year. "We do have the intention of going back once the situation has relieved itself overseas."

Applications for new study abroad courses are due in the fall one year before the program's start. Elon faculty members submit a detailed proposal that is subject to a review process.

Though it was "unfortunate" that the trips this year had to be cancelled, according to Pelton, the office isn't ruling out returning to areas such as Ghana and Israel in the future.

"This is sort of an unusual thing," he said. "I don't anticipate this happening next year ... We hope to be back in Ghana, and we hope to be back in Israel."

**ICE**  
from cover

to those who came out and participated."

Glenn Austin, manager of Acorn Coffee Shop, chose to support the cause because he had a friend who had ALS.

"It's an ugly disease," Austin said. "I'm always up to support the cause."

Freshmen Chris Brittlebank and Alex Gambini decided to take part in the challenge when they were walking by and faculty members invited them to join in.

"I was actually challenged already and hadn't completed it yet," Gambini said. "I thought that this would be a fun way to knock it out."

Brittlebank and Gambini said they were impressed with Elon initiating the Ice Bucket Challenge.

"It really shows how much Elon cares," Brittlebank said. "It's nice to know that Elon supports such a great cause."

Betty Garrison, business librarian, decided to join in when Chris Fulker, assistant vice president for administrative services, asked her to.

"When he asked, I said, 'Absolutely,'" Garrison said. "It is such a great cause, and I'm glad I participated."

Garrison wishes to nominate all her friends and all Elon students to complete the challenge.

"It's so important to raise awareness for this disease," Garrison said. "It's so hard to hear about people who completely lose all of their motor control. It's heartbreaking."

The Ice Bucket Challenge has raised more than \$79.7 million in donations for the ALS Association.

## Love School of Business revamps curriculum

**Michael Papich**  
Assistant News Editor

As technology improves, the world continues to change at an exponential rate. To keep up with a world forever changed by computing power, Elon University's Love School of Business is altering the courses and curriculum for the new school year to teach students how to solve problems and analyze data.

The business school is offering seven new courses, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, to instruct students in data analysis. The courses are not restricted to any particular business major. Raghu Tadepalli, dean of the Love School of Business, said employers across the board are looking for potential employees who can handle data.

"We are coming up with career tracks in analytics to prepare students for any field," Tadepalli said.

The increasing importance of data has created, as Tadepalli put it, a new set of skills that have to be learned alongside traditional business training in order to stay relevant in the modern world.

"Nowadays, there's so much data, thanks to the availability of computers," he said. "Students need to not just write and speak well."

Another change coming to the business school this year is a revision of the entrepreneurship curriculum to focus less on how to start a business and more on how to "think like an entrepreneur."

"An entrepreneur needs to be able to deal with unstructured issues," Tadepalli said. "Let's say you need to tackle a problem in your work. No one is going to tell you how to fix it. You need to be a problem solver."

Caralea Prentice, a sophomore

Business Fellow at Elon, said she thinks the additional courses are a responsible change.

"I think that it is natural for the focus of business education to evolve over time and to push students to learn skills that are of increasing importance to future employers," Prentice said.

The new emphasis on teaching data analysis to students comes from feedback Tadepalli said he has heard from employers who will give problems and assignments in interviews to see if potential hires have what it takes.

"What employers now want to know is not just what you know, but for you to show what you know," he said.

Prentice said the job market she and other business students are looking at requires critical thinking skills and practical technical knowledge in things like Microsoft Excel and data analysis.

"Students should be pushed to develop less easily defined skills, like strong leadership, productive teamwork and critical thinking," she said.

With this new entrepreneurship curriculum, students can take courses in any discipline and still develop problem-solving skills. Tadepalli said this is the first time entrepreneurship students have been able to take outside courses that count toward their major. This new system is working toward the goal of making students think like entrepreneurs.

"There are certainly students in the business school with different priorities, and a well-rounded education should be expected at a liberal arts school," Prentice said.

He added that this new focus reiterates the teaching that entrepreneurs must figure out how to reduce, not engage in, risky behavior in business.

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# Elon staff run for ABSS board



Elon faculty members Gerry Francis, Jeremy Teetor and Tony Rose are three of the nine candidates running for the Alamance County Board of Education.

**Kaitlin Dunn**  
Assistant News Editor

In less than 10 weeks, Alamance County residents will be voting for several public offices, including three new members of the Board of Education. Three faculty and staff members at Elon University are beginning the home stretch of their campaigns for slots on the school board. There are nine total candidates for three spots. In a speech to faculty and staff on Aug. 18, Elon President Leo Lambert stressed the importance of public education.

"In my mind, there are no more important elections than those taking place here this fall in Alamance County for County Commissioner and the Alamance County Board of Education, because I believe the quality of public education for children in grades K-12 hangs in the balance," Lambert said.

**Gerry Francis**

Elon Executive Vice President Gerry Francis announced his write-in candidacy Aug. 4, only three months before elections.

Having been involved on the Alamance-Burlington School System (ABSS) Visioning Committee and the school board's strategic planning process this past year, Francis said he realized now was the time for him to step up and try to change things for the better.

"There was a lot of turmoil on the school board that was brought to my attention when I was involved with visioning and planning," he said. "I have the experience to bring to the table that can help stabilize things."

Francis has served as Elon's executive vice president since 2009. Before that, he spent 15 years as Elon's provost and vice president for academic affairs and 20 years teaching in the mathematics department, totaling more than 40 years at Elon.

Francis also served as an alderman in the Town of Elon for 10 years.

As a write-in candidate, Francis knows that he faces an additional challenge, but feels he is prepared for it.

"My name isn't on the ballot, but I'm still there," he said. "Write-in is like my pseudonym — that's what they have to pick to vote for me."

For Francis, this election is less about a personal victory and more about the community making a good choice to bring about positive change.

"I believe it's a really important time for our community to make good decisions and to elect people," he said. "I truly don't care who they elect as long as they are substantially involved in moving our education system forward to another level."

**Tony Rose**

Elon's Assistant Director of Information Systems and Technologies Tony Rose is the only incumbent for the election. Rose is the current chair of the ABSS Board of Education and also a member of the Education Council of the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce.

Rose was in charge of creating the board's strategic plan over the past four years and said he is eager to hold office again and see through the implementation of the plan.

"I have an unwavering commitment to excellence in education and to the raising of academic standards," Rose said. "Every high school graduate needs to be prepared for life. We must continue to find ways for our school system to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our students and adequately preparing them for success."

Rose has a strong connection with the ABSS. Both of his parents taught in the school system, and he and his wife attended them. Now his daughters attend schools in

the county.

"This background and perspective is unique among the members of the board at this time, so it's something special that I bring to the table," he said. "It's a level of experience which I feel the school board needs."

Rose wants to focus on technology in education and said this is something else he can add to the school board.

"In the future, it will be even more important for ABSS board members to understand new informational and learning technologies and how these developments can support learners in the classroom," he said.

**Jeremy Teetor**

Elon's Assistant Bursar Jeremy Teetor is a lifelong resident of Alamance County and a former teacher. Teetor plans to use his experience as an educator to improve the school system.

"Many school board policies have direct impact on students," Teetor said. "Because I have taught the generation in our public schools today, I understand their needs and how various policies may or may not benefit them."

Teetor was first inspired to make a difference when he graduated Cummings High School in 2006, and the school was threatened with closure because of low performance.

Teetor's biggest concern is that the quality of education is not consistent throughout the entire school system. He wants to support administrators in the push to improve underperforming schools.

"As a school board member, I will do what I can to help the ABSS be a place where great administrators and teachers want to work," he said. "I understand the stakes are higher than ever, and I am eager to bring a new and important perspective to the board of education."

# New Study USA director hired

**Michael Papich**  
Assistant News Editor

As any student knows, Elon University prides itself on having a large and well-attended study abroad program, with 70 percent of students leaving the country at least once in their college career. But Mark Dalhouse, Elon's new director of domestic programs for Study USA, said with the United States becoming more and more diverse, it has become its own global community.

"One can have a global experience without ever leaving the country," Dalhouse said. "It's a mistake to think of the United States as homogenous."

Dalhouse joined Elon in June to become the new director of Study USA, which organizes programs like Elon in New York, Elon in LA and recent additions in Washington D.C. and Alaska. Prior to coming to Elon, Dalhouse was president of the Washington Internship Institute in D.C., and before that, he was dean of active citizenship and service at Vanderbilt University, where he also taught American history.

"Study USA seemed like exactly the type of hybrid position I had experience in," he said. "I've had a foot in the classroom and in student affairs administration over the course of my 23 years in higher education."

Dalhouse is replacing Study USA's first director, Phil Smith, who Dalhouse said left a lot of the infrastructure for the program behind. And it's the newness of the program that Dalhouse said attracted him to the director position.

"Study USA is a relatively new program, so it's got a lot of room to grow," he said.

Among the changes Dalhouse has planned is an expansion of both Winter Term Study USA programs and a new fall semester for Elon in New York.

There are also a number of new courses planned across the United States. They include a course where students visit the various sights affected by 9/11, a course exploring the First Amendment and its meaning in the modern world, a course in New Orleans to see how the city is doing 10 years after Hurricane Katrina and a course in Iowa during the presidential caucus.

"I'd like to see students go to Iowa, work with whatever organization they want and see history be made ahead of the 2016 elections," Dalhouse said.

Part of Dalhouse's hopes with Study USA is to not only expand the program into cities other than New York City, L.A. and D.C., but also to show students that internship opportunities exist there beyond the typical communications and political science positions.

For example, Dalhouse talked about the possibilities for international studies majors to intern at the United Nations in New York City, education majors in Los Angeles and students interested in non-profits and strategic communications in D.C.

"Not a lot of students know this, but D.C. has some of the best internships as far as experience, and they are very eager for Elon students in the spring and fall semesters," he said.

Going further, Dalhouse talked about the possibilities for using the Study USA office to strengthen the intellectual climate of Elon with annual or biannual trips, like one Dalhouse is working on in Selma, Alabama to look at the Voting Rights Act after 50 years.

What Dalhouse stressed overall with Elon's study programs is that, both abroad and domestically, Elon is trying to provide students with opportunities to get as much out of a globalized world as possible.

"The world current students are growing up in is very different from the one we knew before," he said.

# Elon upgrades website for first time since 2009

**Katy Canada**  
Managing Editor

A redesigned homepage for the Elon University website makes for easier access on mobile devices.

The updated web page features a responsive design, meaning the layout of the page changes based on the size of the screen. Before, the web page was designed at a fixed width and meant to be viewed on a large screen, said Web Applications Developer John David Parsons.

"Most people weren't viewing our website on mobile, and we figured that was because the old site was not mobile-friendly," Parsons said.

The web developing team began work on the new page last October and will continue updating over the next few months.

Parsons said the design was tested multiple times on dozens of browsers before the roll-out. Often, small errors would occur on one browser that could require time-consuming solutions.

"It can look perfect in 10 browsers, but in one it looks bad. So you have to code specifically for that tiny problem," Parsons said.

The new design also moved away from dropdown menus that were previously used for navigation.

Aimee Kensky, assistant director for online communications, said the original site contained a lot of information in a small amount of space so viewers didn't have to scroll down the page. Now, she said, the information is more spread out.

"With the old site, you had to squint a little harder. We're not afraid to use the scroll bar anymore," Kensky said. "The

concept of having things above the fold, to use the newspaper term, is no longer a concern because users are scrolling."

But students say the new design has required some adjustment.

"The first couple times, I found it confusing. I'm a little surprised every time I go to the site," said junior Kerianne Durkin. "It is a lot easier to use on my phone, which is going to come in handy."

Aelish Aoki, also a junior, said the links are easier to navigate, now.

But the new webpage was engineered with more than just current students in mind. The content on the front page has been streamlined to attract prospective students, Kensky said.

"We were asking ourselves what perspective students would want to see if they were coming to Elon's website, and that's what we built the content off of," she said.

# Local law enforcement: To protect and serve?



Alameda County has received high-powered rifles in recent years from military surplus. FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Recent events in Ferguson, Missouri have sent shockwaves through the nation. The growing unrest amongst the population, as a result of the fatal shooting of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown, prompted President Barack Obama to launch an investigation into the use of military equipment by police forces. Many have questioned if the dissemination of surplus military gear to local law enforcement agencies is ethical.

This process of handing over surplus military weapons and gear to local law enforcement is made possible because of the Department of Defense Excess Property Program, known as DoD 1033. Under DoD 1033, local police departments receive this military gear so they can more effectively carry out counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism operations and keep police officers safe.

Every state and local police department is eligible to participate in this DoD-sponsored program, regardless of

the amount of narcotics or terrorism-related cases a specific law enforcement agency sees in a given year. This means that some advanced weaponry and gear is finding its way into the hands of local police departments who do not truly have a need for it.

According to a recent article by The New York Times, since the DoD began the program, Alameda County has received 20 assault weapons. These weapons do little to aid in the arrest and apprehension of criminals for they have only one true use — to kill. Additionally, increasing the power and precision of the weapons available to police officers in local rural communities does little in the way of protecting them from the weapons criminals may have.

If the goal of the program is to protect officers, then it would make sense to provide law enforcement officials with items such as body armor, helmets and other protective riot gear instead of simply

handing them high-powered rifles. This program has infiltrated almost every police department across the nation including Alameda County.

Since the program's inception in 2008, Alameda County received the 20 high-powered weapons despite the fact the violent crime rate has not increased dramatically in the past 10 years.

According to The New York Times, nearby Wake County, DoD 1033 has provided local law enforcement with an excessive amount of military gear surpassing what Alameda County received. Since 2008, Wake County has been provided 84 assault rifles, nine helicopters, two grenade launchers, two sets of night vision goggles and an armored assault vehicle. Even though Wake County is North Carolina's second most populated county, these weapons and vehicles have no place operating within the borders of our country.

When the Posse Comitatus act was passed by congress in 1878, it sought to keep the military from acting as a police force within the borders of the United States. As the Department of Defense continues to arm state and local law enforcement with military style weaponry, police departments move closer to acting like a military force.

As police forces operate more and more similarly to the military and less as force sworn to protect and serve the citizens of the U.S. they are at risk of violating the Posse Comitatus Act.

With the spotlight on the tactics and weapons utilized by the Ferguson Police Department, police departments across the state of North Carolina should strive to re-envision their mission statement and work with the state government to return to the core purpose of police duties — to protect and serve the community.

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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# Mixed emotions follow awareness campaign

Three letters have covered Facebook, YouTube, BuzzFeed and Twitter homepages this summer: A. L. S.



Erin Valentine  
Columnist

According to [alsa.org](http://alsa.org), ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, affects the spinal cord and nerve cells. The disease progressively deteriorates control of muscle movement, which leads to total paralysis of the body. Those diagnosed with ALS will die from it, as the

life expectancy after diagnosis is usually two to five years.

I'm curious if half the people who dumped ice water on their heads this summer knew those facts. I found them in two minutes.

After watching about 50 videos of nominees on my social media accounts, I noticed maybe five or six videos where ALS was explained. The rest were people thanking whoever nominated them, nominating more people, and then scrambling to add in to donate to ALS research before pouring ice water on their heads.

As this went on I also noticed a rise in Facebook rants about the Ice Bucket Challenge. I read that it was a waste of water, that no one knew what ALS was and that



Elon University faculty and staff participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on at Chandler Fountain. Dining Services also donated money for the cause. EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer

it was leaving a bad message of making it a positive action to avoid donating to charity.

I was nominated for the ice bucket challenge. I felt torn. I understood that it was raising awareness, even if you didn't donate. Yet, I felt wrong about throwing ice water on my head to avoid donating.

I searched and read and watched videos and tried to better grasp what ALS was and why it needed donations. I spent a few hours reading articles and hearing firsthand accounts of the disease. I found Anthony Carnajal, a man recently diagnosed with ALS who posted a personal video about the disease and its emotional toll on him and his family.

I understood what the disease did physically but did I fully understand

its consequences? What was I donating towards? Are they close to a cure? Is there a cure? What kind of research are they doing?

About 18 hours after my "nomination", I decided not to ignore the challenge but to raise a challenge of my own. I wanted people to not pour water on their head but just to donate to charities in the future. Most of us can spare \$5 once a month to a charity to which we connect.

Other causes have used the challenge to bring their own issues to the public. Actor Orlando Jones posted a video that encouraged people to hear and live without prejudice. Model Joanna Krupa partially accepted the challenge but also challenged ALS researchers to not test on animals, which has been a central argu-

ment against the cause.

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has truly been a social media phenomenon. According to a New York Times article, as of last Sunday, ALSA has raised more than \$16.5 million since July 29. That is over \$11 million more than last year's donations in the same time period.

Yet, let's not stop there. Why not raise awareness for more charities in the future? Let's use part of this model of social media usage to keep spreading knowledge of lesser-known charities. We shouldn't need peer pressure to donate to a cause. We shouldn't have to validate ourselves but telling the social media world that we gave to a charity. We should donate and learn and educate others and let them decide if they wish to give.

# Elon in LA produces student comedian

**Diana Stancy**  
Senior Reporter

Senior Powell Mansfield will be kicking off the first SUBLive show of the year in Irazu Coffee Shop August 29 at 8 p.m. with a stand-up comedy routine, “Everybody Needs to Calm Down.”

The show will include comedic stories and personal accounts revolving around life at Elon University.

Stand-up comedy is something relatively new for Mansfield. This summer, he attended Elon in LA and knew he wanted to incorporate stand-up comedy as part of his experience. After an audition in LA, where he performed three minutes of material, he was booked on the spot for a show.

As the summer progressed, he met other comedians and continued gaining experience by booking more shows. Mansfield even had the opportunity to perform at the Comedy Store, a venue in LA where stars, including Jay Leno, Dane Cook and Eddie Murphy have performed.

In all, Mansfield performed on five different occasions at a variety of clubs

and venues.

After the summer, Mansfield began thinking of ways to bring his stand-up comedy to Elon.

“If I can succeed here in LA and get good feedback, I can certainly do a show at Elon,” Mansfield said. “I have a good talent at storytelling and I’m excited to bring that to a stage in a comedic way.”

Mansfield approached SUB to arrange a show at Elon. SUBLive executives Lauren Schuessler and Charles Racioppo recognized the benefits of showcasing an Elon student’s talent and said they hope to draw a more “student-friendly” genre of SUBLive performances as a result. Mansfield is the first student comedian to perform for a SUBLive show.

“It is exciting to have a fellow Elon student being showcased because the crowd will be able to relate more with him,” Racioppo said.

In preparation for shows, Mansfield keeps notes on his phone where he jots down ideas. On the day of his shows, he reviews the topics he has selected and constructs a plan to elaborate on his ideas, depending on how he is feeling that day.

He said he is prepared to talk about “anything and everything” with his audiences.

Mansfield said he especially appreciates genuine and honest humor and incorporates that into his stand-up. Most importantly, Mansfield enjoys making fun of himself. Performing in Irazu for friends, classmates and fellow students allows him the ability to capitalize on these elements.

“I have a philosophy where I’m never embarrassed, and I think that’s translated very well into my comedy,” he said, explaining his personal sense of humor. “I think that when you’re honest about yourself and your own flaws, it makes for more interesting stories.”

This was not always the case for Mansfield. Prior to attending college, he had a serious outlook on life. His humor began to develop during college and has now impacted all aspects of his life.

“It’s a new revelation about college. Life is much more enjoyable now,” Mansfield said, describing how his perspective has changed at college and how humor has affected him. This inspired Mansfield to reach a broader audience.

The primary hallmark of Mansfield’s

stand-up routine will be the focus on Elon. Mansfield said Elon students are inclined to relate because each university has its own “quirks.” He plans to identify those topics and create material that is relatable while preserving the personal aspect of the show.

“It is by no means going to be an appropriate show, but we’re all college students, so I think we can handle it,” Mansfield said, elaborating on the content he plans to perform. He said he hopes the audience leaves feeling content and ready for a great weekend.

As a media arts and entertainment major, Mansfield wishes to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. He is open to various possibilities, including writing television scripts or acting in a sitcom. “Everybody Needs to Calm Down” provides him with experience and preparation for his future.

“I want to do anything and everything that has to do with making people laugh,” Mansfield said. “I don’t know if any immediate success will come from this show, but that’s not what I’m looking for. I’m doing this for me.”

# Elon cultural calendar embraces internationality

**Casey Brown**  
Senior Reporter

The Elon University Cultural Calendar is the road map to the biggest events offered on campus every semester. Jeff Clark, executive director of cultural and special programs, said that he and his team mapped out the fall semester’s schedule with Elon’s global initiatives in mind.

“We have a lot of entertainment coming to campus [this fall], and it’s very international in nature,” Clark said. “We chose our acts to coincide with the opening of the Global Neighborhood, which are the neighbors to our complex.”

## Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir

(Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre) – Founded in 1950, the Dakar-based choir has a strong history of singing Senegalese national and spiritual songs in the nation’s four major languages. About the group, Clark simply said, “They are amazing.”

## Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience

(Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre) – Clark wants to get to the heart of each audience member’s personal connection with the Beatles, which is why he emphasizes that this is not a group of run-of-the-mill Beatles impersonators.

“They play music extremely well,” Clark said. “They ask the audience to fill our cards with their favorite Beatles song, why and a dedication. It’s personalized to our audience.”

## Fall Convocation with Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

(Oct. 2 at 3:30 p.m. in Alumni Gym) – Join the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists as they discuss the triumphs and pitfalls of aid initiatives across the world in this year’s Fall Convocation.

Kristof and WuDunn will speak from their experiences as well as their most recent book, “A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity,” which focuses on how everyone can become an effective global citizen.

## ‘Reckless’

(Oct. 2 – 8 in Black Box Theatre) – The Elon Performing Arts Department presents Craig Lucas’ 1983 dark comedy about an optimistic woman who, on an idyllic Christmas Eve, suddenly finds her life in danger and flees in her bathrobe and slippers.

## Paisley Rekdal, nonfiction and poetry reading

(Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Johnston Hall) – The multi-faceted, award-winning author, who has published a collection of essays, a photo-text memoir and four collections of poetry will read selections from her vast array of work.

## The Soul of Flamenco

(Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre) – Traveling all the way from Barcelona, the Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana is a flamenco and Spanish dance company that believes in sharing the spirit and culture of flamenco with audiences around the world.

This performance will showcase everything flamenco has to offer as well as a new work entitled “A Solas.”

## ‘Titanic’

(Oct. 23 – 25 and Oct. 30 – Nov. 1 in McCrary Theatre) – The Tony Award-winning musical from Maury Yeston and Peter Stone features the infamous White Star Line ocean liner, and even more infamous wooden plank, which sunk on its maiden voyage in 1912.

Along with its music and lyrics, the show uses actual crewmembers and passengers as characters to provide another lens through which to view the events of the doomed liner.

## Dancing in the Black Box

(Nov. 6 – 8 in the Black Box Theatre) – The annual dance showcase, presenting works from faculty members, students and guest choreographers, will feature dance films from the Elon in LA Program as well as a new piece by Quebec-based choreog-

rapher Helen Simoneau.

“This concert is important for our department because our dance students have the opportunity to produce their work in a main stage production,” said Jen Guy Met-

calf, professor in the dance department and the show’s director. “They also have the chance to perform professional-level choreography by faculty members and a guest artist.”

## Welcome Back!

from The Registrar's Office

Drop/Add	August 25th – September 1st
First Half-Semester	August 26th – October 10th
Classes Begin	August 26th
1st Half-Semester Withdrawal Deadline	September 17th
Fall Break	October 11th – 14th
Second Half-Semester	October 15th – December 2nd
Semester Withdrawal Deadline	October 17th
2nd Half-Semester Withdrawal Deadline	November 5th
Winter/Spring Preregistration	November 6th - 13th
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 26th – 30th
Classes End	December 2nd
Final Exams	December 4th-9th

- (336) 278-6677
- registrar@elon.edu
- fb.com/elonregistrar
- @elonregistrar
- gplus.to/elonregistrar

**Welcome back to Elon!**  
Add these important dates  
to your calendar and have  
a great semester!

# Local Friends creates home away from home for international students

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

For the international students who come to study at Elon University, one thing is clear: Establishing yourself in a new environment so many miles away from home is challenging. Many international students experience anxiety after temporarily leaving behind languages, cultures and families that shape their identities. Becoming familiar with the multifaceted aspects of college life can be a lot to juggle. For more than a decade, the Elon Local Friends Program has been helping to lessen the distance from home for many of these students.

Elon Local Friends is a group of Burlington and Elon residents who are united under the banner of making Elon's international students feel at home. From organizing gatherings, sending Valentine's Day goodie bags, cooking authentic Thanksgiving meals and hosting apple-bobbing contests, the group has planned a variety of activities for international students to attend for the past twelve years.

Marj Bennett and Anne Smith, two Elon residents, pioneered the initiative and formed the group in the fall of 2003.

"The first thing we had to do was make it clear to Elon what our purpose and intention was," Bennett said. "We were not there to spread any religion. We were there because we wanted to meet international students and create a community for them outside Elon University. Once we established that trust, the program really took off."

Bennett, who has spent the majority of her life in various countries around the world, said she and Smith understand the challenges that come with sending your child thousands of miles away.

"[My children] were definitely nervous about coming back to study in the United States, especially because they had been abroad for so long, Bennett said. "But people opened their homes to them and helped them adjust once they got there, and that really made a difference."

Margaret Gurd, who began volunteering with the program from its early stages, says she had no trouble jumping on board.

"My mother would contact the dean in our local college for the names of students [who could not] visit their families during Thanksgiving," Gurd said. "When I heard that Marj was going to be doing this, I knew I wanted to join."

Through acts like these, her family



PHOTO COURTESY OF RALPH HARWOOD  
Junior Ameya Benegal from Singapore (far left) poses with international students and Elon Local Friends coordinator, Donna Harwood (far right), at one of the groups planned events last spring. Elon Local Friends hosts gatherings year-round for these students and aim to make them feel at home.

became especially close with a student who stayed at their home from Thailand. Gurd recalled dropping the young woman off at the airport and bidding her goodbye as one of her own.

With approximately 50 volunteers and more than 60 regularly attending

**"I TRULY FEEL  
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LOCAL  
FRIENDS ARE  
MY FAMILY IN  
THE UNITED  
STATES."**

**LE TO  
SENIOR**

international students, the group has been rapidly expanding since its inception. And the group's growth has helped foster bonds in the international community in addition to Elon's local community.

Donna Harwood, the current leader of the program, is looking forward to welcoming the new international

students and has already set dates for six activities. To mix things up, the group started this year with a new initiative: welcoming the parents of incoming international students when they arrive at Elon.

"We truly enjoy spending time with the students and learning about their different experiences," Donna's husband Ralph Harwood said. "We're definitely thinking about expanding on our events. There are a lot of things that happen throughout the year like the Carousel Festival in October, all kinds of art and food exhibits, and it would be great to explore them with the international students," he said.

Junior Ameya Benegal from Singapore said he always enjoys attending activities initiated by the group not only because it strengthens the international student community but also the amount of care and interest that is put in by every member.

"One of the things I love about the Local Friends is that they sincerely want to know who you are, where you're from and what your culture is," Benegal said. "They're not just asking questions. They're genuinely interested."

Benegal added the bonds he has formed have allowed him to form a deeper understanding of holidays celebrated in the United States.

"When the campus completely emptied for last Thanksgiving, I was fortun-

nate enough to be invited to the home of [one of the families I met through the program]. We get a lot of these holidays off, but many of them, like Thanksgiving, are uniquely American holidays. So it really meant a lot to get the chance to actually experience one the way the holiday is experienced [here] and share it with other people," he said.

Senior Le To, from Vietnam, who has established connections with Local Friends from her first year, said these bonds have transformed holidays and events that, for many international students, only meant feeling homesick.

"I truly feel like the Local Friends are my family in the United States. Thanks to them, I feel more at home, especially during special occasions when most families are together like move-in day, parents weekend and Thanksgiving," To said. "Elon international students and the Elon community in general are so lucky to have the group, and we can never be thankful enough."

Bennett encourages international students to continue forming connections with Local Friends and to welcome the new and returning students to attend the various activities planned.

"The relationships we create are beneficial in the ways we learn about different cultures, and at the same time, international students are shown that there is more than one kind of American," Bennett said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RALPH HARWOOD  
Ameya Benegal (second from left) visits the home of one of the many Local Friends participants. He is joined by a number of Elon students, faculty and Local Friends members.

## POLK

from cover

“We have to be open-minded for what our new coach is going to bring to the team,” Johansen said. “We all have to learn.”

When Polk met with the runners for the first time, he brought up one point that stood out to Vargas — trust.

“As upperclassmen, we have to trust him with his workouts and training, but he’s putting his trust in us and finding out where we are,” Vargas said. “We are his guide coming into Elon and we have to be able to maintain our environment from the past and integrate with him as well.”

Polk is bringing in some new training techniques that he said he hopes will take the team to the next level as a nationally competitive Division I program.

“I am coaching them looking at the whole picture and their all-around fitness,” Polk said. “From strength, to core, to stretching, to the biggest part, which is running.”

Polk said his changes will include more aerobic-based workouts with longer distances and more intensity.

“The biggest change is doing more drills involving dynamic movement and aerobic strength,” Polk said. “And that’s what we have to focus on to get us ready for the end of the season, the most important part.”

According to Polk, the Colonial Athletic Association — which Elon joined this summer — is a strong cross country conference dominated by the College of William & Mary, but his goal for the season is to chip away at that lead and take Elon runners to the next level with an intense training environment. For Polk, the key is creating a pack of good upfront runners.

“Every athlete is different, so I have to specialize the training and individualize to their needs,” Polk said. “I want to challenge them to do new things that they haven’t done in the



Nick Polk, center, was hired in early-August to replace Christine Engel as head coach of Elon cross country. He’ll also be an assistant with the women’s track team. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

past and maybe change some of the old ways of doing things.”

Polk described his style of coaching as laid-back most of the time, so he and the team can enjoy their experiences together but stressed the importance of maintaining a competitive atmosphere.

“I want a culture that’s committed to everything we do,” said Polk, who wants his runners to be locked into the sport 100 percent of the time. “The whole runner lifestyle: training, sleeping, eating well, everything outside of running that makes you successful.”

Luckily for Polk, that environment shouldn’t be difficult to foster in the Elon

cross country program, which was built on that standard and is enforced by the athletes.

“We value the same things,” Bierut said. “Coach Engel helped build that culture and facilitated that atmosphere of the positive culture that we have, but we built the culture so we still hold each other and ourselves to high standards. It’s really up to us as returning athletes and it’s already clear that our new coach is going to help facilitate that.”

Being flexible is a huge part of the 2014 season for the Phoenix. There are two new coaches — volunteer assistant Wil Zahorodny also joins the staff — new training and coaching styles, 35 percent of the team’s runners

are new this year and it’s a new conference to compete in. Things are rapidly changing for the cross country program, but its goals are the same and the new coaches are prepared to take the team over the bumps along the way as long.

“Things might not always go as planned, but we have to be flexible to get us to where we want to be at the end of the season,” Polk said.

*For full coverage of all Elon athletic teams, including game recaps and features, please visit [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com) and follow @pendulumsports on Twitter.*

# Curry excited to get going after missing freshman year

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

In a blink of an eye, so many high hopes and expectations disappeared for Sydel Curry.

It was the first day of preseason a year ago, the second practice of the day for the Elon University volleyball team. Curry, an incoming freshman setter, went down with a dislocated left kneecap and was forced to miss the entire season.

“It was horrible,” Curry said.

She sat on the sideline and watched as Elon went 16-17, falling in the first round of the Southern Conference Tournament to Georgia Southern University.

“Coming in, you’re so excited. You want to make an impact immediately,” Curry said. “Looking at it optimistically ... I learned how to be a really good teammate. I could

encourage and support without also having to worry about my game.”

A year later, Curry is down to just wearing a brace on her knee during practice. She’ll stop wearing that soon, too. When Elon opens its season Aug. 29 against the University of Maryland, Curry will be ready to play.

“She’s been with us all spring and has had no setbacks,” coach Mary Tendler said. “She’s at 100 percent.”

Curry was a four-year starter and three-year captain at Charlotte Christian High School. She was a two-time North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association All-State selection and helped Charlotte Christian set a school record for wins. She also played club volleyball for Carolina Union.

It’s been an adjustment coming back, but Curry has embraced it. The redshirt freshman



Sydel Curry redshirted her first year at Elon after suffering a knee injury in the preseason. JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

didn’t need to have surgery, which helped her return to practice toward the end of last season. She’s been in action all spring and summer with no problems.

But there’s still work to do.

“I’m past the point of getting back to the basics of learning how to play,” Curry said. “It’s learning how to be smart with my play, knowing what to do, where to be. As a setter, you’re like the quarterback of the team, the point guard. I definitely need to know the strengths and weaknesses of my teammates to be able to let them succeed.”

In 2013, Elon used a two-setter system with Ana Nicksic and Cali Estes. While Estes has graduated, Nicksic returns as a junior with two years of running the system under her belt.

Tendler emphasized early in practice that every spot was up for grabs, and there’s been a lot of competition at each position, including setter. Having Curry back makes the setter battle more competitive and offers a style of play unique to her.

“She gives us another option,” said sophomore outside hitter Kayla Agae. “Ana’s a fantastic setter, but having Sydel gives a different perspective. It gives us a different look as a team. When spring ball came, it was nice to have her there. She’s a different leader than Ana, but they’re both leaders in their own way.”

It’s been a long time since Curry has played in a meaningful game, but she hasn’t been showing rust.

“Sydel’s definitely stepping up,” said sophomore middle blocker Ally Karle. “It’s kind of like her first preseason. She’s hanging in really well, throwing up some awesome balls and running quick offenses.”

When she finally does step on the court for the first time in an Elon uniform, it’ll be a testament to her perseverance through one year of just watching. And she’ll be jittery with anticipation, to say the least.

“Just me being able to play this year is awesome,” Curry said. “It’s really exciting for me.”