



A 'GRAND' OCCASION

Music theater majors strut their stuff on stage.

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GET IT WHILE YOU CAN

1889 Grill Room may close Fall 2012 because of construction of the Global Neighborhood.

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THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 | VOLUME 38, EDITION 10

www.ElonPendulum.com

That's a rap

Mac Miller brings spring fever to Elon's campus



Students and community members filled Alumni Gym Friday night for the Student Union Board's annual Spring Show. Rapper Mac Miller (pictured) and mashup duo The White Panda shared the stage. See page 14 for a full story on the Spring Show.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Pay it forward: Students acknowledge importance of giving back to university

Grace Elkus
News Editor

Exercising at the gym, printing assignments in the library and riding on the Bio Bus are all activities that Elon students take part in on a weekly, and often daily, basis. But what many students don't think about is the expense of these amenities and what is done to ensure they continue to be offered to students free of charge.

The Student Alumni Council (SAC) sought to address this disconnect by hosting the fourth annual Elon...Pass It On!, an event aimed at raising student awareness regarding the importance of donor contributions. Tuition and fees only cover 81 percent of an Elon education, and the rest of a student's time at Elon is paid for through donations.

"Events like this and raising awareness with the rest of our classmates and colleagues is really important," said junior and SAC member Darien Flowers. "It allows all of our students to understand that someone else made a commitment to the institution so that they can enjoy all the great things Elon has to offer."

The event is intentionally held in March because spring break represents

completion of 81 percent of the year, and the name Elon...Pass It On! references the "pay it forward" concept the event embraces.

"If we want future students to enjoy Elon as much as we do, we need to realize that we will eventually need to make our donation to Elon, thereby 'passing it on' to future students," said Bari Sisson, president of SAC.

Jozi Snowberger, assistant director of annual giving and parent programs, said not all students have an accurate understanding of how their time at Elon is paid for.

"The university is so great and so wonderful, and through the lens of a student, the grass is always green," Snowberger said. "When (current students) become alums, it's hard for them to realize that the university does rely on donor support and that it's up to them to help the university be the prestigious place that it is."

Freshman Molly Zoellner represents one of many students who were unaware of the significance of donor contributions before attending the event.

"After knowing what I know now, I am very thankful for the donors for making Elon the great school we go to," she said.



Freshman Powell Mansfield wrote why he was thankful for donors on the dry-erase board at "Elon...Pass It On!" March 28. The event raised student awareness of the importance of donor contributions.

"I feel I owe a lot to Elon after I graduate." The SAC advertised the event, held March 28 on the Moseley Front Terrace, by placing yard signs along the walkways in Young Commons and writing "Will You... Pass It On?" on whiteboards in classrooms.

"We wanted students to start wondering about the event and asking their friends about it," Sisson said.

See PASS IT ON | PAGE 3

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News

Holi celebration adds color to Young Commons

Mary Kate Brogan
Senior Reporter

Bare feet slide around in the grass and across the tarp. Faces brighten as mists of red, orange, green and pink explode in the air. Mouths fill with laughter and joy. This is Holi.

Holi, a Hindu festival that celebrates the coming of spring, originated in India, but Elon University students reveled in the celebration on Young Commons. Sophomore Priyanka Sundaram, a marketing major and one of the students who helped plan the event, said she was happy to be sharing a part of her culture with Elon.

"Me and Raj (Rawal) have played Holi since we were little at different universities, and to bring it to Elon was a really great part of our experience here so I think that's why we wanted to do it here, just to show a little bit about our culture to Elon," Sundaram said.

Several students rejoiced in the cultural experience, including senior engineering major Aaron Summers, who said he thinks people can have an educational experience while having fun.

"I've heard of Holi, and I've seen it on the History Channel, and it's just always kind of interested me," Summers said. "It's like the Indian version of Dayglo, I guess you could say, so I just thought I'd come out and see what it was all about and get colored."

The Truitt Center and the students who planned the event worked together with sponsors, Periclean Scholars and the Better Together learning community, to create the event, and Taaza Bistro in Burlington provided free food.

The Holi festival is associated with the



Ruth Sturm speckled in colored powder at Holi.
CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

Lord Krishna, who created fun and frolic in his childhood and youth wherever he went, which Jan Fuller, university chaplain explained, is the purpose of Holi — to celebrate with fun and frolic. Fuller also said she recognizes the event as a way to honor and welcome the traditions of Elon's Indian and Hindu students.

"It's important because we really need to appreciate other cultures and celebrate them and join in them," Fuller said. "This is an opportunity to do that in a way that's not threatening. There's no set of beliefs to affirm except we're tired of winter and we want spring to come."

Sophomore Mason Sklut, Better Together co-president, said the organization chose to sponsor the event so that Elon's students could learn more about Holi and the Hindu religion and its traditions.

"We represent both non-religious and religious traditions in Better Together, and we want students to see similarities they have," Sklut said. "And so we figured



Elon celebrated Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. The festival, which marks the end of winter and the start of spring, is traditionally celebrated with the throwing of colored powder, music and food.
GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

if we participate in this, this would get students to see maybe a similarity that is in Christianity or Judaism or Islam."

Sophomore Becky Hackney, a Periclean Scholar, said she was happy the organization was able to help share her Indian culture with the rest of the students at Elon.

"(Periclean Scholars') focus as the Class of 2012 is to promote cultural awareness on Elon's campus of Indian traditions and things like that. Not only are we trying to partner with sponsors in India and organizations in India, but we're also trying to promote awareness here on Elon's campus," Hackney said. "So this is just a great way to tell people,

'Hey, India's a really cool place. They do really cool things like throw huge tie-dye parties.' To be able to share that with others is really special."

MORE ONLINE

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GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

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Reduction in dining facilities may close 1889 Grill Room

Katherine Segura
Reporter

With the closing of Harden Dining Hall in fall 2012, Elon Dining Services has plans to close 1889 Grill Room and incorporate the facility into Colonnades dining hall in order to provide more seating for students frequenting the all-you-can eat dining option.

Harden Dining Hall will close so that construction of the new Global Residential Neighborhood can begin, leaving the Elon community with McEwen and Colonnades as the only two all-you-can-eat dining options. Because of this limitation, Dining Services is considering turning 1889 Grill Room into a larger seating area for upstairs Colonnades customers.

If the decision to close 1889 is made, it would return to campus spring 2013, according to Kate Nelson, marketing manager of Elon Dining Services.

"Once a final decision has been made, Elon Dining will communicate all changes to the fall 2012 program," Nelson said.

Many students have had a negative reaction to the proposal.

"I understand that this change would be temporary, but getting rid of 1889 would eliminate one of the best places to eat on campus," said sophomore Rosemary Daddona.

1889 Grill Room provides students

with a more upscale option for lunch and dinner than other places on campus.

"I remember touring the campus as a senior in high school and thinking to myself how awesome it was to have a restaurant-style place on campus that came with my meal plan," said sophomore Kate Chenny. "I will be sad to see it go."

But not all students are upset by the proposed closing of 1889.

"I am gluten free, and 1889 has horrible, if any, options for me to eat," said freshman Jackie Rosenberg. "The new dining services will have more and healthier choices."

Nelson said the new Global Dining Hall & Retail Cafe will open at the beginning of 2013.

"This new building will feature a state-of-the-art dining hall, food court boasting a variety of foods and a 4,500 square-foot conference room for catered events," Nelson said.

The food court area will be similar to Octagon, with three food concepts: local, international and home.

The idea for a local station was inspired by the local availability of food and will offer a variety of options according to season. The international station will feature dishes from a foreign country each week, and the home station will have comfort foods.

Additionally, each station serves an educational purpose about local



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

1889 Grill Room will potentially close in the fall to make room for more seating in Colonnades.

farming, origins of international food and the farm-to-fork program.

Chik-fil-A will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner and Freshii will be added to further enhance the healthy and eco-friendly approach for dining.

"As more students realize how many options are being added next year, putting 1889 on hold will be worth it," Chenny said. "The expansion of Moseley and addition of Freshii is something to look forward to."



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

Construction of the Global Neighborhood is forcing the closure of Harden Dining Hall.

Annual event communicates necessity of donor contributions

PASS IT ON from PAGE 1

The thought-provoking advertising campaign paid off. Over 200 students participated in the activities, which included creating a special video message and signing a dry-erase board to celebrate experiences at Elon provided to them by donors.

"Some people said because of Elon donors, I am achieving my dream of

getting a college degree," Snowberger said. "I thought that was a very powerful statement."

Sophomore Kate Shafer said without donor support, she would not be able to attend Elon.

"I'm thankful because otherwise I would be going to community college," she said. "It certainly helps to have these funds here to help me out."

The event has incorporated various awareness activities since it was launched four years ago. The Office of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement hosted the event for the first two years, but the responsibility was given to the SAC when the group formed in December 2010.

The mission of the SAC is to educate students on what it means to be an engaged Elon alum. Earning

this title can be as easy as coming back for Homecoming, speaking positively about the Elon experience or making an annual gift, according to Snowberger.

"(An engaged alum) means being involved and recognizing that you do have a lifelong relationship with the university, right when you step foot on campus up until the rest of your life," she said.

Faculty vote unanimously for bias and discrimination policy

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

The Academic Council has clarified policies and procedures with respect to discrimination and prejudice on campus with a new policy.

According to Brooke Barnett, the senior fellow for diversity and global engagement in the Office of the President, those who have worked on creating the new policy want to stress that Elon now has policies for any form of harassment or discrimination, and the new policy clarifies the process for reporting incidents of harassment and discrimination.

The Academic Council passed the handbook change in February, and in early March the faculty approved it unanimously.

"I have to admit, you never know how things are going to go in a faculty vote," said Cassie Kircher, an associate professor of English who presented the policy to faculty. "If they have any concerns, they are not shy about letting you know. I was holding my breath, but I was very pleased that the faculty embraced this."

One of the main ways Barnett said the new process for reporting is being shared with students, faculty and staff is through a new website.

"The main page of that site is: 'How do I tell someone?'" Barnett said. "The first thing you can do is go to a confidential person and have a confidential conversation. If you choose to prosecute, there are advocates that will be with you throughout the process."

The website has all the different ways students can share that something has happened, either online, in person or by phone.

Barnett said the website will be shared with various student groups to see if students can find the information easily or if there is anything that can be improved.

"This is for anyone on campus to use

that is faculty, students and staff," she said. "So we want to make sure they can access it, and that it makes sense."

But Kircher said no change will occur until someone has to go through the process on the website, and that will be the true test of the policy.

"We have a process that is more fair, not just for the person who had an injustice done to them, but also to the person accused of that injustice," she said. "Until something is actually working you can't tell, so only time will tell."

In addition to the website Elon will have a team of responders that will be trained at the university, and more education will be available for students. Barnett and the Presidential Diversity Council will also begin collecting information to look for harassment and discrimination patterns on campus.

One area in which Barnett said she has already seen is a problem with homophobic slurs.

"It is used in a very casual way, but it deeply troubles students from that community," she said. "That could be an example of education needed in a certain area."

The council will look at with what problems and information people share.

According to Barnett, the outcome she wants to see from this new policy is to have an inclusive campus climate for everyone.

"The goal from all of this is that we are an open university where every single member of our community can work and live and learn," Barnett said.

What this means for you:

A website is now available to walk students, faculty and staff through the process of reporting instances of discrimination and prejudice on campus. Steps include talking about the incident and potentially prosecuting.

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Executive intern program expands into second year

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

Students can find internship opportunities within the campus walls through Elon University's Executive Intern Program.

The program allows selected students to work with mentors from Elon's senior staff, develop leadership skills, learn more about higher education administration and work on projects developed by senior staff.

For the second year, the program accepted applications and will conduct interviews throughout April.

This year's three interns served in the pilot of the program, which was first suggested by junior Darien Flowers. He came to President Leo Lambert with the idea, and the pilot program was created.

Flowers first heard about a similar program at Bucknell University. He said he felt this program was a good fit for Elon because of the university's strong commitment to experiential learning.

"We didn't have a lot of opportunities for students to get experience with senior level management," he said. "This allowed the senior staff to engage with students for a short period of time because they don't really have a lot of daily interaction with students."

Flowers worked in the president's office, senior Evan Glover worked in University Advancement and senior Nicole Morillo worked on diversity with Brooke Barnett. Each student said the internship helped to solidify what he or she hopes to do in the future.

"I have an underlying passion for education," Glover said. "This experience showed me that at the latter end of my career, I want to be involved in higher education."

Jeff Stein, special assistant to the president, helped manage the program from the president's office with Chief of Staff Lisa Keegan.

Stein said he has gotten positive feedback from the students who participated, and the senior staff and



From left to right: Junior Darien Flowers, President Leo Lambert and seniors Nicole Morillo and Evan Glover worked together as part of Elon University's first Executive Intern Program. The program gives students the opportunity to work closely with mentors from Elon's senior staff.

looks forward to the expansion of the program.

"We hope it will continue and more students will have this opportunity," Stein said. "Senior staff was very impressed with these students and both the senior staff and the students have really embraced this experience."

According to Stein, the program is similar to an apprenticeship experience. Interns work closely with a specific senior staff member from a preferred area of campus, but also meet the entire senior staff.

The relationship he made with the

senior staff was the aspect Glover said he liked the most about the program.

"One important part of the internship is you are not just assigned to a mentorship and never meet the person," he said. "You have a very deep relationship with your mentor and the other senior staff."

Flowers said one misconception about the program is that it is only for students interested in higher education. But he said the program can be beneficial to any major.

"I encourage everyone to apply," Flowers said. "I think for all the senior staff does, something that they do is

applicable to every major on campus. The senior staff is also very accommodating, and they will select something that will be beneficial to you."

Stein said he has received more than 20 applications for the second year.

Intern Requirements:

- Must be in good academic standing
- Demonstrate confidentiality
- Full-time student will be given preference
- No specific major/minor required

Seminars on religion encourages tolerance on campus

Katherine Blunt
Assistant News Editor

It's complex. It's variable. It's religion.

Any given religious denomination can be difficult to understand thoroughly, for its many facets are often deeply rooted in history, tradition and culture. "Religion Unwrapped," a series of seminars exploring the history and basic tenets of six major religions and practices, was designed to increase the knowledge and understanding of different religions with the Elon community.

The series, headed by Chaplain Jan Fuller, opened with a seminar titled "Unwrapping Judaism" March 26, during which Fuller gave an hour-long overview of Jewish history, practices, holidays and religious variations.

"There are lots of ways to be Jewish," she said during the presentation. "There is a full spectrum of opportunity for practice and interpretation."

Fuller intends to emphasize religious variation in all six seminars in order to increase awareness of differences both within and outside of one's own

religion.

Although the majority of the Elon student body is Christian, Fuller held a seminar called "Unwrapping Christianity" April 3 to better explain the various components of an overarching category. The seminar piqued the interest of even those within the Christian community. Trung Huynh-Duc, business manager of the Catholic Campus Ministry, planned to attend to learn more about other Christian denominations.

"Catholics represent only one piece of Christianity, and I wanted to see how others were presented," he said. "The more we know about others, the better we can be."

The series was planned partly in response to concerns regarding the Multi-faith Center, scheduled to open January 2013.

"What I have heard is that some students feel they may have to compromise their own beliefs (within the Multi-faith Center)," Fuller said. "We want to assure them that all will be asked to behave respectfully towards others."

Similar concerns regarding conflict over worship space have come to the attention of Better Together co-president Mason Sklut, who understands the need to foster better communication between religious groups.

"The coinciding of religious groups during prayer (in the Multi-faith Center) could be a good thing or a bad thing," he said. "For example, it may be distracting if Jews and Muslims are using the same worship space at the same time because there are varying rituals for prayer in each denomination. However, it may also be a good thing because it encourages interfaith cooperation, which is something that would be very beneficial to Elon students."

Inspired by the "Unwrapping Religion" series, Sklut is currently planning a similar discussion series called "Real Talk with the Rabbi," tentatively scheduled for later this month.

"Besides giving an introduction to Jewish religious tradition, we hope to break down stereotypes for all religious and nonreligious faith traditions," Sklut said. "We believe that by hosting these

discussions in a casual environment outside the 'classroom setting,' students will feel more comfortable asking difficult questions about all religions."

The remaining four seminars in the "Unwrapping Religion" series will discuss Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Paganism. Fuller plans to hold another discussion of religion next fall, when the opening of the Multi-faith Center is even more imminent.

Upcoming Seminars:

- "Unwrapping Islam:" April 10, noon-1 p.m., Lindner 206
- "Unwrapping Buddhism:" April 17, noon-1 p.m., Lindner 206
- "Unwrapping Hinduism:" April 24, noon-1 p.m., Lindner 206
- "Unwrapping Pagan Practices:" May 1, noon-1 p.m., Lindner 206

New Jewish studies minor unites courses into comprehensive study of religion

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

It was during his first semester on campus that sophomore Mason Sklut discovered his interest in Jewish history and culture. Now, with the addition of a new program in Jewish studies, Sklut will graduate with a minor in the topic he loves.

"My first semester, I took Jewish Traditions with Michael Pregill, where I learned about how Judaism has become what it is today," Sklut said. "Going back thousands of years in this class and discovering the ancient roots of my religion was an incredible experience for me."

Sklut has taken multiple additional courses about Judaism and said he is fascinated with the diversity of the religion. The new program offers

students an interdisciplinary minor tracing the culture and history of the religion.

"In many courses, it's seeing how the community, generally throughout history, functioning as a minority group, related to other surrounding communities," said Geoffrey Claussen, assistant professor of religious studies. "Being able to trace the very diverse experiences of the community through very different times and places is what the minor seeks to encourage."

Claussen, who arrived at the university in the fall and has been instrumental in the formation of the program, said it seeks to unite a range of courses — including religious studies, foreign language, philosophy and sociology, among others — to illustrate the complexity and diversity of the Jewish communities.

Students interested in obtaining the minor must complete 20 credit hours, four in Jewish Traditions and the others from a selection of more than 35 course offerings.

Claussen said he has already spoken to some students who have fulfilled some of the requirements for the minor.

"Some students have had in mind over the last year that this was probably coming up, and they have planned ahead to some degree," he said. "Or, just because of their own academic interests, some students have ended up taking many of the required courses."

Junior Diana Abrahams will have completed all 20 credits by the end of the spring based on courses she was already enrolled in. Abrahams, who is Jewish, said she enjoys engaging in conversation about her religion.

"It is important for all students at Elon to have the opportunity to be exposed to religious diversity, and to explore further into traditions that they may be unfamiliar with," she said.

Academic interest in Jewish studies has increased in North America in recent years, Claussen said, and the creation of such a program at Elon is beneficial to the university.

"Jewish families considering Elon have asked in recent years about whether there will be a Jewish studies program, and this program helps to make Elon attractive to that whole group of students," Claussen said. "And this includes students who may not necessarily choose to minor in Jewish studies, but who want to know that the college supports taking the Jewish experience seriously as part of the liberal arts education."

Elon Poll indicates statewide lack of confidence in presidential candidates

Katherine Blunt
Assistant News Editor

North Carolinians expressed low confidence in the abilities of current presidential candidates, particularly Republican contenders, to handle foreign and domestic affairs, indicated by a recent Elon University Poll.

Respondents were asked which candidate they were most confident of on matters of both foreign and domestic policy. No candidate achieved a confidence level higher than 50 percent, but President Barack Obama garnered the most votes in both categories.

Phone calls were made to 534 North Carolina residents March 26-29, and responses were recorded regardless of residents' voting eligibility or likelihood to vote. Residents were asked to affirm or deny their confidence in each presidential candidate to handle both national and international issues.

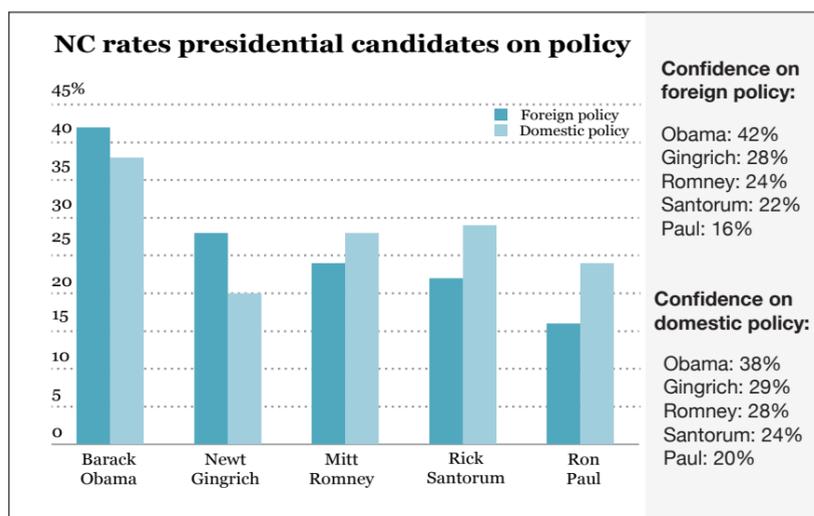
"The big thing is that the Republican candidates haven't been in North Carolina yet," said John Robinson,

director of communications for the Elon Poll. "We like to see people on our home turf. We like to hear them talk about issues that matter to North Carolina. The president has come to North Carolina a lot and he has established a presence here."

Robinson acknowledged the poll results might change after the Republican candidates visit the state. Unforeseen events that require immediate response from the candidates could alter the numbers, too, he said.

But the numbers would still most likely remain the same if the Poll had considered voting eligibility and voting likelihood in the final results, Robinson said.

"Most voters and residents have the same sort of feel about the candidates," he said. "We didn't ask the question 'Who would you vote for,' but more intimate and emotional kinds of questions. People know what they think about the candidates now. Whether that's going to change when they go into the voting booth, I don't know."



How to complete an absentee ballot

No matter where you are, your vote should not be absent

If you're a North Carolina resident and you are unable to return home to vote in the upcoming primary election May 8, you may vote using an absentee ballot. A paper ballot will be mailed to you before the election so you can vote as if you were home in your own precinct.

To get an absentee ballot, you need to send a written request to your

county board of elections by 5 p.m. May 1. The address for your county board of elections can be found at NCSBE.gov and requests may also be emailed or faxed, but your signature must be included.

Be sure the ballot is postmarked on or before May 8, as the county board of elections must receive it within three days of the election for it to count.

★ How to Get an Absentee Ballot ★

Include the following in your request:

- A request for an absentee ballot for the May 8 primary election
- Your name
- Your date of birth
- Your residential address, or your home address
- The address where the ballot should be mailed
- Your phone number
- Your signature

Requests must be sent in by
5 p.m. on
May 1

LEAH CHANNAS | Graphics Editor

Members of LGBTQ community show support across the state

Affinity network promotes alumni participation in institutional progress

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Matt Lardie, Class of 2006, remembers the reactions of his friends and fraternity brothers when he came out his senior year at Elon University.

"The Elon bubble was very safe and comforting to me," he said. "In talking with friends of mine that have gone to other universities, Elon is probably the most welcoming college to the LGBT community."

And even after graduation, he continues to develop a home at Elon. The LGBTQIA Alumni Summit provided alumni with the opportunity to continue their relationship with the university and return to a supportive atmosphere and network, Lardie said.

Forty-eight alumni associated with the LGBTQIA community registered to attend an alumni summit March 30 and 31 to participate in discussions regarding university advancement and how to better construct an environment supportive of the identity group.

Lardie belonged to the planning committee and talked about his experiences as an undergraduate student at Elon. His speech correlated with the theme past, present and future and shed light on what it was like to be a gay student at Elon, he said.

Conversations illuminated where the university is now and how the alumni want to improve the institution's commitment to diversity, Lardie said.

"It's a great community," he said. "It's not perfect."

The weekend event enabled alumni and current students and administrators to share their stories and establish future goals

for the university, said Darris Means, associate director of the Elon Academy and member of the Class of 2005, who worked to create the LGBTQIA Alumni Summit after participating in the Black Alumni Summit.

The summit contributes to the university's goal to develop affinity networks designed to increase alumni engagement.

"An affinity network is the opportunity for people that may identify with that group to have a place to go to," Means said.

According to Means, the summit accomplished the goal and effectively attracted alumni who had not demonstrated a connection to the university. For Lardie, the alumni's return signaled Elon's enhanced relationship with the LGBTQIA community.

"We had people who had graduated in the '90s, and this is their first time back," Lardie said. "They finally feel they have a place here."

In addition to appealing to alumni, the attendees expressed an interest in financially supporting current Elon students, Means said. Participants discussed a potential scholarship and establishing a fund enabling undergraduate students to attend leadership conferences relevant to the LGBTQIA community.

"I think through this affinity network there's an opportunity to connect with undergraduate students and opportunities for mentorship," Means said.

The affinity network also demonstrates there are people that can speak to students' unique experiences, Lardie said. It demonstrates a consistent presence of a group with which students can identify, he said.

Adriana Miano
Senior Reporter

Members of SPECTRUM, Elon University's queer-straight alliance, gathered to discuss the commonalities that bind individuals within their community together at this year's Southeast Regional Unity Conference.

"A conference such as Unity brings together multiple schools and a variety of different people to show us that there are many people, specifically in the southeast, that can support one another and bond with one another," said Kevin Moore, president of SPECTRUM.

The conference, which was held March 30 to April 1, focused on the ways the diverse identities within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer communities intersect to form one larger identity.

The conference took place at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and gave members of LGBTQIA communities from a variety of schools an opportunity to interact and network.

"I got the chance to work with many other schools from different states, and now have developed plans and ideas on how our (schools) can work together towards a goal of equality for everyone," Moore said.

In addition to learning about how LGBTQIA organizations function on campuses other than Elon's, networking allows members of SPECTRUM to develop important contacts, according to Raaf Purnsley.

"So many of the ideas, so many of the speakers and programs we bring back to campus come from the conference," Purnsley said.

Attending the conference has always compelled SPECTRUM to make some important changes, according to Purnsley. After last year's conference, SPECTRUM made the decision to use the term "queer"

to refer to all members of the LGBTQIA community.

"Identity is so important to us as a community, and 'queer' allows us to really unite," Purnsley said.

The conference also places an emphasis on the use of inclusive language. Visits to the conference have compelled some members of SPECTRUM to try to eliminate their use of gender pronouns.

"A lot of people really do not fit the words that society says they should be (described as)," Purnsley said.

The programs at this year's Southeast Regional Unity Conference featured a series of workshops, which talked about the role of LGBTQIA student organizations on college campuses.

Additionally, the conference included a workshop on the culture of drag queens and drag kings.

"The main topics discussed (through) the workshops, (showed) that although all of us who were there are completely different people, we still have intersections that bond each other's identities together," Moore said.

The conference also featured a performance by F to Embody, a duo of transgender spoken word poets.

The choice of performers was significant because issues faced by transgender individuals are prevalent because of the importance gender holds within society, Purnsley said.

"I think if you were to describe the (LGBTQIA) community as a mosaic, that would be an accurate way to describe it," Purnsley said.

Including performers such as F to Embody can help to make people more aware of transgender issues, according to Purnsley.

"The name of the conference is Unity for a specific reason, (which is) that it brings us all together as one union where we can stand strong and support one another," Moore said.

Returning to the classroom: Elon employees take courses on campus to broaden opportunities

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

In one moment, she was an Elon University parent, employee and student. After 16 years, her relationship with the university strengthened when she became an Elon graduate in May 2011 as well.

Kim Giles, resources and communication coordinator, came to Elon with a high school degree and worked as an employee in the admissions office performing data entry in 1994. Two years later, she enrolled in courses as an undergraduate student.

"I was just taking classes to become more knowledgeable," Giles said. "At some point along the way, I decided I would start taking courses to get a degree, and I registered for classes like any other student at Elon."

She worked 40 hours while taking eight credits and earned a degree in corporate communications, now referred to as strategic communications. She described the academic challenge as a way to recapture lost opportunities.

"I wanted to grow and move up the corporate ladder and do more for Elon than I knew in that role I could ever do," she said.

While Giles' ambition is admirable, her relationship to the university is not unique. Elon offers university employees tuition remission, which enables faculty and staff to take courses at the institution.

"The university really strongly believes in providing the opportunity for advancement for our employees," said Ron Klepcyk, director of human resources.

And employees prove they are eager to gain new skills and a higher education. Giles worked through her lunch hours and worked after hours to make up for the time she spent in class.

"I learned real quick that I wasn't going to move up unless I had a degree, and that was the push I needed," Giles said.

Since graduating, she received two job offers, and accepted the offer from the university from which she graduated. Nevertheless, even faculty members with numerous academic degrees are attracted to student life.

"What's interesting to me is we have people at all levels of the institution that have taken advantage of this program," Klepcyk said.

Dan Wright, associate professor and chair of the department of chemistry, used tuition remission to enroll in Spanish courses and improve his foreign language skills. His position as Honors Program director also fueled his decision to return to the classroom, he said.

"I wanted to promote a culture of students taking foreign language and to be lifelong learners," Wright said. "What better way to promote that than to showcase it?"

Wright's commitment to education also opened opportunities for him as an Elon professor. He was offered to attend a study abroad course to Spain and Costa Rica and traveled with students to Peru five times.

Aside from professional developments, the opportunity to explore other disciplines enhanced his teaching and student communication, Wright said.

"It gave me the ability to add more concepts to my own class," he said. "Before I was a lecturer, now I am a teacher."

Viewing syllabi in other departments also helped him develop syllabi for his own courses, he said.

"Things become clearer when you're in another situation," Wright said.

Giles agreed that taking courses provided her with new perspectives, in and out of the classroom. Adopting a role in both the student and administrative world enabled her to represent both sides of university life, she said.

"I could see both sides of the coin a lot clearer," Giles said. "I could relate to



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO
Kim Giles, Elon's resources and communications coordinator, earned an undergraduate degree from Elon while working at the university. After 16 years of study, she graduated in May 2011.

faculty because when they would have stress with students, I could see the side of the students."

While Giles recognizes the benefits of returning to school, an element of intimidation accompanied her academic experiences, she said.

"Students talk about what is happening in their world, and you're the minority for sure," Giles said. "I was an older person in a sea of young people."

Although a faculty member, Wright said he felt the students embraced him as a peer in the classroom, but he elected not to work with students on group projects.

Nevertheless, students still received a positive message from his presence in the classroom, according to Wright.

"We embrace the idea that learning is a lifelong venture, so faculty that want to do this embrace what we're trying to teach students," he said.

Technological advances dictate library functionality

Newly selected dean and university librarian knows student technological literacy

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

A library characterized by dusty text is an outdated concept, and the newly selected dean and university librarian defies the antiquated image attached to the institution.



JOAN RUELLE

"I think any librarian who's successful today is very adaptive to the fast, fast pace of changes technologically," said Joan Ruelle, who will assume the position at Elon University June 1.

The selection committee recognized the ability to transform the library in accordance with patrons' technological literacy as a significant qualification

for the new librarian, according to Mary Wise, associate vice president of academic affairs and chairwoman of the selection committee.

"It's not about collecting books and putting them on shelves," Wise said. "We wanted someone who understands the trend in library use, and patrons want to get access to information from wherever they are."

While students perceive the library as a place of study, Ruelle described it as an institutional component designed to support scholarship and research. Accommodating student and faculty needs develops a library central to the university's mission.

The current expectations for information availability create new job qualifications. When Kate Hickey, the current dean and university librarian, arrived at Elon, she could not assume every student had a computer, Wise said. But now, online resources dominate user

experience.

"We had to find someone who wasn't afraid of technology and had experience in technology," Wise said.

Nevertheless, with rapid technological advancements, librarians are challenged to select which devices best support the community, Ruelle said.

"The challenge is to know the community well enough to know when to go to the digital format and when to preserve the print format," she said.

As University Librarian at Hollins University in Roanoke, Va., Ruelle built a library program attractive to the student body, transforming a place she said students had compared to "the living room at your grandmother's house that had fancy furniture you weren't supposed to sit in" to a comfortable environment.

"She took a library at Hollins that had been pretty marginalized and made it a place where students wanted to come," Wise said.

In an effort to convert the library's reputation, the Virginian university's library hosted events titled Rock the Stacks, during which bands were invited to perform in the library. Simply rearranging the furniture also contributed to the transformation, Ruelle said.

Ruelle acknowledged Belk Library as an already established component to student and academic life.

"The fact that students call the library Club Belk says a lot," Ruelle said. "It says the library is at the heart of the campus community."

Librarians currently meet with classes to help students find necessary resources and apply information to their respective assignment. The relationship between Elon librarians and academia appealed to Ruelle, she said.

She said she looks forward to working with a strong program and exploring where the university will go next.

Conference shows lawyers' responsibility extends beyond law

Adriana Miano
Senior Reporter

The Elon University School of Law has a goal for its students that extends beyond finding success in the legal field. The professors and administrators also hope to prepare students to act as leaders in their respective communities after graduation.

This goal will be reflected by discussions at April's Conference on Law and Leadership, co-hosted by the School of Law and the Center for Creative Leadership.

"The driving force behind the conference is essentially looking at how legal education and business can work together to consider the idea of lawyers as leaders," said Faith Rivers-

James, associate professor at Elon University School of Law, who has been involved in organizing the conference.

Graduates of Elon's law school are particularly equipped to offer problem solving and strategic planning solutions to a range of people beyond just their clients, Rivers James said.

"Lawyers bring a set of analytical skills and communication skills that distinguish them and their capabilities to serve in community leadership."

The conference, which will be held April 13-14, will feature keynote addresses from Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and David Gergen, professor and director of the Center for Public Leadership at

the Harvard Kennedy School.

Both keynote speakers have had a close relationship with Elon University School of Law since its inception, Rivers-James said.

O'Connor's involvement with the school has included participation with the school's opening ceremonies in 2006, in addition to numerous visits to discuss the importance of civics education. Gergen currently serves as chairman to the school of law's board of advisees.

The conference will also bring together scholars and professionals with backgrounds in law and business to speak in panel discussions.

"Speakers for this conference come from a diversity of experiences," Rivers-James said.

Rivers-James said she is confident the wide range of experiences will offer a beneficial perspective to students who choose to attend the conference, especially from a business standpoint.

"(The business professionals) have the ability to bring to us (an understanding of) the things they value, the things they need from lawyers that they work with," she said.

Topics covered through addresses and discussions will take into consideration the economic and political climates of today's society. The role that lawyers play in times of change will be explored throughout the weekend.

The decision of the law

school to co-host this event with the Center for Creative Leadership was a natural one, according to Philip Craft, director of communications for the law school.

"Both organizations are developing innovative approaches to leadership education within the legal sector," Craft said.

The upcoming conference is part of what has been an ongoing partnership between the two institutions.

"Leaders in legal education add to education a variety of skills that will better prepare students to hit the ground running after graduation, and make them more prepared for the practice of law," Rivers-James said.

Social media feeds the popularity of online content

Lindsay Kimble
Senior Reporter

From a mini-documentary about a war criminal to a pop song lip-sync featuring Justin Bieber, viral videos are continually cropping up on the Internet. But with online video content encompassing a wide array of genres, what makes a video go viral is not easily determined.

Elon University freshman Kathryn Jeffords said she thinks videos go viral as a direct result of being posted on Facebook.

"Facebook has the feature of showing how many friends are sharing a certain video, and when it comes in your newsfeed, you obviously want to watch it because it's popular and being passed around," Jeffords said.

J. McMerty, co-coordinator for video projects for the School of Communications, also acknowledged the importance of social media in creating a viral video. He said viral videos started on VHS, citing the popular clip of the "Winnebago Man" as an example, but the development of online social media further enabled sharing of video content.

"I think YouTube is the No. 1 tool that has allowed video to go viral," he said. "YouTube is the platform of viral videos, but now Twitter and Facebook are obviously accelerating the speed at which viral videos get out there as well as the audience size — it's so much bigger."

In an interview with Forbes.com, digital music entrepreneur Prerna Gupta said that there are 11 secrets that make the difference between a viral and non-viral video. These factors include music, surprise, cuteness, humor and celebrity, among other things. Gupta also said the video should win the audience's attention within 10 seconds, and tie in with current events.

McMerty said he doesn't think there is a specific formula to creating a viral video, but where it is posted is crucial to its popularity.

"I think it matters how it gets out into the world for the first time," McMerty said. "Is it on a blog? Does it get into a network that has the most amount of output as possible? Where is it that a ton of people are going to see it and how forwardable is it?"

McMerty also said viral videos are usually shorter in length.

"The Kony 2012 video is like 30 minutes long, which makes it very unusual," he said. "I think if you were to ask people a month ago if a viral video could be 30 minutes, they would say no."

The Kony 2012 video was released March 5 by the organization Invisible Children to promote the organization's "Stop Kony" movement, focused on drawing attention to the Ugandan war criminal Joseph Kony. The Internet video broke records by receiving more than 100 million views in under a week's time.



Sophomore Matthew Barger watches the music video for "Friday" by Rebecca Black. Many music videos become viral after being shared on social media platforms. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

The popularity of the Kony video proves that not all viral videos are necessarily light-natured.

"I think like anything there's good and bad things that come from it," he said. "When you give people tools, just like in every great story, you can use those tools for good and evil."

In particular, McMerty referenced the 2010 Rutgers University scandal that involved student Durhan Ravi spying on his gay roommate using a webcam and

then live streaming the content on the Internet. The video led to the roommate's eventual suicide. The case was tried in court in March, and Ravi was found guilty on 15 counts.

Despite potentially tragic consequences, McMerty said he doesn't see a near end to the trend of viral videos.

"I think (the trend) has longevity, but it might change platforms," McMerty said. "I think that forwarding interesting user-generated content is here to stay."

Destination International brings global insight to students

Kristen Olsen
Senior Reporter

Elon University alumni showed students it is possible to live internationally after graduation.

Students got a chance to have a question and answer session with young alumni who have lived abroad at this year's Destination: International event.

The Destination series of presentations is designed to give students the opportunity to talk with recent alumni about the different cities in which they live or work. Destination: International is the most recent addition and was created last spring because of the increasing number of students interested in living abroad after graduation.

This year's talk, which was held in KOBC's LaRose Digital Theater March 27, featured three recent graduates via Skype, all of whom had a wide variety of international experience.

Hilary Corna, an international business major who was a member of the Class of 2007, spent three years living in Asia after she purchased a one-way ticket to Singapore with no plan, job or place to live. She got a job as a senior executive officer and Kaizen Leader for Toyota after three months of searching. She is currently in the United States promoting her book "One White Face," which is about her life working abroad.

"You learn so much about yourself and the world around you when you live abroad," Corna said. "I learned so much that I wrote a book about it."

Corna discussed one important lesson she learned working overseas: that friendships are much different when living internationally.

"People move in and out of your life so quickly," Corna said. "I learned how much I value friendship."

The presentations are developed by the Initiative of Young Alumni Council, a group of alumni who serve as an

advisory and help assist with students' transition out of Elon. Kiley Moorefield, a 2007 graduate and the adviser to Young Alumni, said she believes the talks are a great chance for students to connect with alumni.

"The discussions allow students to ask questions about a new city they may be moving to," Moorefield said. "It's a great networking opportunity."

Kaela Conroy, a 2010 graduate with a degree in international studies, is currently working as an English teacher in Ronda, Spain. She decided she wanted to work abroad after enjoying her semester abroad in Seville, Spain.

"If you already have an open mind to working abroad, then that's all you need," she said.

Conroy found the teaching job in Spain before she moved there, which made her transition easier, she said.

"I didn't know anyone — it was strange, but I was happy," Conroy said. "Getting to know people is most important to the transition, and the

most exciting."

Tonya Albert, a 2008 graduate with a leisure and sports management degree, spent a year in Manchester, England in an Art Gallery and Museum Studies master's program. She valued the opportunity to live with people from all over the world.

"I learned more from the international people I lived with than in my program," she said.

All three of these graduates happily discussed their lives abroad and gave the students advice on how to make the most of these opportunities.

"The best thing you can do is to assimilate to the local culture," Albert said.

The Destination discussion events are held every spring, and feature locations such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and various international locations.

"After attending, students are usually saying 'I can do this,'" Moorefield said.

Technology in the classroom: Some professors resist immersion

Katherine Blunt
Assistant News Editor

He prefers a legal pad to an iPad and a whiteboard to Blackboard. He writes class notes by hand and encourages his students to do the same.

"It's not that I don't like technology," said economics professor Steve DeLoach. "Technology makes us more efficient if we use it properly. But my philosophy is don't use technology for technology's sake."

As more professors use programs such as Blackboard and PowerPoint and more students take notes with digital ink, DeLoach is a bit of an anomaly on Elon's wireless campus. Although he teaches higher-level statistics and economics classes in computer labs, DeLoach structures his lower-level economics classes to be largely tech-free.

After observing classes taught by professors that often relied on classroom technology, DeLoach began to question the effectiveness of PowerPoint and its true ability to augment a lecture or presentation.

"PowerPoint is not very interactive and (presentations) tend to be very canned," DeLoach said. "Students are more engaged when a professor is passionate, and it's hard to be passionate (with a canned presentation)."

He prefers to actively write class notes on the classroom whiteboard because it increases student attentiveness and overall understanding of the material, he said.

"During a PowerPoint, students are staring ahead while the professor is off

to the side," DeLoach said. "When I'm writing, I stand right by what I just wrote. I get more eye contact. I need to see the faces for communication."

And a laptop screen rarely obscures a student's face in DeLoach's lower-level classes. During his class observations, he noticed just how many students fell victim to the distraction of the Internet on a regular basis, and he then began limiting laptop usage in his own classes.

"If I go to a meeting and I've got my laptop and I zone out, I check the same things that students do, like email," DeLoach said. "I get it. But you do miss things (when you're distracted)."

Other Elon professors also question the effectiveness of classroom technology and use it only to achieve specific purposes.

Although he uses PowerPoint for about half of each class period, associate professor of history Michael Carignan agrees that PowerPoint has "limited utility."

"It depends on how you use it," he said. "It is meant to legibly organize and present talking points. I use it as a way to couple major points that I want to make with images. It's important to have visual."

Freshman Bryan Youngmans said he likes Carignan's limited use of PowerPoint.

"The presentations can be helpful," Youngmans said. "But I like that we spend the first half of class in open discussion."

Before each class, Carignan posts his PowerPoint presentations on

Blackboard so that students can print them out prior to class.

"If students don't have to concentrate on writing down every detail of the slides, they are then able to think about the material more deeply," he said.

This practice proves useful come test time, said freshman Elizabeth Chang.

"I don't like when professors don't utilize the computer," Chang said. "If I

miss something, I like being able to get it off Blackboard."

When it comes to laptop use in class, though, Carignan recognizes that students often abuse the privilege.

"It makes me feel ignored and disrespected (when students misuse their laptops)," he said. "But I treat students like adults. They won't learn if their heads are somewhere else."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Washington Post columnist speaks about American political divide

E.J. Dionne, a syndicated Washington Post columnist and commentator for NPR, ABC and NBC, will speak in Whitley Auditorium April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Dionne will discuss the polarization of American politics and how to heal the widening divide between the left and the right, as detailed in his latest book, "Our Divided Political Heart: Barack Obama, the Tea Party and the Battle for the American Idea."

Elon Poll shows increasing support for same-sex marriage

With little more than a month before the May 8 North Carolinians vote on a constitutional amendment that would legalize civil, domestic and marital unions of same-sex couples, a recent Elon University Poll suggests that opposition to the proposed amendment is growing.

Five hundred and thirty-four North Carolina residents were polled March 26-29. Residents were asked both their opinion on the amendment itself and the legal recognition of same-sex couples.

- 38 percent of respondents said they support full marriage rights for same sex couples, up from 36 percent in February and 33 percent in November.
- 29 percent of respondents oppose any legal recognition for same sex couples, down from 32 percent in February and 35 percent in November.

Support for civil unions or partnerships for same-sex couples, but not full marriage rights, was at 29 percent, one point higher than poll results from February 2012.

Deadlines nearing for Study Abroad Ambassador Program applications

The Study Abroad Ambassador Program offers training to students who wish to share their study abroad with classes and campus visitors. Applications to the program, due April 13, are available through the Isabella Cannon Centre International.

Contact Anna Lainfiesta at alainfiesta@elon.edu with additional questions.

Local author to hold Love Letters book signing at Local Yogurt

Jennifer Busfield, author of "Love Letters, Volume 1: Growing up, Moving On" and "Love Letters, Volume 2: Being Adult," will be signing her books at Local Yogurt April 10.

Busfield's "Love Letters" platform is a culmination of her published works and an interactive website. Busfield has worked with the Elon Microfinance Initiative (EMI) to publicize her books, and EMI assisted in coordinating the book signing. The Elon Microfinance Initiative works as a liaison for small businesses, and their work with Busfield represents one of their first local projects.

Weekly Wrap-Up

The Weekly Wrap-Up provides quick snippets of speeches and events that occurred on campus throughout the week.

Full articles are available at www.elonpendulum.com.

Parents honor Astley through education

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

Family, friends and the Elon University community remembered and memorialized the legacy of Lauren Astley last week as her parents visited campus for a series of events.

Astley would have been a member of the Class of 2015, but was found dead of apparent homicide July 4, months before she would have arrived on campus.

Malcolm Astley and Mary Dunne, her parents, visited campus Monday and Tuesday and participated in a memorial for Lauren. They engaged in conversation about violence in relationships.

"Our commitment needs to be to try to understand what happens in such harmful situations, what the contributing undercurrents are that we need to address to make the human condition better in this arena of love," Malcolm Astley said. "(We need) to make it less likely that such events will repeat themselves and then look after the needs of all parties in facing inevitable breakups and moving on."

Since Astley's death allegedly at the hands of an ex-boyfriend, Malcolm Astley has made it his mission to spread, not only encouragement, but education about the warning signs of harmful relationships.

"Lauren had every reason to believe she had a great future ahead of her," Dunne said. "You honor her by being here today and getting all you can out of the experiences you'll have here at Elon."



Following Lauren Astley's death, Malcolm Astley, Lauren Astley's father, has demonstrated dedication to promoting healthy relationships.

Panelists evaluate meaning of recent violence

Katherine Blunt
Assistant News Editor

The loss of a few invoked the outrage of many.

The recent tragedies that unfolded on three separate continents were distinct in context but similar in nature. Deaths by shootings in the United States, Afghanistan and France were all seemingly unprovoked acts of violence and possibly racially motivated.

In an effort to better understand the disparate yet parallel occurrences, a panel titled "Caught in the Crossfire of Misunderstanding" convened Wednesday to discuss how the deaths of Trayvon Martin in Florida,

17 Afghans in Kandahar and three Jewish students and one rabbi in Toulouse related to larger societal trends both domestically and internationally. The panelists included four Elon professors, a former Elon student and a visiting assistant professor.

These events of violence by individuals are not to be dismissed as trivial or isolated, said Buffie Longmire-Avital, assistant professor of psychology. They indicate the continued presence of racism and stereotyping in global societies. In each instance, the aggressor saw an individual or group of individuals as manifestations of stereotypes that caused them fear or discomfort.

The Elon Network encourages student professional connections

Kristen Olsen
Senior Reporter

The Elon Network shows students career insight can come from fellow students.

The second annual Elon Network allowed students to meet with both students and professionals who have experience in their respective fields.

Brian Serow, a senior marketing and entrepreneurship major and student director of the Elon Network, said he wants students to be able to have job opportunities from alumni after they graduate.

"There's a whole level of

connection that we don't have," Serow said. "This keeps them connected to Elon."

The event, held in Alumni Gym March 28, included a total of 50 student presenters and 20 professionals that represented a variety of career opportunities such as teaching, public administration, business and communications.

Rachel Wilson, a junior biochemistry major from Durham, attended and discussed her internship with the Duke Research Center.

"We're here to network with the students to give them someone to contact," Wilson said.

Guest speaker expresses importance of global engagement



Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

Students need extensive travel experience, language fluency and passion, according to Kurt Waldthausen, honorary consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, who spoke to Elon University students March 30.

"America is isolated," Waldthausen said. "Unless that changes, one language isn't good enough. One language at the beginning (of college) is good, but not at the end."

Waldthausen came to Student Professional Development Center to share his experience placing Americans in careers with German companies for the past 30 years.

In his experience, he said three keys are necessary for successful American business models abroad: communication, compensation and cultural translation. By understanding these three factors and their role in business, Elon students can prepare for international careers.

Students participating in the German Business Program are on the track Waldthausen outlined, according to David Neville, assistant professor of German and director of language learning technologies.

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April 4 – April 11

<p>April 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "How to Find a Professional Internship," 5:30-6:30 p.m., Student Professional Development Center • The Elon University Medal for Entrepreneurial Leadership ceremony: 9:30 a.m., LaRose Digital Theater 	<p>April 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service: 7:30 p.m., Holt Chapel • Readings from National Park Service Anthology: 7:30 p.m., Isabella Cannon Room 	<p>April 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinderella Project; Moseley Center • Elon Passover Seder; 6-7:30 p.m., Oaks 212 	<p>April 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinderella Project; Moseley Center
<p>April 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Sunday Mass: noon, McKinnon Hall 	<p>April 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Holiday 	<p>April 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "No Impact Man" Movie Screening: 7:30 p.m., Moseley Lawn. Rain location: McMichael 115 • La Table Francaise: 4:15 p.m., Irazu Coffee House 	<p>April 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stealth Components Information Session; 5 p.m., Koury 201 • Symposium on Human Trafficking: 5 p.m., LaRose Digital Theater

International

England makes preparations for royal celebration

Queen Elizabeth to celebrate 60 years on the throne during summer festivities

Leigh Iler
International Reporter

LONDON — 2012 is a big year for England. In addition to being the host of the summer Olympics July 27 to Aug. 12, the country is also celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee June 2 to June 5.

This festivity commemorates Elizabeth II's 60th year as queen.

Elizabeth II has led a powerful life. She was born on April 21, 1926 to The Duke and Duchess of York, who would later become King George IV and Queen Elizabeth.

Since taking the throne following her father's death, her reign has been filled with political, economic and social progress. Not only has their currency, the British pound, gained value, but Britain's foreign policy has improved with other European and international nations.

In the months leading up to the big events, the Queen and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, are touring the United Kingdom, along with other members of the Royal Family who are also traveling throughout the world to promote the Diamond Jubilee.

Though the excitement will last the entire year, the primary events will occur June 2 to June 5. In honor of this

national holiday, banks will be closed June 4 and 5, and schools will also close June 5.

During the course of this weekend, there will be numerous events. On June 3, the Thames River Pageant will be held, where thousands of boats will assemble with the Queen leading the way. A concert at Buckingham Palace will be held June 4, featuring artists such as Jessie J, Elton John, Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

To conclude the weekend, a Service of Thanksgiving will take place at St. Paul's Cathedral June 5, where the Queen and members of the Royal Family will be in attendance.

Sarah Worely, a sophomore studying at the Elon Centre in London, she said is excited about the events.

"I am so happy to be in London this semester in order to see the preparation being made for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee," she said. "It is amazing to see how the country is coming together to celebrate this occasion from formal parties to students learning songs for the event. It is impressive that someone who has been in the public eye for so long can still achieve this level of bonding and respect from fellow members of her country."



Elizabeth II celebrated her 50th year as Queen of England in 2002. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Six decades of reign

Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her 60-year reign this year and is by far Europe's longest-serving head of state.



Reigning monarchs of Europe

Queen Elizabeth II of Britain	59 years
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark	40
King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden	38
King Juan Carlos of Spain	36
Queen Beatrix of Netherlands	31
King Harald V of Norway	21
King Albert of Belgium	18

A look at the Queen's reign:

1952-1961

1952 Feb. 6 King George VI dies

1953 June 2 coronation

1960 Birth of Prince Andrew

1962-1971

1962 Buckingham Palace opened to the public for the first time

1964 Birth of Prince Edward

1969 Prince Charles invested as Prince of Wales

1972-1981

1972 Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's 25th wedding anniversary

1973 Wedding of Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips

1977 Silver Jubilee, 25 years as sovereign

1981 Wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer

1982-1991

1982 Prince Andrew serves as helicopter pilot in Falkland War, returns safely; Prince William is born

1986 Queen celebrates her 60th birthday

1991 Gulf War; first British monarch to address a joint session of U.S. Congress

1992-2002

1996 Divorces of Prince Charles, Princess Diana and Prince Andrew, Duchess Sarah

1997 Princess Diana dies

1999 Wedding of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones

2000 Queen mother's 100th birthday

2002 Princess Margaret, queen mother die

2002-2012

2005 Prince Charles marries Camilla Parker-Bowles

2006 Queen celebrates her 80th birthday

2011 Prince William marries Catherine Middleton; later, makes first state visit to Ireland by a British monarch

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Source: The British Monarchy, BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Melina Yingling

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Correspondents' Corner

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM — The Semester at Sea ship is currently located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, but the people here still refer to it as Saigon. Vietnam is a consumer's paradise. Knock-off North Face jackets are \$35 USD, and things like backpacks cost less than \$15 USD. Because of that, there are so many factories. If I



REBECCA CUMMINGS

looked through my closet, I would find that the majority of my clothes are made in Vietnam. We still have a lot to learn about the consequences of our actions, and I have now realized the value of travel and access to international experiences such as this.

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA — This past weekend, we had a volunteer service day at an assisted living home. We painted a wall, painted fingernails, helped serve coffee, walked with people and pushed their wheelchairs and performed songs for them in English. It was really difficult for those who spoke softly, struggled to hear or were suffering from some sort of dementia. We



LESLIE GILMAN

all really struggled to know what to say and fully understand them, but there were some things, like painting fingernails, that were just intimate enough to connect, regardless of language barrier. It's a beautiful thing to realize how universal volunteer and service work is.

SANTIAGO, CHILE — Nearly every movie poster I've seen in Santiago has advertised a Hollywood production, and the major movie theaters only show American films. The radio plays many imported American songs, although I have also heard a good bit of Argentinian, Brazilian, Spanish and Venezuelan music broadcast as well. What



EVAN STUDENMUND

intrigues me most about the Latin radio jams is that many of them, predominantly those located within the Latin pop genre, have an accompanying dance. The majority of the Chilean youth knows the steps to these dances, and nobody is too cool to join in.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Canada says goodbye to the penny

Jim Flaherty, finance minister of Canada, announced March 29 that the country will stop producing and distributing pennies to banks and businesses this fall. The penny costs 1.6 cents to produce, so its elimination will save approximately \$11 million Canadian dollars a year.

Canadians will be allowed to use previously produced pennies indefinitely, but the government hopes they will turn them in for scrap metal. Cash transactions will be rounded to the nearest nickel as the penny disappears, but all other transactions will still use pennies in their calculations.

American money awarded to Tunisia

The United States announced March 29 they will provide Tunisia with a \$100 million dollar grant to pay off its debts to World Banks and other international institutions. Hillary Clinton stated that the grant will allow Tunisia to use its resources on development and jobs, which will help to propel them to democracy.

Discovery of million-year-old fossil opens the door for new research

Archaeologists discovered a 3.4-million-year-old fossil foot in Ethiopia that proves there was another line of species more closely connected to humans than chimpanzees. Before this discovery, the record of fossils for this era in history was limited to "Lucy," the 3.2-million-year-old skeleton. The foot fossil also shows a different form of mobility existed as well. The species clung solely to the trees and never learned terrain mobility. This fossil opens the door for more research and investigation into this era of prehistoric beings.

French police detain Islamic extremists after a series of deaths

French police detained 19 people suspected of being Islamic extremists March 30. France is starting a crackdown on extremists and promises more raids to come. The raid came on the spur of a series of killings in southern France by a radical Islamist.

French president Nicolas Sarkozy did not give any details on the whereabouts of the detainees, what crimes the detainees are suspected of or how the situation will progress.

Pope's visit prompts reinstatement of Good Friday as Cuban holiday

After the Pope Benedict's recent visit, Cuba has decided to make Good Friday a national holiday for the first time since its revolution in 1959. During Fidel Castro's reign, all religious holidays were abolished, and the Catholic church has tried to get Good Friday reinstated for many years.

The Pope's visit left many Cubans feeling more hopeful and positive for future change, according to media sources, and although it is not certain that this holiday will be acknowledged again after this year's celebration, Cuba hopes this is the first of many movements towards democracy.

Argentina fights with Great Britain over control of Falkland Islands

Argentina has announced a new campaign to win over the natives of the Falklands and to finally try to incorporate the islands into its nation.

Thirty years ago, Argentina went to war for the islands, located 300 miles off the Argentinian coast, but they are currently controlled by the British. In recent months, Argentina has prohibited British vessels from docking on its coastlines and has begun to gain attention and support from neighboring countries in preparation for a take-over.

Editorial



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Professional background should be determining factor in current job market

On campuses across the country, millions of students are untangling themselves from racy Facebook photos of the party last weekend, deleting old wall posts and refraining from re-tweeting inside jokes from those late nights at the bar.

Why? Because they just submitted job applications that asked for links to their social media profiles. Private companies and institutions across the country are now assuming more of a role as virtual watchdog.

But should our personal social media platforms serve as sufficient cause for hiring or rejections? We say no.

Past employment history, references and personal interviews should be the primary factors in determining a candidate's ability to perform well in a professional environment. An employer cannot adequately gauge the professional capabilities of a person simply by looking at their Facebook page.

However, in today's society, a virtual character check is often held on the same plateau of importance as the physical character check. And while it is impossible to completely separate the personal from the professional, a candidate's personal life — the life which exists outside the confines of the workplace — should not be held at the level of importance which it currently resides. Our professional lives — not our social lives — should be what

an employer should use as the basis to form his or her opinion of us.

Far too often, an inside joke on somebody's Facebook profile, or an awkwardly phrased tweet, is misinterpreted. Someone else takes the posted content out of context, and then assumes an unfair, pre-emptive bias against the profile owner.

Students across the country are aware of this trend now more than ever, ushering them to prematurely self-censor their online presence so as to bolster their professional image. In the midst of frantic job and internship searches, students are often forewarned to make sure that their profiles on social media platforms are devoid of any potentially incriminating content in the event that an employer decides to peruse their profile or Twitter feed.

On a national scale, the factoring of social media into employment decisions has recently sparked considerable controversy. Some employers are now reportedly asking for access to candidate's profile passwords. In a March 23rd press release, Facebook condemned any requests of this kind, stating that it crosses both legal and personal boundaries.

"This practice undermines the privacy expectations and the security of both the user and the user's friends," said the statement. "It also potentially exposes the employer who seeks this access to unanticipated legal liability."

This type of request sets a dangerous precedent for the future if it continues unchecked. Companies who seek to invade employee privacy by accessing personal information will open themselves up to considerable legal controversy, that which could severely damage them in years to come. But if this emerging practice of employers accessing our profiles continues, how can we as students proactively combat it?

In this week's sports section, you can read about the importance that many Elon student athletes place on maintaining a responsible social media presence. The Elon athletic department adheres to a strict social media policy in regards to its athletes, one that seeks to promote accountability and informed decision-making. This policy has been violated during the past year due to momentary acts of indiscretion by athletes on social media platforms, like Twitter.

Erica Roberson, director of media relations for Elon's athletic department, said in an interview with The Pendulum that irresponsible usage of social media can often lead to greater consequences than one had considered, in terms of both their professional and personal image. Elon's social media policy strives to promote responsibility by students when using social media and recognition of the potential consequences for mistakes. In addition, students are expected to be

able to accurately judge what is considered appropriate content, and to always try and portray themselves in a positive light.

A few years ago, the concept of infusing one's personal life with his or her daily "nine to five" responsibilities was often frowned upon, to say the least. Now, the infusion of the personal as a qualifying factor into the professional sphere has effectively flipped the system, allowing one's personal life to (potentially) destroy the possibility of even having a

"nine to five" to begin with.

Job candidates and employers should both recognize that applying to work in a professional environment should be determined primarily by their professional qualifications, not their social media presence.

The role that social media currently plays in determining professional capability should be significantly reduced, as it represents our society's growing dependence on social media in all environments.

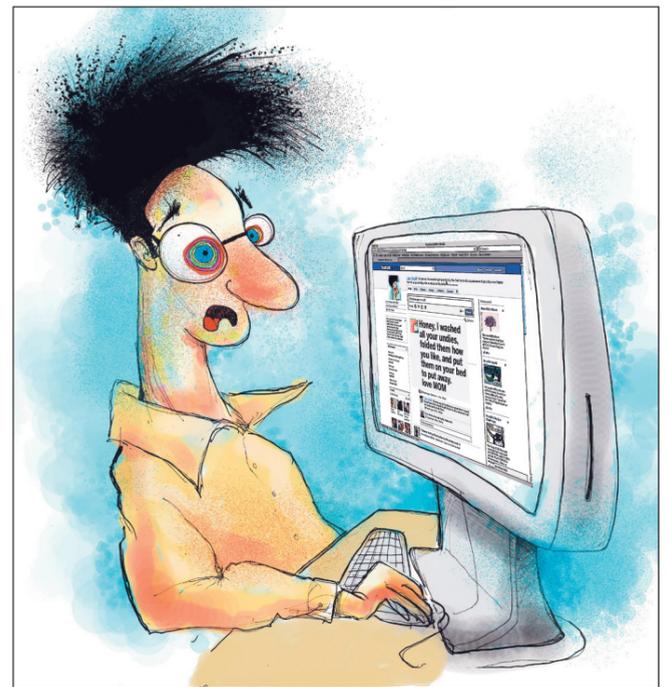


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu 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.

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Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.ElonPendulum.com where commentary can be quickly posted.

Opinions

Power over people: Representatives focus on personal gains more than constituents

Politics - it's not a four-letter word, but it's rapidly becoming a dirty word. Candidates running for office seem to be more occupied with attacking each other with socially charged comments, such as, "The American left hates Christendom. They hate Western civilization" (thank you Rick Santorum).



Ethan Smith
Columnist

This is rather than providing the public with insight into what needs to be done in order to pull our country out of a nosedive.

The current presidential race is beginning to look like a grade school playground fight. It's full of name-calling, backhanded commentary and, if we all get lucky enough, maybe they'll start throwing punches. Politics was intended to make electing representatives easier.

Commentary coming from Republicans during this presidential race has been especially charged with sentiments that are less than favorable to the American public.

Mitt Romney, whose net worth is estimated to be over \$200 million, claims he is also unemployed, stating that he has been "afraid of getting a pink slip" at times in his life. His attempts to relate to middle and working class Americans is making it increasingly clear that the better choice would be to pencil in Mickey Mouse on the ballot and hope for the best.

With comments like these, politics is leaving a sour taste in America's mouth. In previous elections, which have been equally charged with ignorant commentary, the subjects that needed to be talked about were at least getting attention with potential candidates.

But currently, who you marry and what women should do with their bodies, which are both entirely private matters, have been seemingly at the forefront of political discussion.

Some candidates believe these issues take precedence over our trainwreck economy. Santorum recently said, "The issue in this race is not the economy." In reality, it's been everyone's concern for the past four years as we all desperately scramble for job application to paycheck.

While the current president seemingly hasn't done much to help the economy or the country, as a whole, he's done what he can, considering having a Congress full of representatives that wish to do anything in their power to keep a Democrat from doing any good for the United States.

Politicians have become concerned with power, not the common good. With this trend, it is nearly impossible to have a nation united and moving towards improvement in any aspect.

This creates a system where the representatives do not represent the people, but instead, represent the interests of the few in power.

Some candidates have even gone as far as to declare personal beliefs that are the complete opposite of what is written in the Constitution. Santorum recently said in an interview with ABC News, "I don't believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute."

America is not a theocracy, but a democracy where the power is left to the people. If this current trend continues, America is headed for a series of political debates filled with pure mud slinging and hardly any real substantive information on what the candidates believe is best for America.

This will eventually lead to apathy of the public, and who knows, maybe Mickey Mouse would be an OK president.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Martin became martyr for unsung victims of racial profiling in U.S.A.

A country that was built on the foundation of multiple cultures, ethnicities, and beliefs should, in a



Jonathan Black
Columnist

perfect world, lack stereotypes and misconceptions about people different from themselves. Because the United States is not a utopia, this is unlikely, and this can best be seen in the recent cases of discriminatory violence against people seen as minorities.

The most notable of these incidents is the Trayvon Martin case. Martin was an 17-year-old African-American who was walking around the gated community of his dad's fiancée when he was shot and killed by the neighborhood watchperson.

The alleged shooter, George Zimmerman, and the incident are shrouded in mystery as there is a lack of details surrounding the event. Zimmerman claims he shot Martin in self-defense, but there is little to prove that he was attacked. Martin was carrying Skittles and iced tea, things few would consider weapons.

Zimmerman had a history of suspicion, calling 911 more than 40 times while working for various securities. Allegedly, Zimmerman used the n-word to describe Martin in his call to 911.

Civil rights groups are now swarming upon this incident, using Martin as a martyr to gain the attention of the continuing profiling of minorities in the country.

Across the country in California, a similar incident has taken place, but with

less media attention. A Muslim mother was found in her home beaten, in a pool of her own blood with a note saying "Go back to your own country, you terrorist." The Iraqi immigrant, Shaima Alawadi, was found by her daughter and taken to the hospital where she later died.

There are many unanswered questions with both events, but one thing is clear: neither Martin nor Alawadi were people to fear.

Both of these cases are just growing instances of xenophobia, the fear of foreigners or strangers, in the United States. People are claiming to attack children and mothers for the sake of personal protection and protecting the country, but all they are doing is adding more fuel for animosity in a country that is beginning to lose sight of what its values are supposed to be.

Those who believe they are doing the greater good by assaulting and killing those deemed different are not making the country any better. They are taking away parents, friends and children by claiming they are riding the country of threats and terrorists. In reality, the terrorists are those committing these "acts of help."

Contributing to these hate crimes are extremist political pundits who claim that as Americans we need to take back our country.

We are in danger of losing our country, but not because teenagers are wearing hoodies at night or a woman is wearing a head scarf. We are in danger of losing our country because of the unwavering hate.

America's biggest enemy is not North Korea or the Taliban, but its own people. In a country that is obsessed with the outside world, there is no way we can continue that thought unless we begin to help ourselves.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
The murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin has sparked national outrage. Civil rights groups are now demanding justice for Martin, the latest victim of violence due to personal racial prejudice.

American countercultures fight conventional behavior with their own personalized style

In the past, countercultures have been some of the most influential groups in American history.



Christopher Bosak
Columnist

Hippies in the '60s broke society out of its post-war rigidity that prevailed through the '50s. B-Boys brought hip-hop and graffiti into the mainstream,

becoming a way to project then unspoken feelings in a way that grabbed the public's attention. But where is our counterculture? Where are our B-Boys or hippies battling the mainstream in the eternal tug-of-war of culture?

Well, there isn't one. But don't lose hope. This doesn't mean we've lost to "the man" or become part of some giant corporate mainstream. Instead, we're all part of little countercultures, all trying to influence the world in different ways over different topics.

Take any issue, and there will be a counterculture

battling its conventional wisdom until their dying breath. Maybe you support gay rights and are strongly opposed to Amendment One? You're part of the counterculture that's helping organize the Vote Against movement. Maybe you think more attention needs to be focused on violence and genocide in central Africa? You're probably a part of the counterculture behind the Kony 2012 project.

Maybe you're an atheist who believes lack of belief in God deserves just as much recognition as religion. You're part of

the counterculture that organized the Reason Rally in D.C. last weekend.

We live in a fantastic time where fighting against old, conventional wisdom is usually met with respectful disagreement instead of violence or overly negative vitriol. Sure, there will always be those that will use their positions as the establishment to shut down dissent using excessive means, but these people are becoming rarer and their opposition is becoming more powerful.

We can thank the older parents of our generation

for this new acceptance of differing ideas. They were the group that originally protested and most haven't forgotten the lessons they or their peers learned in the '60s even though they're in charge.

The Internet has also been influential in fostering sub-countercultures. Now everyone has the technology to organize with people who share a belief regardless of location or wealth.

So the next time you get worried you might be slipping too far into the mainstream, just remember: we're all hippies now, man.

The extra year

Redshirts take unique path in world of college athletics

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor



Julie Hart



Kallie Hovatter



Jonathan Spain

Ever heard of Warren Alfson? Alfson, a sophomore member of the University of Nebraska football team in 1938, decided to take a year to just practice and not play because there were too many good players ahead of him. This allowed him to gain an extra year of playing eligibility in the process - the first redshirt player in history.

Alfson's decision played a role in allowing several Elon Phoenix athletes to participate in another year of varsity athletics.

Reason behind the redshirt

Women's basketball senior guard Kallie Hovatter had to deal with NCAA rules. She started her university career at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, but transferred to Elon after her first season because she was dissatisfied with her spot on the Hawks. Hovatter had to sit out a season because of an NCAA rule that says baseball, basketball, men's ice hockey and football players who are transferring from four-year schools to other four-year institutions are required to wait a year, with a few exceptions.

Men's basketball junior guard Josh Bonney and cross country sophomores Sean Magee and Julie Hart were dealing with injuries and also decided to take the redshirt option.

Magee completed one official race, the Elon Invitational, in the fall of his freshman year of 2010. After he suffered a stress fracture in his femur, redshirting became an attractive option.

Hart dealt with a similar injury, a stress reaction, and took the same route as Magee.

Bonney tried to avoid redshirting, but the ankle injury he suffered two games into the 2010-2011 season was too severe to play with, so he also took the option.

Football linebacker Jonathan Spain was injured before he came to Elon in 2010 and underwent surgery the February before he arrived. To be safe, the redshirt was still applied to him. He was also coming in behind then-junior Joshua Jones and then-senior Lionel Shoffner at middle linebacker.

Second-year baseball pitcher John Antonelli suffered a stress fracture and two bulging disks in his back in fall 2010. He was healthy by the start of the 2011 season, but took the redshirt to give himself an extra year.

Toughing it out

During her year off, Hovatter allowed to travel with the team, she wished she were able to try to take advantage of the time to improve her own game.

"I really developed the player, of, 'If I'm not going to play in games, I'm going to train like games,'" she said. "And make my teammates work. I make sure they know that we're going to be playing with them."

Magee spoke to the difficulty of being able to participate, even if it was just in practice.

"It can be hard at times, a little weird," he said. "I never thought I was 'one of the guys' sometimes frustrating when I had to watch them do a workout and then I would have to go and do something like that."

Bonney played a solid sophomore season in 2009-2010, averaging 5.7 to 15.2 minutes per contest in 31 games. His hiatus slowed him a little bit, he said.

"It kind of messed up things," he said. "I couldn't do anything about the injury and it hasn't been effective if I tried to do it so it ended up being the best option for me."

Aided by academics

Some athletes like to have an extra year to complete their studies, who wants to be an engineer, law, fifth year to help decide his career.

"It really allowed me to figure out what I want to do with classes, sports, not (have) too much of a focus on one thing," he said. "And really, a lot of stuff done for my major that my fifth year isn't too hard to really focus on baseball and then to do with my future after that."

Despite having that extra year, said it was his goal to finish in four years, so he will finish his technology and communication double major in four years, this May.

"My goal has always been to finish in four years no matter what. I'll just have another year to



Julie Hart: Photo by Merissa Blitz | Staff Photographer
 Kallie Hovatter: File Photo by Heather Cassano
 Jonathan Spain: File Photo by Al Drago
 Josh Bonney: Photo by Brian Allenby | Staff Photographer
 John Antonelli: File Photo by Merissa Blitz
 Sean Magee: Photo by Brian Allenby | Staff Photographer

and take any other classes that I want to take, so that's the route that I went about approaching it. I wanted to make sure that I had all my options open and I was definitely going to graduate in my four years like I planned, so it worked out for me."

Hart also was hurt this past season and will probably take the extra year in order to compete more.

"Right now, where I'm at, I'm very ambitious with running and I want to get faster and do better," she said. "Right now, it's a possibility that I would stay. Academically, I'm on track to graduate in time. I think I owe it to myself and owe it to the team to stay and compete."

Returning to the groove

When it was time for her to return to the course for the first time, Hart was different than most redshirts. She earned all-SoCon honors for track in several events in the spring of 2011. But her first race back in cross country season, the College of Charleston Invitational Sept. 10, 2011, surprised Hart.

"It was weird," she said. "I was definitely nervous, but excited to get back out there, feeling good and everything. During track, that was the best I've ever felt racing and competing. It makes me more eager to get out there and race."

In Hovatter's first game for the Phoenix as a sophomore, she scored 11 points against Youngstown State University at home Nov. 13, 2009.

"I had so much energy, so much passion I was ready to release," she said. "I know that game, I was all over the place. My energy was so out of control. But I finally found a way to fine-tune it, and from there, I was just, 'Let's go.'"

Antonelli said he wasn't rusty, but was also surprised at times when returning to the sport. He pitched two no-hit innings in relief of Phoenix starter junior pitcher Kyle Webb in a 7-1 victory over Akron University in the 2012 season opener Feb. 17.

"The last time I had done that was my senior year of high school, so definitely got some jitters in there," he said. "It's a great feeling anytime you go out there. It never goes away. There's not too much rust, but there's definitely nothing like being in a real game for a team."

Thirty-two athletic credit hours

Spending a year watching, Spain learned a lot about college football.

"I learned the speed of the game is totally different, the X's and O's are more complicated and I learned from Josh Jones and Lionel how to play linebacker at the college level," he said.

Although Hovatter missed out on a lot of team experiences, such as games, she said she became closer with the other players on the basketball team.

"I got to know my teammates really well," she said. "I became invested and personal with them off the court. It worked out good. It's a double-edged sword — you have to sit and it sucks, but also you get to know and figure out more of this is how it's going to be."

Antonelli said he learned to not take the year for granted.

"I've talked to a bunch of guys and they always say, 'Use it to your advantage,'" he said. "I wish I could redshirt. I wish I could have that year to get better. That was my main thing, to use it as much as I can. I didn't want to look back and wish that I had done more that year. It definitely helped me a whole lot."

Athletes who redshirt deal with a mixture of emotions during their year out.

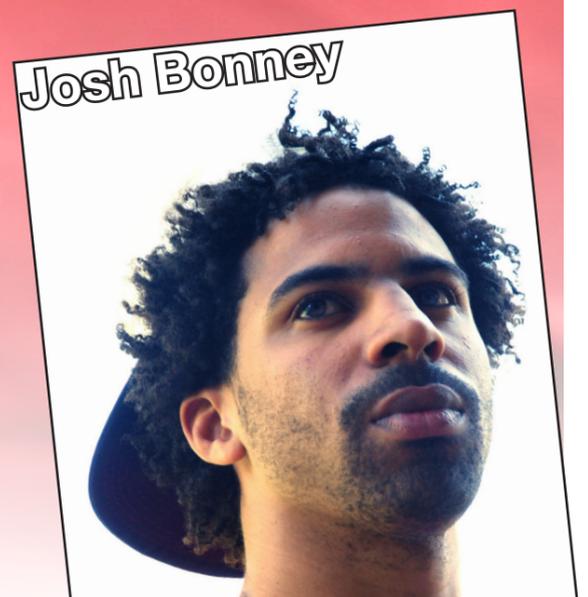
"You kind of suck it up when it's not going too well, and it kind of sucks to not be a part of it when it is going well," Bonney said. "That's basically how it was for me my redshirt year, I was just battling in between those two things the whole year. It ended up all working out in the end."

For Magee, a music technology major, he said it would help him towards his goal of being a professional musician.

"If I had that fifth year, where I had a lighter course load, I could focus on what I'm going to do after this, what I'm going to do with my music or where I want to go," he said.

An extra year to improve in every aspect — athletically or not. All thanks to Warren Alfson and a red shirt.

For the full story about redshirts and a video of the athletes, see:
<http://pend.lu/redshirt>



Style



Mac Miller performs for several hundred Elon students and Burlington community members at the Spring Show March 30 in Alumni Gym.
STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter

Pressing the pause button

Mac Miller, The White Panda put real life on hold at Spring Show

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

"What's up, Elon?" Mac Miller shouted into the microphone.

Hundreds of students answered him. A beat dropped, the lights exploded and Miller launched into one of his songs. Elon University's Spring Show, presented by the Student Union Board,

became a rapid success as mashup duo The White Panda and rapper Miller were welcomed to the stage in Alumni Gym.

But college students weren't the only people in the audience. Dozens of local high school students, as well as community members, also attended the concert.

"It seemed like there were a lot of high school students," said sophomore Tucker Bolding. "You could tell the biggest fans were at the front. Everybody seemed to be having a good time and the interaction between the performers and the audience was exciting."

But regardless of age, the crowd's enthusiasm was at full force when The White Panda took the stage. The band is made up of two best friends, Tom Evans and Dan Griffith.

The bandmates said it is their originality that brings such varied demographics to concerts.

"We uniquely give a fresh take on music, in a way that other genres can't," Evans said. "People love that, especially the college kids. It keeps you on your toes. You never know what's going to come on next."

Evans said the unpredictability of The White Panda's music makes it suitable for a number of venues, whether it is an arena or the gym.

"People like to work out to our music because every minute it's something different," he said. "You don't know what it's going to be."

Griffith said he and Evans make it a point to simply keep their music fun, trying out creative ideas without any

high expectations.

Mac Miller, who is kicking off his Macadelic 2012 International Tour with The Cool Kids and The Come Up, performed shortly after The White Panda. Though Miller was not feeling well enough for a pre-show interview, he regained his energy for the performance — energy that was an important constant for both groups that performed.

The concert's atmosphere was that of a big house party with celebrity DJs. For students looking to unwind from the stress of schoolwork, they had certainly come to the right place.

During the fall semester, the Student Union Board presented a survey to Elon students, asking them who they would like to come perform for the community. The artists' names were revealed in February.

"Mac Miller was the highest open response that we had on the survey that was in our price range," said senior Jenna Thrash, music chair for SUB.

Mashup artists have recently been popular on Elon's campus, Thrash said. After Super Mash Bros.' successful visit during last year's Spring Show, SUB decided to bring another mash-up artist to Elon.

Thrash said SUB's main goal was to ensure the student body would be pleased with whichever artists were invited to campus.

"We want as many students as possible to be excited," Thrash said. "Obviously, we can't please everybody, but we really try to take into consideration what the students want."

the Swing

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Head online to check out The Swing, a new way to experience The Pendulum.

This Thursday on The Swing ...

Frisbee

Sports editor Zachary Horner practices with the intramural frisbee team before its big tournament.

Spring Style

Freshman fashion blogger Alison Ryncarz shows you how to rock the latest looks.

The Carnal Romp

Senior Alexa Johnson delves into the history and importance of WSOE's sex talk show.

The 60-Second Newsdesk

Don't have time to read the whole paper? Kassondra Cloos runs through this week's paper in one minute.



Mashup duo The White Panda showcases a full set of its most well-known songs.
AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Constructing a bright future from a discordant past

Sophomore combines life in Afghanistan with U.S. education to pursue dreams, make difference

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

His name is Fazly, and he is from Afghanistan.

At least, that's the easiest way sophomore Toorialey Fazly has found to introduce himself to Americans who often express amazement at his nation of origin based on their own misconceptions.

For Fazly, his identity as an Afghan is intertwined with his experiences as a college student in the United States, a dream he set his sights on as a young boy living in near-poverty under the rule of the Taliban and fought for years to obtain.

Now studying international studies with a minor in economics, Fazly insists upon bringing his experiences and knowledge back home to the country he knows best.

A stunted childhood

Fazly was born and raised in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and excelled at his studies for all of his life until his plans to attend college were halted by the necessity of providing for his family, which was struggling economically. His father ill and his mother unable to work because of the presence of the Taliban, the family was lucky to scrounge up a piece of bread.

"If we were able to find dinner, we didn't know how to find breakfast the next day," Fazly said.

It was a harsh reality that befell almost every family in the country at the time.

"I finished my high school, then I knew that was it, there was no hope that I could continue my education while I wanted to," he said. "My family knew that. My mom told me, 'I'm sorry. I know that you're smart and you need to go to higher educational institutes, but we need help and you have to work.' And I did."

His first job paid just enough to sustain the family for a while until Fazly found a job with DynCorps, an American-based military contractor training the Afghan army at the time. It was Fazly's skills in English and computers, learned at private training centers during his childhood, which set him apart from his peers for the job.

But it would be the skills and experiences Fazly gained from his American peers at DynCorps that would matter most.

"They were very helpful people who taught me everything — how to manage, how to run an office," he said. "Every single administrative skill I have now I learned from the Americans at DynCorp."

During a visit from Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan, Fazly became acquainted with his director of programs and inquired about job opportunities and expressed his capabilities. Within two months, he received an email about an opening and six months later was officially welcomed as the scheduler for the president of Afghanistan. While still supporting his family all the while, Fazly credits his success with his willingness to embrace the opportunities before him.

"A guy who had nothing — no bread to eat — five years ago (was) working in the office of the president," Fazly said. "It was beyond my dreams and beyond my imagination. The passion I had for education and skills I had — it never let me down."

Education, a world away

With a secure, well-paying job in place, Fazly began taking courses in law and political science at Kabul University. As he interacted with American lawmakers through his job, he repeatedly inquired

into available educational opportunities in the United States. It was during a trip to Washington, D.C. that his life was forever changed when he met Ashraf Haidari, a political consul in the Afghan Embassy in D.C. who had recently spoken on Elon's campus.

It was through him that Fazly learned about the university's commitment to admit Afghan students and the Pavlov scholarship, which Fazly was eventually awarded. And despite his two years of university in Kabul, he insisted his credits not be transferred from his transcript.

"I knew that the education I had received, the basics I learned about political science and law was in Dari, my language," he said. "So I thought that if I am going to continue my education in English, I have to start from scratch. That would be very helpful in the future."

But the cultural differences weren't the only barriers between Fazly and his new classmates on campus. The 25-year-old was also significantly older than his peers and brought with him years of experiences many couldn't fathom.

"I came here with tough experiences of life joining a school with students that had just left their homes," he said. "The environment that they were raised in was completely different than the environment I was raised with. The only thing we had in common was the language I could speak."

While he sometimes doesn't follow along with the pop-culture references and trends prevalent on any college campus, Fazly said he enjoys sharing a unique perspective in classrooms and casual conversations.

"As I got to know people and people got to know me, I have too many friends on campus. I love them, and they love me back and we are friends and we will be friends forever."

Paying forward a priceless gift

The resources that Fazly enjoys as a student at Elon University are unheard of in his home country — not only is Internet sparse, but libraries are limited and filled with outdated textbooks.

In one small way, he is hoping to change that.

During his last visit home, students at Kabul University told Fazly their hardest class was statistics, not because they couldn't understand the material but because they were forced to perform every calculation by hand, without the benefit of a calculator or computer — a far cry from the experience Fazly has had studying math.

"A person like myself who has had education in the United States can bring those changes back home," he said. "Right now, it's my goal and I've planned it to collect information from my classes, presentations my professors have for me and the problem sets they have for me during the class. To take home every piece of paperwork I had done in these two classes."

With that and his calculator, Fazly hopes to teach a statistics class and introduce Afghan students to American methods of statistics.

"I don't care if I have an impact on an Afghan's life or an Indian life or an American life — as far as I am able to help an individual, a human being, I am satisfied with that," he said. "It doesn't mean I'm only focused on Afghanistan but (it) is the country where I was born and I have access. I see myself in the position to help those people. But if tomorrow I'm in a position to help somebody else, it doesn't matter from which country, which faith, which race — I will definitely be doing that."

Change for the better

In many ways, Fazly's experiences mirror those of his beloved home country as it attempts to rebuild and develop after years of hardship.

While the nightly news brings images of sandy expanses of land and tiny, mud houses to America's living rooms, the reality is that improvement is happening. Unbeknownst to many, particularly young Americans, Afghanistan was a highly-developed country in the 1970s that, in many ways, resembled America and European nations. Despite the

occupation of the Russians, Civil War and the rule of Taliban, the culture of the nation still thrives, Fazly said.

"It has only been since 2001 that everybody came hand-in-hand in trying to build the country in every aspect," he said. "You can witness development in every aspect of life now."

After his first year on Elon's campus, Fazly returned home and was astounded

by the pace of development in just nine months. He still holds to his belief that education is the best way to gain access to a better life.

"It is changing for the better every day and people are working hard," he said. "Everybody is working hard because they had a tough past and don't want to fall back into that situation. Everyone is working hard for a better future."

Encounters with the Taliban

Fazly's first up-close encounter with the terror group came on a bright and sunny afternoon during ninth grade. A crowd of people wound through the streets before coming to a stop in front of a tree and turning their eyes upward.

"I came very close to the tree and I looked and there was one hand of a man and a foot of a man hanging in a tree," Fazly said. "People around me said it was somebody who had committed robbery and the Taliban cut off his hand and foot as a punishment and to show if anybody committed any robbery, their hand and foot would be cut."

For weeks, the 14-year-old was plagued by nightmares that the severed hand and foot was behind him.

Violence was the norm for the country, already just a shadow of the prosperity and development it had once heralded in the 1970s before years of occupation and Civil War. The disobedient were shot in front of crowds of thousands during sporting events as a mock, cruel form of entertainment.

"Every day and every minute, even if you didn't expect something like that to happen in the stadium or outside of a school, you could come across incidents that could shock you," Fazly said. "And you could not bring it out of your mind and it was punishing you all the time, seeing people suffering."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Toorialey Fazly worked closely with Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan.

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A guy who had nothing — no bread to eat — five years ago (was) working in the office of the president. It was beyond my dreams and beyond my imagination.

—Toorialey Fazly
SOPHOMORE FROM AFGHANISTAN

Antonia's serves up fresh Italian

The appetizer of spring break is long gone, and now we're looking forward to the main course:



Andrew Tilden
Columnist

summer. Alas, checked-out Elon students, here's a date idea that will let you enjoy the nice weather and keep that vacation-feeling going. Spend the evening in Hillsborough and visit

Antonia's for dinner.

Unlike places that lie about sending their chefs to "Tuscan cooking school," this region actually represents authentic Italian cuisine decently. Little Italy and Prego's provide enjoyable dining experiences, but for the sake of romance, let's venture to out of town.

I know, Hillsborough seems so far away, but really it's not too bad. It's just about 20 miles east on I-40/I-85. Trust me, the trek will be well worth it.

You and a special someone can take a sunset-lit stroll around the quaint colonial town. Just to fit the theme, we'll call it a "passeggiata," which is the Italian evening ritual of a leisurely walk before dinnertime. End your walk when you find the red umbrellas lining the corner of Churton Street and King Street, and you've arrived at Antonia's.

Claudia Salvador's gentle Italian accent will greet and direct you once inside. Antonia Berto and husband, Phillip Smith, work in the kitchen. The accent is genuine — Salvador and Berto are from Rome. And the philosophy is just as Italian — fresh and local ingredients handled simply, but with finesse.

Their restaurant celebrated its one-year anniversary this past weekend. But the trio's partnership goes back much longer. From 1978 to 2002, they ran a very popular restaurant in Key West, also called Antonia's.

The layout of the restaurant resembles an urban Italian sidewalk-restaurant. There's a prominent bar dividing two intimate dining areas. On the walls hang painted landscapes setting the mood as relaxed, yet classy.

Start with the antipasti. I'd recommend a fresh bite of bruschetta. I believe this is the greatest combo in all of gastronomy: tomato and basil.

The pasta is superb. At Antonia's, pasta is cooked how it should be, al dente — no soggy, overcooked pasta like at Pan Geos on campus. Berto makes many of the pasta varieties herself, such as the linguine, fettuccine, ravioli and cannelloni.

As for choosing the main course, the selection presents a challenge: You may want everything. The Tagliata is a New York Strip on top of arugula and tomatoes with a garlic-rosemary-olive oil sauce. The Fagottino di Maiale is a tenderized pork loin stuffed caciotta cheese and mushrooms, topped with pancetta and sage.

Whatever you get, I would advise you and your date order differently, so that you can sample each other's meal. You will definitely want to — it's the best Italian food I've had since I was in Italy.

I was there this time last year, and I've missed the lifestyle there ever since. Most of all, the food. But I'm pleased there is Antonia's to take me back.

Small stature, ambitious goals

Law school graduate overcomes limitations to achieve success

Audrey Horwitz
Senior Reporter

At two feet tall, Monique Johnson may be less than half the height of most, but she has never let her small stature discourage her from chasing her goals.

In May, Johnson will graduate from the Elon University School of Law. She wants to advocate for people with disabilities, but also has an interest in criminal law.

"I want to somehow marry the two," Johnson said.

Early on, Johnson recognized that a career in law would fit her extroverted personality.

"I knew I wanted to do something big," said Johnson. "I'm feisty and I'm good with arguments so I thought this would be a good opportunity to maximize my skills and advocate for people who may not have a voice."

Born with a severe form of scoliosis and dwarfism, she has had to overcome obstacles. According to Johnson, the most difficult part about living with her disability is having to rely on others.

"It's the flip side of being ambitious," said Johnson. "I want to get up and go to a party, get involved with a club or apply for an internship, but because my situation is a lot different than most people's, I need someone there. My involvement is hindered and doesn't accurately reflect what I want to do."

While Johnson admits that this can be frustrating, she refuses to become discouraged. She attributes her optimism to her upbringing.

"When I was younger, I didn't know I had a disability," Johnson said. "When you're in elementary school, everyone's the same height. I was raised like any other kid and I think being raised like that has had an impact on my personality."

Instead of feeling sorry for herself,



Monique Johnson will graduate from the Elon University School of Law in May, despite the obstacles she has had to overcome due to her height. She has sold her art to help pay for school.

Johnson is grateful for what she does have.

"I've been blessed to have many opportunities that a lot of people who are disabled don't have," said Johnson. "My family is there to help me push on."

Johnson's younger sister Melissa lives with her and helps out with transportation and anything else Monique can't do herself.

"A lot of people go, 'Oh, there go those sisters,'" Melissa said. "Wherever we go, we're going to have a good time."

When Johnson isn't writing a paper for school or joking around with her sister, she can be found capitalizing on her artistic talents. From a young age, she knew she was interested in drawing, but did not realize just how useful her talent could be.

Johnson found yet another way to make the best of a situation: by selling

her art to help pay for school. She got a scholarship to come to Elon, but uses the money she makes from selling artwork to pay for additional aid.

Upon graduation in May, Johnson plans to take the Bar Exam and find a job either in the Triad area or in Washington DC.

"I hope to find a balance between practicing law, doing art work and public speaking," said Johnson. "I don't want to abandon the fact that I have a story to tell."

Despite Johnson's physical limitations, she has accomplished professional success. She has plenty of personal ambition, but she also believes that her purpose involves helping others.

"Quite honestly, people look at me and wonder how I could be happy," Johnson said. "But I'm loving life and I hope I can help others do the same."

Sex, please: Students bare all for 'The Carnal Romp'

Weekly WSOE show allows for blunt discussion, education on personal topics

Kassandra Cloos
Producer of The Swing

The clock strikes 10 and the FCC regulations dictate that radio content can legally get a little edgier. At Elon University, senior Alexa Johnson and a handful of her peers turn on the mics at WSOE 89.3 and turn off their inhibitions. "The Carnal Romp" is Elon's only sex talk show, and it's been giving students the chance to talk openly about sex and sexual health for two years.

Johnson started the show as a junior when she was the program director for WSOE, after she finished a summer internship with a sex and dating blog and realized how little college students actually know about their bodies and sex. Since then, she and her co-anchors have provided students with a hilarious mix of personal escapades, serious and thought-provoking commentary on sexual health and equal rights and news and research about sex and sexual health.

"I think (the show) does do Elon a service because it gets not only WSOE folks and our listeners, but other organizations and people on campus talking about our show even if they're not listening," Johnson said. "Even if there's a little awareness, obviously some people think sex needs to be talked about, that's important."

Since "The Carnal Romp" is a radio talk show and anchors aren't visible to their

“
Elon, let's face it, comes off as pretty conservative. There's not much talk about sex on campus.”

-Alexa Johnson
SENIOR

audience, listeners are treated to a great deal of bluntness and honesty, according to Johnson. During the March 29 show, the hosts went through Jezebel's "sex vs. chocolate" version of March Madness, discussing which sex positions and types of chocolate are better than others. (The missionary position was determined the ultimate winner.)

Although some may consider any kind of sex talk controversial, Johnson said she has discussed her show with her professors and, although they may not listen, they agree on the importance of an open dialogue.

"They like the idea of somebody pushing against Elon," Johnson said. "Elon, let's face it, comes off as pretty conservative. There's not much talk about sex on campus, and they liked that someone was going to talk about something that was important, I mean we

can't pretend that college students aren't having sex."

Sophomore Jesse Scarborough went on the show for the first time March 29, and said he had previously appreciated the openness of the show from a listener's standpoint.

"I had listened to it several times before, and I always thought it was really funny and oddly informative," he said.

Scarborough said he was initially nervous to go on the show when he was first invited. But he, too, agreed that radio is freeing in its nature, and it's easy to forget one is broadcasting for an immeasurable audience.

"It's kind of a scary concept, being on the radio, talking about whatever intimate relationships you may have, and you have no idea who's listening," he said. "But at the same time, you hope someone is."

One of the most frequent topics on the show is drunk sex, Johnson said, but she approaches it from a sexual and emotional health standpoint and strongly encourages students to think before they act.

"I could talk all day and tell you that you shouldn't be having sex when you're drunk, because technically it's rape and technically there's no consent there," she said. "But kids are going to do it, so the best thing you can do is try to encourage them to think about it before doing it, making sure they're protected."

"The Carnal Romp" will live on as a blog and roam when Johnson graduates in less than two months. But, she said she hopes the show will continue under a different name with others interested in hosting it.

"I think it's important to keep talking about sex at Elon," she said. "The discussion we have with the student body is so excellent, I strongly feel that it would be a disservice to discontinue it."

Catch "The Carnal Romp" from 10 p.m.-midnight Thursdays.



Senior Alexa Johnson hosts Elon University's only sex talk show, Thursdays on WSOE 89.3.

THE SWING

See more of Johnson's show in Thursday's episode of The Swing.

Putting classroom skills into practice

Team applies communications knowledge to national competition

Alessandra Losa
Senior Reporter

Thanks to a national public relations competition, four Elon University seniors are brining hunger closer to home — and the classroom.

Each year, Elon participates in the Public Relations Student Society of America's Bateman Case Study Competition. The annual competition is a challenge requiring students to implement and present a full public relations campaign around a predetermined theme. This year's team consists of four seniors: Kristi Jacobsen, Alison Schiffli, Elena Pipino, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, and Shannon King.

According to the PRSSA, the 2012 Bateman Case Study Competition goals are to increase awareness among children, teenagers and their parents of the serious short and long-term consequences of obesity, inform them of the steps they can take to adopt a healthier lifestyle and provide incentives to take action now — all through strategic campaigns.

"The topic was childhood obesity and our partner was United Way in Alamance County," Jacobsen said. "This demographic is really hard to reach to change a behavior like that. Also, Burlington is a food desert, which means that we

don't have the proper resources to eat healthy. We have so much fast food and not enough supermarkets."

The competition process is one that requires dedication to deadlines and time management. The team worked to balance coursework with the competition and struggled to work with members abroad in the early stages of the process.

"The Bateman Team process lasts several months," Schiffli said. "In November, we first met as a team and familiarized ourselves with the competition. Both December and January were spent in the research and planning stages."

The team's campaign was live Feb. 1-29. They then prepared a campaign book to send to national PRSSA headquarters, where judges will select the top three teams who will compete in Minneapolis in May for first place.

Joining the Elon Bateman team is a competitive process. Some students apply for a position on the team, while others are specifically invited.

"I had heard about the competition last year when one of my friends was involved on the team, and I had Dr. (Frances) Ward-Johnson, who is the adviser, in a class during the spring semester," Pipino said. "She kind of talked about it,

and actually three of the team members had class with her so she kind of planted the seed in our head back last spring and then most of us were asked to be on the team."

After a semester of work and presentations, the team has submitted its book, a portfolio of their work. Now, the waiting game begins.

"It goes through a couple rounds of judging, and then later in April we find out if we made the top," Pipino said. "Then the top three go and present to a board of PRSSA members. Then the final winner is announced on May 18."

According to the team members, the competition has been a rewarding experience.

From the beginning stages of research to the final presentation, the Bateman competition challenged participants.

"The Bateman Team has been very rewarding in several ways," Schiffli said. "First, it has been very rewarding to put skills I have learned through my four years in the School of Communications to use in the community. Additionally, I have appreciated the opportunity to interact with children in Alamance County at various community organizations, and see how our educational programs are positively impacting their lives."



(Left to right) Alison Schiffli, Shannon King, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Elena Pipino and Kristi Jacobsen are the members of this year's Bateman Team.

Senior succeeds through ambitious experiences

Edith Veremu
Reporter

If you ask any staff member at the Student Professional Development Center about Cedric Pulliam, chances are, they know him.

Pulliam, a senior political science and international studies major, has gone beyond the required completion of one Experiential Learning Requirement and instead, received credit for all five ELRs. He's studied abroad not once but four times and conducted 10 different internships throughout his career at Elon University, some even at the same time. His ELR transcript will also state he's fulfilled the service and leadership aspects.

"He's an ideal illustration of the power of internships," said Rene Jackson, career adviser for graduate school programs. "Simply having one and doing something with one aren't the same."

Pulliam said he credits most of his

success to the Elon faculty and staff members he's worked with, including Pam Brumbaugh, director of Experiential Education, Chalmers Brumbaugh, professor of political science and Prudence Layne, professor of English and his mentor.

"Both Chalmers and Pam Brumbaugh are more than mentors," Pulliam said. "They are my lifelong friends that I always miss when I'm away from campus and always make 'just because' phone calls to. Dr. Prudence Layne has played a role as a mentor to me in so many ways. She has encouraged me to go beyond what I thought was possible."

Pulliam's family members have also been key figures in his success, and his parents, Burlington natives, have been his personal cheerleaders, he said. Having parents who are government employees and having visited military bases across the nation and lived in different countries shaped Pulliam's interest in international affairs, he said.

"I was afforded the opportunity to study in Dijon, France in a French-instructed high school and homestay experience," Pulliam said. "Exposure to the French government and Sciences Po (university in Paris) was all that I needed to influence my European concentration."

Building his ELR experiences

Pulliam's first study abroad experience in Europe was in middle school, and he's been to European and Asian countries during his college journey. His Elon experiences include separate Winter Term trips to Ireland, India and a European Union tour, and a semester in Malta through a non-Elon program.

His research ranges from topics on French culture, land reclamation programs in India and migration, asylum and refugee systems in Malta. His senior seminar project focuses on U.S. Constitutional Law and is in an independent research project with Rudolf Zarzar, becoming Zarzar's last independent research student since the professor is retiring after this spring, according to Pulliam.

Pulliam's internships were in different fields, including the United States Department of the Air Force, the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta and the Alamance County District Attorney's Office, where he had different roles.

"He's done an extraordinary number of internships," Jackson said. "When you

“**He is focused on bettering himself as an individual and bettering his organizations in order to leave a legacy after he graduates Elon.**”

—Steven Mencarini
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

have those many internships, it's hard to make them look that great because they really all are."

Campus involvement

Pulliam has held various leadership positions ranging from being an SGA member to being a mentor to first-year students for S.M.A.R.T., Elon's mentorship program for first year multicultural students. He's also been a part of the Isabella Cannon Leadership Program, through which he has been developing a legacy project on Asian Studies.

"The first word I think of when I hear Cedric's name is committed," said Steven Mencarini, director of the Center for Leadership. "Working with Cedric has been a delight because he has delved deep into the program and committed to developing himself as a leader. He is focused on bettering himself as an individual and bettering his organizations in order to leave a legacy after he graduates Elon."

For two years, Pulliam has been working with the S.M.A.R.T. program as the Student Program Coordinator and this year as a mentor.

"He is driven, dedicated and focused," she said. "He's one of the students I've met that is motivated, going to seek out opportunities and have a good experience."

Pulliam's other campus involvement include Periclean Scholars, Elon Volunteers! and different pre-law clubs and organizations that focus on international issues.

Looking ahead

Pulliam's biggest motivator is to make a difference, and he'd like to work with the Department of

State and incorporate his two majors and experiences from study abroad, internships and research. Law school is an option, but his short-term goals include graduate school and becoming a U.S. Department Foreign Services Officer.

"The fact that policy never sleeps and with Foreign Service officers being one of the main deliverers of policy information from abroad, it speaks volumes to me that my future job will never be dead," he said. "There is always ongoing activity in other nations, and FSOs around the globe will always be needed to relay it back to the United States."

"I've decided my calling is TFA," he said. "The best part is that it's in good favor for me because TFA has a new partnership with Goldman Sachs that offers minority corps members summer internships, and I was chosen. The coordinator emailed me and said I'm an immaculate candidate."

Pulliam has been working on 16 deferral letters since his acceptance into Teach for America, and he said the next steps now are to graduate and get ready for his teaching position in Houston, Texas. He also plans to reapply for the Rangel program and attend Harvard for a Master's in public policy.

"It's amazing for someone to go on their own and pursue those fellowships and programs," Jackson said. "Whenever I see Cedric, I tell him I'm just in awe."



Senior Cedric Pulliam visited the Organization of American States as a 2011 Rangel Scholar.

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Turning dreams into reality



Junior Alicia Varcoe performs with junior Ben Soldate (left) and sophomore Brian Magna at Midnight Meals March 15. Varcoe will release her debut album, "Since I Fell for You," in fall 2012.

Polly Butler Cornelius, senior lecturer in the Department of Music, practices at the piano. Her debut CD, "Wild Songs," will be released April 24 on the professional label Innova Recordings.

Student vocalist jazzed to embrace real-world career

Lindsay Kimble
Senior Reporter

Junior Alicia Varcoe's rich jazz vocals have been heard everywhere on Elon University's campus, from Midnight Meals to performances with the Elon Jazz Ensemble. With the release of her debut jazz album, they will likely be heard on a much larger scale.

Varcoe is recording "Since I Fell for You" as part of her College Fellows thesis project and is planning on a fall 2012 release. But Varcoe has been preparing for this moment for most of her life.

"Growing up, there was always a piano in the house," Varcoe said. "My mom would play, and I would walk over to the piano and try to play what I heard, so my parents started me with piano lessons when I was five."

But Varcoe's particular interest in jazz music did not begin until the fall of her freshman year at Elon.

"I don't have any fond memories of listening to Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra as a child, and I don't remember where I first heard jazz at all," Varcoe said. "My piano teacher always told me that I had that 'jazz feeling.' Good jazz has a rhythm that swings, and I always liked that."

Varcoe played the piano in her jazz band in middle and high school but didn't start singing jazz until her first week of college.

"I didn't want to play piano anymore, because people at home weren't taking me seriously as a singer," she said. "I just tried out to sing and didn't tell anyone I could play piano, and got lucky, I guess."

Varcoe said recording an album has been a unique learning process. She is working with Jon Metzger, associate professor of music, to put the entire album together.

"This is a huge project that will fill up every moment of our two years together," Metzger said.

With the help of professional musicians and Bryan Baker, senior sound and video specialist for the McEwen School of Communications, Varcoe has recorded 11 tracks for the album. Nine of them are arrangements of jazz standards, including "The Nearness of You," with two original compositions.

Varcoe plans on having an album release concert in the fall, when she will make the CD available to the general

public.

"It's definitely a jazz album, but I don't want anyone to think they won't enjoy it because it's jazz," she said. "I think a lot of people will like it."

Metzger said he expects Varcoe's album to serve as a "launching pad" for her career as a jazz vocalist.

"I am very eager for our music students to have every opportunity to compete in their respective marketplaces," Metzger said. "Having this professional quality CD recording as part of her jazz vocalist promotional packet will give Alicia an enormous head start on what lies ahead for her in her career."

Before her album is released, Varcoe will continue to perform on campus. She said she typically performs three times a year with the Elon Jazz Ensemble, whose April 13 performance is fast approaching. Varcoe also performed at Midnight Meals March 15 with sophomore Brian Magna on alto saxophone, senior Brian Gilbert on guitar, junior Ben Soldate on bass and junior John Mullen on drums.

Varcoe has also sung several times at Jazebel's Jazz Bistro in Burlington.

"It's a really intimate space, and the people are always great," Varcoe said. "It takes a community effort to keep places like that alive, and Jazebel's is a great opportunity for musicians like me to get out and play for a crowd. Any time I'm singing jazz with my friends, I'm going to have a good time."

Varcoe has also taken the stage internationally, performing at the Consulate General of the United States in Hamburg, Germany, Roskilde Jazz Days in Denmark and for an audience of more than 5,000 in The Hague.

Varcoe plans to get her master's degree in jazz vocal performance so she can hopefully teach in a private studio or at the college level.

"I want to sing, absolutely, but I realize that working as a professional musician is hard, and I'll have to utilize every talent and skill I have to make a living out of it," Varcoe said. "But I would love to say I make my living as a professional musician."

Metzger said he has no doubt about Varcoe's future in jazz vocal performance.

"Every note Alicia sings on this CD and in public after her Elon years will speak well for our program here and our university," Metzger said. "Remember her name. You'll feel especially proud hearing it again many years from now."

Music professor raises voice in debut solo album

Kyra Gemberling
Design Editor

It's not every day that you get to perform on tour in Italy — twice. Nor is it every day that you record a debut solo album on a major record label.

Polly Butler Cornelius, senior lecturer of music and voice at Elon University, has done both of these things, with the release of her classical CD, "Wild Songs," coming April 24.

"I've always been musical," Cornelius said. "I just can't do anything else."

Cornelius, a soprano, said she was overjoyed to collaborate with composers on the official label for the American Composers Forum, Innova Recordings.

"About five years ago, I started finding my niche with premiering songs by living American composers," Cornelius said. "I wanted to celebrate their work, and I found that I had a calling to do that."

The album is also a plea for the environment, Cornelius said. The set of three "Wild Songs" is commissioned by the National Wildlife Federation to raise awareness about the environment. The other songs on the CD are based on Emily Dickinson's poetry and a I Corinthians verse from the Bible.

"There are lots of themes related to nature and love," she said. "And the songs aren't weird — they're very beautiful."

Cornelius collaborated with several Elon faculty members on the album, including Victoria Fischer Faw, a professor of music who provided piano accompaniment for most of the songs. Although this was their first recording project, the pair has a rich history after touring in Italy together twice.

"Traveling as a performer is challenging but wonderfully rewarding," Faw said. "Polly and I have always had a deeply intuitive response to each other when we're performing. That doesn't always happen, but we have it."

Though Cornelius thought performing American songs in Italy might be risky, she said the audiences loved them and she was

glad to perform successfully on an international scale. One of Cornelius' favorite experiences was performing for middle school students in a 14th century concert hall in Foligno.

"It was the most appreciative audience I've ever performed for," Cornelius said. "They went crazy and wanted to get our autographs. I really felt like a respected international performer."

But music isn't Cornelius' only passion. She also loves teaching and watching her students grow as artists, including junior Natalie Dupuis, one of Cornelius' voice students.

"She is a wonderful teacher who places a lot of emphasis on getting to know us personally," Dupuis said. "She works so hard and she has a beautiful voice, so it's thrilling to be able to celebrate this great accomplishment with her."

And even if a student isn't majoring in music, Cornelius said she wants to be sure her students have a lifelong love and appreciation for such a significant art form.

"I think music is a universal language," Cornelius said. "And as a universal language, everyone enjoys some sort of music. Imagine going to the movies and not having a film score playing. Music is all around us and it feeds the soul."

Cornelius will be signing copies of "Wild Songs" at a release party for the album, which is available for presale now. The party will take place at 4 p.m. April 22 at the Elon School of Law in Greensboro.

Fast Facts: Polly Butler Cornelius

- International performer of opera, oratorio and song recitals
- Holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Converse College and a master's and doctorate from UNC Greensboro
- Lives in Greensboro with her husband and two daughters, who enjoy music and horseback riding

Grand Night celebrates 20th anniversary



PHOTOS BY MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Music theater students in the Department of Performing Arts kept the Grand Night tradition alive for its 20th year. Grand Night, which took place March 30 and 31 in Yeager Recital Hall, annually features music theater students in a series of song and dance numbers from musicals old and new. This year's performances pulled from a wide range of musicals, including recent Broadway successes "The Book of Mormon" and "Sister Act." As tradition dictates, members of the senior class concluded the evening with "I Will Turn to You," a song of nostalgia written by alumni Daniel Gibson, Class of 2009 and Christopher Staskel, Class of 2010.

To see photos and listen to the performers, visit <http://pend.lu/grand>.

Young alumni: wise words from recent graduate

Katie Olsen, an Elon graduate of the Class of 2007, is now working in Tampa, Fla., as a freelance social media specialist. She offers some tips and tricks to becoming social media-savvy in the real world.



KATIE OLSEN

Let's face it: We live in an age filled with social media. Whether or not you're looking for a job in the field, it is impossible to think social media won't touch your life in some way after college.

For many of you, your post-Elon profession won't revolve around social media. Most of you will use it to keep up with your friends. You'll learn about your friends' lives and accomplishments via Facebook once your time at Elon is through. Thank goodness for the ability to stay connected.

But as a social media specialist, I wanted to take a few moments to touch on the topic anyway. What should you avoid? What steps should you take before graduation? And what does it take to land a job in social media?

The allure of oversharing

The No. 1 thing I would suggest

avoiding on social media is the dreaded overshare. Every single thing you do during the day does not need to be broadcast to your networks. Instead, make valuable use of your social media efforts. If no one is responding to your "I just woke up and made the bed" tweet, chances are no one cares. Sorry.

Avoid linking all your accounts together. It sounds so simple to have your Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest all working together. But it says to me either you're lazy, or you don't know how to use social media properly. Give people a reason to follow you across multiple platforms. If you're posting every single Pinterest pin to Facebook, why should I follow you on Pinterest? It would be redundant information.

Clean it up

As you're approaching graduation or trying to land a summer internship, take a few minutes to clean up your profiles. This doesn't mean you need to go through and erase everything. Just check over what you have out there, and ask yourself if it should be. Erase what you need to. Change your privacy settings if necessary. Sign out of your accounts and Google your name, and see what others are able to make of your profiles. In the end, all you need to do is be smart about how you're presenting yourself, because it could make or break your future in

the real world.

Now what?

What does it take to land a job in social media? There isn't a foolproof plan I can impart to you. But there are a few things you can do to put yourself on the right path.

First, you must have perseverance and focus. Simply searching for jobs with the term "social media" is not enough. Are you a writer? Do you want to manage a company's accounts? Do you want to help manage an online community? Be more specific with your job search terms, and chances are you'll find opportunities that suit you.

While big companies are looking for employees to handle social media, there are also opportunities to work freelance, which is what I currently do. Startups and small businesses are a great way to get your foot in the door, and being able to work remotely is a big perk. Freelance work isn't always steady, and you won't necessarily receive any benefits, but it can be a great starting point.

In the end, you must view your social media profiles as a first look. Your future employers are potentially going to view what you've been doing in the social media world, which will determine if they want to pursue you as an employee. Make sure you are giving them a great — and accurate — first impression.

A guide to professional wear

The school year is coming to an end, and if you're anything like me, you're working your butt off to land a summer internship. What do you wear to the interview, or even more daunting, what do you wear to work after you get the job?

Kanree Wright
Columnist

The correct answer, of course, is professional attire, but have you ever been confused about the different terminology associated with business wear?

For example, what is the difference between business professional and business casual? I'm not taking you to etiquette class here, but this is definitely something that needs to be clarified, as we are all young professionals about to enter what's known as "the real world."

Business professional

Business professional, as it sounds, is the more conservative of the two looks. You're expected to dress nicely when going to work, and if you're in a field such as accounting, your office will require this type of dress. It's fairly strict.

For this look, ladies will need to find a nice black skirt and blazer suit, a crisp button-down, opaque or neutral pantyhose and some short black heels for comfort. You can replace your skirt with very creased black dress pants, and accessorize as minimally as possible. A simple pearl necklace will do.

Guys have it a bit easier in this area. A full suit and tie combination works perfectly, with a nice shirt and dress shoes shined to the tee.

Business casual

This type of office attire leaves more room for creativity and isn't as stifling as business professional. You will be able to mix and match many different pieces if you buy versatile items.

A knee-length skirt paired with a nice blouse and a cardigan or blazer is perfect for females. You still look professional, but with a higher comfort level. You can also wear dress pants with a printed top. A pair of printed shoes with a solid outfit adds a nice touch of individualism and style as well. Though color can work magic in this area, remember you are still dressing for work.

Guys can wear a pair of khaki pants, a collared shirt — polos or button-downs are both acceptable, with no tie required — and a pair of casual dress shoes. Never wear sneakers. You may also throw a blazer on top of your shirt for a more professional look. Depending on the occasion, you can spruce up your look by wearing a printed bowtie or tie. It will make you feel good in the office, and may even brighten some of your coworkers' days.

What you wear to work isn't half as important as what you accomplish while there, but it is still necessary to understand the business style lingo. You don't want to be that guy who wears a full suit when the occasion is business casual, and I know I wouldn't like to be that girl. Just because you're a businessman or woman doesn't mean you have to wear the same drab suit. Throw a little color into the mix to lighten the mood in the office, and look great doing so.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Irwin signs professional soccer contract with Charlotte Eagles

Former Elon University goalkeeper Clint Irwin signed with the Charlotte Eagles of the United Soccer Leagues.

This is the third professional organization for Irwin, who spent a preseason with Major League Soccer's New England Revolution and 2011 with Capital City FC in Ottawa, Canada. Irwin was All-Southern Conference in each of his four years with the Phoenix.

He owns the school record with 22 career shutouts. The former NSCAA North Carolina high school player of the year was a finalist for the Lowe's Senior Class Award his senior year at Elon.

The Eagles start their season April 7 against Orlando City.

Men's tennis improves to 5-3 in conference play this season

The Elon men's tennis team bested Wofford College 6-1 over the weekend to snap a three-match losing streak and move into a fifth place tie in the Southern Conference.

The Phoenix won two of the three doubles matches to take the point against the Terriers. Elon (8-11, 5-3 Southern Conference) prevailed in five of the six singles matches, none of which required a third set.

Sophomore Cameron Silverman improved to 8-0 in SoCon singles matches by defeating Tinus Van Wyk 6-3, 6-3. Freshman Jordan Kaufman won his match against Wofford's Jackson Keith to improve to 7-1 in conference play.

Women's tennis blanks Wofford

While the men's team was winning on the road, the Elon University women's tennis team took care of business at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center in shutting out the Wofford College Terriers, 7-0.

The Phoenix won all three doubles matches to get the doubles point, and then took all six singles matches with relative ease. Sophomores Jordan Johnston and Frida Jansaker improved to 17-2 on the season in doubles play. Both are 7-1 in SoCon singles matches this season.

Freshman Maria Camara Ruiz defeated Emily Przystawski 6-0, 6-2. She is 6-2 in Southern Conference play.

It was the 100th victory for head coach Elizabeth Anderson, who is in her eighth season at the helm of the Elon program.

Women's track sets records at Raleigh Relays

Two relay teams set school record times at the Raleigh Relays March 31.

The 4x100 meter team comprised of seniors Dana Cataldo and Amy Salek and sophomores Bria Bell and Veronica Luedke recorded a time of 47.14 seconds, good for eighth place in a 19-team field.

Meanwhile, the same foursome clocked in at 1:39.43 in the 4x200 meter race, which placed sixth.

The Phoenix will send athletes to both the Duke Invitational and the Liberty Collegiate Invitational next week.

Ford and Evans earn all-state honor

Elon women's basketball junior guard Ali Ford and junior forward Kelsey Evans were named to the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) All-State Team April 2.

Ford earned first-team honors and is the only player to be named to the team three times, while Evans picked up second-team accolades for the first time in her career.

Ford was named first-team all-Southern Conference after averaging 14.5 points per game this season for the Phoenix. Evans was named to the second team all-SoCon while averaging 11.7 points and 7.5 rebounds per game this season. She scored in double figures in 17 games this season.

Nominees were submitted by North Carolina sports information professionals and voted on by NCCSIA members.

Spring awakening for football team strikes fast, early

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

The siren on the megaphone went off, and almost the entire 2012 Elon University football team came together for stretches, led by one of the coaches. Once he was done, rising senior linebacker Blake Thompson took the middle of the pack to lead the team to chant "EU! You know!"

It was similar to any collegiate orientation weekend, but head coach Jason Swepson said his second go-around at the first spring practice Tuesday as the main man for Elon was different.

"The will and want to be successful is there, whereas last year it was more about the guys trying to please the coaches, so that's been exciting to see," he said. "We're at a different mental level than we were last year because our players tasted the chance to have a winning season after being a minute or so away from it."

Last season, the Phoenix finished 5-6, losing four of five to drop from a pleasing 3-1 start to a mediocre 4-5. After a victory over then-No. 17 Furman University Nov. 12 to pull themselves to a .500 record, the Phoenix let an early 21-0 lead over Appalachian State University slip away Nov. 19 and lost 28-24.

But it was Swepson's first season at the helm, and he said the difference in all his players knowing "what they're doing" is key, especially in the technical part of the game.

"Our technique looks better than it did a year ago," he said. "We've taken major steps forward and had a great winter conditioning program. Now it's about being physical and controlling the line of scrimmage."

The line of scrimmage is an area where there is going to be some major competition during the spring. Losses of current senior starters Ned Cuthbertson, Rodney Austin and Logan Hardin opens up three spots for players like rising sophomore Austin Sowell, who was a coaches' all-freshman Southern Conference pick last season. Swepson also said former defensive lineman and rising junior Tevin James will move to offensive line.

Another player moving to cover losses is Thompson, who was a starting safety last season and the team's second-leading tackler. Graduating senior linebackers Zach Henderson and Joshua Jones leave two openings in the linebacking corps coached by new linebackers coach Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay. Also, former linebacker starter and would-be fifth-year senior Dale Riley will forego his final year of eligibility and graduate this May, according to the Burlington Times-News' Bob Sutton.

Swepson will look to players like Thompson for an important attribute in any sport.

"We need some leadership," he said. "We lost some great leaders last year. We have a lot of veterans who have played some football. I'm excited. I think we're going to have some good leadership."

Despite the defense losing four players who have started (cornerback Jonathan Conner will also graduate), Swepson sees an intuitive group.

"The defense has been sharp," he said. "The terminology, they're spitting out the calls a lot sooner than last year. (Spring



Jason Swepson is in his second year as the head coach of the Elon University football team.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

practice is) a lot more technique teaching than play teaching like it was a year ago."

Overall, Swepson is happy with the early results from spring practice.

"We were able to get a lot of work in, both teaching and technique wise," he said. "I have a feeling that this team is going to want to hit and be successful."

Quick Hits

- Rising sophomore Odell Benton, who played six games last year, practiced on the top linebacking unit with Thompson and rising sophomore Jonathan Spain on Tuesday.
- Rising sophomore transfer quarterback Tyler Smith will most likely sit out all of spring practice with shin ailments, according to The Times-News' Sutton.
- Swepson said the team may implement some trickery into the playbook this next season, speaking specifically about wide receivers. "We're going to do some things with those inside receivers," he said. "We'll have them line up at running back. We may dabble in the wildcat a little. (Rising senior) Jeremy Peterson, (rising sophomore) Kierre Brown and (rising redshirt-freshman)

Andre Davis, we're going to do a lot of things with them."

- Having morning practices has been an adjustment for the players, but Swepson said they are coping well. "The kids came out and were wide awake, in fact they were out here 10 minutes early (on Tuesday)," he said. "I think they're excited about the morning practice and I think it will be beneficial for us."

Remaining Football Spring Practice Schedule

All practices are at the Hunt and Tucker practice fields unless otherwise noted and are open to the public.

- Thursday, April 5th - 7:35 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 10th - 7:35 a.m.
- Thursday, April 12th - 7:35 a.m.
- Saturday, April 14th - 3:30 p.m. (Rhodes Stadium)
- Tuesday, April 17th - 7:35 a.m.
- Thursday, April 19th - 7:35 a.m.
- Saturday, April 21st - 2:30 p.m. (Rhodes Stadium)
- Tuesday, April 24th - 7:35 a.m.
- Thursday, April 26th - 7:35 a.m.
- Saturday, April 28th - 1:00 p.m. (Spring Game - Rhodes Stadium)

ELON SPORTS RECORDS AFTER 10 YEARS IN THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Elon Sports	Overall Records	Records in SoCon Play
Baseball	288-183	155-73 (started 2004)
Football	48-54	26-35 (started 2003)
Men's Basketball	105-175	64-94 (started 2003-2004)
Men's Soccer	74-80-24	30-27-5 (started 2003)
Men's Tennis	121-69	53-24 (started 2004)
Softball	215-220-1	84-88 (started 2004)
Women's Basketball	96-135	58-93 (started 2003-2004)
Women's Soccer	65-89-18	39-48-9 (started 2003)
Women's Tennis	89-87	34-43 (started 2004)
Volleyball	152-142	69-69 (started 2003)

LEAH CHANNAS | Graphics Editor

Tweeting Phoenix brings up social media issues

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

Ever since the development of Twitter and the tendency of athletes and other sports figures to use it, there have been several controversial incidents involving both.

When Elon University senior running back Jamal Shuman posted profane statements on his Twitter page following the Phoenix's 48-28 loss to Wofford College Oct. 29 of last season, the team's third defeat in a row and fourth in five games, a continuing trend in that ever-growing relationship between athletes and social media outlets was brought to Elon's campus.

"The biggest mistake of my life"

Shuman was Elon's third-string running back in 2011. He had played just three games in 2010 before getting injured.

Shuman recorded just 22 rushes for 81 yards on the season up to the Wofford game, sitting behind fellow senior running backs A.J. Harris and Dontay Taylor. He took to Twitter to vent his frustrations, tweeting, "There goes another game of my f--- senior year nd I don't touch the f--- field lik I ain't one of the best athletes on dis d--- squad."

"Me not playing, I kind of reached a boiling point, and I let it out on Twitter," he said. "It was the biggest mistake of my life. I didn't realize the type of things I was tweeting were such offensive things. I thought I was just letting my frustrations out."

Two days later, Shuman was suspended indefinitely, which meant he did not play the last two games of Elon's season. When asked now if he thought it was too much, he shook his head and said he "got off." In each player's scholarship, according to Shuman, there is a clause about social media and how the players represent themselves. Head coach Jason Swepson reinstated him for Senior Day activities, but did not let him suit up for the game.

"I think it was right," he said. "I applaud Coach for letting me back on the team."

Swepson was unavailable for comment for this story.

Dave Blank, Elon's athletic director, said athletic department policies on social media were followed when Shuman's tweets went online.

"When you run into something like that, that you utilize a policy of that kind or a practice of any kind, it makes you look it up and see, 'Okay, how does this apply?'" Blank says. "We're not in the practice of trying to prevent our students or student-athletes from freedom of speech or however they want to practice that. We just want to be in the practice of educating them and saying, 'If you do these things, you have to be careful how you represent yourself.'"

Interestingly, Shuman's debacle was not the only one found in the Southern Conference this year. In November, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga senior forward Chris Early tweeted some not-so-nice things about his coach, including, "I hate this man with a passion, each and every day I have to see him I become more and more miserable." Early was suspended for the rest of the season, also his final year in uniform.

Shuman said he wishes he had been able to speak to Early before he made those comments and thinks he could have prevented him from doing it.

It's company policy

Erica Roberson, the director of media relations in Elon's athletics department, said the school's social media policy was not changed after the Shuman incident. She says it was "appropriately handled at that time."

"We have always had a student-athlete handbook and in it there is a section that explains various expectations of a student-athlete," Roberson said in an e-mail. "One of the points among those expectations is that students should refrain from the use of various social media sites that may cast a negative image on themselves, the team or the school. We do not restrict the use of social media, but it is not to be used in a manner that would offer a potentially negative view."

Junior Niko Fraser, an outfielder on Elon's baseball team, said players'



Elon senior running back Jamal Shuman made national headlines when he tweeted a rant about his lack of playing time, a move he now regrets. FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

accounts must be private and they must watch what they post. He also said the athletic department reiterated the policy after the Shuman incident.

"(Assistant Director of Media Relations) Chris Rash took us aside with Erica Roberson in the fall after the whole football incident and talked to us a lot about what we wouldn't tweet — don't do anything emotional and don't do anything rash," he said. "Basically, don't tweet anything you wouldn't tell your grandma, which I think is wise."

Fraser has his own Twitter account, something he said the media relations people encourage.

"They want the community to know us beyond the uniform and more as people, but upright people," he said. "We can't be going around and doing things. Not that we should ever be doing that, but we need to recognize the fact that you have an audience, whether you know it or not."

Roberson said she thinks it is important for players to consider everything they say, though.

"We want Elon University students to go out into the world as best prepared as possible, so we feel we have a responsibility to explain both the benefits of creating a social media persona and also the ways it can potentially cast a person in a negative light if used improperly," she said.

Beyond the uniform

Fraser has taken the opportunity to be on social media one step forward. This season, he created a blog (elonbaseball.wordpress.com) called "Beyond the Uniform" that follows the baseball team throughout the year.

A journalism major, Fraser said his future is one of the main reasons he's doing it. He plans on sending the blog to future employers and including it as part of his resume.

"It's really good to keep on writing throughout the season," he said. "I thought about doing it last season, but I didn't have as much skill. Then I took a class this fall, and I felt really prepared to do it. I knew that it was going to be very, very time-consuming. But I think it's very good for team camaraderie."

According to Fraser, "put that on your blog" has become a common phrase on the baseball team, as players will point out instances that should be blogged about.

"The team absolutely loves it," he said. "Every single time I put a post up, they come up and give their critique, highly, highly in favor of it. They give me new opinions on things to write about. I have them sending me pictures and videos now, saying, 'Put this on the blog' or 'Write about this on the blog.'"

Post topics range from off days to walk-up songs, "SuperFan" Steve Roth and fun times at Skid's, a restaurant just off Elon's campus. The blog provides insight into what college baseball players

“Each tweet is like a mini-interview. You shouldn't go on Twitter to let out your frustrations. Don't put it on the Internet.”

—Jamal Shuman
SENIOR RUNNING BACK

have to deal with during the season.

For instance, Fraser described the scene in the outfield during a practice before a game against College of Charleston: "While we were practicing tonight at Patriot's Point, their field, I ran out to centerfield to find our newly acquainted Spencer talking with Nate. Little did I know that I was walking into what might as well have been called 'Bachelor: Elon Baseball Edition.' Details closed to the general public, if you are a single Christian girl, it would behoove you to come support the Elon Phoenix baseball team."

Fraser said he has gotten a great reaction to the blog.

"People love reading about themselves, and it's just another opportunity to mesh all the different personalities and styles of everyone, one conglomeration, hopefully, for the same goal of winning the championship," he said. "The parents and the family, they enjoy it. And then whenever I give shoutouts of other college baseball players, it's a small community in college baseball. Everybody loves reading about themselves. We're not professionals, so when we see our names in bold print,

it's pretty exciting."

Positives and negatives, as with anything

This seemingly out of nowhere mashup of athletics and social media, a previously untested avenue of communication by personalities to fans and reporters, took the sports world, especially sports media, by storm, and led to several new opportunities to criticize and debate.

"Each tweet is like a mini-interview," Shuman said. "You shouldn't go on Twitter to let out your frustrations. Don't put it on the Internet."

While the athletics department is hesitant to restrain what Blank called a "First Amendment" right, they are still concerned with what people say, implying there could be consequences.

"We educate our kids and we educate our coaches on the proper use of how we do things with social media," Blank said. "Ultimately, it's your choice. If you make choices to represent the athletic department or the university in a way that is not acceptable, that's another discussion."

Roberson emphasized the future as something players must consider when tweeting or posting on social media.

"As an employee of an organization, I practice these same expectations or standards and we hope that is the viewpoint that students will carry with them in the future," she said. "Inappropriate use of social media is not good in the higher education world, the corporate world, the political world or the athletics world — just to name a few."

Something Jamal Shuman, Chris Early and others have learned the hard way.

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Coffer unites off-court passions for summer of service

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

Quality characteristics weren't hard to find for Sam Coffer during her high school days at Greensboro's Northern Guilford High School. Nice. Smart. Athletically dominant. She fit the bill.

But world traveler was not in the gamut of adjectives. Before her graduation, Coffer had never traveled north of the Mason-Dixon Line. She had ventured as far south as Florida and made it west a couple of times to Tennessee, but had never set foot on an airplane.

Less than a year later, the 6-foot-1 Elon University freshman can say she's more of a global citizen. She has taken a trip to New York, a basketball tour with her Phoenix teammates in Europe and will be taking a voyage to Brazil as part of a program called Athletes in Action this summer.

She describes the upcoming journey as a basketball mission trip, with more focus on the Bible than on the hardwood. But there will be plenty of action on the basketball court, as well, which suits Coffer just fine.

"It's a way to serve God through doing what I love," Coffer said.

The tour features athletes from traditionally dominant women's programs that include Baylor and Notre Dame and professional teams in the WNBA and China. The roster is a list she has wanted to be a part of since assistant coach Cristy McKinney brought the program to her attention early in the season.

But that dream didn't

become a reality until the program's director called Coffer over spring break and gave her the good news.

"He told me that they had a place for me on the team, and that if I was up for the challenge, I was on it," Coffer said.

Focusing upwards

Coffer hasn't let go of her faith since she arrived on campus. She grew up going to a Baptist church and meets weekly with the Baptist Student Union, though she says her relationship with God isn't defined by a denomination.

A nine-word motto in the New Testament helps Coffer keep focus: "Yet not as I will, but as You will" — a simple phrase found in the book of Matthew she said means so much.

"It's just submitting myself to God's will," she said. "Maybe something that I don't necessarily want to do. It's not instinct. But it's something I feel that I should do."

Coffer's teammates said the positive attitude she brings on and off the court is infectious.

"Sam shows her faith very well," said Elon freshman guard Zora Stephenson. "I wouldn't say it's overbearing or anything. She's a great person, and she believes in great things."

Setting the standard to follow

Pretty much all pre-game shootarounds share a common trait. They're useless to just about everyone not participating. Nothing happens. Nothing is memorable. Nothing stands out.

That's what made the routine



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Elon freshman forward Sam Coffer will go to Brazil this summer with Athletes in Action, a Christian sports group.

before Elon's Feb. 4 game against Furman University anything but routine. The players took their spots on the floor and went about the standard warm-up procedures. But in addition to the traditional maroon and gold, the Phoenix donned pink shoes, shoelaces and armbands for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Coffer took things to a different level. In addition to the pink garb her teammates wore, she rocked a single pink feather in her hair.

"I've always wanted an excuse to dye my hair pink and I thought that was the perfect thing," she said. "So I kind of just went out on a limb and did

it."

Coffer's normally one of the more reserved players on the team, though she wants to make one thing clear — she's not timid.

"I'm quiet at first, but I'm not shy," she said. "I'm not afraid to say what I need to say."

The feather was a moment of rare flair from the starting forward.

But it was just a feather. When asked what the reaction would be if she followed the lead of celebrity figures such as Katy Perry and Pink and dyed her whole hair the color of her feather, Coffer bristled.

"I would not be seen in public like that," she said.

Breaking bread, raising funds

The Athletes in Action tour in Brazil won't be Coffer's first mission trip. Shortly after her high school graduation, she went with her church to New York to help others in the name of the Lord.

But it will be the first time she's had to fundraise. Coffer needs to raise \$4,500 for the 15-day excursion. She said she'll be writing letters to contacts she has met through her church experience and ask for assistance. If that doesn't work, she has other ideas.

"(Baking cookies), car wash, whatever I need to do," Coffer said.

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Phoenix baseball turns insult into inspiration, sweeps Samford away

Adam Lawson
Assistant Sports Editor

A member of the Samford University coaching staff, trying to motivate his troops before a series against Elon University this past weekend, gave his team a message. The Phoenix, in his opinion, was the worst team in the Southern Conference.

Forget the 8-4 SoCon record entering the series. Forget the series wins over conference powers Georgia Southern University and Appalachian State University. Forget all of it. The Phoenix shouldn't have even stepped out onto Joe Lee Griffin Field.

But the coach forgot to check his surroundings. A couple players from the opposition overheard his speech and relayed the message to their teammates. After the game, assistant coach Robbie Huffstetler sarcastically mentioned the statement on Twitter. That's because Elon made the Samford coach eat his words.

Everything came together for the Phoenix. Plays were made all over the field. A dart thrown by sophomore rightfielder Eric Serra to the plate in the 11th inning of the second game retired a runner and extended action into the 12th of what would become an 18-inning game. Pitchers shut down hitters when they needed to and hitters came up with just enough timely hits to sweep the Bulldogs out of their home ballpark.

"I thought, as a team, this is probably the best we played all year," said Phoenix

coach Mike Kennedy.

Elon (18-11, 11-4 Southern Conference) concludes a seven-game road trip this week with games at the University of North Carolina and Furman University.

The weekend set with the Paladins should leave Elon hitters salivating. Furman's pitching staff has been hit hard all year long, ranking near the bottom of the 11-team league in ERA (5.49, 10th), strikeouts (182, 9th) and home runs allowed (25, 11th).

Nothing suits junior catcher Alex Swim better. He went 12-19 against Samford to extend his hit streak to 22 games. During that stretch, he's seen his batting average jump more than 100 points, from .222 to .385.

Swim was named the Southern Conference Player of the Week April 2.

"He's the best hitter I've ever played with," said junior centerfielder Niko Fraser. "But that doesn't surprise me at all. I'm really happy for him. He's good. He's really, really good."

It's a feeling of relief for the Phoenix skipper, who can rest easy penciling Swim into the three-hole every day and worrying about more pressing issues.

"He's on fire, man," Kennedy said. "What he did this weekend especially, it's really stupid. It's crazy, man. It's like every time he gets up there you think he's going to get a hit and you're surprised if he doesn't."

While the Phoenix has taken care of business in



Batters facing Elon sophomore pitcher Jim Stokes this season are batting just .239 while falling victim to 22 strikeouts. FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

conference play thus far — Elon's three conference series wins this year (out of four total) were against the three teams picked to finish ahead of the Phoenix in the preseason coaches' poll. But that dominance hasn't translated against top opponents from outside of the SoCon.

Elon's gone 0-7 against teams from the ACC and SEC this season, a far cry from last year's 3-5 mark.

They'll have a chance to change that Wednesday evening in Chapel Hill against a Tar Heels team that is ranked No. 6 in the country. North Carolina allowed three

infield hits and the Phoenix didn't scratch across a run in a March 7 defeat at Latham Park.

If Elon falls, it won't be because of a lack of focus.

"It won't be a problem playing UNC," Swim said. "Those guys are always one of the top teams in college baseball so we'll be up for that game and hopefully we come out with a win."

Regardless of what the scoreboard says after nine innings at Boshamer Stadium in Chapel Hill Wednesday, it's safe to say the Elon Phoenix have proven they aren't the worst the SoCon has to offer. Despite what some may say.

Elon Baseball at a glance

Record: 18-11 overall
Conference: 11-4
Top hitter: Jr. C Alex Swim (.385)

Upcoming baseball games

- Wednesday, April 4th @ University of North Carolina, 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 6th @ Furman University, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 7th @ Furman University, 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 10th vs. East Carolina University, 6:00 p.m.

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Sports



A simple disc brings community for successful club ultimate frisbee team

Freshman Andrew Loughran defends sophomore Andrew Gruninger during a scrimmage for Big Fat Bomb, Elon's men's club ultimate frisbee team, which practices five days a week at the South Campus Fields. The team is composed of a diverse mix of students from different classes and majors. According to junior Alain Monyette, only two members of Big Fat Bomb have the same major.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Differences unite wide variety of students

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

For junior Sam Lee, the captain of Elon University's men's club ultimate frisbee team, it is the differences that bring his team together rather than any kind of commonality.

"I feel like the ultimate club is really unique because a lot of people come and join it and they don't know what competitive ultimate is about," he said. "So they get a really diverse group of people."

Lee and 28 other Elon guys make up the team, which has played very well in recent years, well enough to make some noise in club ultimate frisbee circles.

The team, which calls itself "Big Fat Bomb," finished third in the USA Ultimate College Series Division-III Atlantic Coast Regional Semifinals last year, losing to Davidson College's team 13-11.

"We had a really good year last year," Lee said. "It was kind of upsetting how we finished. It's not easy to make it all that way. It's definitely a long road. This year, we really think it's our year to do it."

To "do it" means to advance to the national championships, this year held in Appleton, Wis., May 19-20.

In preparation for the regional championships, which are being held at Elon this year, Big Fat Bomb plays other schools in North and South Carolina throughout the spring. Mostly, they face off against other D-III schools, institutions with 7,500 students or less. But they also play bigger and stiffer competition in Division-I.

"It's really cool being able to play against the big-name schools that you see on TV," sophomore Andrew Gruninger said. "If we were going to play any other sport, we wouldn't be able to compete with Duke in basketball, or (North Carolina State University) in football. But in ultimate we play them at the same level, and it's really fun to play them and say, 'Oh, we beat Duke today.'"

Lee speaks to the camaraderie that comes with the frisbee community, even with schools other than Elon.

"When you go to tournaments, you hang out with other teams," he said. "One of the unique aspects about our sport

is that it's self-governed. When we're officiating it, we don't have any referees. It's really all about the players. We have rules that help us figure it out on the field. It's called 'spirit of the game.' That whole aspect of the sport, I feel, creates a sense of community around everybody. We respect each other enough to be able to make a right call in the game and not have it go to an outside source."

That "spirit of the game" makes a nice transition back to Elon's campus, where the team has created its own little niche. It draws in people who are attracted to the camaraderie. Gruninger joined the team last year because of it.

"Last year was really great as a freshman, finding that group of people to be able to be a part of, especially the upperclassmen last year," he said. "They didn't care that I was a freshman on the team, they cared that I was playing frisbee and hanging out with them. It was really nice to just have that group of people."

Junior Ben Cox, the club's president, joined because he saw Lee, his roommate freshman year, leaving most nights to go practice.

"I saw him participating in the club, going out to practice every night, participating in these tournaments on weekends," he said. "And I was like, 'Wow, that's something I want to do. I have way too much free time on my hands.' So my sophomore year, I jumped in, joined the team, and I've been really committed to it ever since."

Junior Alain Monyette came to Elon wanting to join the club soccer team after turning down recruiting efforts, but was attracted to Big Fat Bomb instead.

"I had always liked frisbee, even though I had no idea what it was at the time," he said. "I was terrible, I was really atrocious, but (the club frisbee team members) were still really cool guys. So I kind of got into it because I still wanted to be doing something athletic. I went from practicing six days a week to college, I wanted to be able to do something like that. Frisbee was the best club for me at the time."

The team practices at 8 p.m. almost every day of the week depending on weather. They will warm up, do some drills and usually scrimmage. Practice



Junior Alain Monyette (right) throws a frisbee around junior Ben Cox to his fellow teammate. Monyette joined the club frisbee team after turning down the club soccer team.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

time is like any other sport — used to improve.

"Everybody on the field is a quarterback," Lee said. "Everybody has to work on throws, everybody has to catch it whether it's in the air or coming straight at them. When you're trying to catch a frisbee when you're just playing around with friends, you don't have somebody running full-speed behind you trying to knock down the disk. We have to implement that."

Monyette said strategy is a big part of what is learned in practice, specifically roles people play on the team.

"A lot of the drills focus on playing (different) roles at different times," he said. "You're not really assigned a role, even though there's ones that you're better at physically. But you're going to have to play every one, so all the different drills focus on different aspects of the strategy of playing."

Both on and off the field, Big Fat Bomb is connected, despite having little in common. According to Monyette, only two players on the 29-man roster have the same major, and the roster is spread out between the classes.

"We're literally a completely diverse group of people, and the only thing that's linking us is that we all want to be the best we can on the frisbee pitch, which is

crazy," he said.

That linking has led to the group supporting individuals in their interests. Cox said team members have supported teammates in off-the-field activities. For instance, Monyette is in Wake Leviathan, the only metal band on Elon's campus.

"We had about 10 guys come out to their first concert," Cox said. "That's not the most popular genre of music, so we were certainly there to support Alain and his cause."

That is what the group brings, a uniqueness not many things offer, all around a little disc.

"Everybody on the team is really unique in terms of their backgrounds, sports they've played before, what they're interested in," Lee said. "The thing that brings us together is this random sport that we happen to play in college."

THE SWING

Watch Thursday as Sports Editor Zachary Horner participates in a club frisbee practice and hear from junior Sam Lee, Big Fat Bomb's captain, about the team.