



STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT
Spring football practice begins Page 24

Hide and Seek
GONE GEEK Page 14
High tech gadgets prompt new hobby

THE PENDULUM

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Warm smiles brighten a cloudy day



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer

Taylor Byrd is given an encouraging hug from the Phoenix. At least 200 volunteers and 150 special needs athletes gathered at Belk Track on April 3 for the 2008 Alamance County Spring Olympic Games, despite the overcast and cold weather. "This is a cool day, but I see a lot of bright smiles and warm hearts here," President Lambert said in his welcome address to the excited, cheering crowd. **Page 2**

Skybus shuts down, travel plans disrupted

Kaitlin Ugolik
Futures Editor

Unable to cover the cost of jet fuel, Skybus Airlines, a budget airline based in Columbus, Ohio, ceased operation Saturday.

Hundreds of passengers were left stranded after the abrupt closing. The company filed bankruptcy on Monday and is in at least \$50 million of debt.

The news hits the Triad particularly hard as the airline just opened a hub at Greensboro's Piedmont Triad International Airport last year. At the time government officials praised the airline's presence as a way to boost the Greensboro economy and save a struggling airport.

"I am personally saddened by this news," Henry Isaacson, chairman of the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority, told the Greensboro News & Record. "I am saddened for the people of the Triad. My goal was to provide them with low-fare airline service, and as of this moment, that has failed."

Several Elon students whose hometowns are in Ohio are among the former Skybus customers whose travel plans have been affected.

"There really isn't any reliable alternative for cheap flights anymore," sophomore Brian Fisher said. He often used Skybus to go home to Columbus. He planned on catching a \$10 flight to his brother's graduation from Richmond University in May.

Freshman Riley Beetner used the airline every time she flew home to Columbus during the past year. Her family had several flights planned when the airline

abruptly closed.

The Skybus Web site directs former customers to contact their credit card companies for possible refunds.

"The credit card company has had a lot of problems reimbursing people, considering the tickets were purchased months ago," Beetner said. Her parents are in the process of trying to get refunds.

Some parents of graduating seniors at Elon who booked flights through Skybus will also have to make other arrangements to make it to their students' graduation.

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Personal account of an Elon student whose plans were interrupted, Page 3

Junior Patrick Tweel had some bad experiences with Skybus, but said that with such cheap tickets, he got what he paid for.

"Since Skybus opened, it was the primary means of transportation between Columbus and Greensboro. I even used it going to NYC over Spring Break." Now, he said, he'll have to use less convenient and more expensive transportation to get to and from Elon.

Beetner is also concerned about her rising travel costs.

"In future travel I will either have to find other flights or drive home," she said. "Flying home would not be much of a problem, except for the fact that flights can end up costing upwards of \$350."

VP of Institutional Advancement to retire after 32 years

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

Nan Perkins, vice president of Institutional Advancement, will be retiring from her position this October after 32 years of service at Elon.

Perkins has served in several roles at the university, including working with the communications, admissions and advancement departments.

"I am looking forward to a new stage of life," Perkins said. "I don't know that I can't say what exactly I am going to be doing, but I am looking forward to deciding that every morning."

Perkins plans to spend more time with her six grandchildren and travel with her husband Ed.

In a letter from President Leo Lambert to faculty and staff, he wrote, "For 32 years, Elon has enjoyed the remarkable leadership, dedication, intellect, energy and charm of Nan

Perkins . . . [she] has decided that she is ready for her next stage in life, spending more time with her family and enjoying the opportunity to be an active member of our community as a retiree."

Perkins has agreed to stay at Elon through October, when the public phase of the Ever Elon campaign is set to launch. Though her retirement is on the horizon, Perkins has plenty to do before she leaves Elon.

"I'd like to add about \$10 million to the Ever Elon campaign totals," she said. "And just getting ready for the public phase kickoff of the campaign in October is a huge task."

When October does come, Perkins plans to stay involved in the Elon community. She'd like to take advantage of the opportunities Elon offers that she has had to miss over the years.

"I want to do some service in the

local community that I haven't been able to do because my jobs have always involved night and weekend work."

According to Lambert's letter, Perkins began her career in 1976 as a part-time English instructor. She later transitioned to be a staff member as the director of communications for President Fred Young.

In 1990 she became the dean of admissions and financial planning. While in that position the number of applications to Elon increased by 30 percent and the average SAT score for incoming students jumped 100 points.

Perkins moved into her current position in institutional advancement in 2000, following a two-year tenure as vice president for enrollment management. Since her start in the institutional advancement office, the university has broken its all-time fundraising record.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Elon hosts 150 athletes at Special Olympics games



Michelle Feiser, an Elon doctor of physical therapy student, admires Lonnie Longhorn's medal, which she won in a softball throw competition.

At the 2008 Alamance County Spring Olympic Games, special needs athletes from schools and adult homes competed in a range of activities including ping-pong, basketball free-throwing, running, wheelchair races and soccer free kicks.

Each athlete was paired with a student volunteer for the day, some of them from Elon. Hadleigh Loi came with the Junior Civitans, a volunteer group at Hawfields Middle School in Mebane. Loi was looking forward to "getting to help people and watching them be happy because they're getting a medal."

Photos by Ashley Barnas



ABOVE: Elijah Newman and Betsy McSparin cheer and high-five after McSparin lit the torch to begin the 40th Special Olympics. Newman proudly passed the torch off to McSparin.

LEFT: Katie Mazzarini, an Elon sophomore, pushes an athlete during the wheelchair race.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Poetry Pulitzer Prize winner speaks

At 4:30 p.m. today Poetry Pulitzer Prize-winner Claudia Emerson will conduct a question and answer session in Whitley Auditorium.

At 7:30 p.m. she will also give a brief reading of her work. Emerson, who is currently an associate professor of English at the University of Mary Washington, won the Pulitzer in 2006 for her collection, "Late Wife."

POWERless energy results for week six

The greatest amount of reductions in the race so far have been during week six of the competition. Loy Center Area took the lead last week and continues to hold it this week with 15.5 percent reduction. Danieley Center followed with 13.7 percent and East with 12.84 percent.

Top buildings this week are Loy Center G, H and I with a 24 percent decrease, Danieley Flat M with 20 percent and Danieley Apts. A came in with 19.3 percent.

"Party Smart: Spring Edition"

The Campus Outreach event will take place 6-8 p.m., April 16 at Sheridan Place Apartments, and 6-8 p.m., April 17 at the corner of W. Lebanon at Holt Street.

Sponsoring Agencies will distribute materials about local ordinances, state laws and tips on how to be good neighbors when having social events. Information will also be provided regarding risk management and student tenant responsibility.

Last Comic Elon

Sign ups to participate in the comedian challenge will be posted on the SUB office door in Moseley 207. Come out to watch the community work its funny bone at 8 p.m. April 26 in The Zone.

First place opens for Vince Martin on May 3 and receives a \$20 gift card.

Win money for your organization

Due to last week's rain, the first ZipTouch competition will now be at 3:30 p.m. Friday in front of Moseley.

Representatives from campus organizations can compete to win up to \$400 for their organization, with registration at \$10 per person.

Spectators can also enter to win a free ZipCar membership at the event. The representative who keeps contact with the ZipCar the longest will win. For more information contact Cory Morrison at wmorrison@elon.edu.

Female professors motivate students to succeed

Debbie Silverstein
Reporter

Sophomore Taylor Doe never gave much thought to feminism as a social movement, but when she heard a recent panel discussion about women in the academic world, she became aware of some issues she hadn't considered much before.

Doe's moment of realization occurred when five professors spoke last Tuesday in a discussion titled "Women, the Academy and Social Change."

"Hearing these intelligent women talk about all the bias and hard times that they have dealt with made me appreciate Elon so much more," Doe said. "I've never encountered any of these problems myself, nor have my parents, and I didn't realize they were so prevalent such a short time ago."

Doe said that in her major, communications, most of her classmates are women. She has also had her fair share of women professors and says she had never stopped to think about the struggles they have endured to achieve their status.

"I was really surprised at some of the things these professors have dealt with," Doe said. "It actually made me want to succeed in my field even more because I feel like I should take advantage of the opportunity I have been given."

Although all of the women featured in the panel have succeeded, it wasn't always easy.

Deborah Long grew up with the idea that women were to be nurses, teachers or housewives, and these values were "instilled subconsciously" in her childhood.

In addition, Long said she attended college in the 1960s, right as the feminist movement began.

"Remember bra burning?" Long said. "I was there."

The energy to change was all across campus, she said. Women were rebelling against the ideas that they had been brought up on. It was just the beginning and people were starting to act out and demand some change.

Connie Book also faced the ideas that women should only hold certain jobs. She said she knew she wanted to go into communications, a typically male field at the time, at the age of eight after she watched President Nixon resign on television.

Although she knew she would be one of few women in the program, Book went to college to continue with her goals. Her father insisted that she double-major in education because



DEBBIE SILVERSTEIN | Photographer
The panel discussed various obstacles that they've had to overcome as women in the workplace.

of the uncertainty of women in the communications field at that time.

Freshman Kimberly Eller said that as a communications major, everything that Book said really got her attention.

"I was really surprised when Book said that men are still getting paid more in all fields of communications," Eller said. "Although that is not necessarily a motivating fact, I found it as a goal to graduate in the communications department and try to change the statistic."

Sirena Hargrove-Leak and Megan Squire Conklin also went into fields that aren't typically popular to women. Squire Conklin is a computer science professor. When she began her life in the work place, she was the only woman at her job.

"The software world is completely male-dominated," Squire Conklin said. "Until Elon, I had never worked with another female at all."

Squire Conklin felt the need to go to graduate school and receive a higher degree so she could prove to everyone who doubted her, especially men, she really did know what she was doing.

Hargrove-Leak majored in chemical engineering. Although her undergraduate experience was great, she ran into problems with her gender and race when she attended graduate school. The first day she set foot on campus she met with a professor there who said to her, "You know, there are a lot of people in this department who think you're not going to make it."

Hargrove-Leak was shocked. "I had to make a decision," she said. "I decided to use that as fuel and energy and work even harder."

Not only was Hargrove-Leak the only African-American woman in her program, she also was one of two African-American students.

"I had a lot of discrimination and it

hit me hard," she said. "It turned out OK, but it was a struggle."

For Doe, this professor's experience made a lasting impression. She said that hearing Hargrove-Leak's talk surprised her and it was something that will stick in her mind.

"It was almost discouraging when I heard her talk about how she had three strikes against her just because of her race, gender and nationality," Doe said.

Women at Elon today usually don't encounter these problems. With the high percentage of women here to begin with, most majors are predominantly female.

"In my classes it's always mostly girls," Doe said. "I've never really stopped to think about what it would be like if it was the other way around."

Although they have overcome most of their hardships, some of the professors said they still believe there are problems with gender today.

Squire Conklin said the field of computer science is the only field where female enrollment is dropping today. It is becoming a big problem.

Book said that she thinks there is still some labeling of women in the academic world, even though it may not be as prevalent as past years.

"I think a lot of the issues today are unconscious gender stereotypes," Book said. "A lot happens in collegial relationships that is totally unconscious."

Doe says that she is now more aware of some of these problems, even if they don't directly affect her. She says she realized how fortunate she is to be in her place today.

"Having female faculty like these women on campus makes it so much easier for girls here," Doe said. "They are mentors and motivators and really encourage others to succeed."

Skybus strands one student in Ohio

Andie Diemer
News Editor

It was a one in a million chance to begin with. As a native of Columbus, Ohio, I knew my travels between school and home were not going to be cheap when I decided to come to Elon. I could choose between a seven-hour car drive or a pricey plane ticket; with the increasing gas prices, neither was an economically or physically-friendly option.

So when I heard rumors of an airline that flew for \$10 from Columbus to Greensboro around this time last year, I thought it had to be too good to be true.

But after looking into it a little more, the perfect setup emerged: direct flights on brand new, large planes from Port Columbus International Airport, the first hub, to Piedmont Triad International Airport, the other hub, with the first 10 tickets on every flight starting at \$10.

Even the flight attendants were laid back, comprised of mostly college-aged kids clad in long-sleeved Skybus T-shirts. Not to mention when you landed in Ohio you were greeted with an "O-H" on the loud speaker, which is one thing Buckeye fans never get tired of hearing.

Flying home was convenient, easy and cheap. My Elon friends experienced Columbus for \$30 round trip on fall break; it was basically a high school reunion on my flight home for Thanksgiving and

last weekend I affordably was able to attend my grandma's 75th birthday party with my whole family.

That is until I received a text last Friday night.

"Call me ASAP I have to tell you something."

It was from a friend I graduated high school with who now attends UNC-Chapel Hill; she was ecstatic to have two of our friends from high school fly Skybus to visit her for the weekend.

Even though I had a ticket booked for several months to come back to Elon Sunday night, she was the one to break the news: Skybus went under.

Naturally I would be upset. But I freaked out.

Not only did I have a day to find a way back to North Carolina while I was shoved down in Southern Ohio at some lodge, but the next two years of my travels around the country were shot.

Luckily, Internet connection and my dad's credit card saved the day, but it was disappointing to see how such a relaxed and personable company offered literally no assistance during this time.

Even though it was dated for last Friday I didn't receive an e-mail that all flights, including my own, were canceled



Andie Diemer

until Monday. It referred me to their Web site, skybus.com, which simply included a statement that rising oil prices and a slow economy were to blame.

The message on their site has not changed since Friday.

For me, and thousands of other Skybus passengers, we were simply told to "Contact our credit card companies to arrange to apply for a refund."

Notorious for not operating a call center (to keep their prices cheap) and with no staff working the counters starting Saturday, customers had nowhere to turn. No tips on making our next move, no advice on airlines or alternative modes of transportation.

Then the stories started pouring in: stranded passengers had to take flights to alternate airports and drive four hours to pick up their car at a rural Skybus hub. Vacations for this upcoming week were canceled while passengers continued to line up and constantly be denied for standby on other airlines.

And all the while Skybus simply didn't make a move.

The worst part is that the company admitted to the Columbus Dispatch that they knew they were going to close this weekend, but instead of warning its patrons so they wouldn't be slapped with outrageous last-minute ticket prices, they led them on, publishing future dates to book tickets and continuing to

run its service per usual.

They cited making any revenue at all as the reason they kept the closing hush.

I understand in a failing economy with outrageous gas prices it is impossible to run a cheap airline, but that doesn't mean you can completely disregard your passengers.

Even though it has only operated for about a year, there were still loyal customers who were crushed by the news and devastated by the consequences.

Even though I only flew with Skybus about a half a dozen times, I truly enjoyed the service and would have never thought that if this were to happen—which I was warned about many times—that they would just leave their consumers high and dry on a whim.

I honestly expected more of them. So on Monday, as Skybus files for bankruptcy, I'm booking tickets home for Thanksgiving and scouting an airline that I can subscribe to for frequent flyer miles to save every penny like your average college student.

But that doesn't mean I'll soon forget the frantic scramble to grab the last \$300 one-way ticket, a layover in Philadelphia, begging someone to pick me up from Raleigh or getting home at midnight instead of 4 p.m.

It just means, if it sounds too good to be true it probably is, and be prepared to shell out \$300 on the spot.

Studying abroad on Elon's campus:

Exchange students share their experiences

Floriane Lagarrigue and Victor Arnaud



- From ESDES School of Business in Lyon, France
- Chose Elon from a list of schools partnered with ESDES
- They like that the courses offered at Elon are different from other universities
- Arnaud loves the gym and dining halls, especially the Colonnades
- They said the lack of public transportation makes it difficult to do things outside Elon

"What I like is that there is no class for only international students," Arnaud said. "We got to be with American students."

Naa Lamiley-Okaikor Adamafio



- From the University of Ghana
- Living in the International Pavilion helped her feel more comfortable at Elon
- She is the first student from Ghana to stay for a year and be fully sponsored by the ICCIS
- She loves the people, small class sizes, beautiful campus and college coffee where students and teachers come together

"I didn't choose Elon," Adamafio said. "Elon chose me. We have a program with this school, and they decided to host one Ghanaian student."

Christian Lohne



- From RWTH Aachen University in Germany
- Loves the convenience of a small campus where everything is accessible and he can consistently run into friends in the dining hall
- Loves College Coffee, especially when they serve doughnuts, hot chocolate and orange juice
- Chose Elon because of a friend who studied here last year

"It's difficult to express myself," Lohne said. "Here, you have to think about it for a few seconds and when you're ready to say it, the situation is over and you can't say it anymore."

Elon doesn't just send students abroad to study; students from all over the world come to study at Elon as well. This year 12 international students called Elon their home.

Ashley Barnas
News Editor

At Elon, where three-fourths of the U.S. students study abroad, it's easy to forget that some students are doing the same thing here.

In fact, for 12 students this semester, Elon is their exotic destination away from home where they're part of an exchange. Students may not realize that while study abroad opportunities at Elon are vast, the opportunities to study as an exchange student are just as rewarding, if not more.

Such is the point of a student like junior Matt Davis, who is staying this semester with a host family in Osaka, Japan.

"By living with a host family who doesn't speak any English, I'm learning what it's like to live day-to-day life in Japan," he said. "I think this is the biggest departure from a [shorter] study abroad experience. I'm getting more than the tourist's experience — this feels more real."

The difference between being an individual exchange student and a student who participates as part of a study abroad group is that exchange students are sent to, or come from, a university with which Elon has a partnership. In exchange for sending an Elon student to an international university, that university sends students to Elon.

Elon has exchange programs with universities in nine countries: Ghana, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Poland, Austria, Germany, Sweden and France. To maintain an exchange agreement with each university, Elon needs to send students there and house international students here.

Tuition differences between Elon and other universities do not matter. An Elon student planning to partake in an exchange program pays regular tuition to Elon, while room and board fees are paid directly to the host institution. Overall, exchange programs are generally less pricey than other study abroad experiences.

Exchange programs are "more than just students studying abroad," said Larry Basirico, dean of international programs. "They're creating an opportunity for international students to come here."

Generally, the exchange is one to one, he said, but every few years, Elon and the partner institution look at a balance sheet to see how it evens out and to discuss what actions need to be taken otherwise.

FOLLOW A STUDENT ABROAD: Check out Matt Davis's blog at www.matthewtylerdavis.blogspot.com to learn about his experiences in Japan and studying abroad in general.

Exchange programs exist for a semester or for a year, depending on which program best suits a student's course of study. Not all exchange programs offer the same courses.

An advantage Elon students have in participating in exchange programs is that students from the international universities are on campus right now to share information about their school and country.

Monica Pagano, assistant dean of international programs, said exchange students studying at Elon experience a different level of integration. When they come to Elon, they have the opportunity to join in activities sponsored by the Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies. Some of these activities are bowling, hiking at Cedarock Park and attending a Greensboro Grasshoppers game.

The exchange students also make presentations on the universities and countries they represent.

"They take their role as ambassador from their countries very seriously," said Paul Geis, international programs adviser.

Exchange students often pack traditional clothing and trinkets to present their cultures in different dimensions.

Just as Elon helps situate and orient exchange students here, host universities assist Elon students once they've arrived. For example, Davis found Elon's study abroad seminars helpful but learned a great deal from his university in Japan, Kansai Gaidai.

In the Center for International Education, he said, "there are Japanese students who speak English fluently and whose sole purpose is to help exchange students. They'll do anything from help you get a bank account in Japan to accompany you to the doctor's office to act as a translator."

Too many students see their study abroad experience as a vacation, Davis said. But he believes that going to another country as an exchange student takes you out of your comfort zone.

"The way I see studying abroad, it's a chance to go somewhere you know little about, and slowly — sometimes painfully — learn how to function in the new culture," he said. "At the end of it all, you feel a real sense of accomplishment, because you took that step. You willingly put yourself in a confusing situation and worked through it."

"I think that it's in times of uncertainty that we grow most."

EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF:

There are two presentations left this semester. They will be held in El Centro, Carlton 114:

Thursday, April 17
Ghana, Sweden

Tuesday, April 22
Singapore, South Korea

RSA promotes sleep awareness week

Week's events include special college coffee, dream catcher crafts and 'pajama day'

Andie Diemer
News Editor

With only five weeks looming until finals hit, some students are pushing off work and gearing up to bounce back into a familiar cycle: pounding Red Bulls, staking out a private room in Belk and staying up throughout the night to cram.

In an effort to remind the community how important and necessary sleep is to maintain a healthy lifestyle, RSA is sponsoring sleep awareness week April 7-11.

"We sacrifice sleep to get work done, but it comes down to more than just that," said junior Jill Medhus, campus relations director. "Sleep loss is also thanks to poor time management, procrastination, poor diet, drinking too much caffeine and more. College students are at a huge risk for sleep deprivation."

The week kicked off with an online survey asking students about their personal sleep and energy habits, with results being revealed Friday.

College Coffee was also hosted by the group on Tuesday.

Today students are invited to make dream catchers in The Zone from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday a campus-wide "pajama day" will celebrate sleep and the week's events.

Even though Medhus feels Elon students are aware of how important sleep is, she said she doesn't know if they know enough about how to combat lack of sleep and deal with the underlying issues.

This is something sleep awareness week aims to fix.

According to a non-scientific survey conducted by The Pendulum Nov. 9-12, 59 percent of Elon students feel they are sleep deprived.



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer
A student sleeps on a couch in Belk Library, which is open to students 24 hours a day with card swipe.

Similarly the National Sleep Foundation found that college students receive the least amount of sleep of any age group in America.

Since Elon students are very active and involved, Medhus said she would estimate the community ranking on the lower end of being well-slept compared to other universities across the nation.

"However, Elon students have the tools to manage their time well and deal with the issues that are at the root of sleep loss," she said.

"Hopefully with Sleep Awareness Week we can educate students on the tools available to them to ensure a good night's sleep, even during the end of the semester."

Sleep Awareness Week

Monday:
Sleep survey released online for the community to answer

Tuesday:
Hosted College Coffee

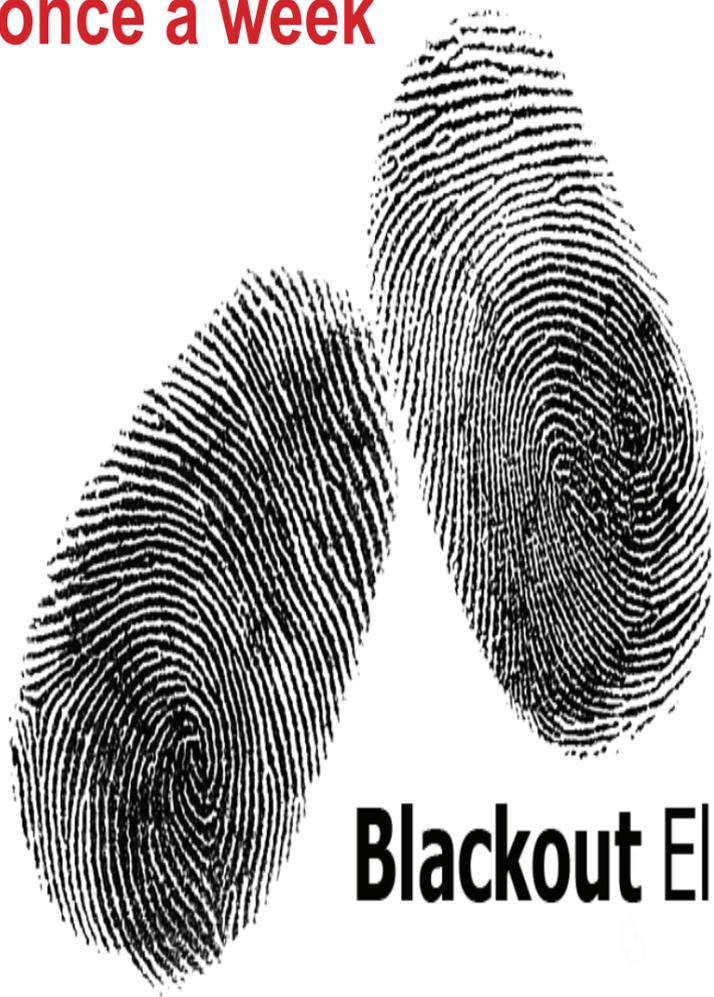
Wednesday:
Make a dream catcher in The Zone (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Friday:
Pajama Day! Students are invited to wear their pajamas around campus all day

Six Facts About Sleep

1. Drowsy driving is dangerous. Being awake for 18 hours is equal to a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent, above the legal limit.
2. The recent rise in obesity is partly due to the reduced amount of sleep we get.
3. Extreme changes in sleep patterns, such as sleeping significantly more or less than usual, can indicate depression.
4. Less sleep does not equal more time.
5. Procrastination, lack of time management skills and too much time on Facebook are issues that Elon students cite as impairing sleep.
6. The record for longest time without sleep is 18 days, 21 hours and 40 minutes. By the end of the 18 days, the record holder had begun to experience blurred vision, paranoia, hallucinations and memory lapses.

Of students who choose to drink, most drink once a week



Blackout Elon

Data collected from the Elon University Spring 2007 CORE Survey

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Most Dem. Superdelegates will wait before choosing Obama or Clinton

Shailagh Murray and Paul Kane
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Former Montana Sen. John Melcher said he hadn't felt any urgency to take sides in the race between Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama until late last month, when Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean called on superdelegates to make up their minds by July 1.

"So after two days of that, I agreed with him that maybe I should, so I did," said Melcher, who announced Wednesday that he will support Obama, based on the candidate's early opposition to the Iraq war.

Though Melcher and a handful of high-profile Democrats have recently chosen sides in the presidential nominating contest, few others of the party's uncommitted superdelegates appear likely to budge before Pennsylvania's primary on April 22 — and many have indicated that they will wait until the primaries end in June before picking a candidate.

Many of the 320 or so party leaders and elected officials who have yet to commit cite a number of reasons: They can't choose between two good candidates, they don't want to interfere with the will of voters, and they think the extended contest will strengthen the party.

"There are a lot of things going on underneath this boiling cauldron between the candidates that will be good for us long term," said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, an uncommitted superdelegate, noting the 26,000 new Democrats who registered in Cuyahoga County before the Ohio primary. "I'm not in a hurry to do this."

But other high-ranking Democrats are in a hurry, fearing that the prolonged nomination battle will hurt the party's chances in November against Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the presumptive Republican nominee, and in congressional contests.

Most recent superdelegate commitments have gone to Obama of Illinois, who is steadily eroding the lead that Clinton of New York has held from the outset of the race.

But Obama's gains have not come as quickly as many had anticipated after he followed his strong showing

in Super Tuesday contests on Feb. 5 with 11 wins in a row.

From early December through early March, 144 superdelegates declared for Obama, according to a tally maintained by the Associated Press. He has added 14 superdelegates since March 5, for a total of 221, compared with a gain of nine for Clinton, bringing her count to 251, according to the AP.

Clinton supporters say the slow pace of commitments is because of concerns, after Obama's March 4 losses in Texas and Ohio, about whether he can win in November — doubts they have aggressively sought to stir in their private lobbying efforts.

Of the 14 superdelegates who committed to Obama in March, most said they came to their decisions independently, rather than in response to cajoling by Obama or his surrogates.

Sen. Robert Casey Jr., D-Pa., for instance, was largely left alone by the candidates, who figured the cautious freshman would remain neutral at least until the end of the primaries. But during a family vacation over Easter, Casey decided to support Obama because of his change-oriented message, a decision Casey conveyed in a surprise phone call to the candidate on Easter night.

Casey's popularity with working-class Catholics is likely to boost Obama's chances in Pennsylvania, where Clinton leads by a sizable margin in most public opinion polls. Casey plays down Obama's odds of winning the state, but he believes that whatever the outcome, the contest will improve Democrats' position in the crucial battleground state this fall.

"Even if we lose Pennsylvania and it's a fairly wide margin, assuming he can still be nominated, it will help him a lot in the fall," Casey said of Obama.

While many Democrats worry that the extended nomination battle could wound the eventual candidate, others believe it could prove to be a blessing. In virtually every state that has voted, Democrats have turned out in record numbers.

More than 230,000 new party members signed up in Pennsylvania alone. And Obama and Clinton are building grass-roots organizations that can be readily reactivated in the general election.

Texas polygamist compound sealed off by state troopers



THE WASHINGTON POST

Texas Game Wardens take up position outside the YFZ Ranch near El Dorado, Texas.

Miguel Bustillo
Los Angeles Times

HOUSTON -- Texas officials said Monday that they had taken more than 400 children into temporary state custody while they continued investigating allegations that girls at a remote polygamist compound were being sexually abused by men.

"This is the biggest single removal in the history of this agency," Child Protective Services spokesman Darrell Azar said Monday evening. "No one can remember anything quite like it. We had enough information to show a judge that many of these children had in fact been abused and others were in jeopardy."

The decision to take temporary custody of the 401 children represented a significant ratcheting up of state intervention — child-welfare officials initially placed just 18 children under state control and moved others to a more neutral location to interview them.

Azar said he would not discuss the details of the abuses state officials uncovered, but affidavits detailing the state's findings might become public this week.

State officials said 133 women from the compound voluntarily had chosen to stay with the children instead of returning to the YFZ Ranch — a gated-off compound outside the tiny Texas town of Eldorado.

It was built by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a 10,000-member sect that broke away from the Mormon Church in the 1930s after Mormon leaders barred polygamy.

The religious sect's self-styled prophet, Warren Jeffs, was convicted in Utah last year of being an accomplice to the rape of a 14-year-old girl who was promised to her cousin. He is currently held in Arizona, where he faces similar charges.

State troopers and child-protective workers descended on the secretive Texas compound in force Thursday night after receiving a report that a 16-year-old girl had been sexually and physically abused.

A subsequent search warrant revealed that investigators suspected the girl was forced to marry a 50-year-old man — and gave birth to his child eight months ago, when she was 15.

As of late Monday, state officials said they had not found the girl, but they raised the possibility that she was among the 401 children in state custody at a fort in the nearby city of San Angelo, about 40 minutes to the north.

Officials said the girls and women, who were wearing long pioneer-style dresses, were frightened by meeting outsiders, making interviews difficult. For most, the talks were their first exposure to the outside world.

"This is a very strange situation for them. They have been removed from a very isolated society," Azar said. "It is difficult (for case workers) to identify them, because many have the same names. It is hard to identify who people are and how they are related."

State officials said they had arrested one man at the YFZ compound — which stands for Yearning for Zion — on a charge of obstructing justice.

They did not arrest the man whose alleged relationship with the girl launched the initial complaint: Dale Barlow, a registered sex offender who pleaded no contest to conspiracy to commit sexual assault on a minor in Arizona in 2005.

Barlow's probation officer told The Salt Lake Tribune that Barlow remained in Arizona and claimed to not even know the girl accusing him of abuse in Texas.

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Black Cultural Society plans to wow crowd with fashion show

Cynthia Pope
Design Editor

After several strong shows in recent years, the Black Cultural Society has a high standard to maintain with this year's fashion show.

The Elon community will know if they once again raise the bar at 8 p.m. on Friday, when the show will commence in McKinnon Hall.

The BCS fashion show has been an annual event during the past 10 years, but the event made a definite decline existence in 2005 and 2006. The preparation for last year's show caused a significant boost in crowd support.

"I believe we will, we have some surprises," said senior Marcus Royal, who worked under last year's show coordinators. "Everything coming together [last year] was more than I expected, and I think it's going

to be hard to top last year's [show], but I think we're prepared for the challenge."

Elon alum Lynice Williams and senior Schuntel Reddock took the reigns for last year's show and worked hard to bring it out of its decline. By incorporating big-name designer brands, Williams and Reddock attracted an enormous crowd for the show.

Royal said that this year they have even more big-name designers — including Bebe, Kiss and Wet Seal — and another surprise up their sleeves.

"This year we're incorporating beyond just a fierce wall," Keadrick Peters said. "We're also incorporating props and choreography."

Because of the complexity of the show, quite a few outside performers are promised as well, including Twisted Measure and Elon's Finest.

According to Royal, last year's show was one of the best he can recall

because of a lack in preparation for shows in previous years.

"My freshman year, it wasn't too put together," Royal said. "We ended up wearing our own clothes, and the next year, the fashion show did not happen. [This year] we're going to just increase the entertainment value of the show."

Peters believes the clients have a big impact on the success of the fashion show.

"Previous shows seemed like there was time put into them, but they don't have outside vendors; they don't have, you know, good publicity," Peters said.

Although last year's show was successful, it had a few problems from too much popularity. Seating was not available for everyone who purchased a ticket. This year, the fashion show organizers hope to resolve that problem.

"Even though I know people will

show up at the door to buy tickets, hopefully we will sell out beforehand," Royal said. "There's really no way to counter it because the space is so limited ... we'll sadly have to turn people away."

The BCS fashion show is generally during Admissions' Multicultural Experience Weekend, when the audience is bound to be twice as large because of the temporary increase in students.

Peters recommends being early. "This year's show, without a question and a doubt, will be great," Peters said. "The bar has been raised after last year's show, but this year we're going to the next level. As a result, whoever takes it on next year will have a higher bar to raise."

Speech warns of possible dangers in religions

Alison Hydrick
Reporter

Student leaders from several of Elon's religious life groups responded to the message of a recent campus speaker after he spent more than an hour outlining how religious tolerance can be twisted for evil intentions.

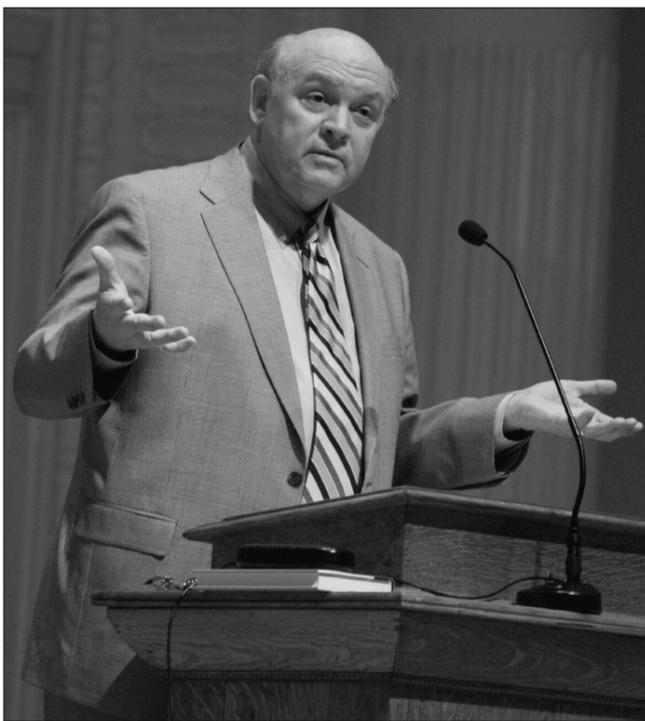
"[Charles] Kimball is right; there is toxic religion that goes evil and gets dangerous," Chaplain Richard McBride said. "But there is still power for good if people approach it in a respectful way, recognizing differences and honoring differences."

Religions do the same basic things in the same basic ways, Kimball said, who spoke in Whitley Auditorium on April 2. Every religion is founded on a higher power. They teach followers to work for peace and aim to improve the lives of others.

"Imagine if Osama bin Laden had to run his daily checklist by the golden rule," Kimball said. "How different his behavior might be."

Kimball compared Christianity and Islam, showing similarities between the two faiths. For example, Allah is the Arabic word for God. Kimball said Christians and Muslims are talking about the same God.

"In my experiences I might have had a prejudice toward another religion," said Bryce Blackford, prayer coordinator for InterVarsity. "But if I took a step back and looked at what they believe, their history and why they believe what they do, then I would come to a greater



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor
Wake Forest Professor Charles Kimball spoke about "When Religion Becomes Evil" Wednesday night in Whitley.

understanding and acceptance of that religion. I look toward the similarities, not the differences."

These similarities aid in the quest for tolerance of world religions. It is when people do things that hurt mankind in the name of religion that religion becomes evil, Kimball said. He stressed that the majority of believers of any faith are not radicals.

"It's hard when you have radicals, regardless of your

religion, because they become the poster child of that faith, and people of other religions see only that," said Emily Abbott, president of Sigma Alpha Omega, Elon's only Christian sorority. "But that's not the case at all. I think it's important to realize and understand that."

Religion is a powerful force in human society. Throughout history it has inspired people to be their best and also inspired some of the worst

atrocities, Kimball said. He used the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as an example of how, at times, religion is used for destructive purposes.

One of the warning signs for when religion becomes evil that Kimball emphasized was making claims of absolute truth.

"Everything we do speaks the mistruth of this presumption," Kimball said.

He pointed out that if members of a certain faith had an absolute truth, they have no need to listen to sermons, go to Bible studies, attend retreats or read certain books pertaining to their faith.

"We are all in the process of learning and unlearning," Kimball said. "Be wary when absolute truth is linked to the mistreatment of other people."

Kimball also discussed another danger sign: establishing an "ideal" time for the prophesized second coming. In different religions, some people become convinced that the ideal time for the second coming is very close, Kimball said.

"In this context people can justify anything," Kimball said, "It can be very dangerous."

Kimball is a professor of religion and chair of the department of religion at Wake Forest University. An ordained Baptist minister, he received his doctorate in theology from Harvard in comparative religion with a specialization in Islamic studies.

Kimball's theme touched not only on a global issue, but also a local one. McBride said the Truitt Center is working to

create unity between religious life organizations. The mission of the Truitt Center is to help students learn more about their own faith and explore the faiths of others. The role of one Truitt Center intern is to promote inter-faith work and cooperation.

"This will help get rid of stereotypes and help people become open-minded about religious life in general," said Truitt Center intern Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh.

Some organizations have joined forces to sponsor events. Catholic Campus Ministries and Hillel have co-sponsored trips to the Holocaust Museum. Several of Elon's Christian organizations also worked together to send Christmas gifts to children overseas.

"I think it would give non-believers a much better impression of all faiths because how many conflicts in the world are fought over religious differences?" said Heather Smith, president of the Baptist Student Union.

"So, if they can see us collaborating and interacting, they will be more inclined to come out and join, or at least we will gain their respect."

Christen Aquino, president of Catholic Campus Ministries, believes the unification of religious life organizations would break down barriers and create bonds.

"People who aren't involved see religious people as hypocritical and see the bad things going on," Aquino said. "Working together would allow them to see the good things."



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WEEKLY DINNER SPECIALS & NIGHTLY DRINK SPECIALS

Elon professors serve as firsthand witnesses to South African apartheid

Morgan Little
Reporter

The news is filled with stories of racial and religious divides. The latest updates from the Tibetan protests, the genocide in Darfur or the ongoing battles in Palestine and Iraq can appear overpowering.

In the face of such long-lasting struggles, there seems to be little room for the individual to make a difference.

Two Elon University professors were right in the middle of a similar turmoil that raged on in South Africa.

One was a white South African who grew up with the government's propaganda in one ear and his father's calls for freedom in the other. The other was a sophomore in college who took up the cause of human liberty.

South Africa was a nation torn apart on racial divides. The system of apartheid, instituted in 1948, made sure that the white citizens of South Africa would remain separated from those of differing races.

For 46 years, native Africans, Asians and "Coloreds" (those deemed to not be 'black enough' by the South African government) were forced to live in squalor, unable to receive education, marry outside of their race or seek decent employment.

Pieter Swanepoel, an accounting instructor, grew up under the shadow of apartheid. Around the age of 6, he became cognizant that his father, who shares his name, was a member of the United Party.

The main body of political opposition against apartheid, the United Party, was perpetually marginalized by the ruling National Party.

Swanepoel often fought with other students after his father delivered

in *The Lariat*, the school paper declaring, "Communists have arrived on campus."

Eke wrote his own response, condemning every element of apartheid and set off a wildfire on campus.

The *Lariat* became a forum of debate, the T-shirts were purchased in mass and Eke was told multiple times by faculty to cool down his rhetoric.

At the core of the debate was a question Eke posed to his classmates who supported apartheid.

"Here I am, I sit with you in the classroom, but if we were in South Africa, it would be okay to deem me inferior. How can this be right?"

His own efforts coincided with a growing movement worldwide to bring an end to apartheid.

In the late 1980s, American campuses were ripe with student protests, the United States and United Kingdom had imposed economic sanctions on South Africa and the National Party was facing an emboldened opposition in their own country.

Frederik Wilem de Klerk, the future State President of South Africa, approached Swanepoel's father in 1987 and drew him out of retirement to serve once more in parliament.

De Klerk sought to end apartheid from within the government and eventually did so through negotiations with the African National Congress.

After South Africa became a legitimate democracy, Swanepoel's father was able to retire again, this time with his goal of a unified nation fulfilled.

In 1996 de Klerk spoke at Penn State, where Eke was serving as the president of African students.

His visit served as a fitting bookend for Eke, who had fought so passionately against apartheid and

“ I sit with you in the classroom, but if we were in South Africa, it would be okay to deem me inferior. How can this be right? ”
-Ocek Eke

speeches in parliament denouncing apartheid. He was defending his father and his family's name, but not without reservations.

In a school system where students were constantly told that they were superior to those of other races, where any form of dissention was met with scorn and violence, Swanepoel eventually questioned his father on his beliefs.

Living in a society where racism was instilled in the culture, where the government took every opportunity to endorse such beliefs, Swanepoel wished to know why his father went against the mainstream.

Despite the secret police bugging his house and persistent threats from his opposition, Swanepoel's father stood fast.

"He told me he believes that's what's best for South Africa," Swanepoel said. "He said there is one thing one must always respect and that is the dignity of human beings." From then on, he understood his father perfectly.

On the other side of the world, Ocek Eke, now an assistant professor of communications, was attending Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

He was a secretary of the African American club, which had been founded to help create a more positive image of Africa.

To raise money, the club decided that it would sell T-shirts that said "Free Nelson Mandela."

Immediately after the shirts went on sale, an editorial was printed

now was able to speak with a man who had simultaneously allowed and destroyed it.

"There's a time to fight and a time for reconciliation and peace," de Klerk told him. "If Nelson could move on, so can we. The war is over."

For Eke, the end of apartheid didn't signal an end of his political activism. Instead, it served as a catalyst, inspiring him to fight against injustices nationwide, in particular the genocide in Darfur.

Using his global experience classes to encourage students to pursue their own political causes, Eke now tries to inspire the same sort of passion that leads him to countless rallies and marches.

"There's a good amount of interested people," he said of Elon University students. "But they're afraid; they don't stick their necks out. If they don't, who will?"

"I must understand not all democracies are beautiful," Swanepoel's father said during the country's transition, a transition that Swanepoel expects will take decades still.

The injustices, hostilities and resentment that had been building up for 46 years cannot be expected to vanish immediately.

What drives Eke through such difficult battles and what propels him to take up causes for human freedom and democracy is a simple belief.

"The future must be better than the past."

Elon prepares to celebrate National Library Week

Pam Richter
Reporter

Students who use Belk Library will begin to see READ posters hung around the library. These posters not only encourage students to read, but also to recognize National Library Week.

April 13-19 is National Library Week, a time to celebrate Belk Library and libraries across the nation. This year's theme is "Join the circle of knowledge at your library."

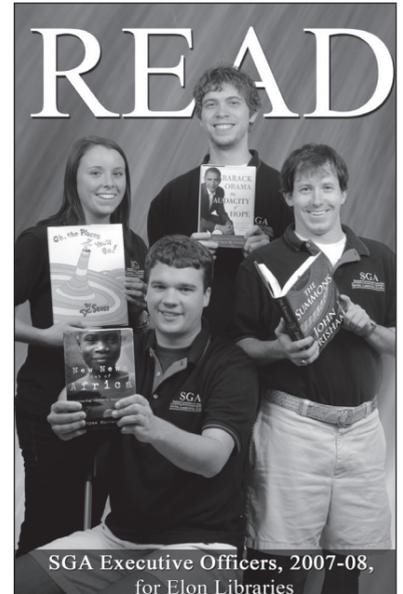
Anthony Weston, a philosophy professor, and Janice Ratliff, a program assistant for student development and auxiliary services, are two faculty members who appear on the read posters. Also, the SGA executive officers appear on a poster.

In addition to these, Belk Library will host various activities in order to attract students to the library during this week. Hopefully more students will join in the circle of knowledge they have to offer, staff members said.

Library staff members are also encouraging everyone to enter their names at the Information Desk for the chance to win prizes. Every day during the week there will be book drawing contests; two names will be drawn and the winners will win the book of their choice.

The grand prize drawing will be at the end of the week on April 18. Contestants will have the opportunity to win a \$50 gift card from Barnes and Noble.

National Library Week is not only about the visitors to the library, but also about the members who work day in and day out at the library. April 15 is National Library Workers Day,



SGA Executive Officers, 2007-08, for Elon Libraries

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The SGA executive officers appear on some of the READ posters hanging in Belk Library to spread awareness about National Library Week, taking place April 13-19.

which celebrates the library staff, users and administrators. This is to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

The week-long celebration was established in 1954 after the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizen's organization called the National Book Committee. They were concerned Americans were reading less and were hoping to boost reading levels.

Visit Belk Library throughout the week to check out the recognition of National Library Week.



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Panama photo exhibition unveiled in McEwen

Ashley Barnas
News Editor

Madelaine de la Ossa, a senior journalism and corporate communications major, has created a photography exhibition titled Panamá: Tierra de Diversidad (Panama: Land of Diversity).

A product of a Winter Term 2007 independent study, the 26 photos will remain on display on the second floor of the McEwen School of Communications until the end of the semester.

De la Ossa's exhibition focuses on three groups of indigenous peoples: one in the highlands near the Costa Rica border, another along the Atlantic coast at an Indian reserve in San Blas and a third in the capital along the Chagres River near the Panama Canal.

Two of the groups featured autonomous Indian reserves and the third spotlighted coffee farms in the highlands in Boquete, a city in Western Panama.

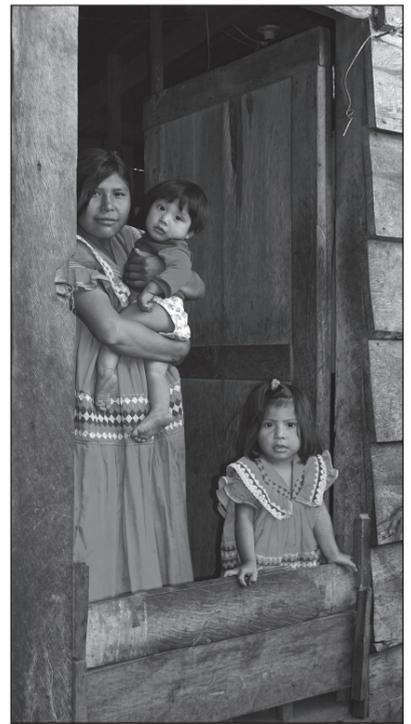
"I think that one of the main beauties of Panama is the diversity of its native people," de la Ossa said. "The origin of their traditions is very different [from one another]."

She originally wanted to have five categories of photos, two others concentrating on life in the city and life in the Pacific Islands, neither of which included indigenous peoples.

The three categories she finally chose tied into each other more sensibly and de la Ossa was able to display more from each of the three categories rather than few from each of the five.

De la Ossa has many future plans for her photos. She will make a coffee table book for her senior seminar class, using more than just those on display. For her Web publishing class, she is making a Web site for her photos.

"I'm trying to expose these pictures every way I can," she said. Her classes are a good place to start.



PHOTOS BY MADELAINE DE LA OSSA
Madelaine de la Ossa's 26 photos are on display in the hallway of second-floor McEwen. The photo exhibition represents the best of her Winter Term independent study project, focusing on the indigenous peoples of Panama.

De la Ossa has lived in Panama all her life, but chose to come to school at Elon. Through her independent study, she wanted to travel around Panama to promote and learn more about her country.

"My main goal was to come back and show people what I learned about Panama," she said. "It's just something I've always wanted to do. A lot of people here would never get to be exposed to it."

De la Ossa thought about the concept after taking photojournalism with Randy Piland during the second semester of her sophomore year.

Piland sponsored her independent study and gave her encouragement during the whole process.

He was "really open to doing this" and kept in contact through e-mail during her entire trip, offering advice and constructive criticism.

When de la Ossa returned to Elon, Piland helped her develop her pictures, color correct and frame them, and gave the opening event publicity.

The April 4 unveiling ceremony was attended by teachers, communications students, de la Ossa's friends and co-workers from the Spanish Center.

"A lot of people said that they liked it and that made me very proud," she said.

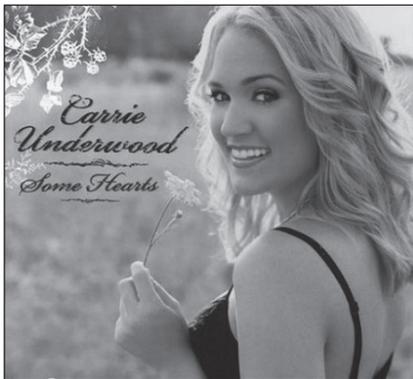
Look for de la Ossa's photos along the McEwen second floor hallway.



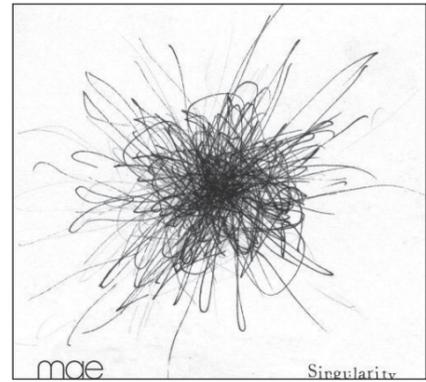
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Cartel, Ten Second Epic, Jonas Sees in Color and Mercy Mercedes
Sunday April 13 at 6 p.m.
Green Street Club (Greensboro)



Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood
Saturday April 19 at 7:30 p.m.
RBC Center (Raleigh)



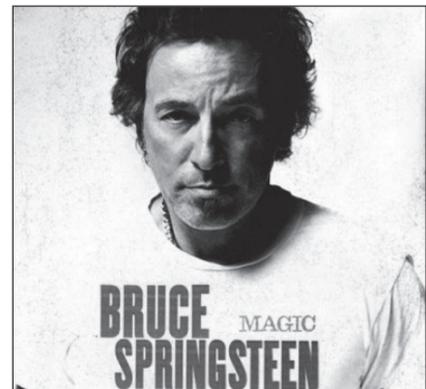
Mae
Wednesday April 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Green Street Club (Greensboro)



Iron and Wine
Tuesday April 15 at 8 p.m.
UNC-Chapel Hill Memorial Hall



Easley
Sunday April 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Cat's Cradle (Chapel Hill)



Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band
Monday April 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Greensboro Coliseum Complex

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

Editorial

Letter to the Editor

Donald Moskowitz should be awarded a medal — he managed to cram an impressive number of inaccuracies into his letter about Barack Obama last week. Let's take them one at a time. First, Barack Obama has never said that the United States worries too much about terrorism. In fact, he's said that as president he will aggressively pursue al-Qaida in Afghanistan and strengthen homeland security measures.

Secondly, Obama doesn't advocate cutting the defense budget. In fact, just the opposite is the case. In his book, "The Audacity of Hope," Obama says, "Indeed, given the depletion of our forces after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we will probably need a somewhat higher budget in the intermediate future just to restore readiness and replace equipment." Obama has further committed to increase the size of the Army and Marines in order to better fight terrorism. He's said he will send more troops to Afghanistan and will never hesitate to take out enemies of the United States.

Third, I'd like to inform Mr. Moskowitz that the Cold War is actually over. We work with China and Russia on numerous global issues, though we aren't close allies. No one is seriously talking about fighting a war with those countries. As far as Iran and North Korea go, Obama has repeatedly stated that he is committed to stopping those countries from having nuclear weapons by replacing the failed Bush foreign policy with smarter diplomacy.

Mr. Moskowitz closes with the biggest whopper of all. Let's be clear right now: Barack Obama has no "extensive Muslim background." That is a nefarious Internet smear campaign with no relationship to reality. It is offensive both to Obama, who has never been a Muslim, and to the millions of Muslims in the United States who don't appreciate their faith being used as a political weapon.

America does face a great number of threats, and we can thank the Bush/McCain foreign policy for that. Their war in Iraq has made us less safe, and it's time to turn the page. Barack Obama seems like the right person to make us safer and more respected.

Daniel Shutt
Elon '09

Have an idea or opinion you'd like to share with The Pendulum? Contact us at pendulum@elon.edu and we'll print what you have to say. Lengthy letters or columns may be cut to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

Are the Alcohol Task Force's recommendations practical?

The recent release of the findings and recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on Alcohol should serve as a shocking document to any student who browses through it. The Task Force compiled data on student drinking after months of research.

The data outlined showed that Elon students generally do engage in dangerous drinking more than the national average of U.S. colleges. Elon students generally drink on more nights than the national average and drink in excess more often than the national average as well.

Not only did the Task Force's report uncover these unsettling statistics, but it also outlined a list of recommendations for the school to take to combat its rampant drinking problem. The list of recommendations ranged from the simple to the more complex, and from the obvious to the much more startling.

Some painstakingly obvious recommendations included "Clarify and make visible Elon's position on

alcohol," as if that were in question, and "Increase the number and size of grants for alcohol-free, student-initiated social events."

But littered throughout the list were assortments of recommendations that were unexpected and downright surprising. One of the most shocking recommendations was to serve alcohol at locations around campus, such as Varsity. The reasoning behind this suggestion is to promote the practice of safe and reasonable drinking behavior.

This recommendation comes off as just shocking in general. The possibility of ordering a drink while watching the game in Varsity is a prospect that would probably interest many Elon students. Even better: What if alcoholic drinks from Varsity became payable with meal plans?

There are issues with this recommendation as well. Monitoring if the person who ordered the drink is also the one drinking it would be a difficult task, especially if they were bringing them into the dark seclusion of the lounging room.

Another surprising, yet strangely enticing proposition recommended by the Task Force was the construction of a climbing wall on campus. Apparently Elon students tend to score high in the "sensation-seeking" categories of personality tests. A climbing wall would also provide students with a "thrilling" alternative to drinking. If anything, a climbing wall would be a great alternative to waiting in line at the gym.

Incoming freshmen were also the target of a lot of the recommendations. The list recommended requiring freshmen to take 19 hours as a normal course load. The excess of free time, according to the report, that freshmen have been enjoying only leads them to misuse alcohol.

Another recommendation is to require freshmen living in Danieley Center to host community events for the four suites on their floors in the flats. Each floor would have to host three events in one semester in which two faculty mentors would also attend. These activities would help build "the sense of shared belonging" for freshmen and the faculty members would "serve as a reminder that these living units are part of the larger university with learning as its core purpose."

This recommendation seems to share the same goals the Elon 101 course that freshmen are already required to take. While Elon's intentions to make Danieley Center more a part of the main campus is a respectable and endearing goal, forcing students to participate in mandatory activities will likely not foster the intended "sense of shared belonging." This may work well in learning communities, where students are more likely to have similar personalities and interests. But when students are randomly assigned to a Danieley flat like many entering freshmen are, they aren't as likely to have a roommate and suitemates that share similar interests. Take this fact and then force students who may not get along to do activities together; this wouldn't foster a positive first-year college experience.

Elon already does a lot of hand-holding for first-year students by assigning their first semester classes, constructing an involved orientation process and making freshmen take Elon 101. While these are good policies that allow students to adjust to college life in a positive and supportive environment, forcing students to take a part in too many things is just a way of controlling the lives of freshmen.

Which of these recommendations would actually be conducive to solving Elon's drinking problem, and which are just rehashed recommendations that actually won't fix the problem? If Elon is going to seriously consider implementing any of these recommendations, it should carefully measure student reactions.

Illustrating the Issues



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 reproters directly.

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Opinions

Mugabe's power lapse could mark change for Zimbabwe



Derek Kiszely
Columnist

It has finally happened. The Movement for Democratic Change has achieved the impossible. For the first time in 28 years, Zanu-PF has lost control of Zimbabwe's lower house of Parliament. The world may be one step closer to seeing the end of one of Africa's longest-serving dictators.

For 28 years Robert Mugabe has been the president of Zimbabwe, and with the most recent March presidential elections, it was clear the 84-year-old president hoped to hold onto his political power by staying in office for another term.

Mugabe formed the ruling Zanu-PF political party in 1980, when he led his guerrilla army in a war against the white minority rule, forcing them out of power and bringing about an independent Zimbabwe.

Hailed by Africans as a hero of the fight for independence, Robert Mugabe has symbolized the liberation struggle for many years. But a lot has happened in 28 years. Mugabe has most recently been accused of dragging his country down into economic despair. Zimbabwe has the world's highest inflation rate at more than 100,000 percent, and an 80 percent unemployment rate.

Western leaders have gone so far as to condemn Mugabe for conducting a "reign of terror," and accuse him and his party of increasing corruption and authoritarianism in Zimbabwe.

The Movement for Democratic Change was established in 1999 by Morgan Tsvangirai as a

party opposed to what it called the "dictatorship in Zimbabwe." Tsvangirai first ran against Mugabe in the 2002 presidential elections and lost. The MDC accused Zanu-PF of rigging the results.

The 2008 presidential elections were seen as a rematch of the 2002 elections, with Tsvangirai running against Mugabe for a second time, and the MDC accusing Zanu-PF of trying to rig the polls yet again. Mugabe dismissed these allegations with a flick of the hand and said they were "lies."

But Zimbabweans have had enough of Mugabe and his lies. They are desperate for a change of any kind. That message was heard loud and clear when the MDC announced that Tsvangirai won an outright victory.

Earlier in the week, it was reported that Mugabe's government was discussing handing power over to the MDC. Mugabe, a man who has almost certainly stolen elections in the past, was said to be pondering whether to quietly bow off the national stage he has dominated for 28 years rather than face a run-off. Both are humiliating prospects for a man who has ruled through fear and manipulation.

But Zanu-PF's spokesperson said Mugabe was "not going anywhere." Zanu-PF's spokesman also said that Mugabe "is going to fight" and that they would campaign in "a very peaceful manner." The next day, the world got an idea of what Zanu-PF meant by a "peaceful" campaign.

The MDC's offices were ransacked by "intruders" believed to be agents of the feared Central Intelligence Organization, Mugabe's own secret police. It wasn't long after the raids when news reports came in that paramilitary troops had apparently surrounded a hotel where foreign journalists were staying.

Mugabe had started a crackdown, and heavily-armed riot police had apparently rounded up several foreign journalists — including a correspondent for The New York Times — holding them in a "frigid cell without shoes, warm clothing or blankets."

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists called on Zimbabwean authorities for the reporters' immediate release. But their cries fell on deaf ears. Mugabe's war against democracy had begun.

On Friday morning, Zanu-PF officially endorsed President Robert Mugabe in a possible presidential runoff, signaling the southern African nation's ruler intended to fight to retain power.

Later that day, the MDC stopped short of threatening to boycott the presidential runoff, saying that Tsvangirai was reluctant to take part in a runoff where violence and intimidation would be used to overturn the will of the people.

Meanwhile, riot police and trucks mounted with water cannons appeared across the city in what the opposition called a "war against the people." Hundreds of feared, battle-hardened veterans of Mugabe's guerrilla war marched menacingly through the streets of Zimbabwe's capital to intimidate political opponents and supporters of the opposition.

Despite all of this, for the first time in years, Zimbabweans have two things on their mind: hope and change. The words of Tsvangirai echoed through the streets louder than the footsteps of the marching soldiers: "There comes a time when citizens put aside fear and speak out with one voice against the dictatorship, taking their destiny in their own hands and saying 'no!'" But as long as Mugabe continues to desperately cling to power, we will have to wait a little longer.

Unlimited choices not available for everyone



Brett Scuietti
Columnist

A young, tired woman sits in the corner of a dusty, cramped apartment, cradling her baby.

As the woman walks to the refrigerator, she stops by a small window, and looks out on the slums through the cracked glass.

The woman's husband left her two months ago, and the minimum wage job she worked didn't pay enough to feed her children, so she quit and now subsists on welfare and food stamps. She wants to work and support her family on her own, but she had to choose between feeding her children or leaving them alone while she worked 12-hour days behind a stove. Welfare provided better for her family than her hard work ever could.

Our society places a strong emphasis on choices. We believe that if people work hard enough, struggle long enough and dream big enough, they will eventually succeed. Someone is choosing to live in the slums, to be too lazy to work, to forgo an education to instead live on welfare and get by in a meager environment.

The problem lies in the reality of these choices. How real of a choice is it for a mother to pick between working hard for a fast food joint that doesn't pay enough to feed her kids, or signing up for welfare that will provide at least the basic necessities? How real is the choice between living in a rundown apartment or living on the street, hoping something better will come along?

These choices aren't really choices at all. They're called restricted choices, selections made by unfortunate people where neither outcome is beneficial. Many people face

restricted choices every day, where opportunities never arise from whatever decision is taken.

So why does our society continue to insist that people choose their own fates? Because it is easy. We are comforted knowing that when we tuck ourselves into bed in our cozy suburban neighborhood, that the millions of poor and struggling people out in the streets made an open and honest choice to live that way. We don't have to feel bad for a homeless man who chose to lose his home, or the elderly woman in line for the soup kitchen because she could no longer afford her bills.

Middle and upper class individuals usually aren't going out of their way to ruin people's lives. But ignorance of the societal conditions that force people into harsh realities cannot continue. We can no longer use exceptional stories of those few who did manage to get out of turmoil as an excuse not to act to help others less fortunate.

But we continue to victimize ourselves and turn the poor and unfortunate into adversaries, calling them drains on the economy and our way of life. These people aren't lazy or stupid, rather they are trapped in dire circumstances bred through racism and classism that keeps the wealthy rich and everyone else disempowered.

Restricted choices will plague our society as long as we keep giving certain people an array of only bad choices. Some of us do not understand restricted choices, because we rarely, if ever, face them in an economic and social system that benefits many of the students that attend Elon University.

But those who are privileged do have real choices. And we better start making decisions and actions that help those whose choices are limited and whose voices go unheard.

Promoting concept of 'faith' fosters irrational thinking and intolerance



Michael Kleinmann
Columnist

The article "Intolerance of Faith Solves No Problems" clearly portrays a dangerous misconception that is prevalent throughout the United States. Many people think that faith-based religion cannot be

questioned because faith is off-limits. Faith is not "the politically correct term with which to refer to religion," but rather is the politically correct answer when someone asks one too many questions about a religious person's unjustified beliefs.

The religious person's use of the word "faith" is a beautiful example of deceit through semantics. Faith is a word that can have both negative and positive connotations. I can have faith that my girlfriend of five years won't cheat on me this weekend, because she never has cheated on me before and she seems to care deeply for me. A woman could have faith that her husband won't beat her this week, even though she's been beaten by her husband every day for the last three years. One can see how the word faith is not even necessary in the first example since reasons are given that support the premise. Faith in the first example portrays hope based on probabilistic proof. Faith in the latter example is denial in direct defiance of probabilistic proof. When religious people conjure up the word faith to defend themselves, it is surely more related to the latter example. If it weren't, why wouldn't they just give the justification behind their faith?

Religious people should have to give reasons for their beliefs just as everyone else does for every other aspect of life. Religion shapes people's world views and changes their way of thinking on political and social issues, which directly affect others. Although I strongly disagree with the logic behind previous attempts to give rational justification for God's alleged existence, this is a much more noble effort than the faith argument.

In life if people come up with a reason for their actions, they can then look back and tweak and correct their reasoning if it turns out to be wrong. If people don't give any reasoning and just act, then there is no

way for them to go back and analyze the thought process behind the action, and the action will be repeated indefinitely. Faith is the classic "because I said so" argument that doesn't help much in quarrels between mothers and their children, and is even more inadequate and inefficient in political discourse. Faith is a direct barrier to rational, honest conversation.

Faith keeps irrational thinking, unjustified beliefs and intolerance around. True, there have been other instances of intolerance and violence that are not related at all to religion, and we should try to find the cause of those cases of intolerance and violence and put an end to them, too. Faith-based religion is an easily identifiable cause of these things. Never before has there been a vessel that breeds unjustified beliefs and intolerance, and then holds these beliefs up above scrutiny, as well as faith-based religion.

The secular-minded founding fathers were sure to keep religion out of governmental activities through the principle of the separation of church and state. This wise step has allowed our country to progress as we have by avoiding some of faith's negative consequences. We must make sure that this secular principle is being applied and cannot just listen to the politically correct line "because I have faith." As Brett Scuietti said in his previous article, "don't just accept something because someone or something says that's how it is. Question it, research it and decide if the idea is worth accepting."

The argument that even if what you believe in is wrong at least you have "held something close to your heart," although poetic, is demeaning and counterproductive. It says "who cares if we make up beliefs and they happen to hurt people, maybe humans need to believe in ridiculous things to find comfort and be happy." Equally flawed is the statement, "believe in something, it doesn't matter if it's found in a pew or a laboratory." This can be rephrased to say don't worry about truth or rethinking issues as more proof comes along, just grasp onto anything and then disillusion yourself to become happy. Although I can't argue against this kind of logic to make some weak-minded individuals happy, I can definitely say that this is not the best way for society as a whole to be happy and progress. Rational honest discourse, uninhibited by barriers of faith, is assuredly the best way for society to move forward into the future.



Zachary T. Walker III



Robert A. "Bob" Ward



Katherine S. Weaver



Deborah A. Yow-Bowden



Noel L. Allen



Howard F. Arner



A. Christ



Richard L. Thompson



Mary B. Straub



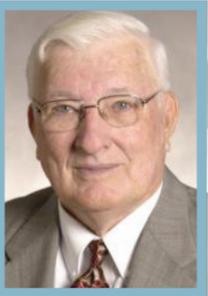
William H. Smith



Ann C. Rogers-Witte



Jeanne S. Robertson



Warren G. Rhodes

What's on the Agenda:
Meeting: April 11-12, 2008

- Election of new members:**
According to President Leo Lambert, several new board members will be Elon alumni. A Youth Trustee will also be elected. Dan Anderson, assistant vice president and director of university relations, confirmed that two Life Trustees and two Trustees Emeritus will be elected at the upcoming meeting.
- Discussion of comprehensive fundraising campaign:**
The trustees will be looking at a status report, and making plans to launch the public phase of the campaign in October 2008.
- Brainstorming about Elon's strategic planning process:**
The board will discuss construction of a new plan for the university, which is currently "winding down" its current plan, titled "New Century at Elon."
President Lambert discussed the importance of this agenda item, emphasizing the idea that it is a goal of the university, "never to be without a strategic vision for the future."

MEET THE

INFORMATION CONTRIBUTED BY ASHLEY BARNAS, SHELLEY RUSSELL AND KAITLIN UGOLIK • GRAPHICS

A closer look at the people who make it all possible

Ever wonder how we are able to pile into Rhodes Stadium each year to cheer on the football team? Or stroll under the Colonnades on the way to Koury Business Center? Or even decide to further pursue an education at the Elon University School of Law?

The Board of Trustees is responsible for all of the above — not to mention countless other projects involving oversight for the university as a whole. With meetings occurring at least once a semester and usually lasting for a day

and a half, the trustees have no easy job. "When we meet we want to know how professors, faculty and students are doing," said trustee Tom Chandler of Alamogordo. "If we don't have students, we don't have a university."

The trustees work closely with President Leo Lambert to work out logistics and fund major projects at Elon. The board will meet for two days to discuss future plans for the university and elect several new members

LOCATIONS ON CAMPUS THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED BY CURRENT TRUSTEES

- Warren G. Rhodes** ("Dusty" Rhodes) - Rhodes Stadium
- Victoria Silek Hu** - Victoria Silek Hu Building
- Bob E. McKinnon** (McKinnon Hall and McKinnon Field) - McKinnon Hall
- Wallace E. Chandler** (Chandler Dormitory and Fountain) - Chandler Dormitory

NOTE: Powell Academic Building was also given by the brother of Dr. Powell, for their aunt, Caroline Powell, and her two boys at a young age after the death of their mother.

TRUSTEE BIO: WARREN RHODES

Connection to Elon
"My son Larry played football here from 1982-1986 and he has been director of grounds and landscaping and heads up all athletic and recreational fields."

Namesake
"The stadium is named after our family, we were the giver of the money and we dedicated it to the children and grandchildren and Elon students and faculty- the family."

Joined the Board
1997

Committee
Athletic Policy: has been on Student Government, Academic and others. "We discuss everything that has to do with athletics: scholarships, academics, participation by different sports. We look at the whole athletic program and we advise them."

Most exciting project
In addition to the stadium, Rhodes was a part of Elon joining the NCAA and the establishment of the law school. "I'm a big pusher for improving the facilities for Elon students."

What does "trustee" mean to you? "Our job overall is to make sure that Elon is number one in academics, faculty and facilities and that the educational programs students get will prepare them for their career."



Dr. James B. Powell



Shelby L. Peterson



Bob E. McKinnon



James W. "Jim" Maynard



Mark T. Mahaffey



Thomas P. Mac Mahon



Frank R. Lyon



Donald



Christine "Chris" Baker



Barbara D. Bass



Wallace L. Chandler



The Rev. Stephen W. Camp



Michael G. Bumbry



Thomas E. "Tom" Chandler



Louis DeJoy

THE TRUSTEES

BY SHELLEY RUSSELL • CAMPUS MAP AND PHOTOS FROM WWW.ELON.EDU • NOT PICTURED WITH TRUSTEES: WILLIAM J. INMAN

TRUSTEE BIO:

MICHAEL BUMBRY

Connection to Elon
Graduated 2007, President of SGA

Joined the Board
2007

Committee
Campus Life: "It's student affairs driven. Basically every semester we discuss issues pertaining to student life and often hear from current students. Having been a recent student I'm very familiar with student life."

Most exciting project
"I'm honored to have been selected for the board, I take it very seriously ... it's great to see the university from a different perspective."

What does "trustee" mean to you?
"I'm what they refer to as a youth trustee. My interpretation of my role is to basically look out for the best interests of the university. Dr. Lambert drives that ship but our role is to make sure that we're doing it with the best interests in mind for students, alumni and the Burlington community. It's a view of the institution at a more global perspective."

TRUSTEE BIO:

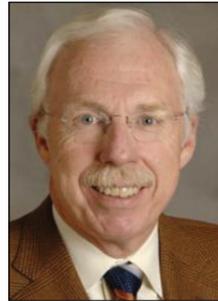
TOM CHANDLER

Connection to Elon
Benefactor (individually and through business- Chandler Concrete)

Joined the Board Committee
1999
Development

Most exciting project
"We did extensive study before we decided to launch the school of law ... once we had all the facts we voted to go forward based on fundraising, etc."

What does "trustee" mean to you?
"We have oversight for the university as a whole. We advise the president — he will solicit comments from [us]. Legally the board has the responsibility to make sure that the university is running in a sound financial manner."



Edward W. "Ed" Doherty



Gail McMichael Drew



Wesley R. "Wes" Elingburg



Allen E. Gant, Jr.



Michele Skeens Hazel



Dr. William N.P. Herbert

TRUSTEES



Robert A. "Bob" Ward



Dr. James B. "Jim" Powell

Dr. Powell, who served as a surrogate mother for the



A brief look back

1931: Trustees are chosen by the Christian Church.

1931-1957: The Christian Church becomes the Congregational Christian Church, which chooses the trustees.

1957-present: Elon affiliates with United Church of Christ, and the board of trustees becomes self-perpetuating.

BREAK IT DOWN: NOT ALL TRUSTEES ARE THE SAME

Youth Trustee: Any student who is a member of the graduating class. Nominated by the administration and chosen by the board of trustees, the new alumnus's term begins following graduation, and they serve on the board for two years. Two youth trustees serve on the board at any given time.

Current Youth Trustees: Michael Bumbry ('07) and Shelby Lynn Peterson ('06)

Trustee Emeritus: Honorary position given to a retiring trustee who retains this title for good service on the board. These trustees do not vote in board decisions.

Number of current Trustees Emeritus: 18

Life Trustee: Honorary position that recognizes and honors this trustee's ideas on the board for their many years of extraordinary service. These trustees do not vote in board decisions.

Life Trustee: Robert E. LaRose ('66)

WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO?

1. Selects the president of the university
2. Sets yearly tuition fees and annual budget for the institution
3. Follows the leadership of the president
4. Sets overall policy for the institution
5. Establishes and reviews educational programs
6. Authorizes construction of new buildings, major renovations and the naming of all physical facilities
7. Reviews recommendations for, and awards honorary degrees
8. Plays a major role in financial support of the university



William A. "Don" Lopes



Robert E. Long, Jr.



Jack R. Lindley



Dr. W. Bryan Latham



Bradford A. Koury



Maurice N. Jennings, Jr.



The Rev. Dian G. Jackson



Victoria S. Hunt



PHOTO SUBMITTED

ABOVE: Junior John Schimmelfing performs a trick called the "TJ Triple Under" during a free-style routine that earned him a gold medal at the AAU Junior Olympic Games. This year, Schimmelfing's team will travel to South Africa for the World Jump Rope Championships.

RIGHT: Schimmelfing does a leap-frog jump into double dutch ropes while performing at the NBC 17 Health and Fitness Festival.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Features

Reaching new heights

Sarah Beth Costello
Reporter

Like many fourth grade students, John Schimmelfing loved jump roping. The Chapel Hill native participated in his elementary school's Jump Rope for Heart competition, sponsored by the American Heart Association, and has been making a name for himself in the sport ever since.

For Schimmelfing, his interest in the sport was supported by his family members.

"I got involved with [jumping rope] because of my older sister," he said. John and his sister, Anna, are members of SkipSations, a Chapel Hill jump roping team. Since graduating from Elon in 2007, Anna has joined their mother as a coach of SkipSations.

Throughout middle and high school, Schimmelfing participated in competitions all across the country, and has traveled with SkipSations to various foreign countries.

In April 2007, he traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, for the National Celebration of Children. Schimmelfing helped instruct thousands of children each day for one week in jump roping.

"Turkey was the single most amazing experience of my life," Schimmelfing said. "It was so amazing to be able to explore and experience such a different and exciting culture around Istanbul."

Schimmelfing may get the opportunity to return to Turkey later this month.

This year, his participation with SkipSations helped the team to place second in the U.S. trials in Ohio.

"This tournament was a qualifier for a spot on Team USA to go to the world championships this summer in South Africa," Schimmelfing said.

This is the fourth year that SkipSations has qualified for the world championship. In past years, SkipSations traveled to Belgium, Australia and Canada. In 2004, Schimmelfing placed fourth in the Gold Coast International Championship in Australia.

As a college student, it's difficult to schedule time for practice.

"Sometimes I go home and practice," said Schimmelfing. He also practices on campus.

Though Schimmelfing is a busy college student, he hopes to continue jump roping for years to come.

"I don't see myself quitting anytime soon," he said.

Geocaching embraces new technology while redefining typical scavenger hunt

Brian Mackey
Reporter

With spring just around the corner, people are starting to turn their attention to the outdoors. A growing trend known as geocaching is gaining popularity and giving participants the opportunity to explore the outdoors in a new way.

Geocaching is essentially a modern treasure hunt. Instead of a map, participants use a GPS device, and instead of a traditional X to mark the treasures, GPS coordinates are given. Users go to the Geocache homepage, www.geocaching.com, and after creating an account, they are able to find the coordinates of a cache in an area they would like to explore. A cache can be hidden in a bush, under a rock — basically anywhere.

The caches are not exactly a chest full of gold. Most are small treasures such as a pen or a deck of cards, but the idea behind geocaching is that the adventure is more rewarding than the treasure itself. Caches are strategically placed in parks or near places that would be interesting to explore.

Geocaching started in 2000 and has gained immense popularity. Today, there are more than 550,000 caches on all seven continents including Antarctica, according to the geocache Web site.

The trend has grown from simple excursions to big adventures. The Web site hosts event caches in parks or other public places that geocachers from around the world can congregate for a day or more of caching.

Geocaching has become a way for people to share the treasure of a beautiful walk in an obscure place where they never would have heard of otherwise.

When a geocacher comes across an interesting place they want to share, they can place a cache there and upload its location to the Web site for anyone in the world to enjoy.

Ryan Boyd is a senior communications major at Elon University who is an



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.GEOCACHING.COM

Geocachers put the coordinates of a cache into their GPS navigation device and use the GPS device to find the cache. A cache can be hidden almost anywhere. Elon senior Ryan Boyd has geocached throughout the United States and Europe.

avid geocacher. He has geocached for almost three years and has produced a mini-documentary about the new trend.

Boyd said geocaching has given him the opportunity to explore new places in his hometown of Massachusetts as well as places around Elon. While studying abroad in Europe, Boyd geocached in both London and Ireland.

"It's fun to get out and have a small adventure," he said.

Geocaching is unique in that it relies on the cooperation of its members to survive. When a fellow geocacher finds a cache, he is expected to put in a new treasure so that the next person to find the cache will also have a prize.

Even though the system relies on the trust that complete strangers will not take the treasure without adding a new one, Boyd said he has never come across an empty cache.

"It's a huge community," he said. "The idea is you take something out and put something in."

All about GEOCACHING

Pronounced "geo-cash," Geocaches usually have prizes like tiny toys or notebooks, but sometimes caches are bigger. Last year, Jeep sponsored a cache and the winner won a new Jeep 4x4.

Dave Ulmer hid the first cache in Oregon in 2000.

There are over 550,000 caches hidden on all seven continents.

Caches can be hidden anywhere, even under water.

There are at least 17 caches in Iraq.

Washington, D.C. has the highest density of geocaches.

North Carolina is home to over 9,900 geocaches.

There are over 225 caches within a 20 mile radius of Elon.



The Church of SCIENTOLOGY explained

Religious Studies Professor L.D. Russell explains the religion's emerging popularity

Laura Smith
Reporter

Not only has Tom Cruise given us memorable films such as "Top Gun," "Mission: Impossible" and "Jerry Maguire," but he has also stirred up much discussion and controversy about the religion he has been deeply devoted to for the past 17 years.

The Church of Scientology was founded in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard and has become one of the most talked about religions in recent history.

Since officially becoming recognized as a legitimate religion in 1993, the church has acquired more than 7,300 groups, churches and missions in 163 countries worldwide, according to ReligiousTolerance.org.

But what is this system of beliefs and practices that has caused so much buzz lately? According to the official Scientology Web site, the word scientology means "the study of truth."

The main focus of the religion is "the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, others and of all life." It serves to deal with tough situations in life, create strong relationships among others and tackle serious social problems,

such as drug use and crime.

Scientologists believe that the human is an immortal, spiritual being whose existence extends beyond just one lifetime. Scientology states that the human consists of three parts. The first is the spirit, otherwise known as the thetan, which means "thought" or "spirit."

The second part is the mind, which is used as a communication device between the environment and a person. The final part is the body itself.

The tone scale is a tool Scientologists use on a daily basis to assess how others are feeling, and therefore, better know how to communicate with them. A person's feeling or "tone" is represented as a number. There are 41 numbers total: 1.5 being anger, or 3.5 being cheerfulness for example. 40.0 is the highest as the "Serenity of Beingness," while 0.0 is the lowest, standing for "body death."

In addition to these beliefs, Scientology holds that one person can attain several different states of existence in just one lifetime. These are communication, problems, relief, freedom, ability, power, clear and operating thetan. If a person reaches operating thetan, he or she can function independently of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE.COM

Actor Tom Cruise is an avid supporter of the Church of Scientology, as seen in a YouTube.com video created as a promotional tool for the religion.

body and is no longer dependent on the surrounding universe.

Elon religious studies professor, L.D. Russell, has examined the teachings and practices of many different religions and has mixed feelings on the ways of Scientology.



L.D. Russell

"In terms of it being a religion, yes it is, but it being a valid religion is more complicated," he said. "It parallels other religions in terms of other aspects such as rituals, healing techniques, ethics and the identification that comes with it."

But Professor Russell has his opinions about the level of ethics in the religion as well, seeing as it holds certain cult-like characteristics and is seen by some as a money-making scheme.

"If a system of ethics gives people meaning in their lives, then yes, Scientology is ethical," he said. "But if there is only an emphasis on money or power over the bad things in life, then no, it is not ethical. It fits the description of a cult, but then again, so did Christianity when it began."

Straight from ELON

"Ever walked in on a conversation and wish you hadn't? Overhear a comment that made you wonder just how rigorous Elon's admission process is? Here's the place to share."

Sophomore Nick Massa created "Overheard by Elon U," a Facebook group that highlights ridiculous comments made by Elon students. With more than 300 members, the group features daily posts.

"My IQ is actually really high. It's 135 ... or maybe that's my weight."

- Overheard by Megan Daly

"Dad, I did something stupid. I accidentally booked a flight from Raleigh to Greensboro, instead of home."

- Overheard by Elyse Granger

"Well, I didn't really want to come [to college] but I figured I'd have a better chance of finding a rich husband."

- Overheard by Jackie Moss

They have to learn that cheaters are losers

Carla Rivera
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES— When a group of students were expelled last month from Harvard-Westlake School for stealing midterm exams at the academically rigorous school in suburban L.A., the incident highlighted an age-old problem facing educators: cheating.

A 2006 national survey found that more than 60 percent of high school students said they cheated on a test, and the number of self-admitted cheaters has risen steadily over the years.

Students today can make use of a vast array of high-tech gadgetry, challenging schools to keep pace. One click of the Internet opens a world of possibilities and temptations, devious and ingenious, with Web sites devoted to the best cheating practices and video cheating tutorials on YouTube.

One YouTube compilation offers strategies such as taping answers under a tie and designing a T-shirt with a cheat sheet imprinted on the front in place of a more typical logo.

In another, a young man recounts his tried and true method of stretching a rubber band over a textbook and writing answers on it. When the rubber band isn't stretched out, his writing looks like harmless ink stains. Yet another video explains how to remove a wrapper from a drink bottle and

create a duplicate with scanned test answers.

While camera phones with pictures of an answer sheet and text messages from friends outside the classroom are still the most ubiquitous electronic techniques, many schools have caught on and banNED devices such as cell phones and iPods during tests.

More recent innovations are button cams, which have a wireless connection to a laptop computer that can then download stolen test items and pens capable of scanning a test and sending a video signal to a remote laptop to capture the images.

One 17-year-old senior, who attends a Los Angeles high school, said that he once turned in an English essay he had taken off an Internet Web site. He said he probably would not do it again because he believes it's easier to get caught plagiarizing these days.

The student, who did not give his last name, said he receives good grades and didn't feel the need to cheat now, but admitted that sometimes there is a lot of pressure.

"I don't think there's as much [cheating] going on as people think but yeah, it's happening," said Christopher. "It's mainly because society puts all this pressure on teenagers, saying you better do good or you won't get to college or you'll be second rate."

Motivating students to cheat,

educators said, can be exactly that. The pursuit to be admitted to the "best" colleges, fear among students that not cheating will put them at a disadvantage and cultural influences that have exposed dishonest athletes, politicians and even parents ready to behave unethically, for example, to obtain Hannah Montana tickets.

"It's a mistake to talk about school cheating without referring to society at large," said Michael Josephson, founder and president of the Los Angeles-based Josephson Institute for Ethics, a nonprofit consulting and training enterprise. "We need to connect these dots and ask what is our attitude toward cheating because kids are going to absorb that attitude. ... And cheating learned in school is habit forming."

Many educators are searching for their own answers.

David Bryan, head of New Roads School, a private campus in Santa Monica, dealt with a cheating scandal at his own campus a few years ago and recently spoke with a student who had been expelled from Harvard-Westlake for the same thing. The family was likeable and the student contrite, Bryan said. They ultimately did not apply, but Bryan is unsure whether he would have given the student a second chance.

"On the one hand, why would I want to bring this kid into our community?" said Bryan. "On the other, does that mean that we're

supposed to give up on this kid and not give him a second chance?"

Schools increasingly are turning to test-security businesses that employ computer software capable of picking out anomalies in multiple-choice exams and identifying plagiarized material. Many more, like New Roads, are assuming responsibility for helping students to navigate the minefield of moral and ethical behavior with character-building curriculum and ethics workshops.

Bryan said he is under no illusion that there is some cheating going on at his campus, which was established in 1995 and has more than 640 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Under the school's policy, students caught cheating the first time must forfeit credit for the assignment or test and do the work over again. A second time will get them expelled.

An ironic subtext of a Society and Ethics class he led one recent morning was that several of its students had been involved in a 2005 cheating incident at New Roads in which about 50 students were suspended for exploiting a computer glitch to get answers to a math assignment.

"I take as a given that young people are going to make bad decisions," said Bryan. "Now is the time to catch them when the result is not going to be a federal indictment."

UPDATE: Results of International Irish Dance Championship

Freshman Jessica Moran represented America well when she performed in the International Irish Dance Championship during Spring Break. She traveled to Ireland



Jessica Moran

to take part in the annual championship, and performed in front of seven judges from both Ireland and England.

Moran placed 8th out of the American dancers, and 43rd out of all the competitors, including dancers from Ireland and England.

"Although I wanted to place higher, the competition was stiff and I did the best I could," Moran said. "I held my own and represented America."

She plans on participating in the world championship next April.

Sister Sister

Twin roommates decide to go their separate ways

Malik Daronce Daniels
Reporter

Freshman year at Elon offered many students a chance to start over. Some were eager to leave the past behind them and reinvent their personalities without the constant presence of family.

For two sisters, the ongoing battle to be an individual has only brought them closer. Twin sisters Ayaan and Kaya Forstall are freshmen at Elon.

In high school, the two sisters from Atlanta were involved in all the same activities. They took the same classes, played the same sports and shared the same friends.

"If we get any closer than we are now, we might have a problem," Ayaan said. "When we were little, we always wanted to do the same things, but the older we got the more independent we wanted to be, which was very hard up until college because everyone knew us as the twins."

To some outsiders, the girls' only identities were as twin sisters.

"I hate being called Twin!" Kaya said. "It's not my name." Though the sisters applied to the same colleges, they did not originally intend to go to the same school.

"I was contemplating going [to Davidson] for a while, but my decision to go to Elon was not based on what my sister wanted to do," Ayaan said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kaya, left, and Ayaan Forstall, right, are twin freshmen from Atlanta. During high school, the girls were inseparable, but they are trying to establish themselves as individuals at Elon.

She said she picked Elon because it "just felt right." The university also offered her major, human services and interesting study abroad opportunities. Now, the girls are roommates on campus, and say that being together has made the transition to college easier.

"Honestly, I would not have been happy anywhere else, and I think I would have been very homesick and hated school if I was away from Kaya," Ayaan said.

Ayaan, who is the older sister by only a few minutes, never felt pressured to take care of her sister when the two lived at home. Their parents always kept an eye on the girls, but now that they are hours from their home state, Ayaan notices that the girls take care of each other and this protectiveness has only made them closer.

Next year, the girls' journey toward independence will become a little harder. For the first time in their lives, the two will not be roommates.

"We want to branch out and be more independent," Kaya said. "This has also allowed us to tolerate and appreciate each other more. We realized how lucky we are to have each other when we were able to live separate lives."

Though the girls said they are trying to do more things alone, the bonds between them remain strong. Both say that there are times when they are walking across campus alone, and can't help but pull out their cell phones to send the other twin a text message saying, "I miss you."

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Arts & Entertainment

Broadway director Hal Prince to speak at spring convocation

Jordan Frederick
Reporter

This Thursday Elon will welcome director and producer Harold "Hal" Prince to campus. Prince will be serving as this year's keynote speaker at the Convocation for Honors, which will have a special focus on student and staff achievements in the performing arts over the last year.

For more than half a century, Prince has directed and produced more than 60 original Broadway productions and revivals. His productions are currently being performed all over the world and demonstrate his unique artistic vision.

Prince got his start on Broadway with the 1954 opening of "The Pajama Game," which he produced in collaboration with Robert Griffith ("West Side Story") and Frederick Brisson ("Damn Yankees!"). Since the success of that show he has gone on to direct some of musical theater's most beloved titles.

Recent decades have seen Prince's work make the transition from the stage to the big screen. "West Side Story" won 10 Academy Awards following its film release in 1961, and "Fiddler on the Roof"

went on to win three of its own in 1971. Madonna appeared in the 1996 film version of "Evita," first performed for audiences under Prince's direction in 1979. Liza Minnelli took on the role of Sally Bowles in a 1972 film translation of "Cabaret," which won Minnelli the Oscar for best actress.

More recently, his original collaboration with composer Andrew Lloyd Webber on "The Phantom of the Opera" was brought to film by director Joel Schumacher in 2004, and his work on Stephen Sondheim's macabre musical "Sweeney Todd" was the inspiration for Tim Burton's most recent adaptation.

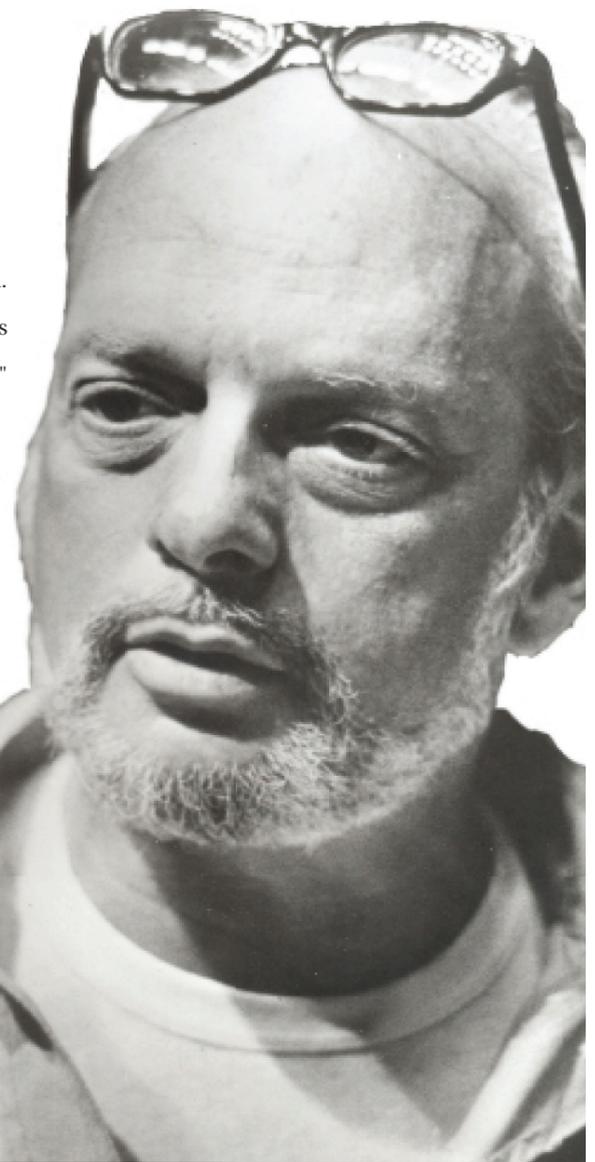
Elon University has played the host to a number of Prince's productions in the past. This fall the music theater department tackled "Cabaret," the Ebb and Kander, Prince-directed musical sensation that rocked the American theater scene for the first time in the early 1960s. The spring production of "The Phantom of the Opera," which opened this February with the blessing of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, was first directed by Prince in 1988 and was adapted to the Elon stage with many of his original design choices in mind.

"When Dr. Lambert decided to feature Elon's achievements in the performing arts [at this year's Convocation] and said 'Who do you want to come?' I said 'Oh my gosh, Hal Prince!'" said Catherine McNeela, coordinator of music theater.

McNeela has been working with Lynne Formato, assistant professor of dance, for more than a year to arrange the presentation of student talent that will appear at Convocation.

"I think Hal Prince is one of the most influential individuals in American musical theater today and has been for so long," McNeela said. "As a director he emphasizes the exploration of theme and his works always have remarkable complexity and depth because of that."

Accompanying Prince at Convocation will be a host of Elon students and faculty performing some of this year's campus highlights, along with the Greensboro Symphony and a number of notable Elon alumni, including Nancy Snow Carr (class of '00) and Bree D. Sherry ('06).



Who is Hal Prince?

- Has won 21 Tony Awards, more than any other individual, including eight for directing, eight for producing, two as producer of the year's Best Musical and three special awards
- His father-in-law is famed composer and lyricist Saul Chaplin
- Has acquired over 60 production credits since 1950
- Collaborated with Stephen Sondheim, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber

Information gathered from New York Public Library and Internet Broadway Database

GET ON THE BUS!

Something is still so chic about the iconic band tour bus. Even as alternatives have become available, many bands are still caught up in the romance of a good old-fashioned cross-country adventure.

Morgan Morris
Reporter

Members of Mercy Mercedes, a local pop, alternative rock band based in Greensboro were driving in their van one particularly starry night on a previous tour when nature called. As all five members ventured out into the night to relieve themselves in a secluded area off of the main road, they heard a strange noise.

"It sounded like a mating call," group guitarist Brandon Ham said.

Not able to resist the temptation, Ham then made the obvious decision—make the same noise back to see what would happen.

The sound then became movement, which subsequently prompted the boys of Mercy Mercedes to run in the opposite direction.

As they were speeding back to the comforts of their tour van, Ham briefly turned his head around to see a self-described, confused "Mooke Else" or some kind of moose-elk figure watching them flee the scene.

This is just one of the many stories about life on the road in a cozy tour van for bands like Mercy Mercedes.

These kinds of interesting tales also prove that vans are no longer just for soccer moms. In fact, they can now be said to support a new stereotype — driving in the local music scene.

A band that played last year at Elon's annual spring concert with Jack's Mannequin, Mercy Mercedes represents a larger movement toward local "scene" bands all across the country using vans to tour various national venues.

A term not commonly known to people over 25, the "scene" represents relatively new local bands, the venues that they frequent and the people known as "scene kids" who attend their concerts.

These bands use the social networking Web sites such as Myspace and Facebook to draw fans and build momentum in their search for recognition. The sounds they have can range from anything such as "hardcore" to "power-pop" like Mercy Mercedes.

Using vans as a perpetual means of transportation, bands participating in a local concert can easily be spotted through about four large white vans with trailers attached to them outside of that night's venue.

Vans have even become a status symbol among bands that participate and gain fame through this growing music scene.

The boys of Mercy Mercedes proudly proclaimed a 15-passenger V-10 TRITON.

"Make Triton all caps because that could make or break the effect," said Nate Smith, Mercy Mercedes' lead singer.

During their tours, bands even go without showers and travel for days on end in their vans to reach their destinations. Whether the next show is at home or a new venue, the tour vans these artists use become their homes very quickly, and this in turn helps bond the group together.

"We are just like a family," drummer Mike Arnette said.

Even with a simple search of scene bands from



across the country, their busy touring schedules reflect the popularity of this music and just how important these vans are for traveling cross-country.

Scheduled to travel all the way from Pennsylvania to Texas, Mercy Mercedes will not be flying. Instead, they will continue to cultivate more entertaining stories in the band's tour van and hope that they have no car troubles.

Every Mercy boys' tour and fan appreciation motivates this constant travel across the country in their dependable van.

"Every time we play a show the same kids come out with just a few more," Arnette said. This growth, he says, was reflected in Texas when many fans showed up knowing their lyrics, which was a surprise since they are based so far away from the state.

The sheer power of the visual reference of a big white van has become far more than just a means of travel. This vehicle has begun to represent an entire musical scene that is sweeping the nation and cultivating many fans.

Soccer moms step aside — the scene is interjecting youthfulness back into the standard van one "Mooke Else" at a time.

Mercy Mercedes' tour van has sheltered them from every element, from strange animals to the local music scene.

Playing Around: Comedy pokes fun at true human nature

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

The scene is set with a pair of idealistic young lovers, conniving villains, characters in decorative masks and exaggerated slapstick comedy. It may sound more like a piece of children's theater on the surface, but "Much Ado about a Lotta Things" is an unusual and experimental theater experience that aims to give Elon students some fun and laughter.

"Much Ado," or The Commedia Project, debuts April 11 in the Center for the Arts. It is performed in the style of Commedia dell'Arte, a form of theater developed during the Italian Renaissance and characterized by masks, improvisation, stylized movements and physical comedy. It also relies on stock characters like the clever servant or the greedy old man.

"It can all sound a bit heady, but what it really amounts to is exaggerated real life," said Kevin Otos, assistant professor of theater. "It's comedy that focuses on the folly of human appetites - greed, pride, lust - stuff like that. It's about and for ordinary people."

Ten students have been working under the direction of Otos since February to produce what he calls "an experiment in company-created work." After learning the style of Commedia dell'Arte, everyone worked together to create the story. The script consists of only a three-page outline. The majority of the play will be improvised.

"The script is just bullet points, so we have an idea of where we're going and what has to happen to further the plot," sophomore Alice Turner said. "And we have some jokes that we like so we keep them, but there are no scripted lines."

Otos said the basic plot of "Much Ado" is similar to most Commedia plots. The story involves the older characters in the play preventing two young lovers from marrying. But with the help of their trusted servants, the lovers are able to overcome their problems and give all of the characters the happy endings they desire.

Sophomore Tristan Bailey plays Flavio, one of the young lovers.

"He's sort of like the Romeo I guess you could say," Bailey said. "He is head-over-heels in love with Isabella and will stop at nothing to have her hand in marriage."

Turner plays Isabella, Flavio's betrothed. She said that Isabella perfectly embodies the characteristics of the lover, one of the stock characters most often used in Commedia.

"She's young and ridiculously, blindly in love, which is basically all that defines her character," Turner said. "One thing that Kevin always tells the lovers is to 'do everything beautifully.' He also describes their relationship as the kind of love 14-year-olds feel."

Senior Ginny Buckner plays Signora



OLIVIA HUBERT-ALLEN | Photographer

Victoria Tucci (front left) and Sarah Nutt (front right) wear masks to illustrate the exaggerated nature of their characters. In this scene, Tanya gets a taste of Dottore's medicine. In the back row from left to right: Sarah McAvoy Justin Noga, Will Sanborn and Alice Turner.



OLIVIA HUBERT-ALLEN | Photographer

"Much Ado about a Lotta Things" performed in the style of Commedia dell'Arte, a Renaissance form of theater featuring improvisation, stylized movements and physical comedy.

Rosaura, a woman who uses pride and sexuality to hide the fact that she's getting older. She is married to Pantalone, the greedy old man character, but longs for the handsome Captano.

Buckner said she thinks that people will enjoy the play because of its improvised nature. The show will be a little different for every performance.

"There's lots of physical humor, satire and jokes only Elon students

will get," Buckner said.

Otos agrees that students will enjoy the play's mature comedy.

"Some of it is a bit on the naughty side, so it's not for the kids," Otos said. "As one cast member likes to say, 'Commedia is like children's theater for adults.' [It] makes enormous sense once you see it because there is so much play in the performance."

Otos spent four weeks in Italy last summer studying Commedia dell'Arte

Want to go?

WHAT: "Much Ado about a Lotta Things." This play is performed in the Commedia dell'Arte style which employs archetypal characters, heightened movement, character masks and improvisation.

WHERE: Center for the Arts Studio A.

WHEN: Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

WHO: Directed by Kevin Otos

HOW MUCH: Admission is free but seating is limited to 50 guests.

HOW LONG: 90 minutes

and found it so entertaining that he wanted to share it with the Elon community.

"It's so theatrical, and with our notions of entertainment so influenced by film and TV, it feels new and fresh," Otos said.

The Commedia Project, "Much Ado about a Lotta Things," will be performed Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Studio A.

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A&E IN BRIEF

Reynolda Film Festival premieres at Wake Forest

The first Reynolda Film Festival will be held at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem April 11-13. The festival will showcase the work of student filmmakers from around the world. It will also feature guest speakers, including film producers Jordan Kerner and David Park, the production coordinator at Pixar Animation Studios.

Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For a full schedule of events, visit www.groups.wfu.edu/Wake-TV.

Greensboro art gallery debuts spring exhibition

The Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art in downtown Greensboro debuted its spring

exhibition on April 4. "Facing South: Portraits by North Carolina Artists" features the work of more than 20 artists from across the state. A preview of some of the portraits can be found at www.greenhillcenter.org.

Green Hill is located in the Greensboro Cultural Center at 200 N. Davie St. in downtown Greensboro.

Clooney and Zellweger visit North Carolina to promote film

George Clooney and Renée Zellweger stopped in Salisbury at the end of March as part of a small-town tour to promote their new film, "Leatherheads." Many of the filming locations used in the movie will be familiar to Elon students, including Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Statesville. "Leatherheads" is currently playing at West End Cinemas.

TUNED IN

America's favorite shows return this April (well, most of them)

Alexa Milan and Amanda Kennison
A&E Editor and Reporter

Now that the Writers Guild of America strike is over, everyone's favorite shows are finally making their way back to the airwaves. Some programs, like "House," had enough pre-strike scripts to last them into February. Others, like "The Office," disappeared almost immediately after the strike began on Nov. 5. The last new episodes of most shows were so long ago that many fans may have trouble remembering what happened last. To get viewers up to speed, here's a recap of a few fan favorites:

LOST: The island was divided over whether or not the people on the freighter could be trusted, but Faraday (Jeremy Davies) revealed that rescuing the castaways was not their primary objective. Michael (Harold Perrineau) has been working undercover for Ben (Michael Emerson) on the freighter. Sayid (Naveen Andrews) and Desmond (Henry Ian Cusick) discovered that the boat belongs to Penny's (Sonya Walger) father and that he staged the deaths of the castaways.

Mysterious intruders killed Karl (Blake Bashoff) and may have killed Rousseau (Mira Furlan) but spared Alex (Tania Raymonde). The identities of the Oceanic Six were revealed.

HOUSE: After firing his entire team at the end of Season 3, House (Hugh Laurie) found replacements through a "Survivor"-like competition. He ultimately hired Taub (Peter Jacobson), Kutner (Kal Penn) and the mysterious "Thirteen" (Olivia Wilde). He rehired Foreman (Omar Epps) while Chase (Jesse Spencer) and Cameron (Jennifer Morrison) found jobs in other departments at Princeton Plainsboro. House was shocked when Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard) started dating Amber (Anne Dudek), a cutthroat doctor who wanted a spot on his team.

THE OFFICE: Jim (John Krasinski) and Pam (Jenna Fischer) finally got together and went public with their relationship at the office, but Toby (Paul Lieberstein) still has lingering feelings for Pam. Angela (Angela Kinsey) broke up with Dwight (Rainn Wilson) after he killed her cat, and now Andy (Ed Helms) has his eye on Angela.

Ryan (B.J. Novak) took over the corporate position and is trying to make Dunder Mifflin more modern and Internet-friendly. Jan (Melora Hardin) sued the company for wrongful termination, but Michael (Steve Carell), torn between his superiors and girlfriend, bungled the hearing.

GREY'S ANATOMY: After returning from their "honeymoon," Cristina (Sandra Oh) and Meredith (Ellen Pompeo) returned to Seattle Grace and a new group of interns. Upset by Meredith's noncommittal tendencies, Derek (Patrick Dempsey) kissed another woman and ended their relationship. George (T.R. Knight) finally admitted to Callie (Sara Ramirez) that he is in love with Izzie (Katharine Heigl), and the two divorced.

Alex (Justin Chambers) was forced to make a difficult choice between Ava (Elizabeth Reaser) and intern Lexie (Chyler Leigh). Richard (James Pickens, Jr.) continued his run as chief. As the new Chief Resident, Miranda (Chandra Wilson) had a difficult time balancing her professional and personal lives.

CSI: After a confrontation with the Miniature Killer almost left Sara (Jorja Fox) dead, she and Grissom (William Petersen) were forced to disclose their relationship. They were briefly engaged, but Sara was so traumatized by her attack and so fed up with her job, that she left town. Warrick (Gary Dourdan) was wrongfully accused of killing a stripper after getting mixed up with a mob boss and club owner, who may have an informant in the Las Vegas Police Department.

SCRUBS: J.D. (Zach Braff) became a father but decided that he couldn't continue his relationship with Kim (Elizabeth Banks). Elliot (Sarah Chalke) broke off her engagement to Keith (Travis Schuldt). The Janitor (Neil Flynn) finally got a girlfriend. The hospital board wanted Dr. Kelso (Ken Jenkins) to retire after Elliot inadvertently revealed his real age.

April Schedule

30 Rock (NBC) 5 episodes	April 15 Law and Order SVU (NBC) 5 episodes	
ER (NBC) 6 episodes	April 17 Smallville (CW) 6 episodes	Ugly Betty (ABC) 5 episodes
Returned April 3 CSI (CBS) 5 episodes left	April 20 Brothers and Sisters (ABC) 4 episodes	Lost (ABC) 5 episodes
Without a Trace (CBS) 5 episodes	April 21 Gossip Girl (CW) 5 episodes	April 28 House (Fox) 4 episodes
My Name is Earl (NBC) 8 episodes	April 23 Law and Order (NBC) 5 episodes	Returning in the fall Dirty Sexy Money (ABC) Private Practice (ABC) Pushing Daisies (ABC) Heroes (NBC) 24 (Fox)
Returned April 8 NCIS (CBS) 6 episodes	April 24 Grey's Anatomy (ABC) 5 episodes	
April 10 The Office (NBC) 6 episodes	April 11 Moonlight (CBS) 5 episodes	
April 13 Desperate Housewives (ABC) 6 episodes	April 14 Bones (Fox) 6 episodes	
April 14 One Tree Hill (CW) 6 episodes		

GRAPHIC BY BETHANY SWANSON

DVD REVIEW ★★★★★



PHOTO COURTESY MOVIES.YAHOO.COM

Sweeney Todd lights up the small screen

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

After achieving modest box office success, a slew of award nominations and an Oscar win for best art direction, Tim Burton's adaptation of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber

of Fleet Street" made its way to DVD last week.

Based on Stephen Sondheim's musical, the film tells the story of Benjamin Barker (Johnny Depp), a barber who was wrongfully sent to prison by the malicious Judge Turpin (Alan Rickman). Turpin had Barker arrested because he longed for Barker's wife and wanted him out of the picture.

Fifteen years later, Barker returns to London, using the name Sweeney Todd, and discovers his wife poisoned herself and Turpin took in his daughter Johanna (Jayne Wisener) as his ward. Todd reopens his shop above Mrs. Lovett's (Helena Bonham Carter) bakery in hopes of seeking revenge on Turpin for ruining his life.

As Anthony Hope (Jamie Campbell Bower), the young sailor who brought Todd back to London, tries to woo Johanna, Todd's desire for revenge grows into an obsession. He begins

killing his patrons by slitting their throats to prepare for the day he gets the opportunity to kill Turpin. Mrs. Lovett, who has become infatuated with Todd, helps him dispose of the bodies by baking them into the meat pies she sells in her shop.

The film alone is worth the purchase of the DVD. Burton's original style provides the perfect transition from stage to screen for this dark and tragic thriller. He does not hold back with the gore and the disturbing nature of the story, but he also brings a very human element to the characters, particularly Todd.

The art direction is incredible, perfectly capturing the eerie mood of the film. The camera smoothly sweeps through the streets of 19th century London and gives the city a stylized depiction. The film's muted color palette adds to the story's despair.

The performances are incredible all around. Depp plays Todd to

perfection. Even though he had no formal vocal training, he captures Todd's obsession, rage and desperation in the songs. The film belongs to Depp, but the supporting performances are equally strong, particularly from Bonham Carter and Rickman.

The two-disc special edition DVD is enhanced by its abundance of special features. The first disc contains a behind-the-scenes feature detailing the frequent Burton-Depp-Bonham Carter collaboration and showing exclusive footage from rehearsals and recording sessions.

Other features include a look at the film's design, the history of the real legend of Sweeney Todd and a demonstration of how the make-up team made all the throat-slittings look so gory.

The only feature not included that could have enhanced the DVD is deleted scenes and musical numbers.

The Phoenix continue to break records after transition to outdoor track season

Sam Rinderman
Reporter

The Elon women's outdoor track and field season kicked off with a bang this weekend at the Duke Invitational as 16 school records were broken.

"We have continued to improve this season, and we are coming off the best indoor season in our program's young history," head coach Mark Elliston said. "We will continue to do some things to prepare for conference coming up and the girls keep getting better and better as many have broken their personal bests."

The throwers continued their success as Krystal Paszkeicz set the school record for hammer throw at 38.24 ft., while freshman Justine Robertson finished closely behind with a throw of 35 ft.

The sprinters also had a great performance as junior Cara Maschi notched a season-best in the 400-meter run with a time of 63.18 seconds, and Julie McGowan's time of 1:09.67 was a season-best for the 400-meter hurdles.

There was also a great team effort put up by the relay teams as the 4x100-meter team consisting of Sarah Skogen, Lauren Hawkesworth, Veronica Day



Junior Katie White moves to the front of the pack on her way to a season-best performance in the 1500-meter run at Duke Invitational on Saturday. DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

and Monique Vines put up a season-best time of 50.27 seconds. The 4x400 relay team with Sarah Skogen, Jennine Strange, Andrea March and Melissa Turowski finished with a time of 4:00.31, good enough for seventh place out of 14 teams.

Individually, Skogen ran a 58.61 second 400-meter dash and Strange ran a 2:14.69 800-meter dash, only three seconds off from breaking yet another school record.

Strange continues to have success with the 800-meter dash as she set the school

record for indoor track.

Strange and Robertson have brought much success for the Phoenix this season as they have both set a good number of school records.

For Robertson, balancing her time has been a tough adjustment, especially

because the throwers have started a new training program.

"Our new lifting program is very intense," Robertson said. "It has definitely helped Krystal and I improve as the course of the season goes on. But it is certainly hard to balance that with academics."

Although this is a very young team, it has improved from last year's finish of sixth place in indoor track and continues to get better.

"This year's freshman class is Coach Elliston's first recruiting class and many of our competitors are underclassmen," Robertson said.

According to Strange and Day the team has suffered a key loss with senior Dominique Price going out for the season with a knee injury.

"Dominique was a key leader for the team," Day said. "She was an emotional leader as well as one of our best performers."

The team has still continued to perform well this season and looks to improve from its fifth place conference finish from this year's indoor season, as the outdoor Southern Conference meet is only a month away.

Men's tennis team looks to learn from losses as 2008 conference tournament approaches

Justin Hite
Reporter

As the 2008 Southern Conference Championship approaches, the men's tennis team has learned at least one thing through this competitive season.

"You learn from your losses," junior Damon Gooch said. "If we had won all those matches we would have had a great year. If I had won all my matches we would have had a great year. Losing, there's more to learn from it. Every loss brings you closer to the next win."

Gooch is one of the leaders on a team that went undefeated in conference play last year, but has fallen twice this year, most recently to Furman University 6-1 on Saturday.

"It was definitely not a 6-1 score," coach Michael Leonard said. "They just won a few of the bigger points ... they were the ones that got it when it counted, and that was at the end of it."

With the Paladins in striking distance, Elon (13-8 overall, 7-2 Southern Conference) had the opportunity to snatch a victory. But a slip up in No. 6 singles left the victory unattainable and the two other competitors lost intensity.

"We got up in the third set and all three of those matches," Leonard said. "We needed all three of them to win and it looked like we would win...we are two or three shots away from winning the match."

The team fell and is now almost a certainty for the No. 2 seed when the conference tournament begins on April 17. But more than anything the

SoCon standings

1. Furman
2. Elon
3. Davidson
4. Citadel
5. Georgia Southern
6. App State
7. Wofford
8. Chattanooga
9. UNC-G
10. College of Charleston

young Phoenix—a team made up of 60 percent freshmen—may have found more lessons in the recent defeats.

Aside from the loss to Furman and an early season slip to Wofford College, the Phoenix has only lost to ranked teams. Radford University, Wake Forest University, Drake University, University of South Carolina, Old Dominion University and Duke University have all downed the Phoenix. The six teams have ranked between 16th and 75th throughout the season.

"We have such a young team that these guys are going to be in the same situations again and they can learn from the tight losses we had this year," Leonard said.

The team will face East Carolina University today and High Point University on Friday.

"We have a little less than two weeks before we head down to conference and we need to iron out a few things," Leonard said.



Junior Damon Gooch hits the ball at a match earlier in the season. The Phoenix has lost twice in its conference this year, tarnishing its undefeated conference record last year. STEFANIE MEYERS | Photographer

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's Golf

Elon placed ninth at the 21st Annual Coca-Cola Wofford Invitational men's gold tournament last Tuesday afternoon.

Jimmy Lytle posted a final-round four-under-par 68 to claim a share of 10th place along with teammate Jayson Judy.

Furman University earned the team title of the 54-hole tournament.

Women's Golf

The Phoenix women's golf team came in 10th out of 15 teams at the John Kirk/Panther Intercollegiate women's golf tournament last Tuesday.

Samantha Widmer tallied a two-over-par 75 and Danielle Mills recorded a three-over-par 76 to lead all Phoenix golfers in the final round of play.

Host Georgia State grabbed the team title.

Softball

The softball team fell in two conference games to Georgia Southern this past weekend. Elon was held to just three hits in the final six innings in an 8-2 series opener loss. Elon scored its only two runs in the top of the first inning.

For the last game, Georgia Southern survived an Elon three run sixth inning rally to hold the Phoenix off and earn the win 6-3. Elon drops to 16-16 overall, including a 5-4 mark in the Southern Conference.



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Our Team

Graphic Designer

If Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign feature in your ideal way to spend an afternoon, then you'd be perfect for The Pendulum. The student newspaper is looking for an energetic, artistic student to join our team of designers and editors. Duties will include designing anything from pie charts and graphs to creating graphic art for articles.

Must be available Monday nights.

Media Editor

Convergence! The Pendulum is looking for a web-savvy student interested in running the multimedia arm of the student newspaper. The new Multimedia Editor will be responsible for assigning and creating multimedia and interactive content for the Web site. Interested students should have photo and video production skills, as well as knowledge of multimedia authoring. Flash skills are helpful and would be totally great, but not necessary.

Contact The Pendulum @ 336-278-7247

Baseball continues SoCon success

Tamara Burnett
Reporter

Cory Harrilchak hasn't hit an inside the park homerun since he was 7 years old.

But Friday night he was able to do it again, dazzling Elon fans in the bottom of the fifth inning, boosting Elon to a 9-6 win against the Georgia Southern Eagles at Latham Park.

"This win gives us a lot of confidence," Harrilchak said. "The first game is definitely the biggest of the series."

The Phoenix went on to sweep the series from the Eagles, posting 11-10 and 12-8 victories in a double-header on Sunday afternoon.

Elon's ace, Steven Hensley, started Friday's game on the mound. He earned the win and went six innings allowing five earned runs. He had seven strikeouts on the game and improved to 6-0.

The junior pitcher is now 18 strikeouts away from tying Matt Garner for the Elon record of career strikeouts.

"Early on I was struggling with my command but I had to battle my way through it," Hensley said. "It was a collective team win and the bullpen picked me up."

Neal Pritchard smashed his first career grand slam in Sunday's first game while Dallas Tarleton doubled home the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth.

Pritchard and Harrilchak struck again in the nightcap each driving in four runs.

Harrilchak also blasted a three-run shot over the right-center field wall, recording his third home run of the season

and second of the series. Harrilchak finished 11-14 on the weekend.

"For us to be good and a champion-caliber team the bottom of the line up has to step up and tonight they did," head coach Mike Kennedy said.

A trio of freshmen relief pitchers dominated the final innings of the first two games.

Jared Kernodle, Kenneth Ferrer and Thomas Girdwood combined to pitch 6.8 innings giving up just two earned runs on seven hits and striking out 12.

Girdwood earned his seventh save this season on Friday, moving him into eighth place on the all time Elon saves list.

Currently, the Phoenix is seated at No. 2 in the SoCon standings with an 8-2 conference record.

Elon is set to take on the East Carolina University Pirates from Latham Field tonight at 7 p.m.

After the ECU game, the Phoenix is really getting into the heart of conference play, playing five SoCon teams before the season concludes in just more than a month.

Elon is set to face Western Carolina in Friday and Saturday night games, concluding with a 1:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon bout.

Two weekends from now, the Phoenix goes on the road to face the College of Charleston, the only team standing between first place and the Phoenix.

The College of Charleston has a record of 6-1 in SoCon play. Any conference loss can drop them in the standings and consequently boost the Phoenix up.



STEFANIE MEYERS | Photographer
Junior infielder Mike Lobacz catches a fly ball earlier this season. The Phoenix has only two SoCon defeats this season and is looking to make a run for first place in the last two months of the season.

Barefoot named new women's basketball coach

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Karen Barefoot will be the fifth Elon women's head basketball coach, announced Director of Athletics, Dave Blank on Saturday.

Barefoot comes to Elon after spending the last three seasons as an assistant coach at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., focusing mainly on the development of post players and guards.

"Karen brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our program," Blank said in a press release. "She is a proven winner."

During her time at ODU, the Lady Monarchs earned a 77-23 record. This season, the team advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, defeating Liberty University and University of Virginia, before falling to the University of Connecticut.

Barefoot has also previously coached at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C., from 2001-2005. She led her team to the school's first South Atlantic Conference regular season title in school history. That year, the team finished the season ranked eighth in the region following its first-ever trip to the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

As a player at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va., Barefoot was a three-time All-American. She still holds the title as the only player in NCAA history, male or female, to score more than 2,000 points and record 1,000 assists and is CNU's all-time leader in scoring, assists and steals.

"My drive and determination to be a successful Division I head coach are second to none and I pledge a 100 percent commitment to Elon and our student-athletes," Barefoot said in a press release.

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Visit our website or contact Lauren Martin, Coordinator of Substance Education, at x7285 or lmartin10@elon.edu

Phoenix athletics this week

Today
Men's tennis vs. East Carolina, 5 p.m.
Baseball vs. No. 28 East Carolina, 7 p.m.

Thursday
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 7 p.m.
Women's tennis @ UNC Greensboro, 3 p.m.

Friday
Softball @ Chattanooga, 1 p.m.
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Softball @ Chattanooga, 3 p.m.
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 7 p.m.

Saturday (cont'd)
Women's softball vs. Western Carolina, 11:00 a.m.
Women's track and field @ Chapel Hill, All day

Sunday
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 1:30 p.m.
Softball @ Chattanooga, 2 p.m.

Monday
No events scheduled

Tuesday
Softball @ North Carolina A&T, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.



Women's tennis team beats Georgia Southern



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor
Junior Whitney Butcher smacks the ball in Sunday's win against Georgia Southern.

Pam Richter
Reporter

The Elon women's tennis team faced winds and cold weather on Sunday afternoon and emerged victorious against Georgia Southern University.

The Phoenix ended its two-game losing streak with a 4-3 victory.

Overall, the Phoenix is 13-8 and 4-3 in the Southern Conference.

The team earned the doubles point with victories by both the No.1 and No.2 pair.

Sophomores Deanna Bailey and Anna Milian defeated Christine Caforio and Ali Beavers 8-4 and sophomore Paige Kensrue and junior Whitney Butcher won by the same score.

This game also concluded alumni weekend for the Elon tennis program.

Both the men's and the women's teams had an alumni dinner on Friday evening.

During Sunday's games, fans had the chance to win authentic Elon gear in a raffle.

In the singles matches, Elon's top three players all earned victories. Bailey, the Phoenix's No. 1 player, had an impressive victory over Kristi Kegerreis 6-3, 6-1.

Milian also emerged victorious at No. 2 and Kensrue claimed the final singles point for Elon at No. 3.

Elon has two more regular season matches before the Southern Conference tournament.

"I think we have a pretty good shot," Bailey said. "We've been doing well this season in all of our matches and even

the ones we've lost have been close. If we keep it going we'll have a good shot."

Bailey said she hopes to focus on some specific aspects of her game heading into the tournament.

"I'm going to focus on my good footwork and being in good shape and hope I'm ready to go," Bailey said.

Head coach Elizabeth Anderson agrees Elon should be successful in the tournament.

She emphasized how important it is to win the last two matches in order to have the momentum when heading into the tournament.

The women are just a little more than a week away from competing in the Southern Conference Tournament in Charleston, S.C. Thursday's match-up puts them against UNC Greensboro, whom they are tied with in the standings.

Elon is currently residing in fifth place in the SoCon standings. Furman University caps off the top, holding onto an undefeated season. College of Charleston, Davidson College and Wofford College stand between Elon and Furman.

The Phoenix will travel down the interstate for a 3 p.m. match in Greensboro on April 10.

On Saturday, the Phoenix takes on the Catamounts of Western Carolina University.

The Catamounts are still searching for their first win of the season and are sitting at the bottom of the SoCon standings.

"We're just focusing one match at a time and trying to finish the season strong," Anderson said.

Women's tennis schedule

April 10
UNC-G
Greensboro

April 12
Western Carolina
Elon

April 17-20
Southern Conference
Tournament
Charleston, S.C.

Recent scores

April 6
Elon 4, Georgia
Southern 3

April 2
Davidson 5, Elon 2

March 26
Georgia State 5, Elon 2

March 24
Elon 5, Mercer 2

March 22
Elon 5, Wofford 2

March 18
Elon 6, Appalachian
State 1



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor
Sophomore Paige Kensrue returns the ball in Sunday's tennis match versus Georgia Southern.

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Sports

Football team begins spring practice

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Sporting white jerseys and maroon shorts is nothing new for the Elon football players. But donning hefty pads under their clothes, glowing gold helmets on their heads and cleats on their feet was something they were eager to rediscover.

Head coach Pete Lembo and the Phoenix finally took the field Tuesday, April 1 to begin their 15-session spring practice. A team is allowed only 29 on-field practices before its first game in the fall, as regulated by the NCAA.

"We were eager to get out here and prove what we have been working on all winter," quarterback Scott Riddle said.

In the off-season winter months, the team is isolated to the weight room and classrooms with white boards.

"It's been a long winter, a good winter—and we've made some noticeable gains in the weight room," Lembo said.

"But all that work goes toward getting the opportunity to be out [on the field] again."

The first few days of practice, the Phoenix spent more time getting back to fundamentals and basic techniques. Passing and running the football were especially emphasized in the first session.

Each unit of the team is focusing on something different and specific each day.

Offensively, the Phoenix is running one-on-one routes that pit the wide receivers against the defensive backs.

Junior Bo Williamson is proving to be an offensive threat, making some key catches on long balls from Riddle. Terrell Hudgins continues to shine as he hauls in tough passes and extends



Terrell Hudgins (left) and Sean Jeffcoat (right) take part in a drill at Sunday's practice, one of the first for the Phoenix this season. Because the NCAA restricts how many practices teams are allowed, the few spring practices are important for the Phoenix. ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

to snatch extra yards on each carry.

"We want to get better fundamentally," Hudgins said. "Our goal is to finish strong. We didn't end last year the way we wanted to. If we do this year, we will be in the playoffs."

Brandon Newsome, Dontay Taylor and A.J. Harris support Hudgins in the back field, grabbing nice catches on a daily basis.

An interception and a blocked field goal in one practice highlight the defensive side of the ball for the Phoenix. Defensive tackle David Hunt and corner back Karlos Sullivan turned in good performances.

Special teams are working on punting, point after touchdown and field goals. Kickoff return drills are also dominating the afternoons, as well as field goal formations and punt blocking.

"Compared to last spring, the quality and quantity of the student-athletes we have out here is the biggest difference," Lembo said. "Two springs ago, I barely had enough linemen to practice. Now, we are too deep with legitimate players."

New offensive and quarterback coach Mike McCarty has been fitting in well, adjusting himself to the players and vice versa, Lembo said.

"It is always tough making

the transfer to a new coach, but he will make me a better player," Riddle said. "[McCarty] is more demanding than our last coach. He asks more of me, especially my footwork."

Riddle and the Phoenix finished last season second in the country in passing offense, 10 in scoring offense, 16 in passing efficiency and 19 in total offense.

"I have a number of goals [for the spring]," Lembo said. "One, I want to develop greater physical and mental toughness as a team. Two, gain a better grasp in what we are doing scheme-matically and three, grow closer as a football family."

Spring practice schedule

April 9-23

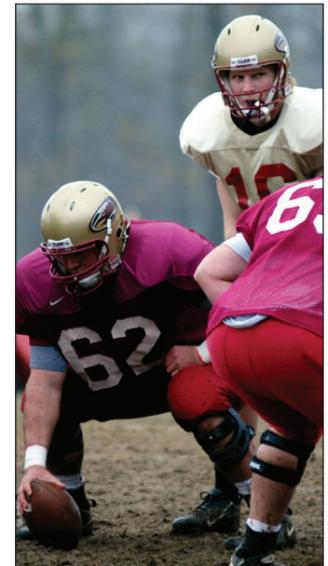
Tuesdays: 4:15 p.m.
Wednesdays: 4:45 p.m.
Fridays: 4:15 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m.

Practices take place at Hunt and Tucker Fields.

2008 Regular Season Schedule

- Aug. 30 RICHMOND
- Sept. 6 at Stony Brook
- Sept. 13 PRESBYTERIAN (HALL OF FAME DAY)
- Sept. 20 at Georgia Southern*
- Sept. 27 SAMFORD* (FAMILY WEEKEND)
- Oct. 4 FURMAN*
- Oct. 11 at The Citadel*
- Oct. 18 at Chattanooga*
- Oct. 25 WOFFORD*
- Nov. 8 WESTERN CAROLINA* (HOMECOMING)
- Nov. 15 Appalachian State*
- Nov. 22 at Liberty

* denotes a Southern Conference game
ALL CAPS denotes a home game



Above left: Walker White (left) and Karlos Sullivan (right) run a drill at Sunday's practice. The team focused on fundamentals for their first few days on the field.

Above right: From left, Jeff Allen, Scott Riddle and Andrew McMicken prepare for the snap at practice Sunday.



Left: Terrell Hudgins catches a pass at Sunday's practice. Hudgins is an offensive asset to the Phoenix's passing game.