



THE PENDULUM

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www.elon.edu/pendulum



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer

(From left) Carl Lindner IV, Christopher Lindner, President Leo M. Lambert, Martha Lindner and Carl Lindner III break ground for the most environmentally-friendly facility on campus.

Construction begins on Lindner academic building

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

Construction may have begun weeks ago on the new focal point of the Academic Village, but on Wednesday, university administrators joined the Lindner family of Cincinnati to

“symbolically” break ground on Elon’s newest building, Lindner Hall. The 30,000-square-foot facility will be the home to the sociology and anthropology department, the history and geography department, and the administrative offices for the school of arts and sciences.

After Lindner Hall is completed, eight of the 17 academic departments that are a part of the College of Arts and Sciences will reside within the Academic Village.

“The construction of the Lindner

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Francis to step into new role as executive VP

Provost has been at Elon for more than 30 years

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

After 14 years of serving as the provost and vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Gerry Francis is moving out of the Provost’s Office — well, sort of.

Starting on June 1, 2009, Francis will move into President Leo Lambert’s



Gerry Francis

office to begin as Elon’s first executive vice president. He will leave his role as provost and a new provost will be named following a national search.

Though Francis is changing positions, many of his responsibilities will be the same. To create the executive vice president position,

the duties that are currently assigned to the provost will be divided in half.

There are several advantages behind the shuffle, Lambert said. It will change the provost’s position so that he or she can focus exclusively on academic affairs and student life.

Another reason for the change is to add another member to Elon’s senior staff, which has not grown for more than 10 years.

“It’s like seeing yourself grow up,” Francis said. “You didn’t see yourself grow from (4-feet-2-inches to 4-feet-5-inches) but the next thing you know, you’re 6 feet tall. The President’s Office needs additional firepower now.”

Currently, there are a number of responsibilities that fall under the provost: academic affairs, student life, admissions, cultural programs and athletics, among several others. After the switch, the provost will only deal with academic affairs and student life. The executive vice president will keep up with the rest.

“In the 10 years I’ve been here, the university has become a more complex institution,” Lambert said. “The size of the senior staff has not grown to reflect that.”

University officials expect that having an additional member of administrative staff will strengthen many of the programs already established at Elon.

Lambert says that Francis’ history with Elon makes him the perfect fit for the university’s first executive vice president. He has worked at Elon since 1974 when he joined the department of mathematics as an assistant professor. Francis joined the administrative side of Elon in 1983 and has been working as a staff member ever since.

Though Francis is eager to begin the new position, he says he will miss some things about serving as provost.

“I’ll miss some of the day-to-day contacts [that I have with people],” he said. “There will be a little bit of withdrawal.”

Until the position switch in 2009, Francis will continue in his role as the provost.

INCH by INCH row by row

Elon has ordered 1,500 oak tree saplings to give the class of 2008. The sapling is a symbol of the growth that students have experienced at Elon.

Heather Macdonald
Reporter

Four years ago, the class of 2008 was welcomed to the Elon community at New Student Convocation. At the end of the ceremony, all the students received an acorn to symbolize the beginning of their college careers.

These same students are about to graduate, and at the end of Commencement, each will receive a Shumond oak sapling. This young tree symbolizes the growth students have experienced during their time at Elon, as well as the growth that they are sure to experience in years to come.

The tradition began in 1991 when Furman Moseley spoke to the graduating class.

Moseley, a 1956 graduate of Elon, incorporated his career in the timber business by giving each alum a redwood sapling.

Dr. J. Fred Young, president of Elon from 1973 to 1998, decided to make the gifting of saplings a permanent tradition in 1992. Instead of a redwood sapling, he opted to give each student an oak sapling in accordance with the meaning of the school’s name.

When Dr. Leo Lambert became president, he built upon the tradition by giving each new student an acorn at New Student Convocation. The acorn played in to the sapling tradition by symbolizing the growth of each student, from a

metaphorical acorn to a tree, ready to grow and extend its roots.

What happens to the sapling after graduation is up to each student.

Elic Senter, a 1999 graduate and the current mayor of Franklinton, N.C., said that when he graduated, he thought the tradition seemed somewhat cheesy. Yet as he has gotten older, he has realized just how fitting this tradition really is.

“My tree is really a symbol of my own growth in the nine years since I left Elon,” he said. “If a tree can grow 20 feet, imagine what a human can do.”

Michael Bumbry, a 2007 graduate and former executive president of the SGA, realized the importance of the sapling early on.

“I love the idea, and it is definitely one of the highlights of graduation day,” Bumbry said. He planted the sapling at his childhood home in Virginia and said his mom continues to care for it.

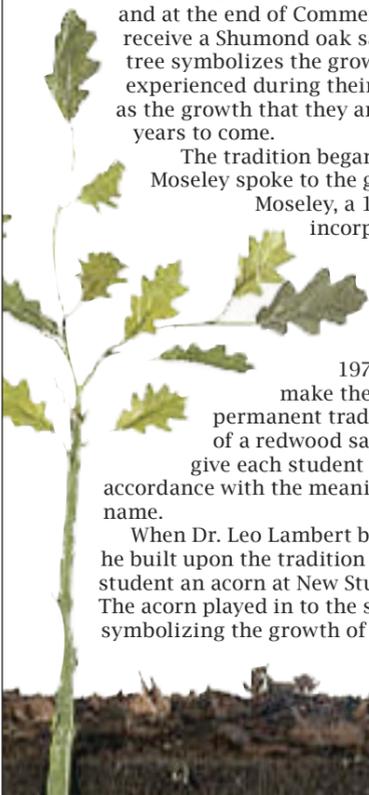
“The sapling is essentially a symbolic capstone on an incredible experience that illustrates growth and maturity,” Bumbry said. “The sapling is yet another example of how Elon is truly unique and receiving it is just a reminder of how special of a place it really is.”

Not all graduates have had the best of luck with their saplings. Many students lose their saplings in the commute from Elon, and others have saplings that just won’t seem to grow.

Raechel Hester, a 2006 graduate who now works as assistant director of admissions, said that her sapling is planted at her parent’s house in Maryland. But she’s unsure of the tree’s current condition.

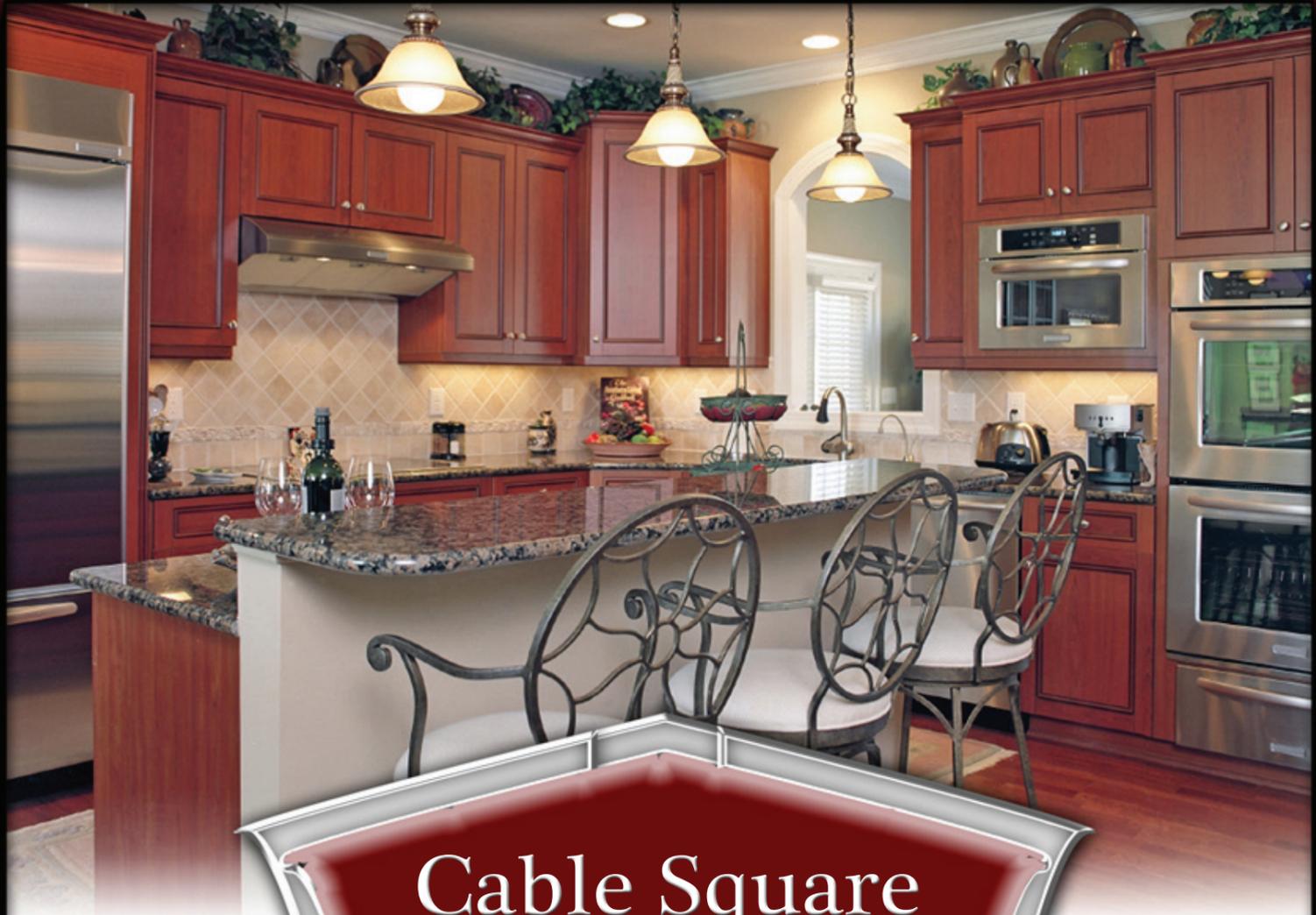
“I think it is still surviving after a run in with the lawn mower,” Hester said.

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Remembering the beginning

Looking back at the Class of 2008's journey through Elon



FILE PHOTO

The members of the Class of 2008 began their journey at Elon Under the Oaks on Aug. 27, 2004, for their new student convocation. They will end their journey in the same place today, four years later, at Commencement.

Dates of Importance to 2008 Grads

AUG. 27, 2004:
Orientation

AUG. 28, 2004:
New Student Convocation

AUG. 31, 2004:
First day of college classes

MAY 13, 2008:
Last day of college classes

MAY 24, 2008:
Graduation

Class of 2008 Stats

- **Size of class:** 1,235
- **Average SAT score:** 1169, which at the time was the highest average SAT of any class
- **Average high school GPA:** 3.63, which at the time was the highest average GPA of any class
- **High school class rank:** 48 percent in top 20 percent
- **Scope:** Came from 17 countries and 37 states
- **Gender Ratio:** 63 percent female and 37 percent male
- **Graduating:** 1,145 students graduating in today's ceremony
- **Senior Gift:** \$18,008 dollars raised from 355 donors as of May 21.

THEN and NOW

2004

2008

Tuition: \$17,555

Tuition: \$24,076

Enrollment:
4,796 students

Enrollment:
5,456 students

Faculty: 261

Faculty: 291

Freshman Year: The Pendulum headlines from 2004 - 2005

Sept. 2

Political Science Pavilion dedicated during Homecoming weekend

Sept. 23

Board of Trustees meets in Greensboro to visualize new law school

Sept. 30

Anna Quindlen speaks at Fall Convocation

Oct. 7

Ride, Rack and Relax Bikes vandalized

Oct. 7

Plans established for "a new dining hall near Danieleley Center" (The Colonnades)

Oct. 29-31

"The Battle for the Saddle" is the homecoming theme

Oct. 28

Final vote on Elon Law School takes place

Nov. 11

First annual Phoenix Phind weekend scavenger hunt

Nov. 11

University donates land for site of new fire department

Feb. 24

University adopts foreign language requirement for incoming freshmen

March 10

Student charged with using hidden cameras to videotape female students

March 17

Larry Basirico named international programs dean

April 21

John Glenn speaks at Elon

April 21

Jordan Center prepares for an "extreme makeover"

April 28

Construction begins on University Commons Shopping Center (Current home to Target, Old Navy, etc.)

April 7

Sept. 11, 2001, sculpture comes to Elon



FILE PHOTO

A sculpture comprised of 16 tons of structural steel from the World Trade Center was brought to Elon in April of 2005 to stand behind Koury Center for a full year.

The man with the mace

34 years at Elon earns Haworth the honor

Ashley Barnas
News Editor

A two-headed coin was flipped and Richard Haworth called heads to earn the honor of carrying the mace during graduation.

Haworth, of course, is joking when he says that was how he was picked to carry on the Elon Commencement tradition.

Haworth has been teaching for 45 years — 34 of which have been as a mathematics professor at Elon. His love of Elon and his service to the school have earned him the honor.

"Elon and I have held hands for a very long time," he said.

Haworth said the mace bearer has always been a senior faculty member who has somehow distinguished themselves. That way, all the graduates will know who the mace bearer is, he said. George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs, said the honor was held by Dr. Earl Danieley for a very long time, but now they ask the most senior member of the faculty and rotate.

"The mace is a symbolic representation to our commitment to *numen* and *lumen*," Haworth said. "And to have that held up in front of us is a wonderful tradition. That tradition is set in the footsteps of Earl Danieley. To be somehow connected with him and Elon's honorable mission, [is] a humbling thing in my life."

When Troxler called him about a month ago and asked him to do the honor of carrying the mace, Haworth "of course, said 'yes.'"

Haworth picked up the mace for the first time on Friday during Commencement rehearsal. He said he did not know what to expect, joking that he didn't know whether to twirl it or to hold it like the

Statue of Liberty. He had never held the mace before and had no idea how heavy it may be. Luckily, he jokingly said, he's been working out.

Haworth said he has never "been much for formalities except when they mean something to others." This is such an occasion that he looks forward to.

He will lead the procession as "somewhat of a focal point" and then stand before the crowd to announce, "The Elon University faculty presents the 118th graduating class."

He said he will announce it with a southern drawl, of course, with the hopes that someone in the audience will say, "I don't think he's from New York state."

Today's Commencement is a doubly special occasion for Haworth because he gets to see his great niece, Kimberly Cote, graduate and have his brother here to see him carry the mace.

The love of teaching

Haworth loves the basic classes where students struggle with math. That way he gets to wait with them for "their math person to come out."

"I also love my majors and the upper levels when they really enjoy it," he said. But the biggest reward comes when students begin to struggle with and appreciate what they're doing.

Haworth reached on top of a filing cabinet and grabbed a small circular object he held enclosed in his palm.

During a Winter Term course 10 or 12 years ago, two girls approached Haworth during the first class. They warned him: "We hate math."

Haworth accepted it and respected their feelings — not everyone can be a math person. He doesn't care for English or history, so it was OK.

At the end of the last class, he said the two girls approached him again and said they had something for him.

Haworth opens his fist to reveal a homemade button. Yellowed with age, the button encases a photo of two girls side-by-side smiling. Written below them is, "We ♥ math."

With glossy eyes, Haworth smiled. That's what he loves about his job.

Long live Elon

Haworth remembers when the fine arts building was a track. He remembers when the choice of Winter Term location was between Elon and London. And he remembers when the math department consisted of four professors.

The graduates have been at Elon for four years and Haworth said they are so lucky.

"But look how long I've been here," he said. He has had even more time to love and appreciate Elon.

Haworth came here for his first interview and never accepted another. He loved everything about Elon, especially when he saw students interact with professors in ways he had never seen before.

The tradition of openness between faculty and students and the fact that they feel comfortable is what Haworth calls "the welcoming spirit."

"Doors are open and not shut — that's with administration, too," he said. "Boy, what a good choice I made."

Haworth loves that Elon is so focused on the individual student — something he says is unique to Elon. The school seeks to "make your life's endeavor."

"Elon is so good at knowing what students need to stabilize themselves," he said. Elon makes sure "that

Get to know Richard:



- Went to Wake Forest for his undergraduate degree, Duke and Appalachian State for two masters degrees, and Virginia Tech for his Ph.D. in mathematics
- First came to work for Elon at the same time as Gerry Francis, provost and vice president for academic affairs
- Faculty representative for InterVarsity for 17 years, loved being involved in students' spiritual development and spiritual growth
- Enjoys traveling with his wife and staying in hostels because of the energy of the people who work there
- Rides a Harley
- Loves doing service, something he has always been exposed to at Elon

Advice from Richard:

- "If your life somehow isn't playing a main role in the life of someone else, other than your family members, it's real hard to consider your life extremely valuable."
- "The secret to success is to be able to adapt to changes that come your way."
- You should always be able to "walk away from the past with a love in [your] heart for it."

happens in all kinds of ways."

Commencement

Today, Haworth said he thinks will feel "proud, really proud."

He is proud of the students going out into the world as "Elon's ambassadors," he said. "Because that's exactly what they are."

And he said he's proud of the faculty and administration sitting on the stage because of how firmly they believe in Elon and their students.

President Leo Lambert is "able to lead and still make you feel special and valued," Haworth said. "That's necessary to get the best out of everyone."

Special final days

Haworth said he didn't expect the last classes of his career to be special, but they were. He always has enough energy for everyone in the morning, but during his final 8 a.m. class, he received a rousing "surprise!"

Crepe paper was all over the room with signs saying "Happy Retirement." The students had cookies and cake for him, too.

That greeting made it exceedingly difficult to discuss a comprehensive final during the class period, he said.

Three faculty sat in the final meeting of his second

class to listen to him teach for the first and last time. The students began asking advanced mathematics questions, making Haworth work hard to explain the answers. It took him a while to realize that his colleagues had put the students up to it to give him a laugh on his last day.

Haworth said his final classes were a time he will cherish.

At a retirement party last week, Haworth reunited with students from the past and the present. Some of the oldest he called senior citizens — they are 55.

It was a good reminder to him that his life has correlation: he is doing something he does well and something he loves doing. That correlation is not always felt by everyone, he said.

Now that he is retiring, Haworth asks, "Am I going to have to hang out with old people now?"

One student invited him to come back for the Turning 21 Dinner. Haworth said yes, of course. He would be honored to come back.

As for the number of students he has taught while at Elon, Haworth picks up his TI-83 calculator from his desks and asks, "Do you know how to read scientific notation?" The number is that large.

Caring for your SAPLING

- Clear a three-foot circle of all vegetation and in the middle, dig a hole one foot wide and one foot deep.
- Plant the sapling here and cover the base with dirt.
- Slope the dirt away from the sapling to keep water from building up around the sapling's base.

Not every graduate has a degree in environmental science, so here are some tips for keeping your sapling as green as the day you got it.

- Never use fertilizer on an oak tree. Mulch made of dead leaves and twigs is a better choice.
- Weed the area surrounding the oak tree. Weeds can kill small oak trees.
- To protect small trees from frost, cover them with paper or cloth during winter nights.

(from www.laparks.org)



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer

Saplings lay in waiting in a warehouse near Physical Plant headquarters. To maintain the sapling's health, be sure to keep their new homes weed-free.

Ever Elon donation makes Lindner possible

LINDNER from Page 1

Building means that we have once again affirmed the centrality of the arts and sciences at Elon," said Steven House, dean of arts and sciences.

The building features high-tech classrooms, a 2,400-square-foot reading room that will highlight student achievements, a computer lab and faculty offices.

Since sustainability has become a high priority at Elon, Lindner Hall is also set to be the greenest building on campus. Blueprints call for bike racks and shower rooms to encourage alternative transportation, as well as Photovoltaic solar cells for onsite power generation.

The facility is modeled

after the University of Virginia's famous Rotunda, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson. To Jefferson, the Rotunda was the most important building of the Academic Village, and acted not only as a focal point of the quad, but also as an academic center for the university.

"The UVA Rotunda is a profoundly historic space in the history of American higher education," said Charles Irons, assistant professor of history, who will move into Lindner Hall once it opens in 2009.

The construction of the building was made possible by \$2.5 million donation from the Lindner family.

Words of Wisdom

The Pendulum spoke with several seniors and members of the Elon community to collect advice to share with graduates of the Class of 2008. Mentors shared their favorite events from the past four years, their hopes for the graduates and what they wish they knew when they graduated. They shared what they would miss most, something they wish they would have done while at Elon and something they recommend to incoming or current students.

Advice for tomorrow from a few familiar faces

Compiled by Andie Diemer, Laura Wainman and Jessi Dexheimer

From your mentors:

Ernie Nestor, Men's Head Basketball Coach

Q: What advice would you give this graduating class?

It is so important that you move in a forward direction even though the future seems so uncertain. It is the uncertainty that will call on your most creative efforts to help you be successful in the coming years.

Nothing is guaranteed. You must be prepared to compete for your place in our society. To do that, find something that not only interests and rewards you, but something that summons up your passions and excites you.

It is now your time to make a change in your status. While you may return to school, your days as a undergraduate student are over and moving forward into a new life status is necessary. Your parents have helped you get here and they will continue to support you. You must demonstrate to them what they have taught you by how you live your life.

Go forward and enjoy the future knowing that each day you have ownership over your destiny.

Jerry Tolley, Elon Mayor Emeritus and Director of Annual Giving & Elon Society

Q: What do you know now that you wish you had known when you had graduated?

The importance of building a network of lifelong acquaintances and friends who can help you grow in your chosen profession. Also the importance of knowing that life is a continuous learning experience and to succeed in life you must always be willing to learn new things and to embrace change.

Q: What event from the past four years is most memorable to you?

The opening of the Koury Business Center and the Law School, the performance of "The Phantom of the Opera" and many other theater productions, the convocations with outstanding speakers, the annual dance marathon and our highly successful athletics teams.

Q: What advice would you give this graduating class?

Always have a positive outlook on life and view your cup as half full and not half empty. And by all means, always find a way to turn every "setback" into a "comeback." Remember the old Chinese proverb: "The greatest glory in life is not never falling down but getting up every time you do fall down."

Q: What do you hope that these graduates will take with them from their time at Elon?

I would like to see every Elon graduate take with them a continued thirst for knowledge and adventure as well as the many memories and friendships they have made at Elon.

Remember above all, you will leave Elon, but Elon will never leave you.

Jay Anhorn, Director of Greek Life

Q: What do you know now that you wish you had known when you had graduated?

Being in college was much easier than graduate school or my first job. You realize that your advisers and professors may have held you accountable or have been harsh on you, but that it was for a good reason. Once you are out of Elon, you are on your own, and the only one looking out for you, is you. Unfortunately, you cannot appeal a decision or look for extra credit.

Q: What event from the past four years is most memorable to you?

My favorite memory has got to be watching Dr. Lambert get on stage at Elonthon this year and dance.

Q: What advice would you give this graduating class?

Remember that everything you learned inside and outside the classroom is what you made of it. Elon gave you the tools, but you decided which ones to use and how to use them. And don't forget to come back and visit.

Q: What do you hope that these graduates will take with them from their time at Elon?

From a Greek Life stand point, 35 percent of you will look back and realize that if it wasn't for your involvement in a fraternity or sorority, your lives would have been totally different. Most of you remember realizing how important your particular organization was to you, but I bet now as you leave, you see that you were all just one big family. Remember that Greek Life did not make you who you are today, but you are Greek Life and you made Elon a better place being part of it.

From your fellow seniors:



Crystal Grandison

What is something you will miss?

Being a part of the "Elon bubble," always seeing familiar faces wherever you go, Lighthouse, Cantina and watching people trip over bricks.



Johnathan Hatch

I will miss all my friends, both graduating seniors and underclassmen, who I won't see anymore. Also, I will miss not having much responsibility at all outside of class.



Jake Emerson

Living in the bubble.



Nikki Allem

I'll miss being able to walk or drive to my friends' places in less than five minutes, and I'll really miss reunions with friends who studied abroad for a semester in Denmark with me.



Allison Barbieri

I will definitely miss seeing Anonymous and 3 Day Weekend play at the various local venues. Their music is the soundtrack to my four years at Elon.



Charles Adams

I am going to miss all of my friends and having the entire world at my fingertips.



Leigh Sassone

The biggest thing I will miss is having all of my friends not even five minutes away from me at all times. Elon is a small community and everyone lives so close, it will be sad when we are all so far away.

What is something you wish you could have done?

Studied abroad more and not worry so much about things because everything will always get done.

I wish I would have gone out more when I didn't have anything to do the next day. Soon that lifestyle will be frowned upon.

I wish I would have come to Elon from day one instead of having to transfer in. I feel like I screwed myself out of three great semesters of college!

I wish I would have gone to Arizona Pete's (country line-dancing place in Greensboro) before my last few weeks here. It is so fun.

I wish that I would have studied abroad for an entire semester. My winter term in Brazil was amazing, but way too short.

I wish that I had been involved in more organizations on campus. I would have loved to have been involved in a service organization.

Take more winter term trips. Although I went away for a semester and a winter term, they keep adding more and more cool trips that I would love to participate in

What is something you would recommend to incoming or current students?

Don't take anything for granted. You're in college: Have fun, be smart and do big things. Your time here is going to fly by ... live it up.

Go out and meet as many people as possible. Do everything you can to learn from others about their cultures, lifestyles, where they're from and what they consider to be the norm.

Get involved in organizations and activities that are new to you, but don't stretch yourself too thin by being overly involved. Choose two or three things that you're really passionate about and give it your all.

Take advantage of the fact that Elon has an amazing theater arts department. Go see every musical or play, and definitely go see the dance concerts.

Don't take yourself too seriously, and enjoy these short years. Ten years from now you will remember the late nights spent procrastinating with your best friends — not the grade you got on a test.

Just enjoy every second here because it will all be over before you know it.

Use every service Elon has to offer because there is a lot. At Elon, people's entire jobs are dedicated to helping you as a student. In the real world, no one's job is to help you. Take advantage of it now while you can.

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

Packing up and moving on

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

At this point in life, every new chapter begins and ends in cardboard boxes. Four years ago those boxes were filled with packs of unused pencils, rolled up posters of favorite film stars and crisp new bedding — twin extra long.

A group of 1,235 freshman set foot on Elon's campus eager for what the newfound freedom of college would bring. For the first time, the Class of 2008 gathered Under the Oaks. Some listened to the words of the speaker that day, but most day-dreamed of the possibilities the next four years would hold. With glazed expressions, the freshmen scanned the faces of their new peers, which were all a little scared, a little awkward. As parents drove away students felt excited, surreal and even a little lonely. The adventure had begun.

In the months and years that followed those students pulled all-nighters in the library, woke up early to register for classes and clinked beer bottles at the bar. What started as 1,235 strangers soon grew to acquaintances and eventually friends. They worked in

group projects together, scrambling to put together PowerPoint presentations at the last minute. They made late night runs to Cook-Out in the darkness of 2 a.m. They held bean bags, ping pong balls and red solo cups. They said goodbye every May, and hello again every August. They rented movies, went on the ropes course and took pilgrimages to the malls of nearby cities. They shared in the formative "Elon" experience. Silent, invisible, barely noticeable bonds were formed.

Though not every experience was a good one, each contributed to personal growth. It is safe to say that the Class of 2008 aren't the same now as students were when their parents dropped them off four years ago. They've endured some of the most pivotal years of life, which will continue to shape who they are for many years to come.

Just as with many transitions in life, this new phase begins again with cardboard boxes. Four years after they first came to Elon, students' boxes are now packing other things — photographs from a friend's 21st birthday, trinkets from studying abroad or neatly pressed button-up shirts ready for a first day at work.

Four years have seen priorities shift, love come and go and friendships grow and fade. Though the boxes are full of important things, the most valuable of treasures won't fit in those boxes — each memory and experience, each kiss, each lesson.

Today, 1,145 seniors will meet Under the Oaks, just as they did during their first week at Elon. They will sit through a speech, which some will listen to, but others will not. They'll be busy day-dreaming about what comes next. No matter if it's a job, some time off, more semesters or some time back home, life will never be the same. The "real" world now beacons, and avoiding its call is impossible.

Scanning the faces of the Class of 2008 today will in many ways be different from what it was four years ago. Now they'll look proud, distinguished, insightful and honest. But, as these seniors drive away from Elon in the days to follow, it isn't unfathomable to think that they'll begin this next chapter of life just as they began the current one: Feeling a little excited, a little surreal but hopefully not too lonely — the Elon community is now with them.

Lost at Elon: One senior's musings

Justin Hite
Columnist

My Elon experience can be summarized in one word.

Lost.

No matter what year, no matter what experience it was.

Lost.

Freshman year I was lost on Elon's campus. Surrounded by thousands of students, it was a daunting task for any shy 18-year-old, socially lost. As a sophomore, I wasn't quite as awkward, more of a fly on the wall, but I began to find myself lost in what I wanted to do with my life. Not the question of what I wanted my profession to be, but how I was going to grow and who I was going to become. Junior year showed up and I was lost in Berlin and London, but finding my overall place in the world.

By the time my senior year ended I had lost myself. Not the person preparing to graduate, but instead the self that I had brought to Elon. Wet behind the ears and unsure of where I was going, Elon has helped me, not to find a map, but to draw my own map. My own plan of attack on the world.

And I don't mean for this column to sound like a Thanksgiving dinner, but that may be what I'm most thankful for. Elon has allowed me to foster myself and mold my own image into whatever I so desired. It finally allowed me to become me.

Elon never made me conform and it never made me change. It never let me stay comfortable, but never forced me out of my comfort zone.

Maybe it's just me or maybe I'm completely off base, but I can't help but look back at my time on campus and feel unsatisfied, but at the same time feel completely content with my experience.

For the first 20 years of my life I was told to be humble. I was conditioned to live in my minuscule 5-foot-7, 140-pound frame and, at times, hide. Earlier this year I was blessed with the opportunity to cover the Charlotte Bobcats-Miami Heat game in Greensboro for the Burlington Times-News. After the game, just trying to find something to do or someone to talk to, I glanced to my right and there was Shaquille O'Neal. (I had a chance to talk to the man a foot-and-a-half and 200 pounds larger than me.)

Three, maybe even two years ago, I would have run and hid. But I didn't, and I stood on the tips of my toes for a chat with the Big Aristotle.

I don't know what changed in me that gave me the courage to do that. It wasn't even that courageous of an act. But maybe that's the point.

There was a time that all of us graduating today grew up, or finally realized that we had. A time that we may not necessarily remember, but we will never forget.

Illustrating the Issues: Graduation



Illustration by Bethany Swanson

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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Film executive, alumnus to deliver graduation address

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

Students will get the chance to hear about the career achievements of an Elon graduate when Douglas Finberg, senior vice president of international marketing for Paramount Pictures, delivers the commencement address today.

Finberg, who graduated from Elon in 1994, produces marketing campaigns for international theatrical releases, including "Iron Man," "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," "Transformers" and "Shrek the Third." He also serves as a liaison for producers, filmmakers and studio executives in Los Angeles.

According to George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs, Finberg was an appealing choice for the commencement speaker because students often like to hear about the experiences of someone young to whom they can relate.

"He's relatively young to be so successful and he's doing so well in his career," Troxler said.

Earlier this year, the senior class officers met with Troxler and Gerry Francis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and compiled a list of potential speakers they thought the graduating class would enjoy hearing from. During the last few years they have tried to get speakers who have some association with Elon, whether they are parents, alumni or faculty.

"[Finberg] has spoken to some of our communications classes in California," Troxler said. "He's been a very active alumnus."

After they compiled their list of speakers, it was handed over to President Leo Lambert, who ultimately extended the invitation to Finberg.

Finberg's first position in the entertainment industry was as a public relations intern for Lucasfilm Ltd., while he was still at Elon. After graduating cum laude from Elon with a degree in communications, Finberg continued his studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the

American Film Institute.

He then worked as an administrator of international theatrical marketing and distribution services at MGM and as a director of international advertising and promotions for Universal Pictures before moving to Dreamworks SKG, where he spent 10 years as a creative executive for international marketing and advertising.

While at Dreamworks, he produced audiovisual, print and online campaigns for the international theatrical releases of films like "The Ring," "A Beautiful Mind," "Cast Away" and "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events." He also won the 2001 Hollywood Reporter Key Art Award for best international comedy trailer for "Meet the Parents."

At Dreamworks Finberg also managed international product presentations in London, Tokyo, Singapore, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona and Amsterdam, and he was responsible for implementing the design of a companywide "Digital Asset Resource Tracking" (DART) system.

In addition to producing marketing campaigns at Paramount, Finberg worked with Steven Spielberg and Michael Bay to produce a special shoot for the "Transformers" trailer that aired in Japan.

Finberg is the official commencement speaker, but he isn't the only one students will be hearing from at graduation. Senior class president Lauren Murphree and the president of the alumni association will speak. Dr. Francis will present awards and recognitions, and President Lambert will make Susan Moseley a doctor of humane letters.



Douglas Finberg

Commencement Questions?

Common Queries for Commencement 2008

Where are the bathrooms?

There are bathrooms in McEwen, Alamance and Long buildings. The bathroom in Whitley Auditorium is closed.

What time does the continental breakfast end?

The food will stop being served at 9 a.m. Please take your seats at this time. Graduates will enter through the area where the food will be served, which will make it hard for the attendees to get to their seats.

How will the graduates enter?

They will walk onto the center of the stage and then will go down on each side to their chairs.

Where do the different degrees sit?

B.A. - Audience left (McEwen side of seating) and probably a portion will sit in the front rows on audience right (Whitley side of seating)
B.F.A. - Audience right (Whitley side)
B.S. - Audience right (Whitley side)

How long is the commencement program?

Commencement concludes with the graduate recessional. It is estimated that commencement will run 2.5 hours for the ceremony and may run a few minutes longer with the recessional.

Are professional photographs available?

Yes, a photo will be sent to your home address in a week or two. There is also a table Under the Oaks and around Fonville Fountain where you can purchase the picture ahead of time. Look for the sign, "Commencement Photographs."

Can I order a graduation video on VHS or DVD?

Yes, you can sign up and pay Elon Television for a taped copy. ETV employees have two booths set up. One is near the information booth by the parking lot outside of Whitley Auditorium. The other is around Fonville Fountain. ETV has also taped Baccalaureate and Leaders for the 21st Century, which are also available for purchase.

Can I take photos?

The letter of the last name of the current graduates on stage (divided by bachelor of arts, fine arts and science) will be held up in the photo area. When the graduate's letter is held up, then the person can enter the photo area to the right side of the stage to take the photo.

Where is the special needs section?

It's located on the audience left side near McEwen Communications building. Individuals with special needs are allowed to have their families sit with them. They can also watch the ceremony inside of McEwen Communications building.

Is there anywhere I can buy batteries and/or film?

The Campus Shop in Moseley Center

is open until 9:15 a.m. and will reopen after graduation. Other nearby stores are Rite Aid Pharmacy and Food Lion at the intersection of Williamson Avenue and Church Street.

Where do I meet my graduate after the ceremony?

Signs for each of the academic departments will be placed above the reception tables located in Scott Plaza. Please plan to meet your family/graduate near the sign of your academic major.

Where do graduates pick up the oak sapling?

Oak saplings are available at a table in front of Powell Building which is the building next to Duke and beside Haggard Avenue. There is a sign marking this table, as well as tables for alumni information, commencement videos and commencement photographs. These tables will be in the same general area.

What happens if it rains?

Each graduate is allowed two tickets to give to two guests for entrance into Koury Center's Alumni Gym. All other guests will be asked to go to closed-circuit viewing rooms according to their graduate's major or in any building classroom.

Where is the information booth?

There are two information booths. One is located between Powell Building and Fonville Fountain and the second is at the back of the Commencement site near the Whitley parking lot.

Where is the first aid station?

It is located beneath the tent between Whitley Auditorium and the parking lot.

Where are the campus police/communications center?

They will be at a tent near the first aid tent in front of Whitley Auditorium.

Where can I go to use the telephone?

There are phones located in Alamance Building (where the front doors are looking out toward Fonville Fountain).

Where is the lost and found?

During the ceremony, lost and found should be taken to the information table at the back of the graduation site. Following the ceremony lost and found items will be taken to the Campus Police office in The Oaks complex.

Where is the interpreter located?

She will be on the right side of the stage near the photography area on a stool. She will wear a graduate's robe and will be at the Commencement site early that morning. Please find her and talk to her about where to sit.

Information courtesy of the Office of Cultural and Special Programs

SPEAKERS OF THE PAST

A brief look back at the last four Commencement speakers



2007
Kerri Anderson
CEO and President, Wendy's Intl.



2006
Jack McKeon
Former Florida Marlins Manager



2005
Jeanne Swanner Roberston
Professional speaker, humorist



2004
Dr. Earl Danieley
President Emeritus, Elon University

POMP & Circumstance

Every graduation ceremony with a parade of the academics that all of the universities from Tam to toe in full academic regalia, you almost never miss its many symbols. Take it easy with this guide, which is sure to get you

By Shelley R
Photos

Regalia Guide: What's all the fuss about?

Academic regalia — the robes, caps, tams and tassels worn by faculty and staff at special ceremonies — have been around since medieval times in England. According to the American Council on Education, academic dress began as an attempt to keep clergy and scholars from dressing "excessively." The styles and colors have remained relatively constant since that time and are based on the wearer's degree and granting institution.



TAM: Known as a "floppy hat." Typically for doctoral degrees, they are sometimes used in masters programs and are made of velvet. Masters degree holders' tams have four sides and doctoral tams can have six or eight sides.



ROBE: Robes for all three degrees are generally black, but sometimes schools will choose a different color (as shown.)

TRIM: Gowns for bachelor's and master's degrees do not have trim. Doctoral robes have black velvet trim that spans the length of the front of the robe. In addition, three bars of velvet are used across the sleeves. These bars are usually indicative of the discipline of study the doctoral degree is in.

SLEEVES: Bachelor's degree holders wear a closed gown with pointed sleeves, Masters' robes can be worn open or closed and have oblong sleeves that are open at the wrist. Doctoral robes have bell-shaped sleeves and have velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on the sleeves.



y and convocation at Elon is marked
nic scholars. It is one of the rare mo-
sity professors can be found decked out
ademic regalia. But with so many varia-
eed study regalia to fully understand
asy with The Pendulum's quick regalia
ou through the day.

ussell and Kaitlin Ugolik
by Shelley Russell



MORTARBARD: Known as a flat
board on cap. They come in a
variety of colors and have only
four sides with a tassel in the color
of the institution that granted the
degree. The Elon tassels are maroon
and gold.

HOOD: They vary in length depending
on the degree. Bachelor's hoods must
be three feet, master's degrees must be
three and one-half feet and doctoral
hoods, four feet. They are lined with
university colors and the edges are
velvet in the color of the degree subject.

Some of the degree hood colors:
Crimson - communication
Pink - music
Dark Blue - philosophy, political science,
social ethics
Scarlet - theology
Gold - psychology
Citron - social work
Light Blue - education
White - English, arts

LINING: Hoods are lined
with the official colors of the
university which granted the
degree.

TRIM: Edging of the hood is to
be in velvet. Two inches, three
inches and five inches indicate
bachelors, master's and doctor's
degrees. The color indicates
which degree the wearer holds.



The Medallion has been worn by Presidents J. Earl Danieley, J. Fred Young and Leo M. Lambert.

Elon's Hardware

THE MEDALLION

President Leo Lambert dons the familiar gold medallion at events such as convocation, commencement and as a representation of Elon University at certain functions at other universities as part of his academic regalia. But the medallion has been used for these purposes since 1969 during the presidency of Dr. J. Earl Danieley.

Presented as a gift from the class of 1969, the medallion has become a symbol of Elon. Danieley, who served as Elon's president from 1957-1973, remembers being approached about the medallion by C.R. "Buzz" Yeager, the former president of Balfour, a company that designs custom products for universities and high schools.

The class of 1969 had raised \$700 for the medallion, an amount nowhere near the cost of the gold seal surrounded by rubies. But Yeager's generosity made the

gift to the school possible. The company designed and fabricated the medallion, selling it to the senior class for the amount it had raised.

Presidents Dr. J. Earl Danieley, Dr. J. Fred Young and Lambert have since worn the medallion.

Dr. Danieley's name is engraved on the back of the medallion.

"Had I seen the design before it was made, I would have suggested against it," Danieley said. "Not because I do not feel that it is a great honor, but because it was going to be worn by every president."

The chain of the medallion is a sequence of maroon and gold squares linked together—each with the letters "E" and "C," for Elon College.

"It is a very handsome medallion," Danieley said. "Very attractive, and very appropriate."

THE MACE

The Mace was given to Elon in 1989 as a gift for the school's 100-year anniversary. E.M. Martin, a friend of veteran faculty member Dr. A. L. Hook, donated the sterling silver Mace to Elon. Elon staff designed the Mace and it was fabricated in Portugal.

The seal of the Mace matches the Elon seal on the Medallion, with the words "Numen Lumen," Elon's motto meaning "spiritual light" and "intellectual light" in Latin.

The seal on the Mace sits atop a silver replica of the brick colonnades located outside of Whitley Auditorium and Alamance.

Danieley re-called the small well within the colonnades, which had a drinking fountain with a pedal to pump the well water. The fountain is still working today.

The Mace is carried at university events by a senior staff member, chosen by Dr. George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs. Danieley carried the Mace for years at various events and commencement ceremonies.

This year, the Mace will be carried by Richard Haworth, professor of mathematics.

The Mace is now on a rotation for each event. A different senior full professor (based on years of service at the university), will carry it for each academic procession, such as spring honors convocation, the freshman convocation and commencement. The Mace is carried at least three times a year—maybe four if there is a fall honors convocation. The Mace is carried whenever there is an academic procession.



The Mace

NUTS and BOLTS OF GRADUATION

An inside look at what it takes to make
Commencement possible

MAY 2007

Two weeks following Commencement for the Class of 2007, the staff at the Registrar's Office begins planning the next Commencement.

JANUARY 1, 2008

Diplomas are ordered.

MAY 12

Stage construction begins Under the Oaks.

MAY 20

Stage construction completed and banner posts set up Under the Oaks. Chairs placed in Jordan Gym. Set up completed for Senior Gala and Marshals Luncheon.

MAY 22

Set up for the rain location is completed. Organist and soloists rehearse. Chairs are set up and the lectern is placed Under the Oaks. Rehearsals are held for the MBA graduation and the Celebration of Leaders of the 21st Century. All classrooms and event places checked for the rain plan closed circuit video system.

MAY 23

Receptions for graduates and their families and Baccalaureate are held in Alumni Gym along with The Celebration for Leaders of the 21st Century. Chair placement is completed Under the Oaks and rehearsals are held for the organist and soloist. Bottled water is placed under all faculty and graduate chairs. The MBA graduation ceremony

FALL 2007

Meetings are conducted with each student eligible to graduate to determine which classes are still needed.

MARCH 1

The first planning session for Commencement 2008 is held.

MAY 16

International flags hung, stage construction continues and lights set up.

MAY 21

Rental chairs arrive and first approval of the chair set up is performed. The sound system for the organ is installed and tested. Cards are placed on all the chairs in Jordan Gym.

MAY 24 – GRADUATION DAY

5:30 a.m.: The decision regarding the final location of the ceremony is confirmed.
7 a.m.: Families begin reserving seats Under the Oaks.
7:30 a.m.: Continental breakfast is served and floral arrangements completed.
7:45 a.m.: Graduate check-in at Jordan Gym occurs.
8:15 a.m.: Graduates are to be seated in Jordan Gym.
8:30 a.m.: Sound check for trumpeters, organists and ensemble is completed.
8:45 a.m.: Trustees assemble in Isabella Cannon Center.
8:55 a.m.: President Lambert speaks to graduates in Jordan Gym.
9:00 a.m.: Ensemble begins to play and flag bearers arrive at Whitley Auditorium.
9:10 a.m.: Faculty lines form in front of Duke and Powell.
9:15/9:17 a.m.: Line of march out of Jordan Gym begins for graduates.
9:26 a.m.: Confirm that flags, graduates, speakers and trumpeters are in place.
9:30 a.m.: BEGIN!

Lesley Tkaczyk
Reporter

It takes 51 weeks to prepare for one day each year. Elon University does not take graduation preparations lightly.

The Registrar's Office will begin preparing for graduation 2009 one week from today, according to Associate Registrar Susan Patton. They have one week "off" each year, and it takes the rest of the time to ensure that everything goes smoothly on that one Saturday in May.

Starting Early

Patton and the Registrar's Office are responsible for making sure that every student eligible to graduate meets his or her requirements and applies for graduation in time.

The office also orders diplomas by mid-January, trains the graduation speakers on pronunciations of students' names and compiles an accurate name list for the program.

It doesn't seem too hard, except that the list includes the names of 1,145 students whom the Registrar meets in the fall and then updates their files three separate times by

hand during the year to make sure they are on track.

Registrar Mark Albertson implemented this individual evaluation program when he first came to Elon.

"Nobody, no school large or small, no one else meets with their students and follows up like we do," he said. "We're very proud of that."

Diplomas

The system in the Registrar's Office is the reason that Dr. George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs, can say that Elon is one of the few schools of its size to hand out actual diplomas on-stage.

Although the Registrar's Office is the primary coordinator of official diplomas, Troxler handles a diploma of another kind: the rain diploma.

Locked in storage cabinets in Alumni Gym since Tuesday are boxes upon boxes of beautifully rolled pieces of parchment with meticulously tied ribbon and a perfect Elon seal. They are fake diplomas prepared in case of rain, just one small detail of the expansive rain plan Elon has developed.

The majority of these rain diplomas have been rolled since 1999 — when it rained and it took longer to move diplomas than it did people.

It hasn't rained since, and Troxler said he hopes they stay in the boxes. As graduation coordinator, he said his biggest concern is weather, and as a result, the office has a five-page inclimate weather plan.

Choosing the Speaker

Troxler oversees the event from the first planning session on March 1 to pulling back the curtain at graduation. He also has a hand in choosing the Commencement speaker.

He and the senior class officers sent Commencement speaker Douglas Finberg's name, as well as a list of other potential speakers, to President Leo Lambert in early January. The main requirement for the speaker? Affiliation with Elon.

"We like the idea of the speaker being one of us," Troxler said. "This is a family, an Elon thing."

The distinguished speaker is not the only one whose public speaking skills are important. Professor Mike Sanford and Associate Professor Joyce Davis are also under pressure as the readers of graduate names.

"They will both spend a considerable amount of time with Susan Patton going over the names," Troxler said.



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer
Workers started setting up for Saturday's commencement exercises Monday, May 12, when construction on the stage began.

"They'll make some mistakes but it's not because we haven't tried."

The Registrar also tries to ensure that the stage will be at its best. Physical Plant employees began setting up the stage a week and a half early this year.

According to Jim Stovall, carpentry and key shop supervisor, this year's stage boasts a new canopy, a new maroon backdrop and a freshly painted lattice front. To ensure it looks pristine on graduation morning, the entire structure is covered in plastic every night.

That plastic is removed for the last time at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, while Albertson and the rest of the Registrar's Office anxiously wait to begin stacking diplomas — a task they won't finish until about 7:30 a.m. graduation day.

Patton said that despite all of the work, it's entirely worth it.

"It's a day for [the graduates] to celebrate and we just want to make sure our end is done so they can celebrate and not have to worry about it," she said. "It's the most fantastic commencement you'll ever see; it's just full of tradition."

Grads follow their hearts in planned careers



Photo submitted

Senior Elizabeth Adcock will be joining The World Race, a service-oriented mission trip that will send her to 11 countries in 11 months. Adcock has performed service in New Orleans and Swaziland, where she worked with orphans and AIDS patients.

Brian Mackey
Reporter

Elon's 2008 graduating class has survived eight semesters of tests, term papers and countless all-nighters. After four years here, the Class of 2008 will stand Under the Oaks with diplomas in hand and smiling faces. They have studied for every exam question imaginable, but they have one question yet to answer: What next?

Many graduates will find a job and others will pursue advanced degrees, but two Elon alumni will forge a different path.

Senior Elizabeth Adcock will walk across the podium with a psychology degree. During her time at Elon, Adcock's dedication to service has taken her from Louisiana to Swaziland. As a graduate, she will combine her experience in service with a passion for adventure. In October, Adcock will embark on an 11-month trip called The World Race.

The World Race is a service-oriented trip that sends participants to 11 countries across the globe. Founded by the Christian organization Adventures in Missions, participants spend one month in each country learning the culture and helping local communities.

The catch is that Adcock has no idea which 11 countries she will be visiting. During a 10-day training

session in July, she will be told her first destination. When she reaches the first country in October, she will be told her next stop. So goes the process with Adcock getting only one month's notice of her next destination.

Participants race to find the quickest and cheapest way to go from one country to the next. In teams of five to seven members, a single group may have to go from Argentina to Mozambique to Thailand. As a result, they have had to get pretty creative.

"Teams have boated, they've ridden on the backs of trucks," Adcock said. "They've done crazy things."

Not only is Adcock an unpaid volunteer, she also has to fund the adventure herself. She is relying on donations from friends and family to help ease the financial strain.

Although most of her friends are finding salaried jobs and looking for their first apartments, Adcock said she'd much rather participate with The World Race.

"I think God really cares about people who are poor and oppressed, the widows and the orphans," Adcock said. "I want to learn how to care for them."

Adcock said she thinks this trip may help prepare her for her future career.

"I can definitely see myself doing international missions long-term," she said.

While Adcock will be travelling across the globe, Senior Bryan Donald is planning a different adventure. Along with a friend from high school, Donald will start his own business called Datapay-Massachusetts. With a loan from the parent company, Datapay Inc., Donald's company will provide payroll service to businesses in Massachusetts.

"We're inheriting a good client base," he said, though he noted that it was small and needed to be expanded upon.

The company will be partly owned by Datapay Inc., but will be autonomously run by Donald and his associate.

After setting up headquarters, Donald will go to local businesses and persuade them to sign up for Datapay's payroll services.

The job will begin with a lot of sales skills to recruit clients, but Donald said he hopes to expand the company so he can manage it at the executive level.

With a degree in history and a double minor in political science and leadership, running a business straight out of college is a daunting task, but Donald remains confident. "I like selling things, and I'm good at it," he said.

Regardless of what the future holds for Donald and Adcock, both said they are happy to have the chance to follow their dreams after graduation.

LOOKING BACK:

Sullivan gets chance in spotlight

Pendulum Staff

In 2002, former philosophy professor John Sullivan broke his silence. It was a moment Sullivan had envisioned many times: standing at the podium in full academic regalia, staring out into a maroon sea of eager graduates waiting to take their place in the world.

He had it all planned, down to the very tone of voice he would use as he addressed these young people he had seen grow throughout the past four years.

Sullivan had been Elon's backup Commencement speaker since 1980, patiently waiting in the wings while others had their moment in the sun. But in 2002, at Elon's 112th Commencement exercises, Sullivan finally delivered the speech he'd rewritten or revised every year for more than 20 years.

He spoke in the place of Mae Jemison, the first black female NASA astronaut. She withdrew from Commencement because of an illness in her family.

George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs, said he knew Jemison wouldn't be able to speak a few weeks earlier, so Sullivan was notified of his status in advance.

"I had always imagined that, if I was called on, it would be in an emergency situation — a plane cancelled, a sudden illness," Sullivan said. "As it turns out, I have been asked early enough to have my name in the program. So this seems more like the real thing."

Sullivan's milestone has gained national recognition. Media outlets including The Wall Street Journal, the "Today" show, the Greensboro News & Record and the Burlington Times-News featured Sullivan within a month of his speech.

"I'm honored," Sullivan said. "But this is not about me. It's about graduation—these students who have completed their career here and are going on to new things. We are just their cheerleaders."

Sullivan arrived at Elon in 1970. When former President Fred Young asked him to be a backup speaker in 1980, Sullivan was pleased to oblige.

"I was their insurance policy," Sullivan said.

Sullivan had given hundreds of speeches both on and off Elon's campus, including an address immediately following Sept. 11, 2001, but he was never called upon to fill in for a Commencement speaker.

"When I started, Elon had mostly first-generation students, but students are wealthier now," Sullivan said. "You have to appeal to a different kind of audience."

Speakers used to cover serious, complex topics, delving deep into philosophical and political issues. Now, Sullivan says, speeches are shorter and more celebratory.

"You say a few things, say some stories and



Photo courtesy Elon University

John Sullivan was the alternate speaker for commencement for 20 years before finally getting his chance to speak in 2002.

you're done," he said. "You're not trying to solve the issues of the world."

Sullivan revised his speeches each year and completely rewrote them every two or three years.

Troxler said Sullivan gave a wonderful Commencement speech, as would be expected.

But in the nature of backups, Jeffrey Pugh, professor of religious studies was installed as Sullivan's backup speaker in 2002.

Since then, he has held the position permanently.

"Jeff, very much like Sullivan, always has something worth-while to say," Troxler said. "We have a plan for everybody to be backed up. The people reading the names could get laryngitis. Someone could get in a car accident on the way to graduation. We hope it won't happen, but we have to plan for those things."

Troxler said the backup has to be someone who is already there, since they may have to step in at the last minute.

"Jeff has the speech in his pocket. Literally," Troxler said. "He brings it every year and dusts it off."

Pugh said it's an honor to serve the university in this capacity.

"It would be a great thing to give the speech one day, but truth be told, how many people remember their graduation speakers?" Pugh said. "The day is about the graduates, not the speaker."

Carrying on tradition: Flagbearers represent Elon at Commencement

Krista Montes de Oca
Reporter

Twenty-seven flags, held high, welcome graduates to the commencement ceremony. Each flag represents one facet of the Elon experience: 21 flags represent countries, five represent the Elon schools and one represents the spirit of Elon.

Bearers of two Elon University flags lead the graduates across campus as they experience the grounds from a different perspective, perhaps seeing the landscape one last time.

As the graduates approach the stage Under the Oaks, they are greeted by students holding 21 flags from foreign countries. Each flag represents one of the 21 countries from where Elon students hail.

These flags are held by students who volunteer their time to be a part of the prestigious and exciting ceremony.

"It's an honor to be a flag bearer," said George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs.

These students, listed as "Student Marshals" in the commencement program, receive a cash gift as compensation for staying days after meal plans stop, as well as housing arrangements if need be.

The flag bearers literally hold the ideals of Elon in their hands. The maroon and gold flags stand proudly as the students are reminded, "Long live Elon!"



Photo courtesy Elon University

Flagbearers Robert Saunders, Chase Rumley and Joshua Donde accompany history professor Dr. David Crowe as they lead the graduates through campus to the 2007 commencement.

Graduation Rewind

Graduation DVD helps save lasting memories

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

Students waving to their families as they leave the stage, thanking the faculty and laughing and crying as they say goodbye to their friends. These are the kinds of moments that Linda Lashendock, assistant director of instructional technology services for television services, hopes to capture in this year's graduation DVD.

"I want to know what happens in the gym as students anticipate graduation," Lashendock said.

Lashendock said she thinks that these moments are just as important as the graduation ceremony itself, so at the end of the graduation DVD, clips are included from before and after the ceremony.

"It's really a full circle of your four years here," Lashendock said.

Lashendock has been working at Elon for five years and has been producing the DVD the whole time she has been here. She said she thought a lot of important stuff was missing in the old videos and really wanted to capture a storyline: students saying goodbye, presenting their senior gift to President Leo Lambert, walking

off the ramp when they get their diplomas and shouting thank you's to the professors who influenced them the most.

"It should be about ceremony, celebration, reflection, memories and the future," Lashendock said.

With such a special occasion, Lashendock said she wants to give students a lasting memory of it.

She starts her planning around April, but the majority of the planning happens the week of graduation, including figuring out the logistics of the ceremony and preparing for unexpected obstacles like rain.

In addition to the filming, Lashendock has to find someone who is willing to stay during the summer and make editing the DVD a priority. Excel spreadsheets keep everyone organized in terms of how many orders they have to fill. Letters and forms with prices are sent to the families of all the graduates, including the M.B.A. graduates, and the goal is to get the DVDs to the graduates by late July or early August.

According to Lashendock, producing the DVD is a team effort that requires the help of both staff and students.

"We use this as an opportu-

nity for engaged learning for students," Lashendock said.

Students who help out with the DVD get experience in editing and producing the equivalent of a long feature story. Different people are responsible for tasks like engineering, videography, audio mastering and office management. Lashendock's job is to look at the big picture and make sure everything is coming together.

Once everything has been put together, Lashendock takes one last look at it and then mails it off to be copied to DVDs. Once the families receive the DVD, the job is complete.

Lashendock said that she enjoys producing the DVD because it means students will always be able to look back on this time in their lives. She described her own graduation memories as being very inspiring and motivational in this process.

"It's a very special time in your life, and you don't often realize it until you're my age," Lashendock said.

The emotion of graduation is felt not only by the students but by the faculty and staff.

"We grow older," Lashendock said of the faculty and staff. "But you all keep us young in heart and spirit."

Bragg shares passion for music each graduation

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

College graduation is a milestone in life.

Everyone remembers the graduates, the procession and the speaker, but little recognition is given to those who work behind the scenes.

Mary Alice Bragg, adjunct instructor of music, has provided the organ music for Elon's graduation ceremonies since 1996. Few people recognize her contribution, but without Bragg, graduation wouldn't sound nearly as pleasing.

In addition to playing the organ, Bragg also serves as music director for the event. She is responsible for hiring the other musicians and singers who perform at graduation and baccalaureate, selecting the music and handling sound arrangements for the event. In addition to Bragg, there's a brass quintet that plays alongside her in Whitley Auditorium and three trumpets that sound on the balcony of West dormitory.

"I get to work with the finest musicians in the state for graduation," Bragg said. "It is always rewarding to perform with excellent players."

All the brass players are professional musicians coming mostly from the North Carolina Symphony and the Greensboro and Winston-Salem Symphonies.

The actual music setup for graduation is quite elaborate. Bragg and the brass quintet are stationed in Whitley Auditorium. In order to know when to start and stop playing, a TV monitor is brought in. Since it is focused on the stage at all times, Bragg knows exactly when singers or speakers are coming to the stage.



Mary Alice Bragg

An elaborate sound system is installed outside for graduation. The music is miked in and can be heard by everyone. There is a tech person in the auditorium in constant contact with George Troxler, dean of cultural and special programs.

"We have a detailed script of how events occur and at what time," Bragg said. "If there is a variation to that, I need to know as I am the person who makes the delay work smoothly. I just keep playing. It is a good system that we have perfected over the years."

Although there are occasional glitches in the system, the graduation staff corrects them quickly and usually without attracting attention. According to Bragg, one of the best parts of graduation is the dedication and efficiency of those who plan it.

"We all work together to have a quality situation for everyone, especially the graduates," Bragg said. "My musicians play for other graduations in the state. They always tell me that we at Elon have the best organization, the finest facilities, the most hospitable welcome and treatment of any that they play. They always want to come back and work with us every year. I think that is truly a compliment to the entire graduation staff."

Besides playing at the graduation ceremonies, as the university organist Bragg also performs at convocations, baccalaureate and sometimes at chapel services. She also plays for performances within the music department. When needed, she even plays the harpsichord for some of the department's shows.

Bragg will be retiring from her faculty position this year, but she will happily continue on as the university organist for "an indefinite time."

BOOK REVIEW ★★★★★

'The Safety of Secrets' works

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

Now that the school year has ended and summer has finally arrived, students will once again have time to read something not required for school. If it's been so long since you've read for fun that you're not sure where to begin, Delauné Michel's "The Safety of Secrets" is a good place to start when it hits bookshelves May 27.

Set primarily in the glamorous yet scandalous world of Los Angeles, "The Safety of Secrets" follows Fiona and Patricia, who have been best friends since first grade, as they strive to make it as actresses. As Fiona finds roles starring in Lifetime movies and guest spots on TV, Patricia soars to fame when she gets a job as the host of a popular reality TV show.

But while Patricia rises above Fiona in her career, she falters in her personal life. Fiona is married to a loving husband and, after suffering a miscarriage, is finally expecting a baby. Patricia's fiancé left her for another woman, and only a few months later Patricia marries an actor on a whim who Fiona knows is wrong for her.

At Patricia's wedding, a face from her and Fiona's past shows up and triggers a horrifying memory that

Fiona, in particular, has tried to forget. Fiona and Patricia have always kept each other's secrets, but this secret is one they swore never even to speak of.

Fiona and Patricia's lives in Los Angeles are intertwined with flashbacks of their childhood in Louisiana, following the beginning of their friendship through the encounter with the unexpected guest that becomes their lifelong secret.

Though certainly not a literary masterpiece, "The Safety of Secrets" is hard to put down. Michel's writing ranges from poetic and lyrical to feeling like a conversation with a close friend.

When a face from their past disrupts their new lives in Los Angeles, Fiona and Patricia are forced to confront the demons from their childhood, even if it means the possibility of destroying their friendship.

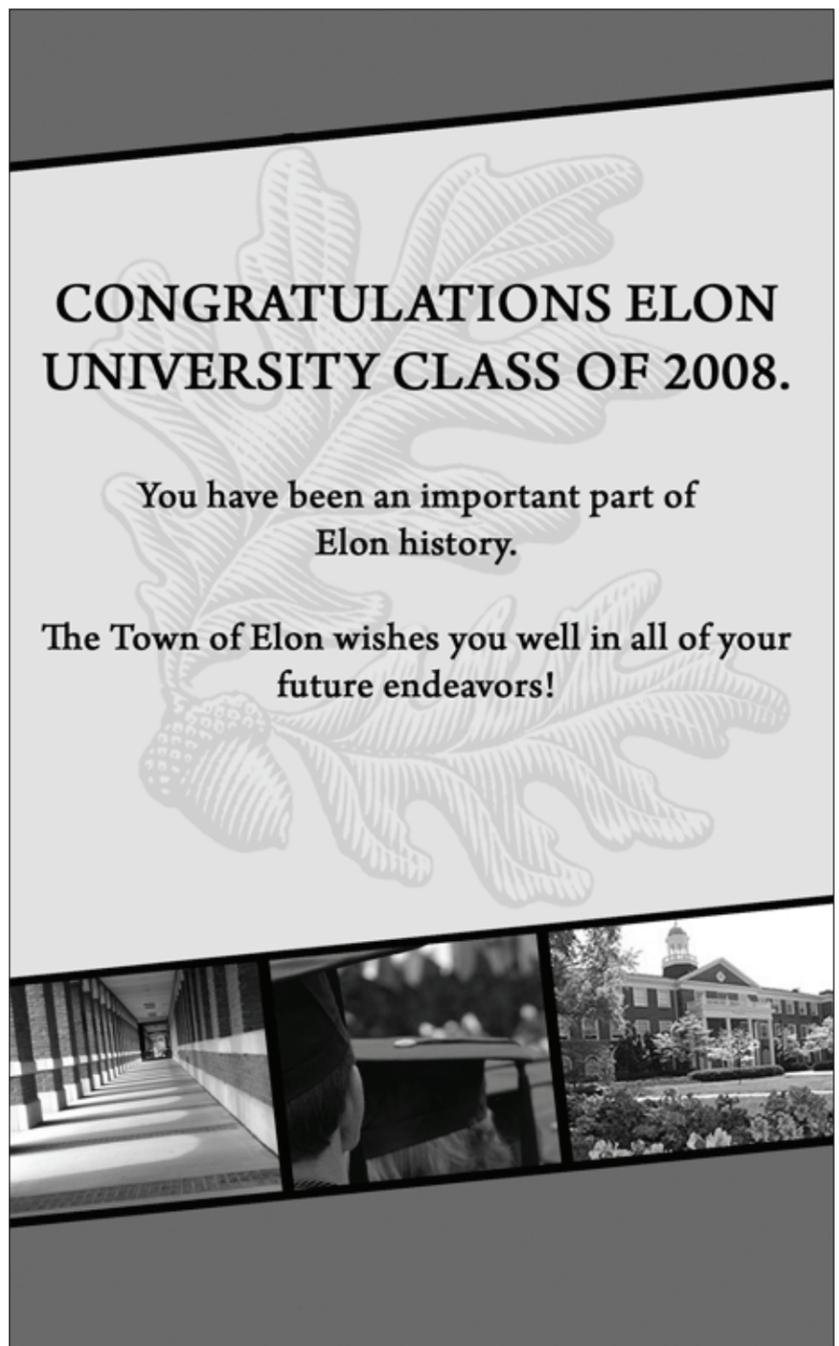
Fiona makes an entertaining, sympathetic and realistic narrator, and Michel captures both the unconditional love and sisterhood and the annoyance and resentment that exist within a lifelong friendship.

Balancing the style of a humorous and entertaining piece of "chick-lit" with a deeper look at a more serious and disconcerting subject can be tough, but for the most part Michel does it well. Once graduation comes and goes, "The Safety of Secrets" is definitely worth a read.

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Lytle ends final year with U.S. Open hopes

Senior has PGA Tour field in sight after NCAA West Regional Tournament loss



PHOTO COURESTY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Senior Jimmy Lytle participated in the NCAA West Regional, as well as qualifying for the U.S. Open Sectional.

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Instead of spending the last two weeks of his senior year among friends, reveling in the memories of the past four years, senior Jimmy Lytle was gallivanting across the country in pursuit of his future, his passion—golf.

On May 5, the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee selected Lytle to participate in the 2008 NCAA West Regional May 15 to 17 in Bremerton, Wash. He became the first Elon golfer to be picked to participate in the tournament since Elon joined the Division I ranks and is one of only six individuals to join the 27 teams playing at the event.

"It was hectic," Lytle said. "By the time I found out about regionals, instead of having two weeks, I had one week. I basically had to get two weeks of work into one week of time."

Immediately flying out to Washington with head coach Bill Morningstar, Lytle started the three-round tournament well. On the first day of action, he forged a 2-over-par 38 on the front nine and an even-par 36 on the back nine. By

the second round, Lytle had climbed the standings to claim a share of 18th place, up from 36th, in the 141-player field.

In the final round of the tournament, Lytle fashioned a 9-over-par 83, falling from 18th to 63rd place. He shot par on 10 holes, and birdied on another one, but he bogeyed five times, and recorded a double and triple bogey.

"The finish was very disappointing," Lytle said. "I played very badly. I had a change to make it to the finals and I played probably my worst day of golf since coming to Elon."

Despite losing the chance to play in the NCAA Championships, Lytle was presented with another opportunity on May 18, when he participated in the U.S. Open Local Qualifier on his home course in Florida.

Lytle fired a 2-under 70 to claim a share of second place in the 84-player field. This score qualified him for the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier, a two-round event early next month in Jupiter Hills, Fla. A strong showing there would allow Lytle to qualify for the U.S. Open in April.

"This is the tournament everyone wants to get into and

I have the chance now," Lytle said. "I'm ready to go."

This summer, after everything dies down and Lytle has graduated and has finished trekking around the country, he has all intentions to keep golf as his main focus. Playing as an amateur for a while, traveling around and getting the necessary experience will only stoke his desire to play professionally after college, he said. Professional events are his ultimate goal now.

"The last few weeks have been great," Lytle said. "Golf is what I want to do with my life, so I could not ask for more."

Prior to his individual stints, Lytle built a 72.22 scoring average for 32 rounds, the third-best average in the Southern Conference. The three-time All-SoCon Player of the Week and the four-time Elon MVP tied for fourth place at the 2008 Southern Conference Championship and led his team to a sixth place finish.

"[Playing in all these tournaments] is great," Lytle said. "I just wish the team would have been able to go, as well. I had been training every season for four years to get there and it was good to finally make it."

Club lacrosse shines in Dallas tournament

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

In the wake of a winning season, upset victories at the conference tournament, and scheduling conflicts that could have led to a disappointing end, Elon's club lacrosse team found a way to turn it all around.

After scoring an upset victory against Emory in the conference championship game, the Phoenix received an automatic bid to the National Tournament in Dallas. Controversy arose when the tournament dates corresponded with Elon's final exams.

Despite the scheduling quirk, the school approved the teams' desire to participate and supported the players on their journey.

This journey pitted No. 6 Elon against the Framingham State Rams in the opening



Photo Submitted

The Elon club lacrosse team found its way to victory in the conference tournament in last week in Dallas.

round of the MCLA Division II National Champions in Dallas. The Phoenix easily downed its opponent, 17-5, scoring no less than four goals in all four quarters.

"We had a great week of practice and it showed today,"

Elon head coach Steve Sparti said, according to collegelax.com. "We played hard from the beginning to the end. We started out sloppy, but I'm glad we got it together and turned it around and played a good game."

Although Framingham came out strong, scoring within the first few seconds of the game, Elon's offense was awoken, and it went on a four-goal run. Elon never looked back as it continued to pile on the goals on one end and

prevent them on the other.

With the win, the Phoenix advanced to the quarterfinal game against No. 3 St. Thomas.

St. Thomas scored twice in the first minute of the match. The Tommies scored eight times in the first quarter alone en route to a 19-10 victory against Elon.

The keys for the St. Thomas victory were its domination of the faceoff, 22-8, and the ground ball battles, 58-41.

"They came out really hot and we were a little sluggish off the bat," Sparti said according to collegelax.com. "We got down early and we knew it was going to be tough to come back from."

This was the club lacrosse team's first ever advancement to the national tournament and the team is looking to have a productive off-season in preparation of a repeat appearance.

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Phoenix celebrates year-long success



Baseball

Record: 36-19, 19-8
Southern Conference finish: The Phoenix clinched the Southern Conference league title and are currently playing in the tournament.
Accolades: Steven Hensley, Cory Harrilchak, and Thomas Girdwood were all selected to the First Team All-SoCon Team. Hensley was name Pitcher of the Year, Girdwood was named Freshman of the Year, and head coach Mike Kennedy was named Coach of the Year by the SoCon for a second time.

Women's Basketball

Record: 12-20, 6-12
Southern Conference finish: Lost in the semi-finals to Western Carolina, a team they had lost to by one point in 4OTs in Alumni Gym during the regular season.
Accolades: Tierra Bumbrey was named to the All-Conference Team and the All-Tournament team, along with Kitara McMoore. In the offseason, Karen Barefoot was hired to replace Brenda Paul as the head coach.

Men's Basketball

Record: 14-19, 9-11
Southern Conference finish: Lost in championship game to Davidson College
Accolades: The men made one of the most historic run in the history of Elon athletics. Seeded seventh, the Phoenix made it all the way to the championship game, becoming the first team with such a low seed ever to do so. They were also the first team since 1988 to make it to the final game with a losing regular season record.



Women's Tennis

Record: 15-10, 5-4
Southern Conference finish: Lost in the semi-finals to top seeded Furman
Accolades: Anna Milian and Deanna Bailey were named to the All-SoCon First Team

Volleyball

Record: 17-16
Southern Conference finish: Lost in the opening round to number 4-seeded Chattanooga
Accolades: The women fashioned a seven-match winning streak during the season

Track

Indoor Southern Conference finish: 5th
Outdoor Southern Conference finish: 5th
Accolades: Dominique Price retained her title, winning the 60-meter hurdles league title for a second straight year. The indoor team broke at least one record in every one of its meets.

Football

Record: 7-4, 4-3
Accolades: Scott Riddle, Terrell Hudgins, Michael Mayers break many Elon and SoCon records en route to one of the best recent seasons in Elon football history. Hudgins was named to the First Team All-SoCon and Riddle led an offense that remained one of the nation's most highly ranked units throughout the 2008 season.

Softball

Record: 26-27, 12-11
Southern Conference finish: Lost in first round to UNCG
Accolades: Tracey Dahlen, Melanie Helderbran, Jackie Gonzalez were all selected to the Second Team All-Conference



Men's Tennis

Record: 17-9, 7-2
Southern Conference finish: Lost in the championship game of the tournament to Furman University
Accolades: The team had a home winning streak of 30 matches and a conference regular season winning streak of 18. Oscar Podlewski was named SoCon Freshman of the Year and Damon Gooch was named All-SoCon First Team in singles and doubles, with Philip Nemecek as his partner.

Women's Soccer

Record: 5-12-2, 3-6-1
Southern Conference finish: Lost in the opening round to top-seeded UNC-Greensboro
Accolades: In the off-season, the Phoenix hired a new head coach, Chris Neal, former assistant coach at UNC-Wilmington.

Men's Soccer

Record: 8-7-4, 4-3-0
Southern Conference finish: Lost in the semi-final round to No. 22 Furman University
Accolades: The men went on an 8-game win streak during the season. Brett Pascall, Justin Wyatt and Steven Kinney were all selected to the All-SoCon team.

Men's Golf

Highest finish: 1st place at Elon Sea Trails Invitational and Wexford Plantation Invitational
Southern Conference finish: 6th
Accolades: Senior Jimmy Lytle selected to the NCAA Regional Tournament. He was also the golfer of the week and the month in the SoCon.

Women's Golf

Highest finish: 1st at Sea Trails and Wofford Invitation
Southern Conference finish: 3rd
Accolades: Danielle Mills and Samantha Widmer were named to the All-SoCon First Team

Women's Cross Country

Record: Highest finish was 3rd at the Catamount Classic
Southern Conference finish: 5th
Accolades: Caitlin Beeler earned All-Conference honors

Men's Cross Country

Record: Placed second at Catamount Classic for highest finish of the season
Southern Conference finish: 6th
Accolades: Rick Myers was named SoCon Runner of the Week

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's basketball assistant coach to leave
 Joel Justus, an assistant men's basketball coach at Elon University for the past four years, has been named head varsity basketball coach and an assistant director of admissions

at Woodberry Forest School in central Virginia.
 Justus will also become director of Woodberry's Summer Basketball Camp for boys ages 10-14, which is scheduled for July.

Elon joins ISP Sports
 Elon Athletics has recently joined a list of national major college athletic programs represented by ISP Sports, the nation's largest and fastest growing collegiate sports marketing company.

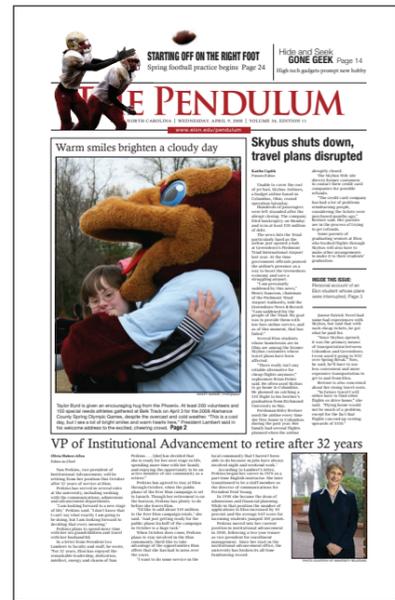
With the partnership, ISP receives the rights to all sales and marketing opportunities associated with the Phoenix, including live radio play-by-play broadcasts, advertising in various athletic department publications and on the official

athletic Web site, and all signage in university athletic facilities.
 Elon joins Appalachian State as Southern Conference members who are aligned with ISP.

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ELON MYTHBUSTERS

Submitted by students through questioning and a Facebook group, these are some myths that have been spread around campus for years. After asking authority figures about these issues, we were able to uncover the truth, once and for all.

- Elon means "oak"** [UNRESOLVED]
- If you get hit by a car on the crosswalks, you automatically get free tuition** [BUSTED]
- The hills in front of Mosley were put there to block out the road that runs through campus** [BUSTED]
- Elon spends \$5 million a year on flowers and re-plants them as soon as they wilt** [BUSTED]
- Elon's Bird Flu plan calls for a [CONFIRMED]**
- Students must wait 15 minutes before leaving class if a professor does not show up** [BUSTED]
- Elon puts blue dye in the ponds on campus** [CONFIRMED]
- If something happens to your roommate, you get straight A's** [BUSTED]
- It is a \$75 fine per pint if you enter a fountain on Elon's campus** [BUSTED]
- Elon West art building used to be a supermarket** [CONFIRMED]
- If a brick is taken from a walkway, it will be replaced within the hour** [CONFIRMED]
- There's a ghost on the third floor of West dorm** [UNRESOLVED]
- Everyone has a squirrel story** [UNRESOLVED]

The bee's knees

Information and graphics by Shelby Russell

What's all the BUZZ about?

Burts Bees: buzzing with conservation efforts

Threats to bee hives and the mystery of Colony Collapse Disorder

Exploring the mystery of disappearing honeybees

How your mouse can save the bees

What you can do to save the bees

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