

"I FEEL LIKE HE IMPACTED MORE PEOPLE IN 20 YEARS THAN MOST PEOPLE WOULD IN 100. I HOPE HE SEES HOW IMPORTANT HE WAS TO SO MANY PEOPLE."

- ABBY HESLER  
ELON JUNIOR

In memory of Trent Stetler - page 4,5

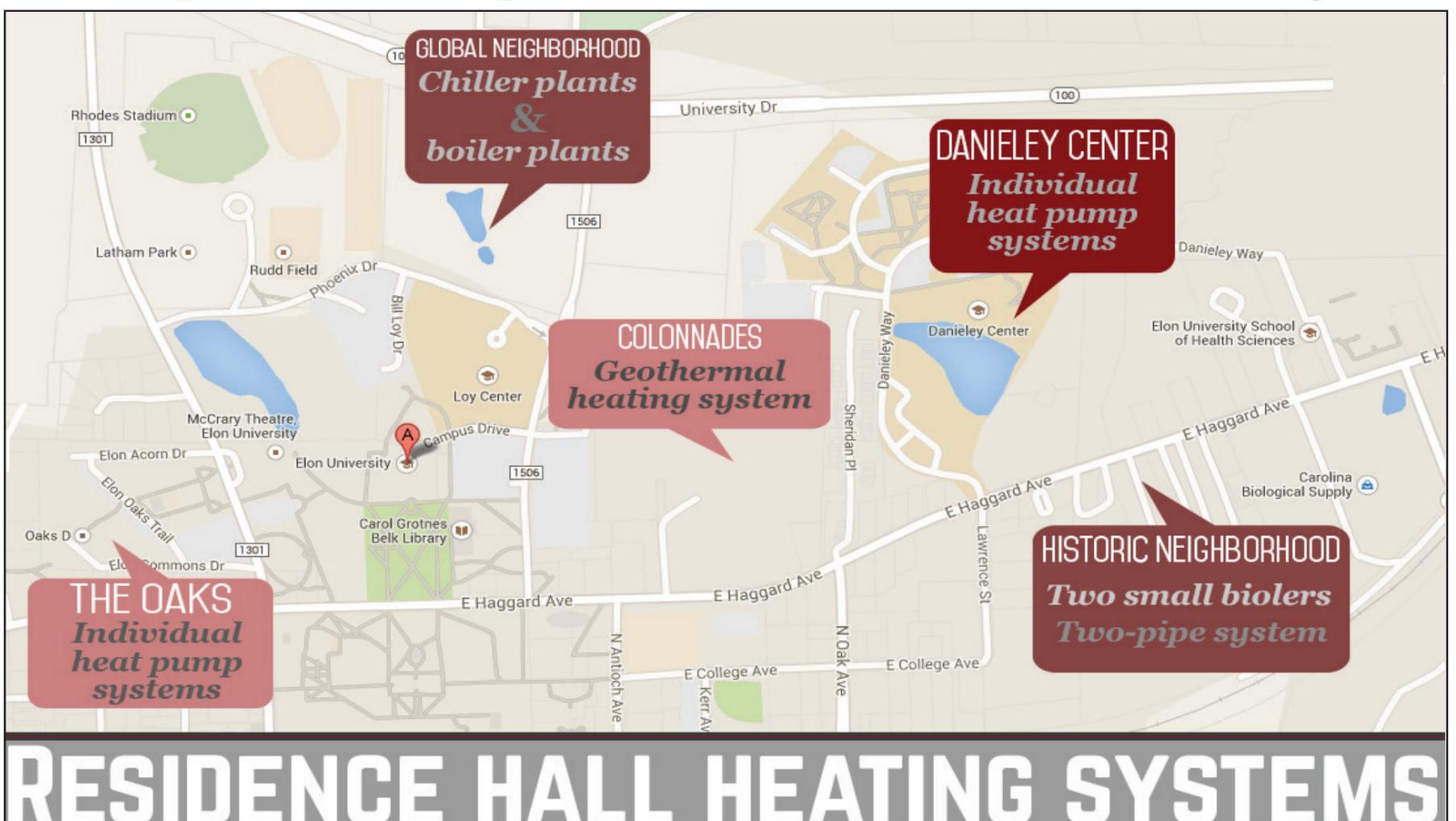
# THE PENDULUM

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## Hot and cold: thermometer wars

*As temperatures drop, dorm heat becomes a balancing act*



GRAPHIC BY MEGAN GRAVLEY | Design Editor

Leena Dahal  
Assistant News Editor

Everyone who has endured a winter at Elon University knows that nothing is predictable, except for one thing: as temperatures drop, numbers on thermostats rise.

To face the demand for higher temperatures, Physical Plant works around the clock to ensure that residential buildings and academic spaces are suitably heated while aiming for a temperature range that falls to around 68 degrees — one they deem both appropriate and environmentally-aware.

But the imposed limit has become a cause of discomfort for some students at Elon who find that their residential spaces are too cold.

Maria Hadaya, a sophomore who lives in Colonnades, said that though her room would heat up to around 70 degrees, she had to seek alternative measures to stay warm.

"It was just too cold and it took too long to heat up in the first place," she said. "I had to buy a space heater because I was so cold. It was the only way I could stay warm."

According to Robert Buchholz, director of Physical Plant and the figure who drafted the 68-degree policy, the number

is reflects extensive research but has nothing to do with Physical Plant's budget.

"It's a number that, as far as talking about energy conservation, has been around for a long time," he said. "Part of my research involved checking with other universities, and I found that the norm was 68 degrees."

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), a program that Physical Plant partners with, also listed in a 2011 report that their recommended temperature range is from 68 to 72 degrees. During the energy crisis of the 1970s, city, state and federal administrators, including the Navy, also imposed a 68-degree limit.

According to the Office of Sustainability website, Elon's policy on heating and cooling is based on degree-days, a formula that relates each day's temperature to the demand for fuel to heat buildings. The average of the high and low temperatures of the day are calculated. If the result is greater than 65 degrees, then those would be cooling degree-days. Conversely, if the average is below 65 degrees then the difference would be heating degree-days.

But Buchholz emphasized that while Physical plant does their best to ensure that the temperatures fall in the requested range, there isn't much they can control

See *RESIDENCE HALLS* page 6

## Residentially-linked courses on the rise

Ashley Lowe  
Senior Reporter

In the fall of 2014, Elon University implemented residentially-linked courses as a part of the Residential Campus Initiative, an effort to promote engaged, collaborative learning among freshmen living in similar parts of campus. Such courses are

designed so students live where they work and attend class, with faculty members doing the same thing, too.

Of the 1,497 freshmen at Elon, 960 were enrolled in residentially-linked classes last semester — proportionally more than ever before at the university.

According to Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs, there is

a correlation between residence life and academic performance.

"Research shows that students who live and learn together are more inclined to talk about their readings outside of class," Book said. "These students live in the same area and eat in the same dining halls, meaning that they can create relationships around the work."

Elon is following in the footsteps of notable institutions such as Yale University, which uses residential colleges to help students learn with students that live close to one another.

After the end of the fall semester, the overall effectiveness of the residen-

See *LINKED COURSES* page 6

# Record number of students study abroad for Winter Term

Tanza Loudenback  
Senior Reporter

Elon University recently announced a record-breaking number of students, faculty and staff traveled around the country and world to participate in a range of global study experiences during Winter Term 2015. This month, nearly 1,000 students — about 15 percent of Elon's graduate and undergraduate population — are participating in 36 international and five Study USA courses.

The courses fulfill Elon core credit requirements in the areas of science, civilization, society, expression, general studies, service learning and elective courses. This year's increase in the number of participating students have something to do with the increase in available programs.

Some of the programs added since 2013 include "Austria: Sex and Violins," "Malawi: The Warm Heart of Africa" and "Discovering Dixie."

"More programs mean more spots for students," said Amanda Zamzes, business and data manager at Elon's Isabella Cannon Global Education Center (GEC).

Last year, 932 students participated in 38 global experience programs around the world during Winter Term. According to data posted on Elon's website, Winter Term at Elon is the most popular time to study abroad.

Elon reported that 72 percent of 2014 graduating seniors participated in at least one global study experience during their time at Elon, which includes semester and Winter Term study abroad opportunities. As a result, the Institute of International Education consistently ranks Elon No. 1 in the nation in study abroad for a master's-level university.

This year's record comes at the tail end of the International Elon Plan created in 2010 and available on Elon's GEC website. The plan proposes 100 percent access to study abroad programs for students by 2016 in accordance with Elon's global citizen effort. The GEC successfully coordinated study abroad semester programs for at least 400 students in Fall 2014, more than double the number from five years ago.

"The majority of our new programs ap-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EMMA WARMAN

Elon students spending Winter Term traveling across India enjoy some time to kick back and study in a country with a culture far different from the United States.

peal to a certain part of the Elon student population," Zamzes said. "The more programs we have, the more students we have participating."

cover most fees for course-related activities while abroad. A program's average length is about three weeks — the same length as a Winter Term course on Elon's

abroad for a semester later on," said senior Eugena Neumann, who traveled to Greece with Elon last year. "It's an amazing experience Elon offers that few other institutions can rival."

In addition to international courses, Elon offered five Study USA courses this year during Winter Term for students looking to explore domestically. Experiences in Hawaii, at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, travel through the American South, as well as Elon Fellows programs along the East Coast, offered courses in a number of subjects from indigenous culture to filmmaking.

Zamzes said Elon plans to add even more Winter Term programs to the docket next year. Applications for 2016 Winter Term global experience programs will be available March 3.

## "THE MORE PROGRAMS WE HAVE, THE MORE STUDENTS WE HAVE PARTICIPATING."

AMANDA ZAMZES

BUSINESS AND DATA MANAGER AT THE ISABELLA CANNON GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER

Elon's Winter Term programs vary in cost — the average cost is about \$6,000. These costs include international airfare, accommodations and transportation and

campus.

"Winter Term abroad programs can be an opportunity for freshmen and sophomores to discover if they want to go

# iMedia Sampler garners unexpected interest

Bryan Anderson  
Assistant News Editor

Amanda Sturgill, associate professor of communications, developed an iMedia Sampler to provide School of Communications graduates with up-to-date information about how media industry practices has changed since they've graduated.

Sturgill anticipated that a few dozen students would register for the massive open online course (MOOC) but quickly realized that Elon student engagement continues after graduation.

"I was kind of expecting maybe 30 people would enroll," Sturgill said. "We've got 212 right now."

While the program's enrollment surpassed all expectations, its creation was designed to explore online education possibilities and engage alumni with events happening on campus. During a short time period, it has seen growth in both the number of enrolled students and the quality of the projects they have been producing, advocates say.

"I had the idea that we should do some

kind of mini-MOOC for Comm alumni," Sturgill said. "Doing a short course for alumni seemed like a good way to try out both of those ideas at the same time."

Outside publicity helped increase interest in the course. Some alumni, for example, shared information about the iMedia Sampler on their social media networks in order to increase registration. It was also featured on CBS Radio and Google News.

The iMedia Sampler began Monday with online lessons about search engine optimization and funding. Future topics scheduled to be covered through early March include multimedia storytelling, design for mobile devices, media analytics and the relationship between coding and web design.

One of the new majors that Elon is offering to students is media analytics. In order to educate alumni about this change and provide insight into media effects research, assistant professor of communications Qian Xu is leading the user/audience research portion of the iMedia Sampler.

"This sampler covers the topics that have changed or emerged since our al-



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY IMEDIA

ums have graduated," Xu said. "It involves things that were not covered when our alumni were at school."

Because the media industry is constantly evolving, students are encouraged to adapt to change.

"I think a lot of people in undergraduate school think that they're learning a set of skills and that when they get out they'll have those skills and they'll be able to get a job," Sturgill said. "The more important thing to learn when you're here is how to learn new things in a field that is as technologically-driven as communications."

Sturgill and Xu are just two of the sev-

en professors giving lessons as part of the sampler. According to Xu, it is an honor to be a part of a new program that is generating a lot of interest.

"All professors teaching in the Interactive Media Master program were invited to contribute to this sampler," Xu said. "It is not only a new attempt of the School of Communications for massive online courses, but also a good opportunity to let more people know about the iMedia program."

# In an era of convenience and competition, it's survival of the cheapest, quickest and most accessible for the fast food industry

Alana Romans  
Senior Reporter

In 2012, U.S. annual sales from fast food giant McDonald's were equivalent to the GDP of Yemen. The \$35.6 billion sum dwarfed all other fast food competitors by at least \$15 billion.

According to the QSR 50, an annual ranking of fast food chains across the United States, the top 20 fast food companies each had yearly sales in the billions of dollars.

**"THIS IS AN AGE OF CONVENIENCE. SO THEY HAVE TO HAVE ACCESSIBILITY AND VISIBILITY."**

**BARBARA VINSON**  
CAPRIOTTI'S SANDWICH SHOP  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE

While typically small in size, fast food joints pack a competitive punch with their low prices, speedy service and array of locations. For example, by the end of 2012, Subway had over 25,000 locations open in the United States.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the term "fast food" wasn't coined until

1951. Before this, fast food joints were known as "quick service" restaurants for their unusually fast service. One of the first of its kind was White Castle in 1921. The restaurant was known for its five-cent burger, which set the trend for the future.

Today, fast food restaurants, both chain and locally owned, are dominating the food service industry. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), more than 2 million Americans are employed as food preparation and serving workers (which includes fast food). This means that in the United States, one in every 113 Americans work within the industry.

Criticism has surrounded the fast food industry as it continues to grow and prosper in the United States. Questions regarding the quality of fast food and its rapid growth have come with increased skepticism and endless debate. The answer behind understanding the steady growth of fast food lies within a city's ability to support quick service restaurants.

Barbara Vinson is the director of real estate for Capriotti's Sandwich Shop. Capriotti's started as a small sandwich shop in Delaware in 1976 and has grown into a restaurant chain with 100-plus locations. Vinson explained that her role as director of real estate is to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of a potential site.

The company tends to keep 90 percent of the restaurants franchise-owned and 10 percent as corporate-based restaurants. New franchisees must have fast food or service backgrounds, and plan to open restaurants in at least three separate locations. Once the sites are chosen, it is Vinson's job to check the accessibility and visibility of the area to ensure a proper fit.

"When I go out and try to find a new loca-



Mike's Deli, in nearby Burlington, recently celebrated 25 years in the business of quick service.

tion, the first thing I'm looking for is visibility," Vinson said. "I want to make sure that no matter what, even if it has the greatest backup of businesses around it, it's got retail, it's got houses around it, it's got good traffic around it. If they can't see you, it doesn't work."

Take exit 141 for Huffman Mill Road in Burlington which is highly populated by fast food restaurants.

As the president of Supply Management Services, Daryl Still works closely with the food service industry. Still is on Popeyes' leadership team and is involved with the franchisee selection and approval process. He said demographics are key when selecting quality real estate for Popeyes.

"We look at good real estate that matches the demographic of our core customer base," Still said, "both from ethnicity [to] gender as well as median income."

By the end of 2013, Popeye's had 1,769 restaurants across the United States. Their year-end revenue was \$206 million. In the 2014 annual report, Popeye's listed its four pillars of the Company's Strategic Roadmap: "build a distinctive brand, create memorable experiences, grow restaurant profits and accelerate quality restaurant openings."

Popeyes' intentions of increasing future store openings is similar to the goals of Capriotti's Sandwich Shop. Vinson explained that as the company looks toward expansion, certain aspirations arise. With 200 currently committed locations across the United States, Vinson said the next two years Capriotti's hopes to be in the range of 300 to 400 locations.

"If we are working the way we are supposed to, you should see about one every week to week and a half," Vinson said. "If all the stars align and the cities don't go crazy."

As both companies strive for growth, Burlington can relate to the rapid growth of fast food in recent decades. With a population of just over 51,000, the city has experienced fast food expansion at an unprecedented rate.

According to the BLS, 2,700 people in Burlington were employed under the title of "combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food" in 2013. That is, one in every 19 people in Burlington worked the industry.

Despite high employment numbers and a rapid growth rate, fast food chains have fallen under scrutiny recently for their low wages and poor salaries. According to the BLS, hourly workers have borne the burden of minimum wage. In 2012, 3.4 percent of North Carolina workers who were paid hourly salaries made the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. If an hourly employee worked 40 hours a week

each month for an entire year, they would make roughly \$15,080 before taxes, assuming holidays aren't taken.

Figures like these represent a clear income disparity in Burlington. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 32 percent of the 21,645 households in Burlington make less than \$25,000 each year. This number is drastically different from the average per capita income of Burlington residents in 2012, which came to \$32,929.

Despite low wages, high demand has created a plethora of fast food options in Burlington. Mike's Deli is a single-shop quick-service restaurant located on Church Street, a high-traffic roadway packed with fast food chains. The owner, Mike Sculthorpe, originally opened shop in Graham in 1988 but later moved the restaurant to Burlington. He just celebrated 25 years in business.

Since closing shop in Graham, Sculthorpe admitted he has seen many local businesses close in the area. He explained that while moving to Burlington has its drawbacks, he thinks he made the right decision for his business.

Sculthorpe said Burlington has always been a fast food town, and the interstate has played a critical role in maintaining the status quo.

"It doesn't hurt being next to the interstate," Sculthorpe said, reiterating that Interstate 85 is key to the survival of many fast food chains in the area.

The same cannot be said for Popeyes, which does not consider highway access as prime real estate. Still explained that Popeyes' customer base does not tend to gravitate near interstates and highways.

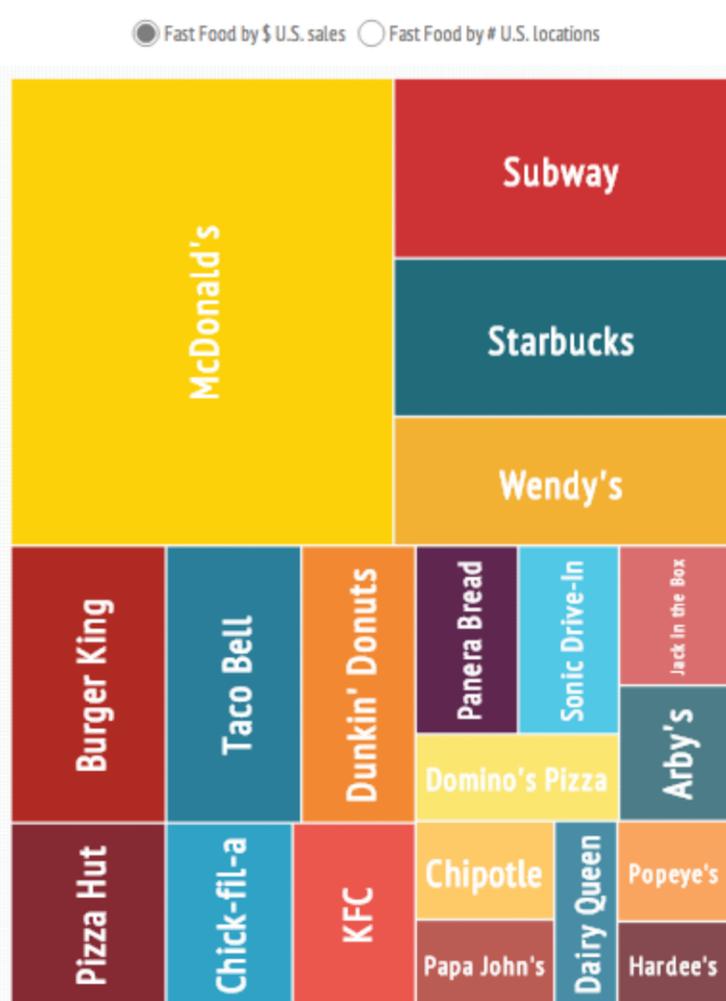
Sculthorpe attributed Mike's Deli's success to the nearby university, Interstate 85 and the quality of his store's food. Sculthorpe has maintained the restaurant as a family business, and prides his restaurant on a dedication to quality sandwiches that makes him avoid labeling chain restaurants like Subway as competition.

"I don't even think of [Subway], but I can't beat their price," Sculthorpe said. "But I've had customers tell me that after you go there and add extra meat, it's about the same price."

For many customers, price matters. With chains like McDonald's constantly advertising low prices, their national average of 69 million customers per day makes sense. It is clear many factors have contributed to the rise of fast food chains, price just being one. As Vinson explained, restaurants must figure out how to pull people in. Ultimately, that is the bottom line.

"This is an age of convenience," Vinson said. "So they have to have accessibility and visibility."

## Top 20 Quick Service Restaurants by U.S. Sales and Number of U.S. Locations



All data from the QSR 50 (2012) via: [www.qsrmagazine.com/reports/qsr50-2013-top-50-chart](http://www.qsrmagazine.com/reports/qsr50-2013-top-50-chart)

# Big smile, bigger legacy: Trent Stetler

*Death of an Elon junior leaves community clinging to the best of him*

By Michael Bodley and Bryan Anderson  
Editor-in-Chief and Assistant News Editor

They packed the room to the brim and then some, clogging the heavy air thick with loss, remembering a student, a brother, a friend.

Gone too soon was junior Trent Stetler, the hundreds said together. It didn't make sense — no one knew why. After a long pause, the deafening silence was punctuated by a pair of words forced out with two sharp gasps of raw emotion: "Big smile."

Laughter broke out, because that's what Trent would have wanted, after all. The day after he committed suicide, as confirmed by the Burlington Police Department, they came together for an Elon-hosted "Gathering of Friends" held in his memory.

And remember they did — inside an upstairs room in Lakeside Jan. 12. — not Trent's death, but the 20 years of his life that so many wished were longer.

There was the stranger who didn't know Trent too well, but wished he did. There was the friend to whom he yelled, "You're a wizard,

Harry!"

There was the questionable purchase of spicy beef jerky during a stop at Kangaroo, and there

was the matter of the game Trent made up to coerce his friends to finish it through their laughter. There was the time Trent had to interview the adviser to his business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, when he showed up late to Irazu, doused both of them in scalding coffee and, with no questions prepared, somehow managed to win his adviser over.

For all that there was, so much still is, for the abundance of people who are better now for having known Trent. There are no easy answers, they say, no way to understand, no point in trying. But there are the good times, the times he made them feel like they were a part of something really special, if only for a little while.

Trent was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of friend they say, able to get along with anyone, able to turn any bad day around, able to give you hours when he didn't have five minutes to spare.

He was someone who cared.

"Trent cared so much about helping other people that he wasn't always worried about himself," said junior Abby Hensler, a close friend. "Even if he was upset about something, he would still be trying to help other people. He was so selfless."

Half the time, Hensler said, she didn't even realize when he was doing it. Almost every weekend of last school year, she and Trent and a couple of their closest friends would make a trip to Dunkin' Donuts for breakfast. She remembers these times with a smile.

What she didn't find out until after his death was that Trent hated Dunkin' Donuts. And yet, he would scarf down his coffee and breakfast sandwich without a word of complaint, because he knew it made her happy.

She wasn't the only one, and it wasn't

just his friends, either.

"There was never anything that we had to ask to be done twice," said Jonathan Miller, director of The Phoenix Club, where Trent interned. "His engaging personality was seen with the relationships he was able to develop."

At the gathering in mid-January and after, no one has wanted to dwell on his loss. To them, the pain is still too real. In the meantime, Elon has each other, said Jan Fuller, the university chaplain who led the gathering.

"This is a terrible loss, and we have got to feel it as individuals and as a community, and no amount of information is going to bring him back," Fuller said. "That's the real issue is that he's gone, and he's not coming back."

When the news broke, not one of his fellow Alpha Kappa Psi members knew quite what to say.

"It was definitely a very emotional time," sophomore Cole Krajewski said. "I know a lot of people were crying and shocked that it even happened. Not a lot of people said much of anything."

The statistics speak for themselves when it comes to college students, especially males, and suicide, according to Alexis O'Brien, public relations

director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). The suicide rate among males is roughly four times that of females. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among young Americans 18-24, according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

Those who knew Trent best, though, don't care about the statistics. They care about their friend. And no one said they saw it coming.

Common suicide warning signs for college students include being quiet, reserved, and depressed, O'Brien said. Many who knew him said such traits couldn't have been further from the case with Trent.

Michael Skube, associate professor of communications, taught Trent in one of his media writing courses. The professor said he remembers his student as an unusually positive and optimistic individual.

"He never complained, always had a smile and gave no hint that something in his world was not right," Skube said. "I could not have been more surprised."

Though suicide is never the right answer, Fuller said, she believes Trent is now at peace and takes some comfort in that.

"If we're angry about it, it's perfectly legitimate because his death is at our expense, and it's OK to feel that way," she said. "But I think even a secular person

might say that he's found his peace in the separation from whatever was troubling him."

Whatever it was that troubled him, Trent hid it well behind a smile that split his face from ear to ear, especially when he started talking about something that got him excited, especially when the words spilled out a mile a minute and the laughter struggled to keep up.

After the news spread around campus — first slowly, and then all at once — Trent's closest friends turned to each other. His Provence apartment, which Trent shared with three friends who had lived together since they started at Elon, overflowed with dozens of people. Some passed through and offered their condolences to his roommates. Some stopped in their tracks, dazed, when they stepped foot through the door he wouldn't be opening anymore.

Trent's roommates were hit hard. Just a little while into school his freshman year, Trent one night proclaimed them friends for life and promised they would live together all four years of college.

One of them laughed it off at the time, coming from this goofy kid he didn't yet much know. In the gathering for Trent, the same kid spoke up, heartbroken he would never get that extra year with his best buddy.

No one seemed immune to Trent's charm — there was no one who called his smile less than infectious or his personality less than perfect. He didn't judge, they said. He didn't gossip. He didn't backstab. He didn't care what fraternity a person was in, where they came from or where they were going. He wanted to get to know everyone, even if just for a moment. Such moments mattered.

"Every person he met, you would just want to be friends with him," Hensler said. "Anyone who met him remembered him and would want to stay friends with him."

It may make letting go that much harder, and students who knew him may benefit from talking to someone, said Smith Jackson, vice president for student life, in the email informing the campus of the news.

He emphasized the significance of the loss and encouraged those who knew him to seek support.

"The death of any student is devastating to our community [especially in situations like this], and we want to reach out to friends and acquaintances who knew Trent," he said. "The loss of a classmate, friend and student reminds [us] just how precious the life of each person in our community is."

Just how many of these kinds of people there are is now more apparent than ever.

Calling it "crazy" to look around the room at Trent's gathering and see so many people she only knew because of Trent, Hensler said she

knew from walking into the room before it filled that the hundred or so chairs were way less than what was going to be needed

to fit everyone.

She was right, judging from those packed standing around the walls and the others who claimed a shred of carpet that became both precious real estate and blanket to catch the tears that the boxes on boxes of Kleenexes missed.

"I feel blessed to see how many people whose lives he touched," Hensler said. "I feel like he impacted more people in 20 years than most people would in 100. I hope he sees how important he was to so many people."

It seemed to bring his parents some comfort, to see a room so packed with so many who loved him for all that he was, for all that he came to be.

"If you've spoken with anyone from Elon, I think they would all tell you it was a great celebration of his life and the impact he had on many," his parents, Jim and Denette Stetler, said in an email. "At this time, we are emotionally and physically drained and the thought of trying to adequately and eloquently answer questions is a bit overwhelming."

For the overwhelmed at Elon, there are resources. And the overwhelmed are not alone, according to an Elon Local News report on depression conducted in November 2014 that found that roughly 1,500 Elon students may suffer from depression.

Counseling Services is located in the R.N. Ellington Center on South Campus and is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Because Counseling Services has a small counseling staff, it is focused on providing short-term services and does not directly offer 24-hour assistance. Some suicide experts feel that there is always something more that could be done at colleges and universities.

"The grieving process is ongoing, so the needs are most immediate after the death," O'Brien, from AFSP, said. "[Counseling] is not something that can be put away with one meeting."

Just talking is important, to Fuller.

"Sometimes we make meaning by getting the facts, by lining up the answers... we do that all the time, and usually there's more information to help us do that," she said. "But we have no answer for this, and we could fool ourselves by thinking that if we had the facts, then we could make meaning of this, but it becomes in the end a diversion from our grief."

There is no diversion for Trent's closest friends, not one moment of one day, they say. Each took from Trent something different, but they all took something to hold onto for a long time.

"We all just learned a lot from his personality," Hensler said. "Just being around him, I think I picked up on things I wish I was better at — just how accepting he was, how caring he was."

Hensler remembers a lot. She remembers their Qdoba dinners, their movie nights — Trent would always pick the weirdest flick out of the Netflix queue. Whenever she had good news, he was the first person she would run to because he amplified her excitement and made it take on a life of its own.

She would never take back knowing him, no matter the pain, now. He meant too much, means too much — did, does, will.

"We're just trying to focus on our memories and the bond that we have because of him," Hensler said. "It's not getting any easier to accept that he's gone."

**"HE WOULD BE TELLING  
JOKES BEFORE YOU COULD  
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**ABBY HENSLER  
ELON JUNIOR**

**"TRENT CARED SO MUCH  
ABOUT HELPING OTHER  
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ELON JUNIOR**

# Trent Stetler



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Trent and two friends spend a moment together on top of Hanging Rock, North Carolina. Those who knew him said he had a love for adventure only rivaled by a love of people.



PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK

His professors spoke highly of Trent as a scholar, the kind of student who did his work and did it well and did it on time. The rugby team, which Trent loved, said he was the kind of teammate who never stopped laughing.



PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK

Trent's friends now are spending as much time together as they can, finding comfort in swapping memories with those who knew him best: each other.

## RESIDENCE HALLS

from cover

as the university relies on several different kinds of heating systems including steam ventilation and geothermal heating. Though they regularly monitor temperatures, the desired range can be surpassed in many residential spaces.

“Every room is independent,” he said. “We do our best to maintain the range, but sometimes it doesn’t always work, and I don’t always have the ability to control it in the first place.”

Bucholz, with more than 38 years of experience in facilities including similar heating policies, said finding a universally satisfying temperature range for large groups of people with varying degrees of comfort is almost impossible.

“I used to get calls from two people in the same office with one complaining that it was too hot and the other saying it was too cold,” he said. “Even now at Elon we still have students that leave their window open, which is highly damaging to buildings given the low temperatures and others that are too cold.”

Still, he encouraged students to visit the office with any proposals to change the policy.

“Elon has always been an open, friendly place and I wouldn’t have any problem with students coming to talk about it,” he said.

Elon’s environmental efforts have not gone unnoticed. Elon was a recipient of federal grant money through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that helped with the installation of solar thermal panels for heating water in Colonnades Dining Hall and four residential buildings. Eighty-two solar thermal panels were installed and are expected to prevent 49 tons of carbon emissions each year.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

At Elon University, like at many institutions across the country, linked classroom settings are on the rise, praised for bridging work and play for their residents.

## LINKED COURSES

from cover

tially-linked courses is in good standing, with many freshmen who were enrolled in these courses. COR 110 (The Global Experience), ENG 110 (Writing: Argument and Inquiry) and MTH 110 (General Statistics) are the residentially-linked courses currently provided.

“[My linked course was] a warm environment where I recognized the faces of my classmates on the first day,” freshman

Callahan Allen said. “If I needed help with an assignment, all I had to do was walk through the halls of my dorm and knock on a few doors.

The curricula for these classes were similar to those of previous years, but there were a few adjustments made to better the discussions.

Professor of English and Education Janet Warman was involved in the introduction of residentially-linked courses, and taught ENG 110 in the Historic Neighborhood during the fall semester. To take full advantage of her residentially-linked class, Warman tailored the first assignment to match the history and tra-

ditions theme of the Historic Neighborhood.

“At the end of the semester far more people said that they had talked with other students outside of class than I ever imagined,” Warman said.

Over the next few years, Elon is planning to enhance the program by increasing the number of residentially-linked courses provided.

“We are becoming a more residential campus because we want to create relationships that will last a lifetime,” Book said. “We want to make a greater impact on the students’ education that they are paying for at Elon University.”



## Interested in contributing to The Pendulum?

The Pendulum news organization is always looking for reporters, photographers and videographers.

**All years and majors welcome!**

To get involved, contact our Editor-in-Chief Michael Bodley at [mbodley@elon.edu](mailto:mbodley@elon.edu) or visit our office, located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center.

# Charlie Cook to give Commencement address

*Political pundit and Elon University father to visit for the second time this school year*



Bryan Anderson and Diana Stancy  
Assistant News Editor and  
Senior Reporter

After much anticipation, Elon University announced that political analyst Charlie Cook will deliver the 2015 Commencement address May 23.

Cook is the founder, editor and publisher of the Cook Political Report. A political commentator, he specializes in election forecasts and political trends. He also writes a twice-weekly column for National Journal magazine.

Like year's Commencement speaker Mary Carillo, Cook is the parent of an Elon student. Jeffrey Cook, a senior strategic communications major, is excited to have his father deliver a speech for the Class of 2015.

"When I first heard the news, I was stunned and extraordinarily happy for him," Jeffrey Cook said. "Our family thinks the world of Elon, so my dad is just thankful for the opportunity to play a role in a moment so many of my classmates and their families will always remember."

Commencement will take place Under the Oaks at 9:15 a.m. In the event of rain, there will be two separate ceremonies held in Alumni Gym. Students receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees will attend a 9:15 a.m. ceremony while students receiving Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor Science and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees will attend a 1:15 p.m. ceremony. Charlie Cook will speak at both.

Steven House, provost and vice president of academic affairs, explained that commencement speakers always have some affiliation to Elon. All commencement speakers since 2002, when House became provost, have either been an Elon graduate or a parent of a graduating student.

"We don't want to have too much attention paid to the commencement speaker,

but we love to have it be someone who is a part of the family," House said.

House also said Cook's expertise was a factor when deciding on a commencement speaker. Cook is well known for his non-partisan approach to politics, which increased his appeal to Elon.

Cook is speaking pro bono, as is typical for Elon's commencement speakers. House said the event is intended to focus on the students. The commencement speaker's role is primarily to bring the community together.

As someone who appeals to both sides of the political aisle because of his strictly-facts, non-partisan stance, Cook will appeal to Elon students from all walks of life.

When Cook came to Elon this past fall semester, he spoke to a large group of gathered students, faculty, staff and members of the community about the then-upcoming midterm elections. At the time, the closest Senate race in the country was being battled out between Kay Hagan, then D-N.C. and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. In a race with a little bit of a wider margin than expected, Tillis took home the victory, one of many in a historic landslide win for the Republicans.

At the time, Cook encouraged students to be as aware as possible of the politics that would go on to shape their futures, and soon.

But not all students were familiar with Cook until now, though more than a few definitely are.

Senior Omolayo Ojo said she initially did not recognize Cook's name and looked him up online to learn more details. While she said she would prefer a more prominent speaker within the media industry like Brian Williams, who spoke at Elon's Commencement in 2013, she understands why Cook was selected to speak this year.

"We can't be too picky when we choose commencement speakers," Ojo said. "I'm sure he is great."

Charlie Cook, a renowned political pundit, will follow in the footsteps of Mary Carillo at Commencement.

# Elon elects pair to Board of Trustees

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

Business frontrunners Ed Moriarty and Eric Sklut were elected to the Elon University Board of Trustees Wednesday, Jan. 7. Having already served on two advisory councils, Moriarty and Sklut plan on supporting and shaping the university's future.

## Ed Moriarty

With significant experience from a variety of executive and management positions across investment banking, global capital markets and risk management, Moriarty currently serves as the head of Merchant Banking & Real Estate Investing at Morgan Stanley.

Since 2012, Moriarty has taken an active role as a member of the Elon President's Advisory Council.

Moriarty and his wife, Jill, reside in Far Hills, New Jersey, and are the parents of four children, including Elon senior Meaghan Moriarty and freshman Cole Moriarty.

The Moriarty family has also made financial gifts that have supported the

School of Health Sciences, Campus Catholic Ministry and Phoenix Club. In addition, the family pledged to name a themed lab on the second floor of the new School of Communications building in honor of Ed's mother, Virginia.

## Eric Sklut

Eric Sklut has maintained a long and well-known history as a supporter of Hillel, Jewish life and Jewish Studies at Elon. He is currently a business leader in the automotive industry and owns Perfection Automatic Inc (BumperPlugs.com), an automotive parts enterprise.

His son Mason is a 2014 alumnus of the university and majored in media arts and entertainment with a focus on cinema.

Sklut has also assumed a variety of leadership roles by serving as president of the Foundation of Shalom Park and president of the Levine Jewish Community Center.

He and his wife, Lori, have extended their philanthropy and volunteer services across North Carolina. As the founders and directors of the Levine-Sklut Family Foundation, they focus on providing



Ed Moriarty (left) and Eric Sklut (right), who join the Elon University Board of Trustees this year, bring with them business backgrounds and a philanthropic history.

grants that support education, healthcare, faith and human service and children's programming to agencies throughout the state.

At Elon, Eric and Lori Sklut have maintained an active role as the inaugu-

ral co-chairs of the Jewish Life Advisory Council. They have also supported the expansion and enrichment of Elon's Jewish Studies Program by endowing the Lori and Eric Sklut Emerging Scholar in Jewish Studies.

# Texas professor visits Elon for MLK Speaker Series

Diana Stancy  
Senior Reporter

Robert Jensen, professor at the University of Texas at Austin and author of “The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism and White Privilege,” visited Elon University Monday to lead “Addressing Institutionalized Racism.” The on-campus workshop in Alamance Building was part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Beloved Community Celebration — a weeklong commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life.

Jensen, a self-proclaimed radical feminist and controversial advocate for disempowered groups, argued the United States is a hierarchical society, a white supremacy and a patriarchy fundamentally hindered by capitalism.

“If you look at the redistribution of wealth, it’s still a largely white supremacist society,” Jensen said. “It seems like we’re not as committed to equality as we thought.”

While Jensen acknowledged that many

**“IT’S STILL TRUE THAT THIS IS A SOCIETY OF SEGREGATED HOUSING”**

**ROBERT JENSEN**  
PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Americans embrace polite conversations about diversity, he said they avoid difficult questions related to racial inequality, which makes significant cultural changes more challenging. He said he believes while many white Americans would never publicly state racist views, they often engage in “backstage” racism among trusted



Elon students gather for the Robert Jensen workshop “Addressing Institutional Racism,” in which frank discussion about racial tensions in society was encouraged.

company.

He listed three primary forms of racial discrimination: institutionalized, overt and unconscious.

Though Jensen recognized progress toward racial equality and greater professional opportunities since the Civil Rights Movement, he argued racism is instilled in American society at an institutional level. The cornerstone of Jensen’s argument lies in the U.S. public school system.

“Even though overt racism is illegal... it’s still true that this is a society of segregated housing,” Jensen said. “Non-white America isn’t doing as well as white America.”

Looking at the way public education is

funded, Jensen found a disparity between white and black students’ educations. Since public schools are funded by local property taxes, wealthier areas have more funding for public schools.

What’s the solution? Many students attending the event agreed with Jensen: a fair alternative would be to combine all property taxes from each state and then distribute the funding evenly among its districts. Other students found this idea unfeasible. They argued that such an approach doesn’t follow the U.S. capitalist model.

Students of many races and ethnicities engaged in the active discussion on racism.

“It helps to hear what people of the opposite race have to say, because it helps

advance the discussion,” said freshman Alonzo Cee.

Jensen’s academic credentials as a tenured professor helped reinforce ideas some students had previously considered.

“It confirmed some of the things I have been thinking,” said junior Alex Bohannon. “It, overall, was a really good learning experience for me.”

Cee said he benefitted from the discussion and left the lecture feeling encouraged that people participated.

“A lot of good points were brought up that will have to be discussed — not just in a small group setting, but with peers,” Cee said. “[Student participation] reassures me that people actually care.”

## Upcoming Events to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**  
MLK Speaker Series:  
Mei-Ling Hopgood  
6 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

Mei-Ling Hopgood is author of “How Eskimos Keep Their Babies Warm” and “Lucky Girl.” A former president of the Asian American Journalism Association, Hopgood will speak on the complexity of cultural identity.

**Thursday, Jan. 22**  
MLK Multifaith Service  
12 p.m., Sacred Space of the Numen Lumen Pavilion

**Weds. & Thurs.** Students and staff connected to Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life from many different traditions will offer a service in the spirit of MLK and his life, passion and principles.

**Thursday, Jan. 22**  
Elon Law Martin Luther King Jr. Forum  
5:30 p.m., Elon University School of Law (Downtown Greensboro)

Elon Law’s Martin Luther King, Jr. forum will feature the insights of Elon Law students, professors and alumni, as well as special guests from the legal community, about the legal impacts, insights and implications of King’s work and vision.

**Thursday, Jan. 22**  
MLK Movie and Dialogue: “Selma”  
After 4:30 p.m., Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossing; sign-ups begin Jan. 12

The film chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965, when King led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. Transportation and movie ticket provided for the first 20 students who sign up at The Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education (Moseley 221) beginning Jan. 12.

**Thurs. & Fri.**

**Friday, Jan. 23**  
Elon University MLK Commemorative Luncheon  
12-1:30 p.m., Lakeside Meeting Rooms

The MLK Commemorative Luncheon will celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as well as the winners of Elon’s annual MLK Humanitarian Essay Contest for middle school students. Space is very limited. If you would like to attend, please email Jamie Butler at jbutler18@elon.edu by Wednesday, Jan. 14.

# Elon compensates for lack of diversity with ADL sessions

Diana Stancy  
Senior Reporter

This Winter Term, Elon University rolled out a new diversity training session with good intentions, but was met with mixed reviews and more than a little confusion.

At first, the university said first-year students had to attend at least one mandatory session. The thought brought out some grumbles from students — each workshop is four hours long. Although some informative emails said attending the session was required, others implied a strongly-encouraged type of attendance.

Currently, the Elon website states that all first-year students are “expected” to attend.

The national program, called “A Campus of Difference,” was brought to Elon by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), in order to increase understanding of racial and cultural issues.

Though the university has made strides toward increasing campus diversity each year, the statistics are still stark: 82 percent white, 6 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic and 2 percent Asian.

Compared to other private universities in North Carolina like Wake Forest University and Davidson College, Elon has a slightly less diverse student population.

Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said holding these seminars is a part of Elon’s “new strategic plan” and demonstrates the university’s commitment to improving diversity on campus.

“We really want to expose the students to diversity,” House said. “We wanted a lot of first-year students to do it [because] we think it’s important.”

House clarified that the sessions are currently not mandatory and faculty and staff members are still deciding whether it will become a requirement in the future.

First-year student Jessie Boak said that she felt the campus was aware of the lack of diversity and was working to develop the cultural atmosphere.

“I don’t think Elon is very diverse, but I think they’re trying very hard to change that and inform us more about diversity,” Boak said.

First-year student Brooke Wivagg, who was under the impression the training was required, recently attended one of the sessions led by Elon staff, Esther Freeman, director for Watson and Odyssey Schol-



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Elon students Olivia Vaz (left) and Cara McNiff speak with Matthew Antonio-Bosch, director of Elon’s gender and LGBTQIA center during an ADL session Tuesday.

ars program, and Randy Williams, dean of multicultural affairs. Wivagg commented that the training focused on eliminating stereotypes and developing a heightened sense of self-efficacy.

“We defined words relating to prejudice and discrimination and how they are used,” Wivagg said.

The interactive sessions require students to discuss issues and hot topics surrounding college campuses. Wivagg described one activity where students chose several words that defined themselves, and then selected the term that they identified with most.

Other activities in the sessions were largely focused on defining words that related to stereotypes and prejudices and how they impact society. Because of the discussion-based format, one of Wivagg’s favorite parts of the training was that she met a lot of new people.

“While I personally didn’t learn anything that I didn’t already know, I think it is great that Elon is trying to be more diverse,” Wivagg said.

While it is not a secret Elon is not the most diverse campus, students appreciated Elon’s effort to promote inclusivity on campus.

After Winter Term, the training sessions will be evaluated based on effectiveness and necessary adjustments will be made. In the spring, students who are part of a dorm or club can make requests for training seminars.

“[The seminars] will be offered whenever students want to do them,” House said. “We have lots of faculty and staff who have been trained to do it.”

Currently, 41 faculty and staff members are qualified to administer the training sessions, including MarQuita Barker, associate director of residence life. She believes the training assists students to be more aware of themselves and others.

“Hopefully students will figure out who they are, so they can appreciate others,” Barker said.

Barker said that Leigh-Anne Royster, director of inclusive community well-being, has been working for three years to bring the ADL training sessions to Elon’s campus. Royster has been the primary facilitator of this initiative on campus and continues to be the leading coordinator of the training.

Founded in 1913 to combat anti-Semitism, ADL currently is a leader in advocating civil rights and preserving democratic

ideals. The Campus of Difference training sessions have been held on over 900 college campuses and each university has the option to customize the sessions, according to the university’s individual needs.

Although the current training session provided by Elon could be revamped to include better information, Wivagg said she still benefitted from attending.

“I would recommend it to other students because it’s nice to have a refresher on things we can do to make the Elon community more diverse,” Wivagg said. “Not going to lie, I thought that four hours was a little too long, but nonetheless, I walked out of the room feeling proud to go to a school that was making such great strides in educating their students on diversity.”

Instead of training sessions, some students propose that establishing a more diverse student body would naturally facilitate a greater sense of diversity and awareness. Rather than just talking about diversity, first-year student Haley Hostetter said implementing diversity would produce the most effective results.

“I feel like having actual diversity would be better than actually learning about it,” Hostetter said.

# Administration cites green initiative in emailing of Dean’s list certificates

Paul LeBlanc  
Senior Reporter

While students at Elon University have become accustomed to rapid changes on an expanding campus, many were surprised after receiving their President’s List and Dean’s List certificates for the 2014 fall semester via email instead of the traditional printed ones.

Although some students across campus have called the maneuver a way to cut costs, University Registrar Dr. Rodney Parks says the move was more concerned with saving the other kind of green.

“We mainly changed it to support our green initiatives of being a paperless environment,” Parks said. “Certainly this does save money, but very little. The certificates were not that expensive to print and mail.”

Parks also cited various logistical issues and frustrations that resulted from mailing the certificates to each student individually.

“Each semester we received many of them back for bad addresses and could never get students to pick them up from our office,” Parks said.

Freshman Alexander Pearl, who made the Dean’s List for fall semester, believes that moving the certificates online was a smart move.

“It really didn’t affect me,” Pearl said. “I thought it was nice our school wasn’t wasting paper. The online certificate also can’t be lost.”

While Parks thinks the complaints about the shift from print certificates to electronic ones have been minimal [he’s only received two complaints] he encourages all students who would like a printed copy to go to the Office of the University Registrar.

“We have had two complaints so far, but both were fine when they found out they can still get a paper copy,” Parks said. “We will still print a hard copy certificate for any student that requests one.”



Within a span of two years, Elon has moved processes that affect students online in order to save time, promote efficiency and be environmentally conscious.

Any students with questions regarding

the shift to online processes are encouraged to visit the Office of the Registrar in Alamance 102 or to contact the office by phone or email to provide feedback on the process.

# North Carolina's wine industry booming

Ethan Smith  
Senior Reporter

Tobacco farming is on the decline in North Carolina, but all those empty farms won't be going to waste.

Something else is taking the place of king tobacco: wine. There are more than 140 wineries currently operating in the state — more than five times the number in 2001 — making North Carolina ninth in the nation for grape production.

This isn't North Carolina's first foray into the wine industry. At the dawn of the 20th century, North Carolina was the nation's top wine producing region. Then came prohibition, and tobacco had its turn. Tobacco production in North Carolina peaked in 1955, when the state produced 978,755 pounds of flue-cured tobacco annually.

Tobacco production has since fallen to 248,000 pounds annually and generates \$416,640 each year. Wine, on the other hand, now generates \$1.28 billion, attracts 1.3 million tourists per year and produces \$156 million in tourist spending and \$51 million in state and local taxes.

But wine isn't a get-rich-quick industry. "You're not in it for the money," said Sandy Utberg of Grove Winery in Gibsonville. "The best way to make a million making wine is to start with four million. It's a long-term investment, and it takes a while for you to get your return."

## The climate is right

Wine is proliferating in North Carolina for mainly the same reason tobacco did — the climate is diverse and suitable for growing the crop, as both wine grapes and tobacco need long growing seasons to reach full maturity. There are six wine regions in the state: the mountain region, the Yadkin Valley, the Piedmont region, the Sand Hill or Coastal region, the Haw River valley and the Swan Creek region.

The Swan Creek, Yadkin valley and Haw



Benjamin's Vineyard in Graham features rows of vines used to satisfy increasing consumer demand. It sits nearby the Haw River, creating ideal grape-growing conditions. JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

River valley regions are all federally recognized American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). The Haw River valley has 214 frost-free growing days as well as deep, well-drained soil. This combination provides wine grape growers an ideal climate for their crop.

"We've got very mineral-rich soil here," Utberg said. "It just seems to make a huge difference. Many times AVAs are right around a river, which is where those minerals come from."

Utberg called North Carolina a microclimate, a local atmospheric zone where the climate in a particular area differs from the surrounding area.

One of the biggest influences on the flavor of wine is how much rainfall occurs near harvest time, said Utberg.

"You want it to be dry [at harvest time]," Utberg said. "Typically, when August rolls around, you want the weather to dry out so the vines get stressed. The plants start

holding on to their sugars, and the sugar shoots way up high in the grapes themselves, which gives the winemaker a lot more to work with."

Harvest time for wine grapes usually occurs from August to October, and wine-making season lasts through December.

Rows of grapes at wineries are traditionally planted north to south, according to Utberg, so the grapes on the vine can receive sunlight as the sun moves across the sky from east to west. This arrangement allows for more productive pruning of the vine to allow for the greatest yield at harvest time.

Other than the climate around the winery, the soil is equally as important to creating quality wine during the grape-growing process.

Nancy Zeman of Benjamin Vineyards, which opened in Graham in 2003, said she and her husband "shopped around" for the proper soil to grow wine grapes.

"Everywhere we went, we took a shovel and took a soil sample," Zeman said. "We sent the samples to the state and got a reading back on whether the land would be good for grapes and what it would need as far as amenities go in order to grow grapes."

The Haw River flows directly behind Benjamin's Vineyard, creating a sandy loam for the winery to rest on and providing ideal grape-growing conditions. A sandy loam is good for growing grapes because grapes need land that drains well, and while Benjamin's Vineyard doesn't rest on a large slope, this type of land provides a sufficient drainage.

According to Zeman, working with the land instead of trying to manipulate the land is key in creating a profitable business with quality wine.

Benjamin's Vineyard, the 26th winery to open in the state, survived the recent recession.

While a large number of wineries have sprung up on old tobacco farms across North Carolina — such as Grove Winery and Benjamin's Vineyard — the land's history as a farm doesn't automatically make the soil good for growing grapes.

"If you buy an old tobacco farm, you've got to look at whether or not the soil has been stripped of its nutrients," Zeman said.

## Different methods for different flavors

Wineries in North Carolina use a variety of different grapes to create a multitude of different wines, each selecting the type

of grapes that will grow best under mountain, piedmont or coastal conditions.

North Carolina wineries mainly use vinifera, muscadine, scuppernong and labrusca grapes, though some wineries use hybrids.

Grove Winery also makes fruit wines, such as strawberry wine, which take between two and three months to make. Traditional wine made from grapes takes longer to make, often requiring several years. According to Utberg, white wines have a shelf life of five to 15 years, fruit wines last for one to three years and red wines last for 10 to 20 years. After that, Utberg says, wines start to go downhill because of the effect air entering the bottle has on the aging process.

Grove Winery currently has three vintage wines for sale, and while this isn't typical, the different years allow tasters to observe how the various wines age.

"We have three vintages in the house all at the same time," Utberg said. "Most of the time we sell out of one vintage before we introduce the next one, but they've handled it differently and now they're offering a 2010, 2011 and 2012 Sangiovese vintage for the experience of going home with your friends and opening all three bottles and tasting the difference a year can make."

The vintage that shows on a bottle of wine is the year the grapes for the wine were harvested. Grove Winery also plants grapes that originate from Italy and Spain, creating unique wines that are atypical for North Carolina wineries.

"Anywhere on the east coast where [wineries] don't irrigate, you're going to get a bigger variation in the taste from year to year than you will out of California wineries for example," Utberg said. "California typically irrigates their fields because they don't get enough rain. That way they control, very strictly, how much water their vines get so they can control how much sugar gets into the grapes, making it easier for them to make every vintage taste the same."

"To make a reserve wine, wineries hold aside a certain batch of grapes, processing them differently at a different period of time in order to declare that crop of grapes the best of the best," Utberg said.

But for all the variety of wines in North Carolina and the methods by which it is processed, one does not need a certain mentality to enjoy a quality product.

"If it's good to you, it's good wine," Utberg said.

## NC WINE FACTS

**140**

The number of wineries North Carolina currently has.

**7,600**

The number of jobs the North Carolina wine industry supports.

**400**

Both the number of acres devoted to vineyards in the Yadkin Valley, as well as the age, in years, of the oldest grape vine in North Carolina.

**1,800**

The total number of acres in North Carolina devoted to vineyards.

**\$1,280,000,000**

The total economic impact, in dollars, caused by the wine industry.

**1,260,000**

The number of wine tourists that visit North Carolina each year.

**\$156,000,000**

The total amount, in dollars, of tourist spending generated by the wine industry.

# Opening the Dialogue about Suicide on Campus

Talking about suicide saves lives, and we're too often too quiet on the subject.

Last week, Elon University junior Trent Stetler died of a confirmed suicide, though the investigation is still ongoing. Following his death, discussion about suicide among college students has resonated throughout campus.

The Elon student body must come together and open campus-wide conversation. The recent loss in the community should serve as a launching point to foster productive mental health dialogue and to generate new measures to reinforce commitment to mental health on campus, particularly regarding anxiety and depression.

At Elon, free counseling services are available for students who need psychological and emotional support as well as students who simply need a safe space to talk in a supportive environment. While the university makes it a point to offer this kind of support for students, the next step following the recent tragedy should be to strengthen measures that assist students suffering from depression, stress and suicidal thoughts in the future by looking at Elon's counseling services more critically.

The mission of Elon's Counseling Services is "providing brief counseling services that help students achieve their academic and personal goals... and responding to the psychological effects of crisis impacting individual students and the campus community." Students may take advantage of three visits to one of four full-time counselors or a licensed, unaffiliated, part-time psychiatrist on Elon's campus. If students need further assistance, Elon counselors will then help students find a full-time counselor off campus. Although other universities such as Wake Forest University offer students access to more visits — up to 12 per academic year — before referring them to outside help, the standard for universities is to refer students out after a certain point for more specialized counseling sessions.

Elon should expand the counseling services offered to students on campus by employing a full-time psychiatrist with the ability to diagnose, console and prescribe medications for students who need a greater degree of support than the standard three visits with an Elon counselor. Though Elon has the ability to refer

students to a professional off-campus, and though a licensed psychiatrist visits once a week, providing additional resources to students on campus can only benefit the student body. Employing a full-time psychologist, and possibly subsidizing the visits to the psychologist for students requiring longer-term assistance, would eliminate many minor barriers such as a lack of a car on campus or a lack of resources to pay for off-campus treatment.

The expansion of counseling services in addition to increased campus-wide dialogue would also make seeking help easier and less awkward for students who need it. Because of the nature of mental health conditions, a majority of affected students nationwide never seek help from their peers or through the counseling services offered by their universities.

Many students on college campuses are living with the stress of difficult courses and disrupted eating and sleeping schedules and away from their familiar support systems. Since 1985, the percentage of students considering their emotional health "above average" has fallen from

64 percent to 52 percent, reflecting the growing expectations placed on college students as they battle depression, stress or anxiety.

Depression remains a personal and emotional issue affecting a large number of students on college campuses. Each year, more than 1,100 college students commit suicide on campuses across the nation — a number that has been steadily growing each year over the past few decades. One in 12 students on campuses nationwide have made a suicide plan, and three out of every 200 students has attempted suicide. Stress and depression can drive suicidal thoughts among 15-24-year-olds in the United States.

Elon consistently promotes positive mental health on campus and reliably offers support for students in times of major campus or world crises. The university can further show its support for the student body by continuing to improve, expand and promote counseling services on campus. Expanded services would create a comfortable environment in which anyone can receive easy and inexpensive help.

THIS YEAR, 1 IN 12 PHOENIX



WILL PLAN THEIR SUICIDE.  
GET HELP TODAY.

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GRAPHIC BY VICTORIA LABENBERG | Design Editor

<http://www.elon.edu/~reslife/suicide.html>

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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# Better late than never: ECC open and affirming

After months of deliberation, the congregation of Elon Community Church made the decision last week to adopt Open and Affirming policies. The Decision means the church will now accept those who identify as LGBTQIA for full membership.

In fact, the church's website, now proudly touting the Open and Affirming Statement, states that the church will strive to promote love and compassion amongst its members, "regardless of their color, gender, age, ability, economic situation, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression." This statement marks a massive change in practice for a congregation that historically shied away from promoting or acknowledging support for the LGBTQIA community.

The idea to hold a vote for Open and

Affirming was introduced in the church almost two years ago with the goal of changing how the church regards membership for members of the LGBTQIA community. Until the legalization of same-sex marriage in North Carolina last October, the discussion was temporarily suspended.

Though the congregation needed to consider multiple sides of the argument and discuss the issue thoroughly in making such a momentous decision, these proceedings took a remarkably long time. The end result, though, is more important than the timeline through which it was carried out. By affirming the decision to accept those identifying as LGBTQIA, the Elon Community Church demonstrates a renewed commitment to supporting all of those who call the Elon community home.

The church's decision is a positive change for Elon and the surrounding areas because it works to make our community more inclusive at the local level. Injustice and inequality are often discussed on a larger societal scale, but should not be

considered strictly national or international affairs. In fact, as college students, these social injustices often manifest themselves as primarily local issues felt not only on campus but in surrounding towns and cities as well. Elon Community Church shows it is capable of changing views on a topic that has widely been considered contrary to its fundamental beliefs.

Elon Community Church should be applauded for making the decision, though it surely might be an unpopular resolution for some members of the church. Small changes at the local level help to support larger societal changes, which will undoubtedly foster more accepting and inclusive policies in various aspects of campus and community life. The church's decision should serve as inspiration for improving the way we treat those on campus, putting differences aside in order to strengthen the university community as a whole.

"We see differences not as barriers," reads the church's statement, "but as blessings."



**Tim Melton**  
Columnist



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer  
A view from Haggard Ave. of the Elon Community Church.

# Charlie Hebdo and the 'Ideological War'

*The attack was one not on a single news outlet, but against free speech and Western culture*

The world watched in horror as images of a brutal, despicable terrorist attack in Paris resonated through TV, radio and social media. On Jan. 7, extremists massacred 12 renowned illustrators and writers of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo at the magazine's headquarters in Paris.



**Alex Francis**  
Columnist

Charlie Hebdo, known for the satirical cartoons and articles that take comedic aim at all religions, races and political organizations, was targeted by extremists for its depiction of the Muslim prophet Muhammad in a number of cartoons.

At first glance, the senseless murders of specific individuals seem like a specifically calculated attack against one magazine with which the militants took issue. In the past, other extremists sent author Salman Rushdie into hiding in 1989 after publishing "The Satanic Verses" and murdered Theo Van Gogh in 2004 for producing a film criticizing the treatment of women in Islamic cultures.

The message in all of these circumstances remains broader and more damaging than just an attack against a lone magazine, author or filmmaker. These are fundamentalist attacks against the freedom of speech, freedom of opinion and freedom of the press.

The assault on Charlie Hebdo is only the latest example of extremism by those following a destructive system of ideals that seek to achieve power and relevance through terror. The Charlie Hebdo staff was slaughtered by the disillusioned seeking glory in a worldwide war fought through the views of radical Islamism.

Therein lies the problem with fighting a war against an ideology, a set of values or a way of thinking — it fundamentally morphs the lens through which the world is seen, leaving little to no room for understanding or reason to prevail. Dividing the world through Ideological war creates



Protestors marched through Washington, D.C. last week in a sign of global solidarity in condemnation of the attack on Charlie Hebdo.

a fervent us-against-them attitude that has only heightened in recent years between the extremists and those who stand for freedom and liberty.

The Paris attacks have now laid a backdrop for heads of state, religious leaders and civilians to reignite discussion of how to address the root of Islamist extremism.

To start building a foundation for the discussion, world leaders must work in conjunction with Muslim religious leaders to curb the rampant spread of radical ideology throughout Islam. The narrative has once again shifted toward understanding how radical Islamism has managed to marginalize, excommunicate and threaten

Muslims who disavow it. Extremist ideology claiming to be based off the Quran has unfairly robbed Muslims of individual identity and has compelled one of the world's major religions to create conflict, death and terror.

After the tragedy in Paris, the world has come together to stand and fight for the values of freedom upon which democracy was built, just as Charlie Hebdo has done all along. The killers in the attack are not fighting a war against Charlie Hebdo, they are fighting a war against what Charlie Hebdo represents. The killers are fighting against freedom of thought and speech, against tolerance and the right to

offend and against everything decent in a democracy.

Rage and condemnation do not justify the damage done by the overwhelming surge in Islamist killings around the world. The alienation of millions of Muslims around the world, the vast majority of which view these attacks as despicable, also does not promote a lasting solution to one of the gravest issues facing humanity today. Separating the Muslim from radical Islamist ideology will allow for an increasingly effective global plan of action that will help to rebuild the parts of our world that this ideological war seeks to destroy.

## DOCTOR'S ORDERS



**Frankie Campisano**  
Columnist



**Lauryl Fischer**  
Columnist

Doctor's Orders is a weekly humor column in which Lauryl Fischer and Frankie Campisano, two unprofessional, untrained, non-medical definitely fake Doctors, offer up some prescriptions for their Phoenix patients.

Okay, so you've used some of that extra \$12 million your parents had lying around and spent a semester abroad. Now that you're more worldly and cultured than anyone else you know, you've got to take the biggest walk of shame of

them all - coming back to boring, white-bread Elon. This will be harder than the Calc final you had to take freshman year.

Maybe you went to Europe or Asia for a taste of history and culture, maybe you traveled the seven seas or maybe you're still trying to convince a judge to let you leave the country and so you signed up for StudyUSA. But now, as the jetlag-induced fog begins to clear, you're noticing things you have never noticed before, like how that beer from Taphouse lacks the sophisticated notes of Berlin's finest brew; or how the streetlamps along Elon's walk way cannot measure up to the twinkling lights of Paris. You might also notice that Taphouse is gone and replaced by The Oak House. Try their coffee. Do not be alarmed if reverse culture shock wakes you in the middle of the night in a fevered sweat, your stomach turning as it craves Rome's finest cuisine or recalls that one statue you saw once that you

swear looks like your old RA.

We're going to exercise our rights as non-medical unprofessionals to diagnose you with Post-Study Abroad Distress Syndrome. PSAD can be pretty serious for returning students, with symptoms including oversharing ("When I was in Copenhagen..."), overdressing (for those returning from Europe, your wardrobe consists entirely of black leather, and you look like a spy kid), travel snobbery and much more.

Students can overcome PSAD with the help of a 12-step program and the support of family and friends. The first step is a simple one: admit to yourself you have a problem. It is perfectly normal to miss your host family and the routine you established while abroad. We're all here with you during this difficult time.

Step two: A higher power can help restore your sanity. That higher power are the Acorn carnival cookies. Have at

least one a day; you'll forget there's anywhere else but Elon.

Steps three through eleven: We can't really read our handwriting here, sorry. Improvise.

Step twelve: Acceptance. Start catching up with everyone and everything you've missed while away. Gas is like \$2.50 now; crazy, right? Don't question it lest you upset our diesel overlords. 2014 was a pretty good year for hackers and racists. The Colbert Report is over and so is our collective interest in Ebola.

When you're back at Elon, you may notice campus has a lot more cameras than it used to - these are for your safety. Stop asking so many questions and do what they say. Plenty of offices have been relocated to new areas on campus. We'd give you the rundown but things will have probably changed by the time you read this column.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The time for change is now

Chelsea Lindsay  
Senior

It could've been you. It could've been me.

The death of Trent Stetler sent a chill through my heart. Trent, a junior majoring

in economics, died this week of an apparent suicide. I know his friends and family mourn his passing. I did not know him personally, but I can relate to his story.

You see, I, too, have considered suicide. I struggled with thoughts to take my own life twice in my four years at Elon: once

during a semester abroad, and once at the conclusion of a stressful semester. It was only thanks to the support of my loved ones, medical and therapeutic intervention, and a strong dose of faith that I am alive to write these words.

I am still suffering from the symptoms of depression — and I am not the only one. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, up to 30 percent of students will face symptoms of depression at some point during college. I know many of my close friends at Elon deal with

depression, anxiety or other mental issues.

But we, as Americans, seldom talk about it. Discussing personal mental health, much less seeking help, is stigmatized and hushed up in our society. Even at Elon, mental health is not a clear priority to the university. Counseling services are not well marketed to students, and the school does not have a full-time psychiatrist (who is trained and authorized to prescribe certain medications) on staff. When I attended Elon in LA two years ago, the Study USA program did not have a dedicated system for me to receive counseling — and still did not at the beginning of this school year, even after my experience. This is not meant to discredit the members of the Elon clinic — who have helped the lives of countless students, including myself — but instead to critique Elon's hiring policies.

Now more than ever, it's time for Elon to have a serious campus discussion about mental health. Students and faculty need information about the signs of depression, especially those who may not have previous experience with mental illness. The university also needs to address how coun-

**“UP TO 30 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WILL FACE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION AT SOME POINT DURING COLLEGE.”**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH**



seling services are promoted to students — how many of us have SafeRides plugged in our phones, but no idea how to call an Elon counselor? (The number is (336) 278-7280, by the way.) We should ensure that all Elon students have equal access to care, abroad or otherwise. And for students and faculty without mental illness, being supportive and understanding of those who do is the greatest impact you can have.

Our student body deserves access to mental health care, and a supportive community in which to seek it. Even one student suicide is too many. Action must be taken now to ensure Trent's story is not repeated.

Because it could've been you. It almost was me.

## It doesn't have to be this way

Sami Marennyi  
Junior

“He's one of the nicest guys I have ever met, super positive,” I heard a friend say while I was half asleep on the couch. There was mumbling amongst the house about a student that had gone missing, but I wasn't sure if it was a dream or a reality. Friends of the missing student became more and more concerned and by the time I fully woke up, they were playing a teary-eyed waiting game to hear the news. One phone began to ring and a friend left the room to answer. Sobs echoed from the room she had entered. I checked my email and there it was.

“Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,  
It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the death of junior Trent Stetler of Havertown, Pennsylvania...”

There aren't many things that I feel passionate about or many things that I will take the time to speak out about, but suicide is one of them. This is something that lies close to my heart and something that I think Elon, and the world, needs to wake up to. On Jan. 11, 2015, the student body received an email from the Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Life, Smith Jackson. Unfortunately, a junior at Elon, Trent, decided to take his own life this weekend. The email was a clear and concise message sent to make the Elon student body aware of Trent's passing. Tears are being shed, hearts are breaking, hands are shaking, and voices are screaming. There is no rhyme or reason, no possible explanation for someone described as super positive to take such drastic measures. Mr. Jackson's email was necessary, respectful and advised the grieving to talk with someone, but I want to focus on something a little more specifically — a wake up call. We don't need to

be sitting in a room by ourselves talking about this one on one with a therapist. We need to be talking about this to our peers — and loudly. Grieve together, talk about the difference this makes and talk about change.

Depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses are real. There is no debate anymore. If anyone argues the reality of chemical imbalances in the human brain, they haven't even checked Google yet. The human body and every organ in it has the capability to be flawed and in turn we have come up with ways to compensate. However, when it comes to the flawed nature of our brain, we shy away. We can't even mutter the words, “I struggle with depression” without feeling like a failure — especially if we are medicated.

But why?  
If you have hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, back pain, over-active thyroid or a myriad of other things, it is treated with medication. So, what is different about an anti-depressant or anti-psychotic? Why are we not okay being vulnerable about the brain?

Depression is hard because it is so much more complex than any other imbalance in a human organ. It is a dark place to exist simply spurred on by the flaw of an organ. Add misfit brain chemistry with a human's past, vulnerabilities and their personality and you have the perfect formula for possibly one of the biggest struggles a human can endure in my opinion. People are quick to judge therapy and medication, but this isn't just a game of mind-over-matter. For people

with depression, it's like a funeral inside the mind every day. It blurs the distinction between reality and illusion. A person suffering from depression is loved, but convinced they aren't worth loving. They have good around them, but only see how things could get worse. They see pain and feel it 10-fold until everything is numb. They fight this on a daily basis because society has shamed them into thinking these thoughts are a sign of weakness and failure, instead of a condition. It's hard and it's not fair, so it's time to wake up.

**“FOR PEOPLE WITH DEPRESSION, IT'S LIKE A FUNERAL INSIDE THE MIND EVERY DAY . . . A PERSON SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION IS LOVED, BUT CONVINCED THEY AREN'T WORTH LOVING”**

**SAMI MARENNYI**

It's time to wake up to the fact that people walking around you, people that are smiling, people that are the 'super positive' ones could be suffering on the inside more than we know. It's not one person's job to ask each smiling person the condition of their psyche, but it is our responsibility as a society to create an environment where discussion and vulnerability are acceptable for women and men. This year, I held one of my guy friends more times than I can count while he cried about how he was never going to get better. I knew he would, but he was in the dark and couldn't see that. So, I stayed, sat and hugged. There are

no magic words, there is no perfect gift, and there is no right action. There is only love. Society needs to be a place where someone can say “I need help” and people coming running.

It's hard — it isn't easy to be a support, but it's necessary. I have seen many people fall this semester, and it has been my honor to help them back up. When you are holding a broken person, always think of it as an honor to see them honestly and heal their heart even the slightest bit.

It is not a burden and they are not crazy. They are humans — people with a heart, friends and family. This is a battle that can not always be fought alone, nor should it be. This is something that isn't easily fixed and won't go away immediately. There will still be struggle and there will still be hurt in the world, but the more we talk about it and the more we see it, the more lives we can save. People are scared of the unknown, but it's time to dive in. Everyone deals with depression differently, but they need their people

more than anything else. As Jamie Tworowski said, “You will need other people and you will need to be that other person to someone else, a living breathing screaming invitation to believe better things.” It's okay to be flawed, and open, and loved. So here's what I say, as individuals and more so as a student body, it's time to stand up and help these people fight for the light instead of losing them to a misconception and a distortion of independence and strength.

Again, my thoughts and condolences to Trent's family and friends. I hope they are surrounded by warmth and love right now.

## Elon alumni video among 10 finalists in Doritos commercial contest

Ally Feinsot  
Senior Reporter

A romantic view from a rooftop as the sun goes down, a bag of Doritos and the girl of your dreams. What could go wrong?

The commercial, "What Could Go Wrong," by Elon University's Alex Pepper, '11, is one of 10 finalists competing in the 2015 Doritos Crash the Super Bowl Contest. Pepper beat almost 5,000 submissions for the coveted finalist spot, where he is up for the grand prize of \$1 million and a one-year contractor job working at Universal Pictures in Hollywood.

The commercial features Mark St. Cyr, '10, who encourages his friend — played by Pepper — to go on a date with his beautiful next-door neighbor. The two begin dancing on the roof, but Pepper's character slips on a bag of Doritos and accidentally throws his neighbor off the roof.

Pepper also enlisted the help of Kristen Sandler, '13, and Sarah Linn Reedy, '10, to bring his idea to life.

"Alex conceptualized the whole thing," Sandler said. "He is truly a

portive, creative and talented friends to execute his vision in the most successful way possible.

"I had to pull it all together in about two weeks, which included finding dancers, someone to run the camera and then edit it all together in a program I've only been using for six months," Pepper said. "Our budget was only \$80."

Though there was little room for error because of the tight budget and short amount of time available, Sandler said her role as videographer benefited tremendously from her experiences at Elon. She graduated with a BFA in dance performance and choreography but discovered different fields that allowed her to contribute to the commercial even more.

"While at Elon, I got involved in the musical theater department, music technology and communications through a myriad of different projects," Sandler said. "These experiences, along with the personal connections I have made, played a large role in creating this commercial."

St. Cyr, who studied acting at Elon, added that his background in perform-



Elon alumnus Alex Pepper appears in his submission to the Doritos Crash the Super Bowl Contest.

alumni on the commercial made it a simply fun afternoon creating with friends."

Pepper, who earned a BFA degree in dance and music theater, explained that Elon gave him the skills for photography and videography, key components in the creation of the commercial.

"I learned how to use cameras for my senior dance thesis, which was a dance-for-camera piece," Pepper said. "I got help from communications major Stephanie Olsen ['11], where I learned how to use Final Cut Pro and work in the editing labs. All of my dance, acting and comedic classes helped shape my timing and execution for the video."

"What Could Go Wrong?" has already landed the team seats at the Super Bowl, but the grand prize of \$1 million

St. Cyr said he would feel more than grateful if the commercial won the grand prize, though he already feels grateful to have so much support.

"If our commercial won, I would take a vacation with my girlfriend, Kat Nardizzi ['12], and save and invest half of my portion so I can continue to be free to create and not worry about money for a while," St. Cyr said.

Additionally, both St. Cyr and Pepper noted they would love to use the money to give back to the communities that helped shape them as performers and create opportunities for other artists. Whether his commercial wins the competition or not, Pepper is grateful for what he has so far.

"Watching the Super Bowl from a private suite at the 30-yard line with Elizabeth Banks is already really cool," Pepper said.

As long as he doesn't drop anyone off the edge of the suite.

Visit <https://crashthesuperbowl.doritos.com/finalists#/6520> to vote for Alex Pepper's submission.

**"THE PERFORMING ARTS COMMUNITY AT ELON IS A VERY SUPPORTIVE AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT INSTILLS IN YOU A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ABILITIES."**

**MARK ST. CYR '10**

ing arts helped him prepare for his role in the commercial.

"The performing arts community at Elon is a very supportive and creative environment that instills [in] you a lot of confidence in your abilities," St. Cyr said. "That freedom to create, play and listen while collaborating with fellow

looms overhead.

"If we won, I would be ecstatic and probably use the money to invest in owning an apartment in New York, so the obscene money that I spend on rent actually goes toward something," Sandler said.

## Commander and Thief: a recap of House of Cards

Caroline Perry  
Senior Reporter



After eight nominations and a slew of performances, Kevin Spacey, who plays

Frank Underwood in political thriller "House of Cards," won his first Golden Globe for Best Actor in a TV Drama last week.

He joins fellow cast member Robin Wright, who won Best Actress in a TV Drama in 2014 for her role as Claire Underwood, Spacey's on-screen wife.

The series itself has not won a Golden Globe for Best TV Drama despite critical acclaim and consecutive nominations.

After Spacey's win, Netflix released the trailer for the third season of "House of Cards." The trailer features the Underwoods in the aftermath of their vengeful political antics.

Though the new trailer cast the characters in a darker light than before, the first season itself was telling of the Underwoods' deviant ways.

If you haven't jumped aboard the "House of Cards" bandwagon by committing your time to seasons one and two, hang on.

Season One begins when Underwood, the House of Representatives majority whip, is passed over for Secretary of State, despite being previously promised this position by President Garrett Walker. From this moment on, Frank and Claire are bent on revenge.

Zoe Barnes, a political reporter played by Kate Mara, serves as Frank's mistress and puppet in the press for the majority of the first season. While she gains sensitive political information to further her career, she simultaneously is manipulated into selectively leaking stories to the press that Frank can use against his opponents.

As part of his master plan, Frank supports alcoholic congressman Peter Russo, played by Corey Stoll, for

governor of Pennsylvania. Frank then tricks Russo into publicly humiliating himself, causing him to blow the election. When Russo tries to expose Frank for the diabolical man he is, Frank kills Russo, staging it to look like a suicide.

Frank's plans begin to fall perfectly in line when the vice president of the United States steps down to fill the spot Russo left open, and the season ends with Frank accepting the nomination for vice president.

The second season reveals the further actions and manipulations of the Underwoods. After Barnes starts to unravel Frank's dark past, she meets an untimely death at a subway platform. The truth of Frank's devious past is once again buried.

Relentlessly power hungry, Frank continues his quest for the presidency. Meanwhile, as Frank's deceptions start to raise suspicions, his close associates tie up his loose ends.

In the climatic season finale, Frank incriminates Walker, forcing his resignation and clearing the way for him to claim the most powerful position in the free world: President of the United States of America.

Frank, with the help of his wife, clawed his way to the top of the power totem poll. But at what cost? Season Three should answer this question and showcase the deception and sordid affairs of politics.

The third season will be released on Netflix Feb. 27.



# Social justice movement renews drive

*Prompted by Ferguson protests, Elon students find meaning in activism*

Danielle Deavens  
Senior Reporter

A little more than 50 days ago, a Missouri grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson for the death of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown. People across the country tuned in the evening of Nov. 24 to hear St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert P. McCulloch announce the verdict.

A handful of those viewers were Elon University students sitting in the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education (CREDE), who watched in shock and disbelief. The silence of mixed emotions lasted only a short time — the students, including sophomore Kennedy Ojimadu and junior Jonathan Glover, quickly launched into a discussion about what could be done.

“With the release of that information we were all frustrated, surprised,” Ojimadu said. “There were a lot of emotions in the room. But we wanted to put it toward something productive, something that we could possibly do here on campus.”

Word of a potential protest spread quickly around Elon, with students brainstorming via text message and social media and CREDE acting as an unofficial command center. When senior D’Netria Spear joined students in CREDE, she made a suggestion that would be the impetus for a string of actions on campus.

“[Spear] really is the one who kind of came up with the ‘Let’s take it from having this discussion to an action,’” Glover said.

The frustration of the students initially led to ideas for controversial chants and signs, but the group decided another way might be more effective.

“It became the question of, ‘What’s more important, showing how angry you are or getting your point across?’” Glover



Elon students silently express their frustration over recent jury verdicts regarding social justice at the annual Luminaries celebration. FILE PHOTO BY HALI TAUJE-STEWART

said. “And that’s when it got toned down into a silent protest.”

The protest was held during Elon’s annual Luminaries celebration Dec. 6. Students held signs and candles but remained silent. Spear said the message seemed unclear.

“There were some negative comments that came from it,” she said. “Out of the negative, I saw that a lot of people felt like it was too aggressive, or was an inappropriate time to protest.”

The feedback gave her the idea for an event that would allow students to showcase artistic representations of their opinions on social justice in the United States and beyond. She decided to call it “Let

Us Breathe,” a phrase that trended on social media. It later became the mantra of protestors upset by a lack of indictment against the officer involved with the death of Eric Garner.

“‘Let Us Breathe’ was an idea that I had to say, ‘We’re not going to protest, we’re just going to talk about these issues, but let’s talk about them artistically,’” Spear said. “Let’s dance, let’s sing, let’s do spoken word, let’s show you art.”

“Let Us Breathe” will be a safe space for students to express their own experiences or perform songs, dances or poetry. Spear has reached out to a cappella groups, performing arts students and other talents to reach a broader audience for this event, which is set for Feb. 5.

In planning this event, which is co-sponsored by CREDE and Elon’s National PanHellenic Council, Spear has developed a clearer view of why diversity remains an unresolved issue at Elon.

“I feel like ignorance is a big issue on Elon’s campus,” she said. “People just don’t know how to deal with other people that aren’t like them. Oftentimes it makes us uncomfortable. So I think that if we can promote awareness about this issue in particular, then it will give that space for people to know how to communicate about it in the future.”

She hopes this event will lead to greater understanding of why people nationwide were upset by the

deaths of these men.

While the event aims to allow students to express themselves and their opinions, Spear will see each act that signs up. This screening process was put into place to ensure the event remains respectful and, above all, aims to include the Elon community in a discussion instead of placing blame.

“I want people to understand that this event is not to target anyone,” Spear said. “It’s not to say, ‘This is your fault.’ It is an event to stress that point of awareness. That’s one of the reasons why I didn’t want it to be an open mic event. I want it to be [about] awareness and to provide understanding.”

Glover agreed, adding that he aims to continue the momentum of the initial protest and the upcoming artistic showcase. He and a few other students plan to stage another peaceful protest this spring. He said these actions are in protest of the system responsible for these deaths and grand jury verdicts — they do not aim to place blame on members of the Elon community.

“We’re not mad at Elon,” Glover said. “They didn’t do anything. We came to the conclusion that we’re not upset at Darren Wilson either. We’re disappointed in the system that allows him to get away with it. So that’s the point that we really need to bring across.”

Spear and Glover, who are leading plans for “Let Us Breathe,” invite students from all backgrounds to attend. They welcome those who support the protests as well as those who do not.

“I want enlightenment. I’m not asking for you to agree. I’m asking for you to understand,” Spear said.

“Let Us Breathe” will be held at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5, in the Numen Lumen Pavilion’s McBride Gathering Space. Prospective showcase acts should contact student coordinator D’Netria Spear at dspear2@elon.edu before Jan. 29 to sign up.



# Documentarian embraces ethnic heritage

*Kip Fulbeck encourages acceptance, celebration of racial background through art*

**Caroline Perry**  
Senior Reporter

In a dimly lit green room in the back of Elon University's McCrary Theatre, artist, spoken word performer and filmmaker Kip Fulbeck described a vivid memory from his childhood.

"I remember a girl in fifth grade saying, 'I know you like me. Why would I like you? You're brown,'" Fulbeck said.

It is this side of Fulbeck that the audience glimpsed when he performed "Race, Sex and Tattoos" Jan. 15, part of the 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Beloved Community Celebration event series.

Fulbeck explored the contemporary United States' role in celebrating diversity through the spoken word and other media.

"I think every kid doesn't feel accepted for some ways, you know," Fulbeck said. "It could be for economics, it could be for physical stature, whatever it is. But certainly race and ethnicity played a big role for me."

The 49-year-old grew up in a time when his parents' interracial marriage was considered illegal in many states. It was only in 1967 that the Supreme Court overturned laws prohibiting such unions.

"My family is full-blooded Chinese from China, so I grew up as the white kid at home," he said. "I was the kid who didn't get the language, like the food. ... Then I go to school, and I'm like the Asian kid at school, and they're like, 'Let's put the Chinese kid in the trashcan, yeah!'"

From these pieces, Fulbeck channeled his questions and thoughts about identity into the Hapa Project. Photographs of more than 1,200 volunteers laid the foundation.

"[Hapa is] a Hawaiian word for 'half,' and I first heard it when I was three or four years old in California," Fulbeck said. "When I was a kid I thought it just meant Asian-white, because that's what I knew."

Beginning in 2001, Fulbeck photographed thousands of volunteers who self-identified as Hapa, someone with mixed ethnic heritage with partial roots in Asian and/or Pacific Islander ancestry.

He photographed every person the same way: bare skin from the shoulders up, natural expression and minimal makeup.

After taking the photos, Fulbeck posed a simple question: "What are you?"

The results were greater than he ever imagined.

"I would do a shoot in San Francisco and get there at 6 o'clock for a 7 o'clock shoot, and there would be 45 people waiting outside," Fulbeck said. "I think when people have lived in a time where no one is telling your story, no one is acknowledging your existence, and you're given an opportunity to say something, you're like, 'Oh, I've got something to say.'"

Fulbeck has since transformed these pictures and written statements into an exhibition that has been showcased in museums across the nation. People passing through have the opportunity to take a picture of themselves and compose a written statement. The idle museumgoers become active participants in creating art and celebrating identity. In one museum, the walls were filled with pictures after a mere four hours.

"I was hoping [the walls] would fill up in four months [with pictures]," Fulbeck said. "That was my goal. I had no idea it would fill up like that. I've always been surprised by how many people will gravitate toward my projects," Fulbeck said.

Fulbeck is no stranger to holding the attention of a room. When he isn't creating collections, Fulbeck teaches for the University of California at Santa Barbara. He established high standards for those who enroll in his classes.

"I hope that they leave more conscious. I drop them if they don't," he said. "They

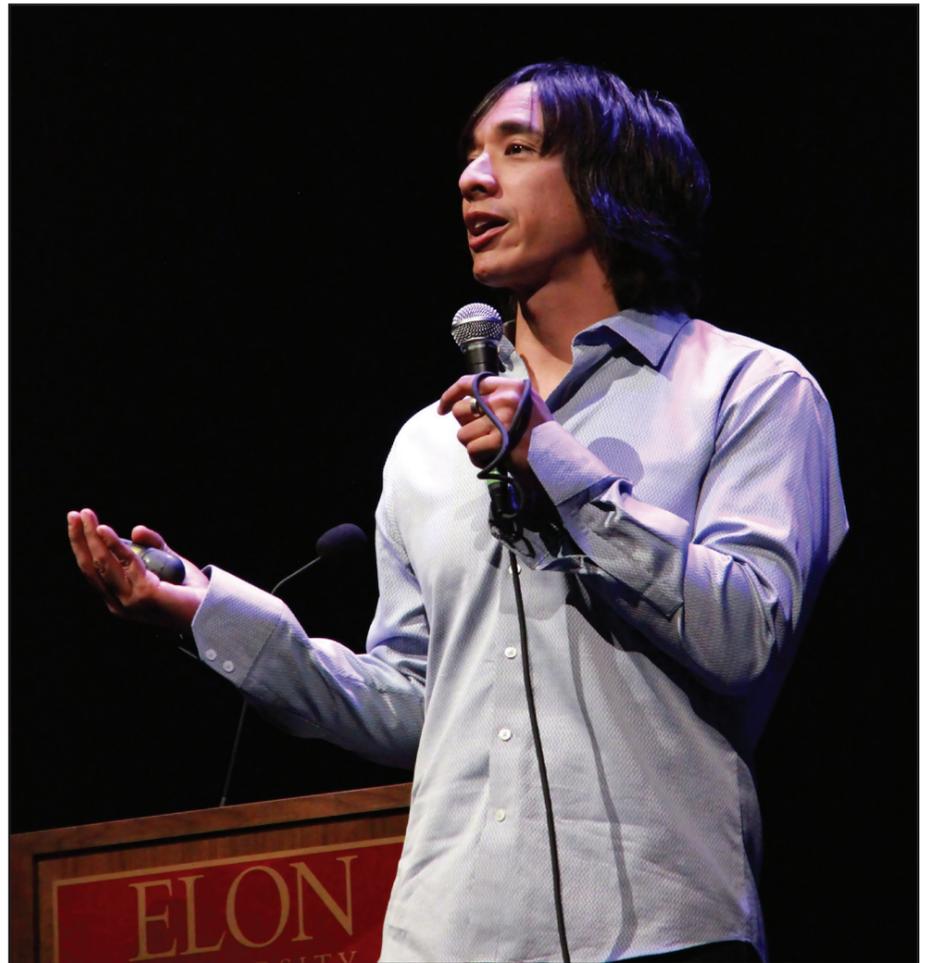
have to be aware of what's around them. I want them to understand their place and pick their battles, especially the politically active ones."

Fulbeck extended the same expectations to his children. Upon the completion of his tour, Fulbeck's immediate future plans are to be a dad to his two children for a while and to take a break from constantly working and traveling for his pieces.

As for the girl in fifth grade who didn't

like him, she seems to have moved on.

"The hardest part for me is looking back, and it wasn't that she said that," Fulbeck said. "I mean, we're friends on Facebook now. The problem was that in my head I was like, 'Oh yeah, that makes total sense, why would you like me?' It's that acceptance and the self-hate — that's the hard part. That's the reason I do this work with people, to explore their own identities, their own words."



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Artist Kip Fulbeck explains his desire to promote self-acceptance among people of mixed heritage.

# Fierce, flawless, feminist: the one and only Queen B

**Hannah Durbin**  
Assistant Style Editor

Forbes named Beyonce the 17th most powerful woman in the world in 2014. Those surprised by this announcement obviously hadn't been following Beyonce's meteoric rise to superstar power.

In the Burst the Bubble class "Beyonce's Recipe for Taking Over the World," students get the opportunity to study Beyonce's roles as entrepreneur, artist, feminist and international superstar.

"[Beyonce] is a powerhouse of excellence, and, I believe, the epitome of what our generation stands for and represents," said junior Evan Candler, the class's facilitator.

By fostering an intellectual climate that encourages students to engage with each other over a common interest, the course allows students to focus on a variety of issues ranging from analyzing Beyonce's albums to her impact on modern society as an African-American woman.

This free program led by students, for students, is held only twice a week, but no day is alike.

Each day in this class is anything but typical. Kicking the class off by watching one of Beyonce's live performances is

a must, in order to "bless the state of the room," Candler said. Students then get the chance to prove themselves by answering Beyonce trivia, engaging in discussion, watching interviews and unreservedly dancing to "Crazy In Love."

Some have claimed to acquire "Beyonce syndrome" over the years — possibly due in part to the 75 million records she has sold or her strong feminist appeal. Beyonce has established a following throughout her career that includes some of the world's most prominent people, such as First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama, who salutes Beyonce as a positive influence for her two daughters.

"She's an incredibly dynamic individual who executes all of her roles so flawlessly," Candler said.

The Burst the Bubble program allows students to think critically and analytically while maintaining a relaxed atmosphere.

The opportunity to take a Burst the Bubble class only comes once a year. By signing up, students are treating their higher education as the privilege that it is. Knowledge is power, and students should take advantage of the opportunity to learn about something interesting in an informal setting.

It doesn't take much convincing to get

some involved in a class relating to Beyonce, but sometimes the load of Winter Term can bear heavily on a student's shoulders without additional commitments. Although adding another thing to the to-do

list doesn't necessarily sound ideal, Burst the Bubble classes allow students to take a break from the daily routine and socialize with peers over a popular topic.

**BURST THE BUBBLE:**

BEYONCE'S RECIPE FOR TAKING OVER THE WORLD



GRAPHIC BY MIRANDA SIWAK | Design Editor

# New Year's resolutions: not all the rage

Miranda Siwak  
Senior Reporter

Every new year, people make the same resolutions, with typical goals such as losing weight,

volunteering, getting a better job, eating healthier, traveling and being more eco-friendly. But this year it seems like the new trend is for people to neither make

resolutions nor stick to one of the traditional “exercise more, eat less” resolutions.

Those who don't make resolutions feel that they shouldn't use the New Year as an excuse to make lifestyle changes.

“I make healthy-eating resolutions year after year — however, I really do struggle keeping up with them,” said Elon University freshman Katy Bellotte.

Bellotte plans

to work on two resolutions this year: take better care of her skin and improve her vocabulary. Bellotte discusses her motivations in more detail on her YouTube channel, “HelloKaty.”

“When I got home from college three weeks ago, I decided to change my skincare regimen and just focus on keeping my skin bacteria-free and clean,” Bellotte said. “Also, I think having a very good vocabulary is key to succeeding in life, and I hope in 2015 I can learn more big words. I'm very excited about it. I think that if I learn one new word a day, it'll help me in the long run.”

Resolutions are said to be opportunities to work on a new and improved self with the beginning of a new calendar year. They start with the best of intentions, but can be difficult to follow through on over the course of the year.

“This year, I intend to actually complete and follow through with my resolutions,” Bellotte said. “I've made half-hearted resolutions in the past, but this year I hope I'll stick with them.”

Sophomore Hailey Fleishman hopes to use her resolution for 2015 as a way to get out of her comfort zone. She said being in college has made her branch out and try new things, something she wants to continue to embrace in the New Year. Her ultimate goal is to have a happier, healthier year than the last.

“For 2015, my New Year's resolution is to venture out of my comfort zone, try new things and go to new places,” Fleishman

said. “I plan to enact my resolution by writing down my goals for the year and making lists of the places and activities I want to do.”

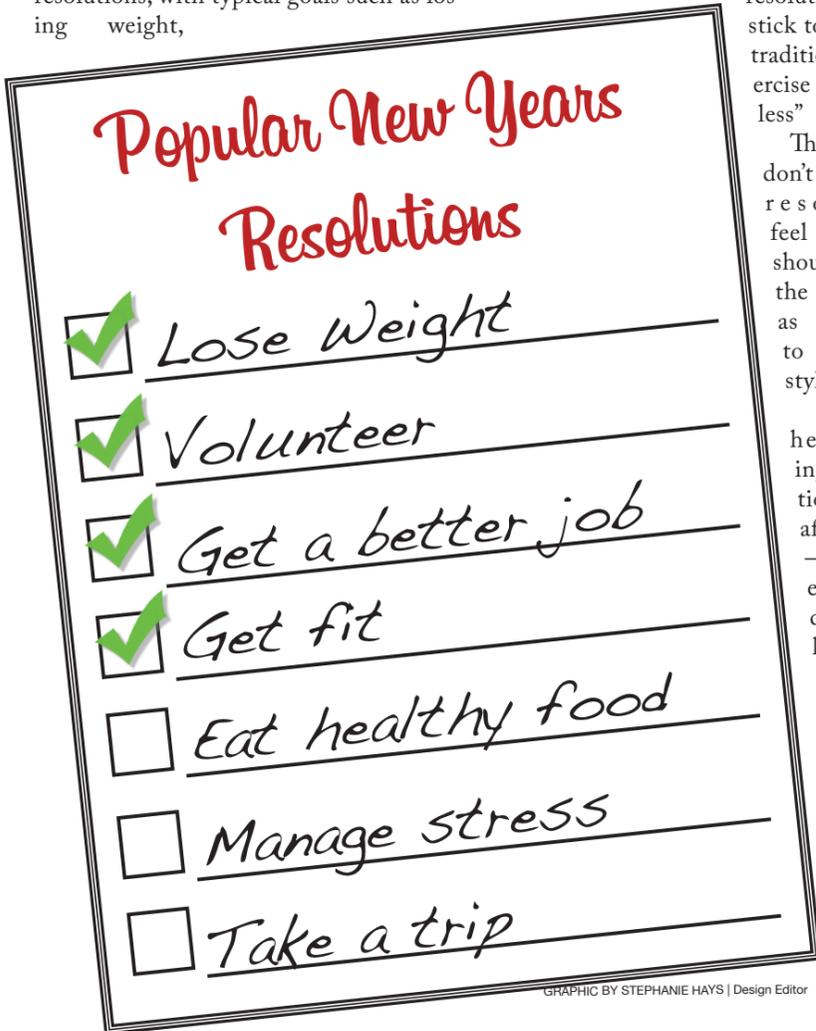
Traveling more is a popular category for resolutions, which can influence specific goals of visiting new locations, learning new languages and investigating new cultures.

“I was inspired to make this resolution because I will soon be studying abroad and I want to take advantage of every opportunity I have now to travel to new places,” Fleishman said. “I want to explore more of North Carolina, hopefully get an internship in Atlanta, and I'm really hoping to study abroad next spring in Perth [Australia].”

To Fleishman, a New Year's Resolution is a “commitment to oneself to find what will make life meaningful and striving to work towards that moving forward.”

Real Simple magazine found that only 8 percent of people actually keep their resolutions. The magazine explained how the top tweeted goals for 2014 were to be happy and to exercise more. They advised readers to put extra thought into resolutions to make goals more attainable.

“If you want to make a positive change in your life, you shouldn't have to wait until Jan. 1 to begin living your life differently,” Bellotte said.



## Fresh script, innovative design rejuvenate classic

Lauren Phillips  
Assistant Style Editor

This Winter Term, Elon University's Performing Arts Department has taken on a new challenge: remaking a classic.

Sophocles wrote “Antigone” around 440 BC, and the tragedy has been the definition of a true classic for the nearly 2,500 years that have passed since. A show with such a lengthy history may have already undergone countless interpretations, but Elon's Fred Rubeck and Karl Green are doing their best to present “Antigone” in an entirely new light.

Rubeck and Green, chair of the Department of Performing Arts and assistant professor of performing arts, respectively, have given the true classic a contemporary update.

Rubeck's goal was to adapt the script so it appealed to a more modern audience.

“I was really trying to preserve the impact of the historic work but make it more palatable to modern audiences,” Rubeck said. “The story and issues are the same, but the manner in which we tell it, from the script through the design, is new.”

“Antigone” takes place in the city of Thebes in ancient Greece. The title character is the daughter of Oedipus and his mother, Jocasta. Unfortunate circumstances force Antigone — played by senior Gabrielle Toledo — to choose between what she thinks is right and what authority says is right.

Rubeck said this conflict will appeal to a college audience.

“This is really a young person's play,” he said. “It pits authority against conviction,

duty to self and family versus rules and laws.”

While Rubeck updated the script, Green focused on giving the show a new vision.

Charged with producing costumes for a show with a limited budget and a relatively short production time, Green was hard-pressed to create a style that presented the show's original themes while reflecting Rubeck's new script.

Green, who has a background in fashion, said it fell into place. “I knew I wanted to do Bauhaus,” he said. “A mix of Bauhaus and high fashion.”

Bauhaus is a German school of art that combine crafts and the fine arts. Pieces in this style are blocky with sharp edges and different geometric shapes. By mixing geometric elements of Bauhaus with the luxury and elegance of high fashion, Green created a unique blend of styles that he calls “sculptural avant-garde.”

“I'm a fashion person, and this was an opportunity to do what I want,” he said. “I have free reign in costume direction. I'm at my most creative right now.”

Green also had to establish a connection between his timeless, eye-catching costumes and the themes of the show.

“Tragedy can happen at any time, in any place,” he said. “I wanted to create a timeless style that reflects that. It's very interesting to create a world that doesn't exist.”

In Green's world, clothing is colorless. The 24-person chorus is dressed in shades of light gray, with the four royal characters set apart in black and silver garments. The costumes are designed to stand out against the traditional Greek set.



**Elon professor and costume designer Karl Green spent months establishing a unique avant-garde visual element for “Antigone.”**

“[Green's visual approach] is striking and creative,” Rubeck said. “I think it will help the audience see the characters and their situations in fresh ways. They should not expect some old-fashioned production with ancient costumes and poetry they cannot understand.”

Green agreed. “The audience should make their own interpretations,” he said. We don't want

to tell them how to react to this show,” he added.

Performances of “Antigone” are Friday, Jan. 23 through Monday, Jan. 26 and Wednesday, Feb. 4 through Saturday, Feb. 7. Weeknight showings are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday showings are at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday showing is at 2 p.m. All performances are in Roberts Theatre in Scott Studios.

FILE PHOTO BY HALI TALUXE-STEWART

# Review: Golden Globes celebrate progressive, diverse roles

Lauren Phillips  
Assistant Style Editor

“Welcome, you bunch of despicable, spoiled, minimally talented brats.”

With that inspired greeting, Tina Fey kicked off the 72nd Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 11. Fey and her co-host, fellow comedian and SNL alumna Amy Poehler, hosted the show for their third and final year. The duo has been praised for its brilliant hosting and unfiltered commentary, and whomever the Hollywood Foreign Press Association taps to host next year’s show will be hard-pressed to match their success.

This year’s Golden Globes upheld its tradition of edgy decisions and semi-intoxicated celebrity attendees. Benedict Cumberbatch, beloved of the Internet, literally jumped out of his seat at the opportunity to present the award for Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture with Jennifer Aniston. J.K. Simmons won the award for his role in “Whiplash.” Comedian Ricky Gervais, who hosted the show from 2009 to 2011, giggled tipsily throughout his presentation of the Best Lead Actress in a Motion Picture — Comedy or Musical award, which was given to Amy Adams for her role in “Big Eyes.”

The night’s big winners were “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” Wes Anderson’s latest film, and “Boyhood,” Richard Linklater’s epic 12-year project. They took the awards for Best Motion Picture — Comedy or Musical and Best Motion Picture —

Drama, respectively. Linklater also won the award for Director.

George Clooney was presented with the Cecil B. DeMille Award, an honorary Golden Globe Award bestowed for “outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment.” Past honorees include Walt Disney, Elizabeth Taylor and Harrison Ford. Clooney gamely put up with teasing from the show’s hosts regarding his recent marriage to successful human rights lawyer Amal Ramzi Alamuddin Clooney. He delivered a swoon-worthy acceptance speech in which he thanked his wife, saying, “Amal, whatever alchemy it is that brought us together, I couldn’t be more proud to be your husband.”

These winners deserved their awards, but they were ultimately safe bets. “Boyhood” won the 2015 Critics’ Choice Award for Best Picture, which “The Grand Budapest Hotel” was also nominated for, and Linklater won a second award for his direction of the film. The two films and Linklater received Oscar nominations, as well.

The Golden Globes’ major film awards were unsurprising, but the winners for television certainly made up for them. “Transparent,” the Amazon Studios-produced story of a transgender woman and her family that is streamed online by Amazon Instant Video, won Best TV Comedy or Musical. It was the first Best Series win by a streaming service, but, more importantly, the award recognized a provocative, diverse and progressive series. Jeffrey Tambor won the award for Lead Actor — TV Comedy



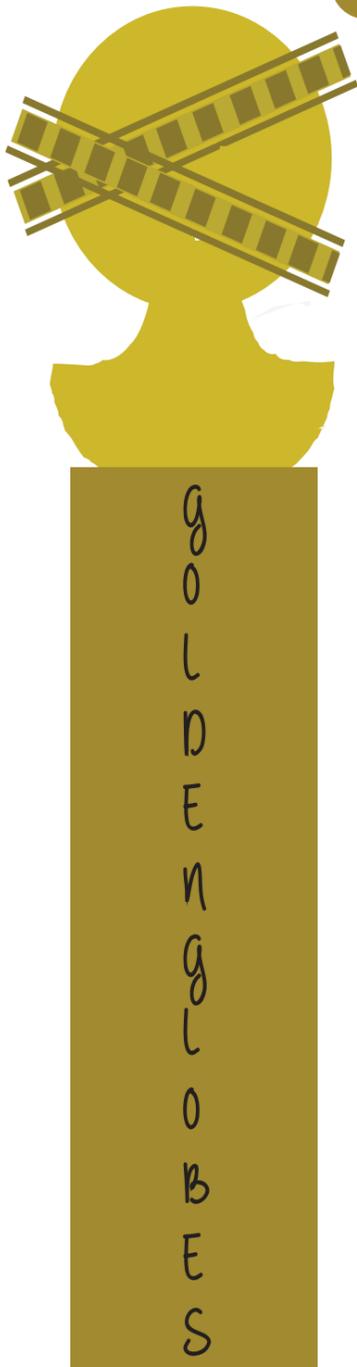
PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
Tina Fey (left) and Amy Poehler (right) pose on the red carpet before beginning their final Golden Globes.

for his sensitive and respectful portrayal of Maura, the show’s transgender protagonist.

In another unexpected decision, The Hollywood Foreign Press Association gave the award for Lead Actress — TV Comedy or Musical to Gina Rodriguez, star of The CW’s “Jane the Virgin.” Rodriguez was the

only non-white actor or actress to be honored during the show, and it was The CW’s first-ever win. These historic wins may not reflect an industry-wide trend yet, but they’re steps in the right direction. Hopefully, in the next few years the other awards shows will follow suit.

## And the award goes to...



**Best Motion Picture – Drama**  
“Boyhood”

**Lead Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama**  
Eddie Redmayne – “The Theory of Everything”

**Lead Actress in a Motion Picture- Drama**  
Julianne Moore – “Still Alice”

**Best Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical**  
“The Grand Budapest Hotel”

**Lead Actor in a Motion Picture- Comedy or Musical**  
Michael Keaton – “Birdman”

**Lead Actress – TV Drama**  
Ruth Wilson – “The Affair”

**Director**  
Richard Linklater – “Boyhood”

**Lead Actor – TV Drama**  
Kevin Spacey – “House of Cards”

**Best TV Drama**  
“The Affair”

**Actress – TV Miniseries or Movie**  
Maggie Gyllenhaal – “The Honorable Woman”

**Foreign Film**  
“Leviathan,” Russia

**Lead Actor – TV Comedy**  
Jeffrey Tambor – “Transparent”

**Screenplay**  
Alejandro G. Inarritu, Nicolas Giacobone, Alexander Dinclaris, Armando Bo – “Birdman”

**Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture**  
Patricia Arquette – “Boyhood”

**Animated Feature**  
“How to Train Your Dragon 2”

**Lead Actress in a Motion Picture- Comedy or Musical**  
Amy Adams – “Big Eyes”

**Supporting Actor – Series, Miniseries, or TV movie**  
Matt Bomer – “The Normal Heart”

**Original Song – Motion Picture**  
Glory – “Selma” (John Legend, Common)

**Original Score – Motion Picture**  
Johann Johannsson – “The Theory of Everything”

**Best TV Comedy or Musical**  
“Transparent”

**Lead Actress – TV Comedy or Musical**  
Gina Rodriguez – “Jane the Virgin”

**Actor – TV Miniseries or Movie**  
Billy Bob Thornton – “Fargo”

**TV Miniseries or Movie**  
“Fargo”

**Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries, or TV movie**  
Joanne Froggatt – “Downton Abbey”

**Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture**  
J.K. Simmons – “Whiplash”

## Men's and women's tennis open spring season on a sour note



The Elon men's and women's tennis teams got off to a slow start in the 2015 spring season with opening losses to South Carolina and North Carolina at Chapel Hill., respectively. CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

The Elon University men's and women's tennis teams opened up their spring schedule with a pair of losses against the University of South Carolina and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, respectively.

### Men's tennis loses opener to South Carolina

The men opened the season against the 27th-ranked Gamecocks Jan. 17 at the Carolina Tennis Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The Phoenix never found solid footing, and fell in 5-2 decision.

The only wins of the day for Elon came from matches by No. 1 singles player, senior Stefan Fortmann (6-4, 2-6, 1-0) and senior Juan Madrid in No. 6 singles (6-1, 7-5). Fortmann defeated Gamecocks senior Thiago Pinheiro in a closely contested match that ended in a third-set tiebreaker. Madrid

took care of business against South Carolina sophomore Sam Swank in a quick match. The senior won a straight set, earning the last victory for the Phoenix.

The rest of the day was not so kind to Elon.

South Carolina swept the rest of singles play, with the closest set coming in senior Brian Kowalski's 6-2, 7-5 loss at the hand of South Carolina sophomore Andrew Schaffer, the 83rd-ranked player in the country. Elon senior Jordan Kaufman put together a strong second-set effort in response to losing his first 6-1 but ultimately lost 7-6 at the hands of South Carolina freshman Harrison O'Keefe.

In doubles play, Elon's top tandem of Fortmann and Brian Kowalski was not enough to defeat the Gamecocks' duo of Pinheiro and Kyle Koch — the seniors lost a swift 6-1 match to the South Carolina players.

### Women fall short at UNC

The women's tennis team lost its opener to UNC, the fourth-ranked team in the nation.

Freshman Kamilla Beisenova earned the sole victory for the Phoenix in her 7-5, 4-6, 1-0 (10) victory over Tar Heels freshman Maggie Kane. Beisenova's win highlighted a sour showing for Elon in its season debut at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center in Chapel Hill.

The Tar Heels would go on to win the rest of singles play with ease. Elon freshman Kirsten Ward, in the No. 1 match, could not find a rhythm against eighth-ranked UNC sophomore Jamie Loeb in a 6-0, 6-0 decision. Junior Taylor Casey put up the strongest showing for the Phoenix in her 6-2, 6-2 defeat at the hands of UNC freshman Cassandra Vazquez to round out the No. 5 singles match.

## Women's track and field opens 2015 with strength

The Elon University women's track and field team opened the 2015 spring season on a high note, with two respectable showings at the Wake Forest Invite Jan. 10 and the Liberty Open Jan. 16-17.

At the Wake Forest Invite, Elon's first indoor event in more than a month, the Phoenix had multiple standout performances.

In the 400-meter run, junior Jennifer Esposito earned a third-place finish with a final time of 58.20, while senior Haley Laird finished the high jump event tied for third place after a 5'5" jump.

Senior Claire Smith represented the Phoenix in the pole vault by finishing sixth overall after clearing 10'6", while her teammate and fellow senior Melinda Hersey garnered an eighth-place finish with a personal-best of 9'10".

Sophomore Briana O'Grady rounded out the invitational in the weight throw with a seventh-place finish after a toss of 45' 4.25".

The Phoenix provided a better showing at the Liberty Open in Lynchburg, Virginia, that was highlighted by freshman Emily Dixon's pentathlon title after a score of 3,435 points. Dixon won three of her five events, including the high jump and shot put. She finished second in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.00 and freshman Lydia Laws finished close behind in fifth-place with her 9:30 finish.

Joining Dixon in the shot put was sophomore Bre'anna Warren, who put forth the second best mark in Elon history with a throw of 44' 4.25". With her record-breaking throw, Warren qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference final. Esposito added another victory for the Phoenix in the 400-meter run with a 57.91 final time.

Elon will return to Virginia Jan. 23-24, to participate in the Hokie Invite hosted by Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

## 2015 Men's Tennis Schedule

Friday, Jan. 23 – Utah @ Athens, GA; 9:00 a.m.  
 Saturday, Jan 24 – Georgia/Michigan State @ Athens, GA; TBD  
 Sunday, Jan. 25 – Georgia/Michigan State @ Athens, GA; TBD  
 Feb. 7 – at Old Dominion @ Norfolk, VA; 1:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 8 – at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) @ Richmond, VA; 1:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 11 – Campbell @ Elon, NC; 2:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 14 – Presbyterian @ Elon, NC; 1:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 14 – North Carolina A&T @ Elon, NC; 10:00 a.m.  
 Feb. 20 – Winthrop @ Elon, NC; 2:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 22 – UNC Wilmington @ Elon, NC; 2:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 28 – Wofford @ Elon, NC; 1:00 p.m.  
 March 1 – Gardner-Webb @ Elon, NC; 2:00 p.m.  
 March 7 – North Carolina Central @ Elon, NC; 9:00 a.m.

March 7 – Georgia Southern @ Elon, NC; 1:00 p.m.  
 March 12 – Longwood @ Elon, NC; 3:00 p.m.  
 March 15 – George Washington @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 March 21 – James Madison @ Elon, NC; 1:30 p.m.  
 March 24 – at College of Charleston @ Charleston, S.C.; 3:00 p.m.  
 March 25 – at USC Upstate @ Spartanburg, S.C.; 2:00 p.m.  
 April 2 – at Davidson @ Davidson, N.C.; 3:30 p.m.  
 April 4 – Charlotte @ Elon, NC; 1:00 p.m.  
 April 8 – at UNCG @ Greensboro, NC; 2:00 p.m.  
 April 11 at East Carolina @ Greenville, NC  
 April 16-19 – CAA Men's Tennis Championship @ Williamsburg, VA

## 2015 Women's Tennis Schedule

Feb. 7 – at Wake Forest @ Winston Salem, NC; 3:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 12 – at Gardner-Webb @ Boiling Springs, N.C.; 2:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 14 – North Carolina A&T @ Elon, NC; 10:00 a.m.  
 Feb. 14 – Washington & Lee @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 20 – South Carolina-Upstate @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 27 – at William & Mary @ Williamsburg, VA; 4:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 28 – at Towson @ Towson, MD; TBD  
 March 4 – UNCG @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 March 6 – Liberty @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 March 13 – at UNC Wilmington @ Wilmington, NC; 2:00 p.m.  
 March 15 – George Washington @ Elon, NC; 1:00 p.m.  
 March 18 – East Carolina @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.

March 21 – James Madison @ Elon, NC; 11:00 a.m.  
 March 24 – Savannah State @ Elon, NC; TBD  
 Mar. 25 – TBD  
 April 3 – at Charlotte @ Charlotte, NC; 12:00 p.m.  
 April 7 – Davidson @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 April 10 – College of Charleston @ Elon, NC; 2:30 p.m.  
 April 11 – North Carolina Central @ Elon, NC; 12:00 p.m.  
 April 16-19 – CAA Championship



# Freshman Elijah Bryant leading charge for Phoenix

Miles Garrett  
Sports Editor

The Elon University men's basketball team had been trailing the College of William & Mary for much of its Jan. 9 match-up against the Tribe.

Out of a timeout with 1:06 to play and the score tied 75-75, Elon head coach Matt Matheny called for freshman guard Elijah Bryant to pass to junior guard Tanner Samson off a screen, ideally setting up a 3-point shot.

But Bryant had something else in mind. Instead of following through with the pass, Bryant pulled Samson aside and decided to change it to a hand-off. Bryant noticed something in the William & Mary defense that led him to believe they would play a man-to-man defense that could make the pass go awry.

"I told Tanner to do a hand-off because I knew the guy was going to bump into me," Bryant said.

As the whistle blew to resume play, Bryant got the ball and found Samson with the hand-off.

The result was an open 3-pointer by the junior to give the Phoenix the lead, which it would not relinquish in a 85-79 victory.

Plays like this by the freshman sensation have warranted Bryant four Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Week honors.

"The more comfortable he has gotten [with the offense], he has gotten more comfortable to direct," Matheny said. "It has been a fun part of his progression."

As the Phoenix has fully embraced conference play, Bryant currently leads the team in almost every offensive statistical category. He holds the team lead in field goals (86), free throws (71), assists (49), blocks (8) and steals (23) and his 24 3-pointers put him at second on the team. His 267 total points and his average of 14.3 points per game are high marks for a freshman. While he is still inexperienced, his leadership skills are uncanny. According to Samson, it's just what the team expects.

"He has done a great job at being a leader for us at the point guard position," Samson said. "He's done really well adjusting to the offense, which is a big key to performing."

Coming into the season, the Phoenix was projected to finish in last place with its first season in the CAA ahead and a young roster present. With the help of Bryant and his teammates, Elon now sits in the middle of the CAA.

Bryant, along with Samson, has been the focus of an offense that has been averaging 72 points per game. Freshman guard Dmitri Thompson has provided much-needed



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elijah Bryant has led the Phoenix in almost every statistical offensive category since the injury to sophomore guard Luke Eddy suffered a knee injury on Dec. 20 against UNCG.

aggressiveness under the rim with his size that has taken some pressure off senior guards Austin Hamilton and Kevin Blake. The blend of youth and experience has proved a winning formula for the Phoenix.

After the game, Matheny described his team as being as deep as he has ever coached at Elon.

"I love our depth," he said. "This [William & Mary] is the third game in a week that we're playing 10 guys. I think that matters in the grind of conference play and I hope that it's a factor in the conference tournament."

Although Bryant now leads the team in offense, the Phoenix looked a lot different a few weeks ago.

Early in the season, Bryant and sophomore guard Luke Eddy were riding high with a steady stream of offensive output. Eddy led the team in scoring early on until he tore his ACL Dec. 20 against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since then, Bryant has taken the reins of the team.

"[Eddy's injury] would be a major blow for any team," Matheny said. "To play in those minutes like he has, and to play effectively has really provided a boost for this team."

A highlight of Bryant's play this season has been his quick shot selection that has occurred from as far away as the 3-point line, often with more than 20 seconds left on the shot clock. It is a highlight that has acted as a symbol of the trust Matheny has in Bryant and with his older teammates for him to make the shots.

"We have complete confidence in his ability," Matheny said.

"We're going to give him a lot of freedom with shot selection and decision-making. He's reaping the benefits of playing in the system."

With such trust begs the question of a freshman holding a leadership standing amongst the team. When asked about his status on the team, Bryant responded that he still has much to learn in Matheny's system, but he is an integral part of a still-growing roster.

"The main thing I need to focus on is to be more vocal on the court," he said. "Do the little things right. I consider myself a leader."

On a team lacking upperclassmen, Bryant's leadership has slowly begun to blossom under a trial by fire.

Though Bryant is still in the beginning of his career with three more years left to play, the ceiling for his game is sky-high. His work ethic and devotion to constant improvement on the court is what separates him from the average freshman college basketball player and is something he hopes to build upon in the future.

"I'm always trying to find a way to improve my game and try to work hard every chance I get," Bryant said. "Someone is always getting better than you every day that you're not out there working, and any chance I have at working on my game, I take advantage of."



## ELIJAH BRYANT

- + 14.1 POINTS PER GAME – 1ST ON THE TEAM
- + .376 FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE
- + .353 THREE-POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE
- + .763 FREE-THROW PERCENTAGE
- + 4-TIME COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (CAA) ROOKIE OF THE WEEK
- + EARNED CAA PLAYER OF THE WEEK ON JAN. 5

# CAA process taking time, but that's just fine

With a cyclonic ending still on his mind, Elon University men's basketball coach Matt Matheny chose to start his press conference by talking about the Colonial Athletic Association.



**Tommy Hamzik**  
Columnist

Elon had just been handed its third straight loss in the CAA, a 75-72 defeat to James Madison University in which senior guard Austin Hamilton's 3-pointer missed right before the final buzzer.

Instead of talking about that play, Matheny focused on the conference, in which it's clear Elon is still adjusting. There's a lot of work to be done, but it's nothing unexpected.

"We are faced with competing in the [CAA], which is brand new to us," Matheny said. "We're finding out very, very quickly what we anticipated — that there's a lot of good teams in this league and a lot of good coaches in this league."

James Madison attacked Elon with a zone defense, something Elon has rarely seen. It forced the Phoenix to either fire up 3-pointers — which were pretty well contested — or go for mid-range jumpers of which Elon made just one of all night.

Elon's post players, mainly senior Ryan Winters and junior Tony Sabato, would

get the ball near the free throw line with room to make a play. But the two combined for just nine points, furthering what's been a tough season for Elon's forwards.

The James Madison loss came on the heels of flattening home defeats to Hofstra University and College of Charleston. The Phoenix is 2-4 overall in CAA play.

Not to say that victories against Drexel University and the College of William & Mary were misleading, but Elon shot the ball extremely well both games. The Phoenix has shown it can overcome big deficits — Elon trailed James Madison by 10 with less than five minutes to play before cutting it to one in the final minute — but it has to learn how to win without having its best offensive night.

It's no secret that Elon relies on the 3-pointer, and junior Tanner Samson is the main culprit of that. He averages 12.5 points per game and attempts more than eight 3-pointers per contest. In fact, he's so locked in on shooting 3s that he's shooting 36.7 percent from long range but 21 percent from the rest of the field.

So when Samson struggles like he did against Hofstra (eight points) and College of Charleston (none), Elon needs a backup plan. It's a similar situation with freshman guard Elijah Bryant, who averaged 28.2 points in Elon's two CAA victories but has averaged 11.8 in the four losses while shooting a dismal 28.5 percent.

"[Bryant and Samson] are a huge part of our offense," Sabato said. "I wouldn't say we tend to struggle when they struggle. They'll continue to shoot the ball and bounce back."

The uniqueness of James Madison's zone was something Elon wasn't used to, but it's only a precursor of what's to come for the rest of the CAA slate. Every game, the Phoenix is facing a team it doesn't know much about.

"It's a different style of play we're not

familiar with," Matheny said. "I think that's one of the most difficult things for us is not knowing these things. It's tough, and it's every night. That's difficult."

Even though the Phoenix is six games into league play, the adjustment won't end anytime soon. That's why finding some sort of offensive rhythm will help.

As his opening statement after the James Madison loss showed, Matheny has the process at the forefront of his mind. But for now, there's no need for panic.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

The Phoenix has had to adjust in each game by facing unfamiliar opponents as members of the CAA.

## Team basketball, depth resulting in wins for Phoenix



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer

With such a young roster present, head coach Charlotte Smith has utilized the depth of talent she has to work with by preaching team basketball.

**Robbie Nanna**  
Senior Reporter

The transition from the Southern Conference to the Colonial Athletic Association has not yet proven too difficult a challenge for the Elon University women's basketball team.

After a semifinal loss to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the Southern Conference Tournament last season, the Phoenix knew it would need to prove itself moving into the Colonial Athletic

Association. To make the transition even more strenuous, Elon's leading scorer and only senior, Kelsey Harris graduated this past year, forcing veterans such as senior guard Zora Stephenson and senior forward Sam Coffey to step up. Although Harris's absence was significant to the team, head coach Charlotte Smith spoke of the tremendous leadership the returning veterans have displayed.

"I think Coffey and Stephenson have done a phenomenal job leading the charge for this team," Smith said.

Because of the leadership, the Phoenix is seeing results on the court. Elon is 11-6 overall and 4-2 in the CAA. As a result, Elon is sitting in third place in the CAA standings.

It's a drastic change from last season when Elon started 5-10. When asked why, the answer was unanimous: "depth."

This depth comes from the addition of talented freshmen such as guard Shay Burnett and center Malaya Johnson. The two freshmen have made a statement early in the season, becoming two of the three lead-

ing scorers for the Phoenix in their first 18 games of college basketball.

"Most teams that we are playing are worried about one person," said Stephenson. "On our team you can't just worry about one person because then somebody else will get you."

Since the end of December, the Phoenix has been on a hot streak, winning six of its last eight. Though the season is only just passing the halfway mark, some players are confident that this type of play can continue until March.

Last year, sophomore guard Lauren Brown was named to the SoCon All-Freshman team, and sophomore forward Jenifer Rhodes was named SoCon Freshman of the Year. Being able to recruit talented players like Johnson, Burnett, Brown and Rhodes attracts potential recruits to Elon and builds the character of the program.

But recruiting that talent is not an easy job.

"Everything is a process," Stephenson said. "Everything [Smith] has instilled in all of her players is coming to light this year."

A dozen games still remain in the season, all against CAA opponents. Two of these games are against teams the Phoenix has lost to: James Madison University and Drexel University.

Despite the impending challenges, Smith is not worried. In her 13th season coaching women's college basketball, she is confident in her team's chances in this coming postseason.

"That's what we have always felt from the beginning," Smith said. "We knew in the back of our minds that we can compete in the CAA."

Johnson is also confident in Elon's potential.

"We all know what we want to accomplish, and from that everything flows," she said.

# Johnson adds power, poise to blossoming Elon lineup

SPORTS SCHEDULE: THURSDAY, JAN. 22 - SATURDAY, JAN. 24

## Thursday, Jan. 22

Men's basketball vs. Towson, 7 p.m., Alumni Gym

Women's basketball @ UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.

## Friday, Jan. 23

Men's tennis vs. Utah @ Athens, Ga, 9 a.m.

Track and field Hokie Invitational @ Blacksburg, Va

## Saturday, Jan. 24

Men's basketball vs. Delaware, 7 p.m., Alumni Gym

Men's tennis vs. Georgia/ Michigan State @ Athens, Ga

Women's tennis @ Florida, 2 p.m. @ Gainesville, Fla

## Sunday, Jan. 25

Women's basketball vs. Northeastern, 7 p.m., Alumni Gym

Men's tennis vs. Georgia/Michigan State @ Athens, Ga

Women's tennis vs. Maryland/ Michigan State @ Athens, Ga

## Wednesday, Jan. 28

Men's basketball @ UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30

Women's basketball @ James Madison, 7 p.m.

Kyle Lubinsky  
Senior Reporter

From one court to another, Malaya Johnson has added an undeniable spark to the Elon University women's basketball team.

After playing basketball and volleyball in high school, Johnson decided to focus on basketball has had an immediate impact on the team's performance, averaging 8.8 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. She's made 56 percent of her shots from the floor and leads the team with 21 blocks.

"She adds a lot of things both offensively and defensively," said senior guard Zora Stephenson. "She adds to the team's basketball IQ. It's nice when a freshman can come in and be a student of the game."

Originally from Mount Airy Johnson came from a basketball family. Her father was a coach during her little league days. "All of my brothers and sisters played," she said. "I just continued to play because I liked it a lot."

As she grew older, she found herself playing both basketball and volleyball. She held a key role in her high school's 2012 Volleyball State Championship and was even named MVP. She was also named to the all conference team three times.

She excelled at basketball, too. Her high school, North Surry, won three consecutive conference championships during her tenure, and she was selected to the all conference team all three times.

Johnson said mental toughness and good footwork are important in volleyball, and both helped her make the transition from two sports to one. Johnson knew she would have to choose one sport over the other when she came to college.

"It was a really tough decision because I loved volleyball," she said. "At the end of the day, I just felt that basketball was my passion."

Johnson visited a lot of schools and was a late commit to Elon.

"My mom was really big on visiting everywhere that I had the opportunity to visit," she said. "She said, 'You'll know where you want to go when you're there.' Elon is where I enjoyed myself the most."

When Johnson showed interest in Elon, the coaching staff knew they had to do everything they could to recruit her.

"We knew out of high school that she was a very talented player who could come in and contribute immediately," said Elon head coach Charlotte Smith. "We're excited to have her for our team."

Her teammates also noticed her talent and she quickly became an integral part of the Phoenix game plan.

"Malaya adds a big offensive threat," said sophomore guard Lauren Brown. "Defensive players are always paying attention to her, and that just opens up things for other players on our team."

Johnson stands at 6'3," a height which often attracts double teams. But she isn't one to back down from a challenge. Her competitive nature has given her an extra advantage,



Freshman Malaya Johnson has been a boost for an Elon team that is within reach of the CAA tournament. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

especially in finishing plays. Smith finds it one of Johnson's greatest assets.

"She has a great level of confidence," Smith said. "She's done a good job of getting a solid move down, and does a great job finishing."

Johnson has been a key piece of the offense, scoring 22 points against Campbell University and 18 points against Lenoir-Rhyne University.

"It feels really good and makes me feel like I'm contributing," Johnson said. "That's what I feel like I need to do."

When she finds her rhythm on the court, she can be difficult to contain. Most of Johnson's key points have come under duress while around the rim, and her scrappiness has paid off.

"Malaya is very solid down low," Smith said. "She's done a phenomenal job of scoring inside."

Johnson joins reigning Southern Conference Freshman of the Year Jenifer Rhodes at center. It's a powerful combo that has led the attack in Elon's 11-6 start this year.

"She adds more depth at the [center] position," said Smith. "That's been one of the key tactics for our success."

Johnson strives to improve her game, whether it be shooting or footwork. She has worked hard to strengthen her finishing move, which has made her a handful for opposing defenses.

"She's always asking the most questions," Stephenson said. "She really wants to learn, which is the most important thing."

Basketball and volleyball are not Johnson's only talents, though. She is a member of Elon's gospel choir and plans to earn a degree in psychology.

"She's a very fun person to be around," Brown said with a smile. "She's always being silly and laughing, and she can sing really well."

Johnson brings a positive energy to the locker room and has had no trouble bonding with her teammates at Elon.

"She's super nice and always has a great attitude," Stephenson said. "She's just a great all-around person."

Though she has had an impressive start to her collegiate career, Johnson has no plans of slowing down any time soon. She hopes to keep the momentum going for the rest of her time with the Phoenix.

"My old coach always told me, 'Your best basketball is still ahead of you,'" she said. "I hope that I continue to do well and do the best I can."

GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Editor

# Sports Top Photos



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Junior Sam Hershberger celebrates Elon's 85-79 win against William & Mary Jan. 8.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Elijah Bryant shoots a free throw in Elon's game against Hofstra Jan. 10. The Phoenix lost 79-61.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Elon players talk strategy in a huddle during their game against William & Mary Jan. 8.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Tony Sabato, junior center, drives in for a layup in Elon's game against College of Charleston Jan. 14. The Phoenix lost 66-50.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Senior guard Kevin Blake shoots a layup in Elon's game against William & Mary Jan. 8.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Phoenix fans cheer on the men's basketball team during their game against the College of Charleston Jan. 14.

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