

THE PENDULUM

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

stretched thin

Increased tuition price tag leaves families longing for clearance sales

Sam Parker
 Senior Reporter

Although she's still a student, sophomore Rachael Creech said she worries about the educational future of her siblings. The oldest of three children and the only one currently in college, she said she doubts her brother and sister will enjoy the same experiences she's had as a student.

"With my parents sending me to Elon and paying all the money that continues to be increasing, I don't know if my sister will, financially, be able to experience the small private school like I am," Creech said. "If the prices keep going up and my brother goes off to college with the same situation, it will negatively benefit my sister in the long-run."

As Elon's Board of Trustees met in a special session Feb. 14 to discuss the proposed fiscal budget for the 2011-2012 school year, the trustees approved the proposal as is, meaning an increase in tuition and other fees will be put into effect at the end of this school year.

With the approval, next year's tuition increase of 3.98 percent means raising the cost of tuition to \$27,881,

while room and board will be set at \$9,090 for the average Elon student. Although the increase is the lowest of its kind in more than a decade, students are concerned about how their families will manage to continue paying the bills.

Creech said although her family is trying to figure out how to afford the higher tuition, it is not the ideal situation. She said Elon is worth the money, a priority in the institution's objectives to remain a best-value university, but also said she believes the continued rise in cost of non-tuition aspects like meal plans and workout classes are unnecessary.

Creech said she believes these financial implementations will lead to a lower level of socioeconomic diversity.

"Yes, there are scholarships but if people get partial scholarships, it will still be expensive for parents to make up the difference," Creech said. "I believe Elon strongly values diversity, but by increasing the tuition, it will weed out people that were once accepted solely because they will not

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Working on campus mutually beneficial for students, university

Marlena Chertock
 Design Editor

Sophomore Joy Debolt works three jobs, takes 18 credits per semester and still finds free time for herself and friends.

Debolt is one of the hundreds of Elon University students who hold positions on campus through the Federal Work Study program, which is awarded to students who need to work on campus and are paid according to the hours they work.

The awards vary based on amount of need, though students are never guaranteed a job, according to the student employment page on Elon's website.

Institutional Work Study, also called Elon Work Study, is a program similar to Federal Work Study but need is not a factor in determining eligibility, according to the website.

"When a student is (in the) Federal Work Study Program, three quarters of their pay comes from the federal government and one quarter from Elon," said Patrick Murphy, director of financial planning. "When a student is Institutional Work Study, all the pay is from Elon."

Debolt first started working on campus because her mother told her she had to use her own spending money in college.

When students juggle jobs, class, clubs and other activities, organization is necessary, according to Debolt. Having a calendar or planner is key, she said.

"If I notice that I have enough time to watch five TV shows in one night, I get a job," Debolt said. "That's kind of my philosophy. Not that I don't like free time."

Students often complain they don't have time to work in the day but there are jobs on campus for morning, day and night shifts, Debolt said.

There are many students who work in the library at night, such as senior Justin Berger, who has worked at Belk Library since he was a sophomore.

Students who have worked the most semesters at Belk are able to choose the shifts they want first. It is similar to registration, Berger said.

"It's unfortunate for (some students) because we haven't hired anybody since I believe fall 2009 due

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Fellows Weekend: A make-or-break event

Anna Johnson
 Editor-in-Chief

Applying to the Fellows Program can be called a waiting game.

After filling out the application, receiving an invitation to Fellows Weekend filled with interviews and essays, the waiting continues.

For some students, the chance to join one of Elon's seven Fellows Programs is worth the wait.

Several hundred students hoping to be accepted will arrive on Elon's campus in the first weekend of March for Fellows Weekend and each candidate will attend a class, write an essay and be interviewed by a faculty member. But it's the reflective student capable of critical thinking that will be chosen

said Nancy Harris, associate dean of Elon College and director of Elon College Fellows.

"We are looking for people who are thoughtful, who are reflective and have depth," Harris said. "Who can think through with some depth and write a good response to an experience they just had."

During the interview, students have to prove they are motivated, engaged and willing to take advantage of the opportunities given them during the Fellows process, she said.

The seven programs — Communications, Business, International, Isabella Cannon Leadership, College, Honors and Teaching — come with scholarships, grants for research or travel and the

chance to live with other Fellows.

This can mean completing a research proposal or planning a way to leave a legacy on campus. For the Leadership Fellows, the students must complete the four phases of leadership through the Isabella Cannon Center.

"Once we have them here that is when we ask them to set the world on fire," said Steven Mencarini, director of the center of leadership and director of the Leadership Fellows. "To take ownership of their Elon leadership experience. To say, 'Hey I have been selected. I have a responsibility to make a difference on Elon's campus.'"

In the College Fellows program, students spend their first two years studying the various types of arts and sciences including arts, humanities,

social sciences, math and natural sciences. In their last two years they narrow in on their particular major.

"The program has breadth and depth," Harris said. "They learn about all of the arts and sciences, what kind of questions they ask, what kind of assumptions they have and what kind of inquires they have. They come to appreciate all of the arts and sciences."

The decision to enter a Fellows Program should not be taken lightly and is a large time commitment, Harris and Mencarini said.

"It takes commitment," he said. "Students who are a part Isabella Cannon Program recognize it is a four

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Student positions provide money, job experience

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to budget cuts," Berger said. "That means that no new people have come aboard, and so the people that have been there have been stuck in the same pecking order. I try to help those people out by selecting fewer hours."

Campus Recreation, Media Services and Residence Life are the organizations that employ the most students, according to Renie Thompson, student payroll specialist.

This academic year, student workers have submitted a total of 2,157 work agreements, Thompson said. This number includes both Federal Work Study and Institutional Work Study agreements as well as students who hold multiple jobs, said Nancy Ward, financial planning data coordinator.

Student workers are necessary for the university to function, and the jobs help students be employed locally, she said.

"(Student employment) is a win-win for the university and the students," Thompson said.

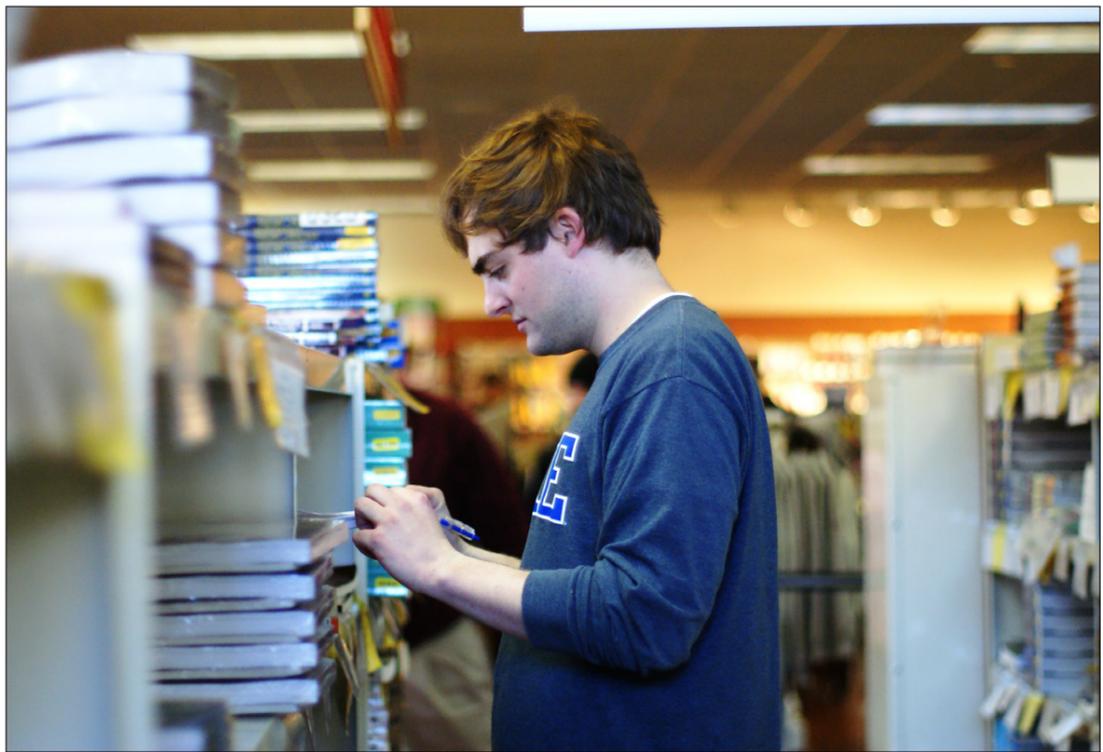
According to Ward, benefits for students include earnings, spending money, learning about the university from a different viewpoint, learning to budget their time and developing good employee skills.

Gaining interview skills is also a benefit stemming from the experience of applying for jobs, DeBolt said.

After applying and interviewing for numerous positions, DeBolt said she feels more comfortable with the process. She said most employers ask similar questions.

"You can build your resume, use those skills elsewhere, work up, learn more about what you like and what you're looking for," DeBolt said.

Applicants are often chosen based on relevant work experience, leadership



Senior Carl Dagger, who works in the Campus Shop, takes inventory of the textbooks remaining on the shelves.

HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

experience, teamwork skills, the interview and their level of confidence, enthusiasm and dedication, said sophomore Katie Li,

who works at Campus Recreation.

Student workers help fill in lunch hour coverage but also help with day-to-day office

duties, Ward said. The financial planning office uses student workers for help with the telephones, processing of incoming mail and waiting

on customers at the counter.

"The university would not function without our student workers," Ward said.

SGA executive presidential candidates discuss progress at debates

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Student Government Association candidate speeches concluded with the second executive presidential debate Thursday.

The debate consisted of questions concerning transparency in student government, goals for the organization and plans to resolve the most pressing issues among students.

Matt Campbell and Sam Warren are the two candidates running for SGA executive president. Both students identified financial need as the most pressing issue and discussed the creation of an SGA scholarship.

The initiative is currently in its developmental stages, as SGA is working to establish two \$1,000 scholarships for two students, one male and one female, who embody the SGA ideals of leadership and service, Campbell said.

"We have so many opportunities and so many experiences that really help us and help our university," Warren said. "So I propose scholarships so we can help keep at least one student here, so they can grow and the campus can grow."

Campbell also spoke of the student loan program that enables students to borrow \$300 per semester.

"We want to push it a lot so people know they can come to SGA and not have to worry as much about financial burdens that semester," Campbell said.

Although Campbell said the fund is relatively small, he suggested using the money for



Executive presidential candidates include Sam Warren (left) and Matt Campbell (right). Jordan McFarland served as moderator.

HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

books or phone bills.

Warren also expressed interest in alleviating students' financial burdens.

"I want to make Elon a place where students feel comfortable and know we're here for them to support them," Warren said.

The candidates agreed on the direction the organization should move in, as well as the programs needed to achieve goals.

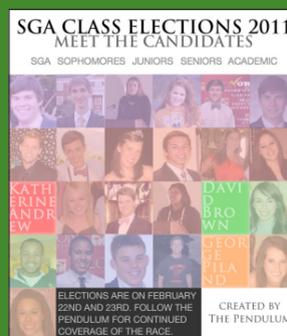
Both candidates pushed for a closer relationship between SGA and student media organizations. Campbell suggested that distribution of a press release to media organizations would increase transparency.

According to Warren, good relations and consistent coverage from media organizations will keep SGA members accountable.

Warren also referred to his contribution in the development of the SGA judicial packet as evidence of SGA's

MORE ONLINE: NEWS

SGA Elections Interactive Voter's Guide on the Pendulum website – Meet the Candidates
<http://bit.ly/SGA2011>



JEFF STERN | Online Editor in Chief

movement toward greater transparency. The packet makes all documents involved in the judicial hearings available to the public.

He also promoted implementation of an SGA blog and the return of video updates, which, when distributed, received an average of 1,000 views.

"If you can get one-fifth (of the student body), that's great to get the message out," Warren said. "Hopefully this will be a community,

and not a place where SGA does things that no one knows about."

Warren continued to advocate for a closer relationship among the student body. It would be great to showcase student accomplishments and showcase costumes from theater productions, photography and art work in Moseley, he said.

"Hopefully my ideas won't just show Elon students what Elon students do, but will

show employers that come to Elon what Elon students do," Warren said.

Campbell also proposed programs to foster student body unity. He suggested a point and prize system to encourage students to attend events on campus.

"We have great students all around us, however I see a lack of enthusiasm among all of us when it comes to performances or game days," he said.

His plan would enable students to earn points by attending various cultural and sporting events and to win prizes based on the accumulation of points.

While both promote similar ideas, their experience and previous duties concerning SGA vary. Campbell has served as both freshman and sophomore class treasurer, assistant class treasurer and executive treasurer. Warren has been elected sophomore class senator, junior class senator, appointed speaker pro tempore and assumed the role of executive vice president following the resignation of Joe Slocum, who resigned because of health reasons. "I have a variety of experiences that let me touch different things and know what it takes to get things accomplished," he said.

While Campbell's contribution to SGA has been limited to the position of treasurer, he said he does not believe that it has stifled his level of experience. "In capacity of serving on exec. as a full term, I have really learned what it takes to run a strong executive, which, in turn, runs a strong SGA," he said.

He also considers funding a large component of SGA and said he believes his collaboration with other organizations and senior staff has prepared him.

"When I'm meeting with organizations or talking with senior staff, I know the hardships that the financial process can create," he said. "While working as executive treasurer, I learn what organizations need to do to be successful."

Application rate fluctuates as Elon initiatives change

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

For sophomore Katherine Wise, all roads pointed to Elon University.

Internet searches for schools with study abroad opportunities directed her to Elon, and her hunt for a good communications school made it a top contender. Although during the application process she was still considering another school, her visit to Elon's campus sealed the deal.

"At first I was waitlisted from University of Miami and in the time between I was waitlisted and accepted, I visited for fellows weekend and found so many clicks for the school," Wise said. "So many things just fell in place with Elon, and by the time I heard I was accepted to University of Miami I was already set on Elon."

While Wise saw Elon as the perfect match, a New York Times article concerning application rate reflected differently.

Elon's application rate

According to a New York Times article, Elon's application rate declined about 6 percent this year, but Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions, said this year's application rate is consistent with the past decade's numbers, and rather the previous year's application rate witnessed a spike.

The number of freshman applicants dropped from 9,591 for the 2010-2011 academic year to 9,010 applicants for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Zaiser attributed the university's acquisition of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter to the increase in applicants for the 2010-2011 academic year.

"We were told that it was the Phi Beta Kappa bump," he said.

Zaiser said the university was told to expect an increase in applicants by 5 to 10 percent after the installation of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, and the number of freshman applicants rose from 9,041 to 9,591, experiencing a 6 percent increase.

Factors contributing to the application decline

Still, he said the change in Elon's application process may have contributed to why the application rate did not continue to increase.

"We changed the essay question, which could have contributed to the downturn to some extent," Zaiser said.

Elon's application no longer offers prospective students the option to write about the topic of their choice, which prevents applicants from submitting an essay from another school's application.

"To some extent that has the potential to reduce a couple to a few hundred students that aren't as serious (about Elon)," he said.

The new application also includes a section called Think Fast that asks applicants to answer questions in fewer than two sentences. Questions included "how would your best friend describe you?" or "what is something your friends don't know about you?"

Zaiser said he believes the new application better reflects the culture of Elon. While he attributes the application process to the decline, he also said he believes that demonstrating Elon's values improves attraction.

Discrepancy between the university and Fellows application rate

Even though the number of total applicants has declined since last year, this year has yielded 600 Fellows applicants, the largest

Fellows applicant pool in the university's history.

Promoting achievements on behalf of students and promoting engaged learning helps advertise the university, he said.

According to Wise, listening to tour guides and students' experiences influenced her decision positively.

"Everyone I talked to was really passionate about everything they were involved in and I could see myself in their shoes," she said.

She said the opportunities to get involved early facilitated her transition into college, and her involvement in the Fellows Program enabled her to have an active part in the university immediately.

Students' decision not to attend Elon

While Zaiser said he believes Fellow applicants still value the camaraderie the program fosters, the financial benefits provide another benefit to the program.

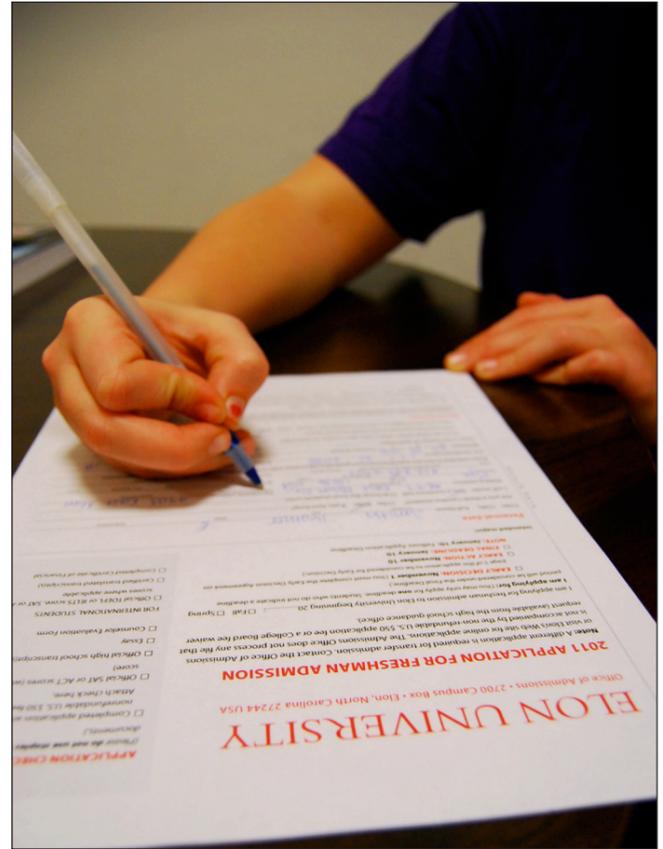
According to Zaiser, application fees may have also been a factor in the decline in applicants. Although the university is in the process of establishing an Elon Engagement scholarship for first-year students, the fellows program currently offers students scholarships for \$2,500 to \$10,000 per year.

"I think the Fellows applicants are higher because of the economy," he said.

The cost and financial aid package provided played a part in George Washington University sophomore Mike Garry's decision not to attend Elon University.

"It ended up being cheaper, which is odd, but somehow true," he said.

Although Zaiser associated financial benefits and academic community with the Fellows program, these



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer
Greg Zaiser said he thinks lower applicant rates are partially because of changes to Elon's application. The "topic of choice" prompt is no longer offered.

two factors were not enough to persuade prospective students to commit to Elon.

Adam Bencan, a sophomore at University of Delaware, said the distribution of freshman throughout the campus deterred him from applying to Elon.

"I wanted to have a good class unity," he said. "I thought that living with freshmen on my floor and in my building would accomplish this. And that was really important to me."

Also, Elon did not have a major compatible with his interest of study. When Bencan visited in 2007, Elon University had not established its international business

major, which will be instated Fall 2011.

Looking to the future

Newly established academic programs and scholarships help diminish these previous applicants' concerns. Zaiser said he predicts Elon's commitment to expanding academics and residence facilities and remaining a best-value university will positively influence the number of applicants.

"I think that the strategic plan has the potential to impact applications as we move through it and articulate what we are doing to make it a reality," he said.

A place for students to speak minds, if message approved

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

In response to former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin's visit to campus in 2009, Elon University will introduce a speakers' corner on West Lawn this week designed to encourage civic engagement and provide a designated area for student protests.

According to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, students are allowed to express their views anywhere they wish on campus, but the administration hopes designating an area will encourage mutually respectful interactions.

"We avoid saying it's a free speech zone because you can express your views anywhere on this campus, but we do say people at the university have to do things that don't disrupt others," he said.

Pam Kiser, professor of human service studies, was asked to chair a committee looking at the principles behind Elon's various civic engagement policies, including how to address protests and guest speakers on campus.

"We looked at what kind of mechanisms we needed to set up to ensure this is truly democratic where divergent

expression," she said.

The committee's work during the 2008-2009 school year included research into similar areas on other colleges, including "The Pit" at the University of North Carolina.

They also took into consideration input from campus security, staff members and students about their experiences during Palin's visit, which Kiser characterized as concerning. Students were required to remove any paraphernalia supporting candidate Barack Obama or the Democratic Party.

Jackson said students were given an area in front of Moseley to protest, not in sight of the actual speech, which took place on the baseball fields.

"There were a lot of feelings coming from groups organizing for the dissenting voice," Kiser said. "It was staged as a pro-Palin rally than being staged as a civic engagement event with dissenting views based on a healthy model of democracy. It wasn't teaching students anything about how this should be done."

While Elon plans to host more well-known speakers such as Palin on campus,

has guidelines the speaker must follow in line with the campus' policy on civic engagement, including rules for signs, support buttons and the location of a protest area.

"We were really taking into consideration the perspectives of all of those people and trying to integrate that with the principles of free speech, engaged dialogue and democracy," she said. "Something that came out of the committee was that one of our overriding values was to have a politically and socially active campus so we didn't want to do anything that would squelch that."

Kiser said the hardest part for the committee was determining the policies for use of the West Lawn area. In the past, student-led protests were required to apply to Student Life staff and then wait a week to have the activity approved.

"In an ideal world, it would be spontaneously open," she said. "At least in the beginning stages, the Student Life staff feels there should be registration without a long waiting period so there are as few barriers as possible."

Jackson said this means filling out a form, available at the Moseley Center desk and online, which can be

Three types of events for the Speakers' Corner

***On-going engagement:** Includes banners and displays that are generally approved immediately.

***General Demonstrations and Protests:** Events that take more planning and more time to be approved.

***Events and Speakers:** These include well-known guests, such as Sarah Palin, and take cooperation between all university officials.

Michael Williams, director of campus center operations and conferences, or Clifton Johnson, assistant director of Moseley Center. The dean on-call at the time could also be called to approve the proposal, if necessary.

"The idea is that within 24 hours, we'll get them out there as fast as can," Jackson said. "We want to make sure things are safe and not disruptive."

Civic engagement on campus is often discussed in terms of service learning, Kiser said. Even though volunteer work is valued, students should often understand another aspect of bettering society.

"We're never going to solve issues through volunteerism,"

comparable ways to develop their activism, just like the service learning program does for volunteerism. We see it from an educational standpoint and want students to develop habits they will take into communities when they leave here."

With preparations currently underway to tear down Chandler and construct a new dining hall, Jackson said the area will increasingly have more traffic.

"We think that it's a nice place for students to own, it's pretty central on campus and will become more high traffic," he said. "It's a nice place where we can be a little less formal. People do value the appearance of campus,

Moseley expansion offers variety in dining experience

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Elon University campus facilities continue to grow as the university plans to expand the Moseley Center. The 38,000-foot expansion will include a dining hall, a conference room similar to McKinnon Hall and a food preparation space.

The Moseley Center expansion is projected to be completed December 2012.

"As part of a transformation of the residential experience on campus, the existing Story Center and Harper facilities are not up to standards and need to be replaced," said Dan Anderson, assistant vice president and director of University Relations.

According to Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology, Harden Dining Hall's location in the middle of Harper Center augmented the decision to build another dining facility in Moseley.

"Harden is certainly a perfectly adequate dining hall, but it is integrated with the Harper Center," Anderson said.

The demand for more meeting and conference space and related food service facilities also contributed to the decision to upgrade Moseley Center, he said.

"I would say the needs and impacts on students will be a quantum leap forward plus add much needed classroom and large meeting space," said Neil Bromilow, director of planning,

design and construction management.

Because of its proximity to Moseley Center and McKinnon Hall, having a food preparation space in the same building will be a large asset to dining events.

"(The expansion) will help address the needs of our current students and our projections of what the need for future students will be," Whittington said.

He explained that current student expectations regarding dining experiences differ from student expectations in the 1960s, when Harden was constructed.

According to Whittington, students have said they wanted variety in three ways: what they eat, where they eat and when they eat.

"So what we're trying to do, and have been trying to do, is providing for that variety in those three ways," he said.

Although the final floor plan has not been confirmed, the current design indicates that the new dining area will include three vendors, a "grab-and-go" station, an international cafe and a dining hall.

According to Anderson, the Moseley renovation supports the goals outlined in the Elon Commitment.

Whittington agreed with this statement.

"The Moseley expansion is part of improving the residence college experience and that's one of the key elements of The Elon Commitment plan,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
The Moseley expansion is projected to be completed in December 2012. It will replace Harper Center and add 38,000 square feet.

he said. "That includes not only academics in class, but in residence halls and what you eat to try to build community."

The new building design also reinforces The Elon Commitment, which advocates for "significantly enhancing Elon's campus with premiere new academic and residential facilities and a commitment to protecting our environment."

While Anderson said the new Moseley facilities will not contribute to academic enhancement, the building will be in compliance with the university's green building policy and meet LEED residential standards.

He also said he believes the

expansion will enhance the attractiveness of campus.

"Good facilities are associated with the quality of campus life," he said.

He predicts that the new Moseley Center will become a real "campus hub."

"I think the center of campus is where you have activity," Whittington said. "These facilities are designed to generate and keep activity, so I believe this will be one of the most active, if not the most active, quadrant of the campus."

During the construction, students will still have access to Irazu, Octagon and other dining options currently

located in Moseley, Anderson said.

Although Story Center will be demolished in June, he ensured that Harper Center, which houses Harden Dining Hall, will not come down until the new dining facilities are available.

While the construction process will not limit the availability of dining facilities, Whittington expressed concern for student safety during the construction.

"We are always concerned that students are safe," he said. "Like all construction on campus you're going to have to have new routes for people to take."

Increased cost of attendance requires money some students don't have

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be able to afford to pay the full amount."

Junior Kiera Soles said she believes room and meal plans are the hidden costs of college that put the pressure on families to make full payments.

"Tuition increasing doesn't put a significant amount of strain on my family immediately," Soles said. "It's gone up a little every year since I've been here, and we figured it would when I first started college. But, since moving off campus, we've saved a lot of money because it's the room and board and meal plans that made Elon annoyingly expensive."

Soles said although she has a few scholarships and grants, she has accepted the fact that graduation next year means debt, as she is forced to pay off her student loans. She said she wishes that Elon took financial aid into more consideration because of the poor economy instead of focusing on campus expansion.

"I know Elon has a crazy expansion plan going on," Soles said. "But you'd figure they would slow things down and take things one step at a time in this time of financial crisis."

Addressing these concerns, President Leo Lambert's Facebook page provides an outlet for parents to discuss the 2011-2012 budget.

In a letter addressed "Letter to Elon parents," Lambert said he believes the 2011-2012 budget strikes the right balance in considering students' needs and the institution's financial realities.

"As we begin the second year of our strategic plan, The Elon Commitment, our ideas are moving quickly from concept to reality," Lambert said. "Construction projects are under way, programs are being launched, and the university's momentum has increased dramatically. In light of these exciting new initiatives, trustees carefully weighed the demands for additional resources with the financial realities that our students and their families are facing."

Lambert said he hopes parents will consider the growth of the university, and also understand the investments being made to help improve the experiences of students.

"As you talk with your Elon student during this busy spring semester, I hope you get a sense of the energy and opportunity we feel every day," Lambert said. "The lives of our students are immeasurably enriched through their studies and activities at this great university, and your enthusiastic encouragement is a critical factor in our success."

Students vie for top scholarship positions during Fellows Weekend

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year commitment. And at any point during this time they think to themselves I am not getting what I need out of this, then we need to have a conversation about why they are in the program."

The mandatory classes with other Fellows does dictate what classes you can take early in the program said Pari Sethuraman, a senior Business Fellow.

"You have to mix things up,"

Sethuraman said. "You have to fit in the things you want to do and what you have to do."

The experiences to visit local businesses and grant money for study abroad make it worth it, she said. Each incoming class is constantly improving the program, she said.

After Fellows Weekend, the students will be told of their Fellows' status by the end of March.

SPECTRUM redefines 'queer'

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

SPECTRUM, formerly known as Elon University's gay-straight alliance, will now be called the queer-straight alliance.

President Jess McDonald, a junior, said the organization recently decided to use the word queer to reclaim a once-derogatory term, but mainly to be fully inclusive. Even though the "alphabet soup" acronym, LGBTQIA, continues to grow and currently refers to those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and allies, McDonald said it will never be fully inclusive.

"That's why the acronym is so long and no one likes it," she said. "We're using (queer) to be fully inclusive of non-normative sexual identities."

According to McDonald, who recently received a Lumen Prize to research the history and progression of LGBT student groups on college campuses, the word queer can refer to members of the straight population, as well. Those who approach the world from the queer perspective and see the world from a disempowered viewpoint can be considered queer, she said.

"Queer is this one inclusive word that incorporates all of us," said junior Raaf Purnsley, vice president of SPECTRUM.

Although the word has previously been used with a negative connotation, there are no terms referring to any of the many communities within the queer population that are guaranteed to be inoffensive, sophomore Bobby Rawlings, SPECTRUM's treasurer, said.

"We don't know what we want to be called, or what other people want to be called," Rawlings said. "It's difficult to instruct other people on how to address us when we don't know how to address ourselves."

Rawlings said since the queer population is ethnically diverse, there is no family tree of bad words to trace back through history. Rawlings said this is one of the reasons why people often have trouble finding a way to describe those in the queer community.

"People are scared of being ignorant," he said. "But if you don't ask at all and are never corrected, you'll never find out."

Senior Brandon Lee Tankard, former president of SPECTRUM, said that terms are often a point of contention but issues with language are counterproductive.

"There are so many other issues, so many other things to fight for," he said.

According to McDonald, there are at least 10 straight allies for every queer student. But even though Elon's campus is composed mainly of straight students, the vast majority of them do not participate in SPECTRUM.

Purnsley defines allies as those who are straight and support or are friends with individuals in the gay community. McDonald said she thinks the term "ally" is not restricted to the straight population.

"I think of myself as an ally to the trans community," she said. "We're allies to each other."

Rawlings said there is still discrimination of allies, even though he thinks most people on campus are allies whether they realize it or not.

"It's difficult to stand up in a southern, rural school and say 'I support gay people,'" Rawlings said. "If you're a guy in support of gay rights, people think 'Oh, he must be in the closet.'"

Purnsley and McDonald both said allies are vital not only to the success of SPECTRUM's events, but also to make Elon a more queer-friendly campus.

"Making campus a safer place for people to be allies makes it easier for us to be queer," McDonald said.

"We don't know what we want to be called, or what other people want to be called. It's difficult to instruct other people on how to address us when we don't know how to address ourselves."

-Bobby Rawlings
SPECTRUM treasurer

Model United Nations receives increased funding, sees growth in participation

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Following two years of increased marketing and growth, Elon Model United Nations has captured the attention of Ivy League conference participants and is currently encouraging the university to hold an intercollegiate Model United Nations conference of its own.

Students in MUN at Elon have participated in conferences with schools such as Princeton University, Harvard University, The U.S. Military Academy at West Point and Georgetown University. Traditionally, the organization holds the International Crisis Conference at Elon, or ICCE, twice annually for international relations classes. MUN is now planning to make this an intercollegiate conference, inviting additional universities to ICCE.

"It wouldn't be on the same level as Princeton or Georgetown, but it would be more than feasible to start inviting local universities into our conference," said senior Andrew Black, president of MUN.

Currently, Elon MUN has relationships with Duke University and UNC-Charlotte.

Black said ICCE involves around 100 international relations students, who are split up into teams of 10-15 people. The purpose of the simulation is for students to apply what they learn in the classroom to a real-world setting.

Each team represents a country, requiring students to

craft policies and apply them in simulated crises. Dispersed throughout various rooms, the teams are linked via an electronic news feed on their projectors. Crises are posted on the news feed throughout the simulation.

"It forces them to think on the spot and know what it's like to be a public servant," Black said.

According to Black, membership for MUN has been increasing since he began participating as a sophomore.

He said attendance at MUN meetings has fluctuated between 70 and 90 students this year, a significant growth from 20 students in 2009.

Instead of targeting only international relations and political science majors, Black said MUN began to market to other majors in fall 2009.

"Now we attract people from communications, history backgrounds and people in international studies programs who are not just interested in state dynamics, but NGOs and humanitarian efforts," Black said.

He said MUN is an organization that reinforces Elon's commitment to engaged learning.

"It's about self-research and self-discovery," he said. "We try to put students in situations where they can learn for themselves and learn through self-initiative."

Because the scale of the simulation has increased over the past two years, the executive board of MUN invited President Leo Lambert and Provost Steven House to tour the event last semester.



Elon Model United Nations has started gaining attention from other MUN organizations and has been invited to a conference at The U.S. Military Academy at West Point where they will be the only non-Ivy League school competing.

"We thought it was a great opportunity to show the administration what their support financially and otherwise has done for us," Black said.

According to Black, Lambert and House were impressed with the simulation and Lambert expressed that he would like the board of directors to take the same tour.

Black said the organization is planning to send an invitation to Lambert within the next week.

While many other organizations had their funding cut last year, SGA approved a budget increase of

\$3,000 for MUN.

Junior Brooke Kassner, current MUN vice president, was the organization's treasurer last year and went through a two-part process with SGA.

In writing and in person before SGA, Kassner said she explained Elon's continuous success when traveling to other MUN conferences and that regular appearances at intercollegiate conferences were necessary for Elon to build and maintain its reputation for having a successful program.

"This cannot be done without money," Kassner said. Kassner petitioned to SGA

that increasing MUN's budget would do more than just benefit the organization, but would also "strengthen the image of Elon University as a whole."

Having shown SGA that Elon MUN has a focused goal of growing its conference to the intercollegiate level, Kassner said "they were confident that giving us \$3,000 extra dollars would help us achieve that goal and continue putting Elon on the map."

Elon MUN has been invited to New York for the West Point conference in April and will be the only non-Ivy League school participating.

Team of Elon students to attend national climate change conference in Washington

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

In an effort to promote environmental awareness on both a local and national level, a group of Elon University students will travel to the Powershift conference, an energy action coalition in Washington, in April to discuss ideas and lobby Congress for change.

As part of their efforts to address climate change, student participants from across the country will address three main points while in the nation's capital: strengthening of clean air and EPA regulations, crackdowns on major polluters and the shifting of subsidies from fossil fuel-based companies to those with clean energy initiatives.

After speakers and workshops about climate change, students will have the chance to lobby Congress on Monday, the final day of the conference, according to senior Katie Kenney, one of the coordinators for Elon's group.

"During informative sessions, there are speakers from non-profits or lobbyists and they will talk about the scientific background and international policy," Kenney said. "During workshops, they really want people to be able to network. Those sessions involve breaking out into small

Who: More than 10,000 high school and college students from across the United States

What: Powershift Conference 2011

When: April 15-18, 2011

Where: Washington, D.C.

Why: "We'll stand together to reclaim our democracy from big corporations and push our nation to move beyond dirty energy sources that are harming the health of people and the planet."

LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

groups with people from your states and trying to not only establish contacts but to start making a plan for what you can do in your state."

During lobbying time, participants go in groups to their representative's office and have a five-minute platform prepared, addressing not only what they want legislatures to look at, but encouraging them to sign particular bills as well.

The initiative is important because it is something that affects everyone, especially the younger generations, who will deal with consequences of current actions in the future, said senior Lizzy Winchester, one of the team's coordinators.

"Powershift is marketed toward the younger generation for that reason: we are the ones that make the change," she said. "For example, the majority of the voters in the last election were in the youngest age range of 18-30. There is a reason why it is so important for college students to learn all they can about the issues they care about."

Kenney said the event is considered a youth gathering and attracts primarily college students, though some high schools are in attendance as well.

She first attended Powershift in 2009 with a group of Elon students from the organization

Students for Peace and Justice. Her original interest in environmental issues stems from her experiences in high school, where she began an environmental club. After arriving at Elon, she decided to pursue a major in environmental studies.

Winchester's path to the same major was not as direct. As an Elon College Fellow, she participated in a class that required a semester-long project revolving around an issue. Her group chose climate change.

"One of the things we did to promote awareness is create a Facebook group called 'Students for Conservation of Energy and the Environment,'" she said.

Finding her contact information on the group, Russell Anderson, a representative from the Energy Action Coalition, contacted Winchester in 2009 to discuss environmental activism on Elon's campus and introduced her to Powershift.

"It seemed like a great experience and a great place to network and learn about what we could do about the problems on a national level," she said.

That year, 10 Elon students, including Kenney and Winchester, attended the conference, which was the single largest citizen lobby

day in history. This year, they decided they wanted to play a bigger role and serve as coordinators. Hoping to send 35 to 40 people from Elon, Kenney said there are a number of students who have expressed interest.

Senior Jenny Schnaak, who will be in attendance, has been engaged in climate summit talks since she served as a volunteer for Greenpeace in Raleigh and attended the regional Powershift Carolinas conference in 2009.

"I enjoy being politically informed and I want to be more politically active so far as climate legislation goes," she said. "Powershift is where those critical public dialogues take place."

Through Facebook events, a table at Moseley Center and an online petition, the coordinators hope to recruit more student participants to attend the conference, who will act not only as Elon ambassadors, but will also learn tools to put into practice on Elon's campus.

"With this conference, attendees go to many panels and workshops to learn about how they can reduce their college campus' footprint as a whole," Winchester said. "(It's) giving them the tools to actually make a difference both on Elon's campus and the country as a whole."

Students affected most by health care bill

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

As the North Carolina General Assembly moves forward with plans to declare parts of the federal government's recent health care bill unconstitutional, political debate continues about the legitimacy and future of the controversial policy.

Along with Florida, Virginia and other states, the assembly has stated the part of the bill requiring people to buy coverage is not founded in constitutional principles. Amidst the politically charged rhetoric and debate, where accurate information is difficult to obtain, one question is prevalent across college campuses: What does this mean for college students?

Breaking down the bill

"Of all the groups who have benefited from this legislation, students are the people who have overwhelmingly done best," said Betty Morgan, associate professor of political science.

Students in the 19-24 age group are the largest uninsured group in the United States. Through the bill, universities are now required to provide credible health insurance policies for students who don't fall under their parents' policies, rather than the minimum-level coverage that was characteristic in the past.

Another provision allows students to remain on their parents' health insurance plan until the age of 26, according to Katy Rouse, assistant professor of economics.

"Before, when you graduate college, you're on your own," she said. "The nice thing is that (students) no longer have the added pressure of finding a job with benefits right away."

Research has shown that in the first 10 years after graduation, the average undergraduate student will

have about 12 jobs, Morgan said.

"We're not sticking very well and part of that imperative is you need a job to have insurance," she said. "But that is no longer the case, so you can make good decisions about job options. Students (that) age have benefited exponentially."

Clarifying the contention

Morgan said she doesn't understand why students are not more vocal about defending the bill, as they are the biggest beneficiary group.

"(Students') lives have had a magic wand waved over them and no one is even talking about that," she said. "Part of it is politics of disinformation, overheated rhetoric and misinformation that has made it difficult for any of us to get a good grip on what's going on."

In some cases, powerful political groups that argue at the behest of the health care industry have captured the argument, distorting the debate. The nature of the bill also makes it a hard policy to promote in the American political arena, Morgan said.

"We call it redistributive policy and any time you have that, you're taking something significant, of value and redistributing it in a different way from people who have it to people who don't," she said. "It always requires significant amounts of personal attention, lots of visibility by important political players and expenditure of lots of political capital. It's perceived as taking something away from someone else."

In this case, what's being redistributed is access to health care. Despite continued debate between Republicans and Democrats, Morgan said policy-insiders are beginning to admit the reality of the bill.

"These people who have, for years, worked on the positioning of making it sound absolutely horrible if it comes

to be, those people are now stepping out and saying it was never true," she said. "The debate has been captured by moneyed insider interests who have gone out to completely confuse the debate."

Considering the consequences

Greg Lilly, associate professor of economics, said while Republican politicians are arguing that the bill will increase costs and protesting Democrats' assumptions that it won't, it's impossible to predict the eventual economic outcome of the bill.

"The (political parties) have their economists saying this and that, but there is not a side that has 95 percent of the economists on their side so I take that to mean they're not really sure," he said.

What Lilly said he can foresee is a minimal increase in costs for states, including North Carolina. The federal government will pay for the provisions of the bill until 2014 and continue paying 90 percent of the expenses until 2020.

"The states don't have to worry about anything immediately," he said. "I'm pretty sure the economy will recover by then, the state of North Carolina will be in a better financial shape by then and the federal government promises to slowly give the states (financial) responsibility."

Rouse said there is one argument that, by providing insurance for the 32 million uninsured, money will be saved.

Currently, if a person does not have insurance, he or she is still treated because of doctors' oath to provide care. Under the new bill, taxpayers will no longer be required to cover the cost. Another theory is that there will be increased competition after the creation of insurance exchanges, or databases listing all available insurance providers.

"From an economic

Making sense of the bill

- Even with a preexisting condition, you can no longer be denied coverage.
- Students can stay on their parents' policies until the age of 26.
- Medicare payments to doctors and hospitals will be more closely scrutinized.
- Medical records will be moved from paper to an electronic format.

perspective, the ideal situation is perfect competition with lots of different firms with identical goods and the price is lower," she said. "The further you move from that model, the more power firms have to raise prices. The ideal behind exchanges is that it will increase competition and drive premiums down."

Rouse said the expanded coverage to those with preexisting conditions could potentially cause premiums to increase. When those with pre-existing conditions are added, the risk pool will go up.

"The whole idea behind insurance through a company is a large group of where everyone is paying and the (majority) of people are healthy," she said. "With higher risk people, the risk goes up and, even if a fair premium, it will go up. The question is whether the increased competition will outweigh increased costs. It's theoretical."

Foreseeing the future

Though there is no potential for the outright overturning of legislation in Congress, Morgan said the constitutional challenges from the states are more interesting and could be determined by district courts, which are impacted by the politics of judicial appointment.

"There are very sophisticated legal arguments that people can't be ordered to buy health insurance, but there is no way to predict how courts will behave," she said. "The standard up to now is that

federal law has supremacy over state law."

While students can easily search for their new health benefits through the bill, Morgan said the information cost often limits the reach of accurate information.

"Your time to get out there and look for benefits and to think about how that really, honestly changes your life, really changes it, that takes time and trouble," she said. "Information is expensive and it costs you something to get out there to do it."

BY THE NUMBERS:

COST:

\$940 billion in the 10 years

COVERAGE:

expansion to

32 million

Americans currently uninsured

DEFICIT:

would reduce by

\$143 billion

over the first 10 years

Information courtesy of CBS News

HEALTH CARE BILL

What professors have to say about health care:

Professor Katy Rouse

"What makes health insurance so unique and different is that I can choose to buy a car and I have to have it. I can choose to buy a house and if I mortgage the house, I have to have insurance. I can't choose to be a person and have to go to the doctor. The requirement of having people have to have it, that is a philosophical issue."



Professor Betty Morgan

"If I were a student given how this can absolutely change the course of the next seven to eight years, I'd be out there every day with a drum on the sidewalk, if it was necessary to get that message out there. Why in the world students wouldn't be throwing their bodies in front of buses to prevent this from being changed is beyond me."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Debate swirls about smoke-free campus

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

The decision of whether to make Elon University a smoke-free campus by this fall has not yet been made, according to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Despite a recent rumor that campus would be smoke-free this March, Jackson said the earliest Elon would become smoke-free would be fall 2011.

"I think we'll be smoke-free at some point," Jackson said. "It's going to happen because the evidence is clear that even small amounts (of smoke) are hazardous."

According to Jackson, results of surveys conducted last spring indicated that students, faculty and staff are not well aware of the current

university policies on smoking, which state that smoking is not allowed indoors or within 30 feet of entrances to any buildings on campus. The survey also found that the policy is generally not upheld.

Jackson said the prevention of second hand smoke inhalation is currently the driving force behind the move to make Elon smoke-free. As smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths, Jackson said Elon is also interested in encouraging those who do smoke to be healthier. Providing workshops to help students quit smoking is a possibility, he said.

"Some people feel like any smoke is a hazard," Jackson said. "Others think smoking is not good for your health but people should have a choice.

There is a range of views."

Freshman Emily Adams said that while such a move would not personally affect her since she does not smoke, she thinks limiting people to where they can smoke on campus makes more sense than requiring them to leave campus entirely.

"At this point, people know it's unhealthy," she said. "No one can watch over you for the rest of your life."

Adams said she thinks a national movement would be more effective than a local movement, since even those who are affected by second hand smoke would experience smoking off-campus.

Sophomore Josh Sotomayor said he would be in favor of a smoke-free campus as long as there was a compromise

involving designated smoking areas. Sotomayor said he thought the general student population would be in favor of a smoke-free campus because of health issues such as asthma. But he also said he did not think it would be an easy feat.

"I think a completely smoke-free campus is a novel concept," Sotomayor said. "They're having a hard time enforcing the (30) feet away from buildings policy."

Sotomayor said he predicts there would be an abundance of underage drinking citations if Elon became smoke-free because intoxicated students would smoke in the center of campus and get ticketed for underage drinking.

Jackson said while Elon is heading in the direction of

becoming smoke-free, he does not think it will also become a dry campus in the near future.

"Having a dry campus is not really a topic that people are trying to move toward," Jackson said. "First of all, we do have people over 21. Second, what impact would that have?"

According to Jackson, there is no solid evidence regarding how abolishing alcohol would affect student behavior.

Lauren Martin, the former coordinator for substance education, was originally leading the smoke-free campus discussions but recently left the university and could not be reached for comment. Jackson said the talks will continue and a decision will likely be made within the next couple of weeks.



David Worden, director of Environmental Services, said cleaning up the graffiti will be a long process. Graffiti was found at Moseley and McEwen.

Lewd language, images spray painted on campus

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Graffiti outside Moseley Center was discovered the morning of Feb. 18 and was removed by Environmental Services.

David Worden, director of Environmental Services at Elon, said he noticed the graffiti early during his morning rounds.

"It's not something easily removed," he said. "This takes us away from other things we need to get done."

The graffiti consisted of the word "f***" painted in red on the sidewalk in front of Boney Fountain, as well as the word "cock" painted several feet away on the sidewalk across the service road that runs behind Moseley. Worden said several signs advertising the basketball game had also been vandalized and had been removed.

At about 9:45 a.m. Saturday morning, more graffiti was discovered. An image of a penis was spray painted over one of the handicapped parking spaces in front of Boney Fountain and two circles were painted over another.

Tour guides for the Admissions Office said they had not been informed about the graffiti.

Senior tour guide Luke Olszewski said he has never witnessed graffiti on Elon's campus.

"I've never seen anything bad once on this



A handicapped parking space was another area targeted.

campus," he said.

Worden said he did not think Elon students were responsible for the vandalism.

"I like to have the highest regard for (Elon) students," he said. "This is just amateur."

According to Worden, vandalism is rare on Elon's campus.

Elon leads North Carolina universities in endowment growth

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Endowments for North Carolina universities rebounded to double-digit growth in 2010. Elon University's endowment made the strongest recovery in the state, with a growth of 23.4 percent, ranking 365th out of the 865 schools across the nation in endowment growth.

The National Association of College and University Business Officers, or NACUBO, deciphers the values and rankings of each university.

According to Ken Mullen, the assistant vice president for business and finance, Elon's endowment investment value for 2010 is \$103,448,120, compared to \$82,145,408 the previous year.

"We grow our endowment by investing and receiving new gifts," said Jim Piatt, vice president for university advancement. "My job is to bring in new gifts to the endowment. In 2010, we saw about \$5 million come into the endowment in terms of gifts or financial donations."

Ever Elon, the university's five-

year campaign to build the school's endowment, is one of the major factors that led the university to the increase in endowment growth, according to Piatt. The goal of the Ever Elon campaign is to raise \$100 million by the end of 2011.

"Overall, we've raised \$87 million toward this goal," Piatt said. "We expect to finish this campaign during 2011."

The campaign is broken up into three primary categories. Endowment is the largest of the three with a goal of \$70 million. The operations goal for the campaign is \$20 million, while the capital goal is \$10 million. The capital goal funds are earmarked for preserving and further developing the Elon campus.

Piatt said many donors choose to

allocate their money towards endowment with hopes of assisting students in studying abroad and achieving scholarships.

"A lot of donors want to do good with their money," Piatt said. "We

"We have had a lot of donors interested in providing scholarship support for study abroad. Parents see how much studying abroad meant to their son or daughter and want to do the same for other students."

-JIM PIATT, VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

have had a lot of donors interested in providing scholarship support for study abroad. Parents see how much studying abroad meant to their son or daughter and want to do the same for other students."

While the economy continues to be a challenge for the university

to raise money, donors have not let up support, he said.

"They recognize that providing philanthropic support is a good investment," Piatt said. "The challenging

economy doesn't change their desire to help."

According to Mullen, the Ever Elon campaign is crucial to endowment growth. Along with the campaign, internal funding from the university budget is also allocated towards endowment, he said.

"The internal funding also helps build scholarship funds and other academic programs," Mullen said.

Mullen said the university internally funds because, although the endowment size is growing, it is smaller than the university would like.

"We certainly expect and trust that our efforts to raise new dollars for endowment will grow, and we hope the investment will grow as well," Piatt said.

Mullen said he hopes to see Elon climb in the ranks for endowment growth over the course of the next few years.

"We would love to climb higher in the ranks," Mullen said. "The main focus is not only to compare our university to other institutions, but also to compare it to other benchmarks such as the market."

Survey explores students' perceptions of leadership

Gabriela Szwecow
Design Chief

The Isabella Cannon Center for Leadership is working to learn more about the leadership qualities and skills among students through the results obtained from a recent survey sent out to a random selection of Elon students.

Four thousand students were randomly selected to take a survey e-mailed to students earlier this month by Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Although Steven Mencarini, director of the Center for Leadership, is closely involved with the study, Center for Leadership preferred that Jackson send the e-mail to students.

"We sent it out from Smith Jackson because it is an institutional priority to have this study done," Mencarini said. "And because it is more than just the Center for Leadership that is interested in the data. It really involves the entire campus."

The survey, which is entitled "The Multi-

Institutional Study of Leadership" has been conducted at Elon since 2007. It explores leadership capacities for college students on a national level.

Mencarini said the survey is helpful in evaluating leadership perceptions around campus.

"For us, it's a great tool to be able to measure where our students stand in terms of leadership development and how that compares to other campuses and the national study," he said.

Since 2007, Elon has conducted similar surveys every other year. As of Feb. 16, 32 percent of the randomly selected students responded to the survey. The last reminder to take the survey will be sent to students Feb. 23.

Michelle Kusel, assistant director of leadership for the Isabella Cannon Leadership Center, said she hopes more students take interest before the deadline.

"Thirty-two percent of students who received the survey have taken it, but that means 68 percent still

haven't, so we aren't really representing all of Elon," she said. "And we want to."

When the survey results are received in August, the Center will compare them to the data from the 2007 and 2009 surveys.

"What we're hoping to do with the data this time is to use it beyond leadership," Kusel said. "We want to try to use it in other offices all throughout campus. We want to pull some really great results to help the entire campus."

The data is electronic, including a summarized PDF report and the raw data. The PDF summary includes data from other schools, so Elon can compare its results to those of other small private schools in the country or other schools in the area.

"The results will come back and it will show us how Elon students perceive leadership and how they're performing leadership on campus," Kusel said. "And what particularly interests us is to see how that's taking place."

Mencarini said that while it will take a long time to get through the data, it is good to have it

available.

"Without this survey, there's no way we would even be able to attempt to try to do some of the things we're trying to do," he said.

The survey was created through the Survey Sciences Group, but the last 10 questions of the survey were customized by Elon and were specific to the university. The primary researchers are Susan Komives from the University of Maryland and John Dugan from Loyola University, though there are many others who helped generate the survey.

The survey is based off the social change model for leadership, according to Kusel.

"That's also the model that we use here in the (Isabella Cannon Leadership) office, so it directly correlates to what our missions and goals are in the office and shows us how we're doing with that on campus," she said.

At the end of the survey, students are asked to provide their own personal definition of leadership. Kusel is interested in seeing



Multi-Institutional Study for Leadership
Social Change Model

LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor
The Multi-Institutional Study for Leadership survey administered to Elon students was based off of the Social Change Model.

how students respond to leadership educators have everywhere."

"Everyone has their own definition of leadership, so I'm interested in seeing how Elon students view leadership from a qualitative perspective," she said. "That's beyond Elon, it's a question that

leadership educators have everywhere." Mencarini said he hopes the results will show how students involved in various activities on campus have diverse views of leadership, and what those differences are.

Students report feeling unsafe on Williamson Avenue

Rachel Southmayd
Opinions Editor

As preparation on the corner of Williamson and West College avenues continues, the current construction fences may be causing a safety hazard for pedestrians along the busy street.

The actual building is going up beyond a sidewalk, but the construction zone stretches across the sidewalk area and encompasses the on-street parking, making it impossible for students to walk along the east side of the street in front of the site without walking into traffic. One of the current crosswalks now leads directly into a metal fence.

Ken Mullen, assistant vice president of business and finance, said the university's official plan is to direct pedestrians to the Lebanon and Williamson avenues intersection to cross.

"I think it's going to work if we are willing to let it work," he said. "We all need to cooperate with the plan to ensure we are as safe as possible."

But many are choosing instead to walk along the construction fence in traffic or cross directly in front of Acorn Coffee Shop and Town Table, emerging between

parked cars where there are no crosswalks.

"I always cross right in front of Acorn and hope that a car stops for me," freshman Megan Guido said.

Mullen said there are no plans in place to add crosswalks or lights to the street. He said even if these additions were warranted, it is the North Carolina Department of Transportation's responsibility, because they maintain the roads.

"I definitely think they should have a better way to cross to Acorn," freshman Priyanka Sundaram said.

Junior Alex Trice knows how dangerous Williamson Avenue can be. Last year, she was struck by a car in front of the former Pendulum office.

"I think it's definitely something to be concerned about," she said. "The fact that there isn't a sidewalk there makes me feel unsafe."

But junior Katie Fobben said she doesn't think there is a safety issue.

"It's the South, so people drive slow, so I don't think it's that big a deal," she said.

As the construction moves into its next phase, there will be new concerns, both logistical and safety-related.

"The steel has been ordered so once the steel comes in, that's when it will get real exciting for us all," said John McDonald, the owner of EDG Property, LLC, the developer of the Elon Town Center.

But, McDonald said, this will create more traffic issues for a few days, when a crane is parked on W. College Avenue to lift the steel beams into place.

This will not be the only disruption to daily Elon life the project has caused. On Feb. 18, Acorn Coffee Shop closed at 6 p.m. while cables running beneath the construction site were re-routed.

An e-mail to students and faculty on Monday from Provost Steven House warned of excessive noise between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. that may prompt people to seek hearing protection or may warrant the relocation of classrooms.

"I think it's typical construction," Mullen said. "You're going to have a little dirt. You're going to have some noise."

He added that the loudest phase of construction, the driving of the steel pylons, should be completed within the next two weeks.



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Students walking from campus to Acorn Coffee Shop must dart around traffic and construction in order to get their pastries and lattes.

In his e-mail, House also warned that pedestrians could be at a greater risk, as drivers may be distracted by the construction.

McDonald said the initial pedestrian plan was being modified to make it safer and that NCDOT representatives had visited the site to look at modifying the plan. A representative said there was no record of an initial pedestrian plan or modified plan, and Mullen said there would be no changes to the

current situation.

The construction will last the remainder of the year and into the summer. McDonald said he isn't sure how long the sidewalk will be closed, but that he expects the building to be completed by Aug. 1.

"That's the goal," he said. "Depending on weather and everything else, I would love to see us beat that by two weeks."

The official groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. March 2, followed by a reception at the Town Table restaurant.

A new home for Elon's learning communities

Mariah Irvin
Reporter

For the 2011-12 academic year, six learning communities will be moving from their current locations to the new Colonnades residence halls.

Freshman Claire Mayo, who lives in the Honors Learning Community on the third floor of Virginia, said she has enjoyed her learning community experience.

"It's one of the best places to live," Mayo said. "I'm surrounded by inquisitive minds."

Next year, when the learning community moves to Colonnades C, residents will be able to study and socialize in a common room. Several learning communities, including the Honors floor, don't have common rooms in their current locations, which is

one of the reasons they were chosen for the move, according to Brian Collins, associate director of Residence Life.

"It will be a better environment," Mayo said. "Having a common room will enhance interaction."

According to Collins, the new Colonnades residence buildings will have office spaces and apartments for faculty and staff, as well as classrooms similar to those in the International and Honors Pavilions in the Academic Village. Learning communities in the new Colonnades will also have access to large lounges and study rooms.

"Common areas and enclosures are critical for the success of a learning community," Collins said. "The facilities will be phenomenal."

The details have yet to be solidified, but

Collins said there may be available space in one of the new buildings to house a student-run business. All the buildings will also be Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.

Collins said the possibility of upperclassmen mentoring positions within the communities is still being discussed.

"There's a shift toward mentoring opportunities in residence halls and the opportunity to be mentored," Collins said. "It's still being fleshed out, but there will be some form (of mentoring) in some learning community next year." The mentoring positions would be in addition to a resident assistant for the hall.

Shannon Duvall, associate professor of computing sciences, is the adviser for the math, science and engineering learning community, currently located on the

second floor of Virginia.

With more space for living and studying, she said she hopes more students will apply to join the community for the next academic year. The new facilities will aid Duvall and some of her fellow advisers as they lead Elon 101 courses specifically for the first-year students entering their communities.

A new community, Better Together, will be established this fall in Colonnades E. It will be a multi-faith community designed to promote diversity while exploring religion. It joins a lifestyle community, ASHES, Alcohol and Substance-Free Housing for Elon Students, for students who want to live in an environment free of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances. Other learning communities include health and wellness and sustainable living.

Trollinger House: A vibrant, unique option for Elon residency

Ashley Fahey
Copy Editor

For students who are looking for an alternative space to live in that is still considered to be on campus, Trollinger House might be the place to look. This renovated church, located across the railroad tracks from West End Station on W. Trollinger Avenue, can hold up to 15 upperclassmen. Most of the students in the Arts and Letters Learning Community are housed there.

Because it contains features and amenities that are unlike a typical dormitory or apartment complex, Trollinger House is a unique Elon residency.

The house has high cathedral ceilings, two spacious common rooms, two kitchens, four bathrooms and a gallery space in which students can exhibit their art. The Arts and Letters Community hosts many events in the space, including a monthly open mic night.

"It's a community of people of all majors and minors who are interested in the literary, musical, performing and visual arts," said Tita Ramirez, one of the advisers to the Arts and Letters Learning Community. Other events and activities the community does together include museum tours and independent film nights.

Trollinger House was the home for the Arts and Letters Learning Community for five

years after La Casa de Espanol moved to Colonnades, according to Ramirez. The house features several double rooms, a few single rooms and one triple room in addition to the common rooms and kitchens.

"(Arts and Letters) used to be housed in a residence hall, and then Jeff Stein (special assistant to the president), who was then Dean of Students, came to us and asked us if we'd like to expand and have the upperclassmen students housed in Trollinger," Ramirez said. "Of course, we said yes."

First-year Arts and Letters community members live on the first floor of Staley residence hall, but all other classes are eligible to live in Trollinger House. According to the Residence Life website, the Arts and Letters candidates "must show an interest in the arts or writing, either by majoring in an artistic field, such as art, creative writing, film, music, theater, or by enjoying and getting involved in the arts."

In order to apply to live in the Arts and Letters community in Trollinger House, students should contact one of the community advisers and complete an application during the online housing selection process, Ramirez said.

"I was looking for a way to find people with similar interests as me to make freshman year easier," said Chris Sonzogni, a junior.

He said the Arts and Letters



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Trollinger House houses the Arts and Letters Learning Community, a group of students studying the liberal arts at Elon University. This renovated church is still considered on-campus housing and can house upperclassmen.

learning community provided him with that and living in Trollinger House has been an awesome experience.

"Aside from the actual structure of the house, we have a community that is a result of all of us living together that I don't think is possible in hall-style or suite-style living arrangements," he said.

The structure of Trollinger House also adds to its exceptionality as a residential area on campus. The house has

a closed-in glass porch at the front of the building, and artistic murals liven up the blank walls inside, while visually reflecting the personality of the Arts and Letters community.

"We do kind of feel like we are a little island, separated from the other learning communities and ResLife housing, but we love our house," said resident Alexa Johnson, a junior. "It's strange and wonderful, and it feels like the attitude of the learning community personified in house

form."

The wall murals, piano and gallery space are testaments to this claim. Members of the learning community all expressed their love for the house, and how well-suited it was for Arts and Letters.

"I love the house. It's different. It's probably, no, definitely the best on-campus residency at Elon," Sonzogni said. "It's nice to just have a community of people that you care about living in the same house as you do."

Elon welcomes young musicians for jazz festival

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Hundreds of grade school musicians from North Carolina and Virginia attended the 15th annual Jazz Festival at Elon University Feb. 18 and 19. Students performed and participated in workshops and one-on-one sessions with world-class musicians.

The two-day festival featured jazz clinicians trombonist Tom Brantley and Swedish pianist Per Danielsson as well as a performance from Jack Wilkins' "The Blue and Green Project."

John Mullen, an Elon junior and festival performer, said he enjoyed the interaction between the clinicians and the middle and high school students. He said he also enjoyed playing with professional musicians.

"Both are situations in which I learn a lot by observing and listening," he said.

The event serves to attract rising musicians and focuses on aspects such as improvisation and performance techniques, said Jon Metzger, the festival director and an associate professor of music. He said the festival allows Elon to showcase its talents to younger students in grade school.

"This festival is an

outreach program for perpetuating American jazz music so we can keep that tradition alive," Metzger said. "It is also a recruiting vehicle for us having all these students on campus so they can see Elon and the jazz studies program."

Metzger said he wanted to specifically give students the palettes from which they can compose freely at the festival. He said it is a subject rarely taught in high schools because of time constraints.

"The Blue and Green Project," a series of songs composed by North Carolina native Jack Wilkins, was the festival's evening concert. Wilkins said his long history of enjoying time in the Appalachian Mountains during the summer and his relationship with arts and craftsmen of the southern mountains inspired the project.

Having performed the same piece last March in Tampa, Fla., Wilkins said he enjoyed the experience of playing in an area that is full of appreciation and awareness of mountain culture.

"It's great to do this in North Carolina because so many people know a little bit about the culture of the Appalachian Mountains," Wilkins said. "Everybody from

here at least goes on vacation once in a while up to the North Carolina mountains, and I grew up doing that, so it's great to do this here."

Wilkins said he knew there were a lot of schools in the mountain area that would serve as great locations for the concert because of the combination of artists and culture.

"It incorporates some mountain artists as well as the culture," he said. "It's an interesting, multi-faceted project."

Kaitlyn Fay, an Elon senior and performer in "The Blue and Green Project," said she enjoys the festival and the different experiences it brings each year. She said she was especially excited to play with Wilkins' group because of its jazz expertise.

"Going to school in an area that doesn't often see big-name artists touring through, despite relative proximity to Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh, the festival gives students an opportunity to rub elbows with some great players, hear what they have to share with us about being a jazz musician, and even the opportunity to share a stage with them," Fay said.

Fay said she feels the festival really highlights a snapshot of the Elon students' levels of musicianship after much



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Jack Wilkins plays the saxophone as part of The Jack Wilkins "Blue and Green Project."

preparation and growth occur throughout the school year.

"All in all, the jazz

festival provides such a wonderful, unique experience that allows students to hear and

speaking with world-class musicians," Fay said. "And that is such a valuable opportunity."

the elon network

it's coming ... april 4, 2011



Rebecca Solnit, journalist and author of "A Paradise Built in Hell," talks about human nature and how it's affected by disasters like Sept. 11, 2001, in Whitley Auditorium Feb. 21. Her book looks into these extreme situations, and is driven by her interest in the way people handle disasters. JACK DODSON | Photographer

Liberal Arts Forum speaker discusses human awakening during natural disaster

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Rebecca Solnit discussed her book "A Paradise Built in Hell," Monday night which postulated that natural disasters yield cooperative relationships among humans. Solnit, an author and essayist, was the first guest of Elon University's Liberal Arts Forum for spring 2011.

According to Solnit, disasters reveal fundamental traits about human nature that is often suppressed under the status quo.

"In a disaster, people come together," she said. "There are some theories that cherish it as a civil society close enough to paradise."

Society imagines paradise to be a place absent of work, but in reality, paradise is improvisational, she said.

"This paradise built in hell shows us what we want and what we can be," Solnit said.

Economic interests overshadow other human interests, but disasters illuminate more benevolent desires, according to Solnit. The human appetite to be a member of civil society mitigates fear, she said.

"Unacknowledged joys come alive," she said. "In an emergency, these skills and ties reveal what the rest of the world can be like. It reveals mutual aid is a default operation principle. A world can be built on that basis."

She discounts the Hollywood

presentation of human behavior during times of disaster and censures the studio depiction of enveloping panic and wide-spread selfishness.

"People scream, trample each other and engage in violence," Solnit said, referring to the characters in disaster films. "The hero stands for altruism, strength and courage."

She rejected the rarity of the hero presented in these movies.

"We need to be told to be reminded that we have souls," she said. "That our motives are based on principles, that we are not savages or barbarians."

While Solnit said humans are taught that they revert to savagery during times of crisis, she argued that the majority of people in the aftermath of a natural disaster embody the characteristics of Hollywood's hero, rather than the panic-stricken commoners.

She attributed the public's perception of human behavior during disasters to popular disaster movies, media and Thomas Hobbes' theory concerning human's reliance on government.

Following Sept. 11, the administration capitalized on the panic the media induced, provoking the public to support a war against Afghanistan and later Iraq, she said.

The public feared criticizing the government until the media displayed panic and turmoil in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2004.

Media coverage of Hurricane

Katrina referred to non-white residents as looters, suggesting that crime and violence increase during natural disasters. More than five years after Hurricane Katrina, we are still struggling to accurately depict human nature and human rights, she said.

According to Solnit, such language and blame indicates an emphasis on protecting property and recklessness with human life.

"These pictures convey desperation, but they don't convey the crime," she said. "Minorities are blamed and dehumanized in disasters."

This portrayal is not restricted to American tragedies, Solnit said. In the wake of the earthquake in Haiti, media published a photograph of a man taking powdered milk from a chain store.

According to Solnit, the violation of property laws represents a struggle for survival. She argued that morals change during a time of disaster, but said media don't understand the societal change and the journalist's report induces a false panic.

Nevertheless, she did not discount that some individuals experienced no panic during disaster, but argued that these individuals represent the minority and are often elite citizens.

"Imagine the disaster as a revolution and a revolution as a disaster," she said. "Anything is free, anything is possible and this is both terrifying and liberating."

NEWS BRIEFS

Professors awarded grant to research concussions

The American Medical Society for Sports Medicine recently awarded a team of Elon University researchers a grant of \$17,000 to look into the effects of concussions in student athletes.

The project is titled "Influence of Concussion History on Cognitive Performance in College Student Athletes: A Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Examination."

The research team will measure verbal and visual memory, processing speed, reaction time and pulse control, word discrimination and attention span to determine differences between athletes who have suffered concussions and those who haven't.

The main investigator will be Kenneth Barnes, adjunct assistant professor of exercise science, director of sports medicine at Elon and a sports medicine physician at Kernodle Clinic. Other researchers include Eric Hall, Wally Bixby, Paul Miller and Stephen Folger.

New fraternity, sorority announced

Thirteen upperclassmen recently joined the Delta Upsilon Fraternity at Elon University, serving as the founding fathers of the most recent fraternity addition to campus.

Elon also welcomed Kappa Delta this month as the newest sorority on campus.

Communications professor co-authors book on the Internet

Janna Anderson, associate professor of communications, recently co-authored a book exploring the future of intelligence along with Lee Rainie, a member of the School of Communications Advisory Board and director of the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project.

The book, titled "Challenges and Opportunities: The Future of the Internet, Volume 4," is Anderson's fifth book and contains information based on data from the 2010 Elon-Pew survey of 900 expert respondents.

Elon student arrested on vandalism charges

Elon freshman Katherine Appelbaum, 18, was arrested around 1:45 Saturday morning on charges of vandalism to real property.

At this point, it is unclear whether the charges are in relation to the graffiti discovered near Boney Fountain and on the walkway between McEwen School of Communications and Whitley Auditorium.

Campus security could not be reached for comment.

Calendar: Feb. 23-March 1

FEB. 23

* BBQ Cook Off- Colonnades
* J.C. Watts Q & A: 11 a.m., Whitley Auditorium
* Building an LGBTQ community on campus: 12:30 p.m., McKinnon D
* Wednesday night Catholic Mass, 7:30 p.m., Holt Chapel

FEB. 27

* Sunday Worship: Ecumenical Protestant Service, 10:30 a.m., Holt Chapel

FEB. 24

* Bill Ferrell Q & A: 4:15 p.m., KOBC 145
* Senior Dance Concert: 6:30 p.m., BlackBox
* Autism Speaks U meeting: 7 p.m., Lindner Hall 102
* Nordic Voices: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

FEB. 28

* "Autism: The Musical": Doherty Center
* Wild Things Dinner: Harden Dining Hall
* Philadelphia Alumni Chapter Bowling Social: 6 p.m., Lucky Strike

FEB. 25

* SUB presents Frank Hurd: 8 p.m., Irazu
* Catholic Mass: 12:10 p.m., Holt Chapel

MARCH 1

* College Coffee, 9:40 a.m., Phi Beta Kappa Commons
* Peace Corps Information Session: 4:30 p.m., Mooney
* Mysoon Rizk: 6 p.m., Yeager Recital Hall
* Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle: 7:30 p.m., McCrary

FEB. 26

* Leadership Development Institute: 9:15 a.m., Moseley
* Men's Lacrosse Tournament: 12 p.m., Intramural Fields on South Campus
* SUB Cinema presents "Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows," 8 p.m., Irazu

For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.

Corrections

In the Feb. 16 issue of the Pendulum, in the article titled "First undergraduate research journal to be released in October", Victoria Dose was incorrectly identified as the managing editor of the journal. Dose is the editorial assistant and Rebecca Pope-Ruark, assistant professor of English, is the managing editor. The "Perspectives on Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Journal" was also incorrectly identified as the first undergraduate research journal. "Elon Journal of Undergraduate Research in Communications" was the first.

The dates for Campus Recreation's Nothing But Nets 3 on 3 tournament was incorrectly identified as Monday, Feb. 21. Sign-ups for the event began Feb. 21 and the tournament will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 in Jordan Gym.

Editorial

Federal cuts could harm higher education

Two weeks ago, President Barack Obama announced his budget plan for the 2012 fiscal year. Normally, a new budget wouldn't draw much media attention. But in a country still reeling from recession and a federal government locked in partisan battles so fierce that even President Lincoln would avert his eyes, it's been a hot topic.

In the Elon University bubble, though, the most pressing piece of this puzzle is less than 1 percent of the \$3.7 trillion total. In the grouping the White House is using, this .58 percent includes "student financial aid for college, including Pell Grants."

Pell Grants, federal scholarships given to students who demonstrate financial need, are currently capped at \$5,500 a year. While the new budget keeps that current cap, it says each student can only receive one each year. It also says Pell Grants cannot be applied to summer education, which is where many of these second grants were being sent.

The new budget proposal also ends the subsidy on federal loans for graduate school students, meaning the loans start

earning interest right away instead of after graduation.

And finally, the budget calls for a reduction of funding for career and technical education.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported Sunday, Feb. 20 that these reductions would hurt community colleges especially, as these institutions rely heavily on Pell Grants and this career and technical education funding. The Chronicle also said that changes in higher education funding will put greater pressure on colleges and universities and the states they are in, as both look to tighten their belts and look for new ways to come up with money that simply isn't there.

In January 2010, The Pendulum reported that 411 Elon students benefited from Pell Grants last year, which is just under 9 percent of the student body. Nationally, in the 2008-2009 school year, 8.23 million students received Pell Grants.

The question is: Are all these cuts really a bad thing? At first, sure, it seems terrible, cutting funding for students who need financial aid to propel their dreams of higher education. But before students

take up arms, they should think of the bigger picture and search for funding alternatives, like private loans.

While not as easy as grants, receiving loans from private banks could provide a solution. Having loans will not only build a student's credit, but millions of private loans taken out by young people who will achieve degrees could kick-start our sputtering bank industry.

And while unsubsidizing graduate school loans may seem cruel, the College Board reports that those with graduate degrees have the highest median income of any group in the U.S., meaning they are in the least need of help in the long term.

Again, Pell Grants are important to more than 400 students at Elon. And if some of these students suddenly find themselves without their second grant and struggling to cover the deficit, the university should step forward and relieve this burden. If the administration can afford to build new state-of-the-art facilities, they can find several thousand dollars to prioritize the financial well being of the students who help to make up the Elon community.

Looking for fulfillment of campaign promises

The Pendulum's printing schedule often puts it at odds with big events on campus. From commencement to headline speakers and now SGA elections, events held on Tuesday and Wednesday are impossible for us to cover in the print edition of the paper.

So if you're picking up this edition, hot off the presses Wednesday, get online and vote in the SGA elections before the polls close at 5 p.m. Check out elon.edu/pendulum for candidate profiles, photos and videos.

If you've grabbed a copy of the paper later in the week, then hopefully you've already cast your ballot, know the election results and witnessed voter turnout higher than ever.

Regardless of who becomes the next SGA executive president — Matt Campbell or Sam Warren — both promised to keep the student body better informed on the inner workings of SGA.

Whether it is through an executive staff blog, an improved PR committee or continuing with video updates, increased visibility and awareness is a must within

SGA. In the past year, video updates have all but stopped. The agenda minutes from the weekly meetings have not been posted online since May 6, 2010.

The student press should work to inform the student body on the organization's actions, but SGA must take it upon itself to share what it claims to be doing for the students.

If transparency is the real goal, the new president should open the formal hearing in all judicial cases within SGA. The preliminary hearing is open to the public except for the judicial committee's deliberations. The preliminary hearing determines if a formal hearing is needed, and the formal hearing can be open to the public if there is a unanimous vote by the judicial committee and the accused individual.

This is simply not enough. If an elected official who represents the student body is formally charged with a violation or crime, then the public deserves to be present at the hearing.

Warren, current executive vice president and head of the judicial

committee, said he doesn't believe there would ever be a formal hearing of the SGA senate would not open to the public.

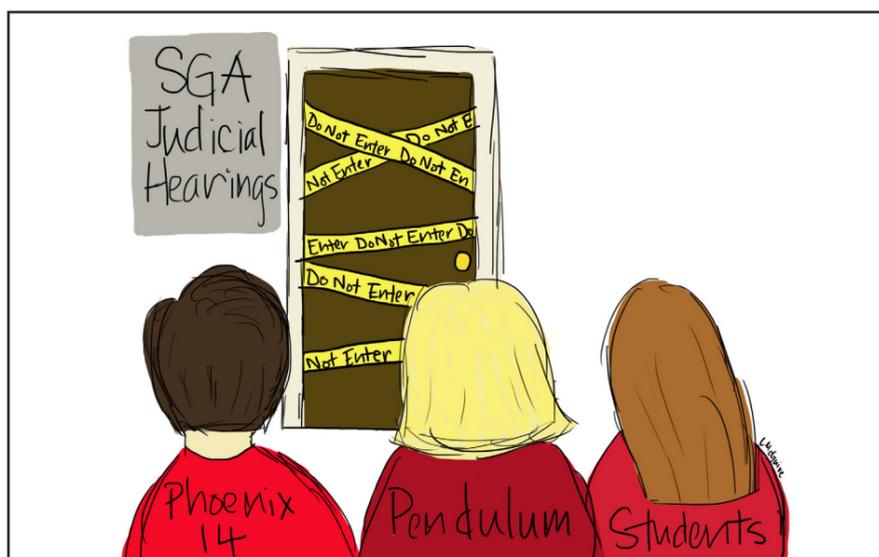
"So if it is the will of the Senate, then a formal hearing can become an open hearing," Warren wrote in an e-mail. "I can't imagine there being an issue sensitive enough that the Senate would vote to keep the hearing closed."

While we certainly hope there would never be a situation where the Senate chooses to keep the hearing closed, we don't want to take the chance. Like criminal and civil trials that are open to the public in the real world, so should SGA's.

For that matter, all of SGA's business should be open for public inspection.

If our candidates and soon-to-be elected leaders push for transparency, we will hold them accountable for these ideas in the upcoming year. The high promises from campaigns can easily fall to the wayside if the daily grind becomes overbearing.

We expect the pledges of transparency and increased SGA access to take precedence.



LIBBY MCGUIRE | Cartoonist

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

We're more than seven weeks into 2011. How are your resolutions holding up? Check in with five Pendulum staff members and their journeys at:

www.pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

If columns are your life, check out more content on the Opinions blog at:

www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

There's always more to read on The Pendulum website. Click on the Opinions tab for more columns and editorials.



THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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LETTER TO THE PENDULUM:

Editor's note: This letter is in response to the Feb. 16 story "Soldier shares experiences, defends Israel's military actions" by reporter Nicholas Zanetti.

Dear Mr. Zanetti,

I read with interest your informative article regarding the recent visit from the Israeli soldier. It is a pleasure to read unbiased, straightforward reporting from a university paper. Keep up the good work.

Judge Gary Silow

TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be e-mailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244. Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

Commentary can be quickly posted on a message board accompanying each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum.

Opinions

Class of 2014 steps aside as Class of 2015 steps forward



Kyra Gemberling
Columnist

As the spring semester continues, next year's freshman class is visiting Elon University for tours, Fellows Program interviews and orientation. For current freshmen, the realization that the first year of college is nearly over serves as a shock to some, but is a relief to others.

"It's not one of those things that makes me happy or sad, it's just amazing how quickly it's gone by," freshman Sarah Beacham said. "The fact that we're going to be sophomores amazes me."

While some freshmen are saddened by the end of their first year, they can look to the upcoming sophomore year as an exciting challenge.

There's still much to learn, but the majority of

freshmen are now comfortably situated with their lives as college students; therefore moving into the new school year shouldn't be difficult.

They're starting to find out which groups they fit best with, which campus organizations they like the most and how to spend the next three years. Now, it's time to take a permanent place within the Elon family instead of being a lonely freshman.

Even though it's sad that time flies by and changes occur so fast, freshmen should be more excited than ever to progress onward and get over this initial "baby phase."

"I'm excited because we can help first years like we were helped and see what we were like from an upperclassmen perspective," freshman Danni Simmons said. "We'll have a lot more opportunities and people won't be able to use the 'oh, they're a first-year' excuse anymore. It's a rite of passage, and now it's time to play another role."

As next year's freshman class makes an appearance on campus, it will be interesting to

be on the other side of the glass, seeing students experiencing college for the first time, perhaps wanting only to rush home to the comfort of their familiar friends and families.

This notion seems ridiculous now, which shows just how fast a situation can change. The initial hardship of making the transition from high school to college is over, and now it's time to bring on the real fun.

Freshman are beyond the awkward icebreaker games at orientation, beyond gaining the "Freshman Fifteen" and fighting to lose it before summer and beyond initial struggles every student experiences.

With every hardship, hopefully lessons have been learned about how to handle life's twists and turns and not make the same mistake twice.

Freshman year teaches a lot about the meaning of belonging in a different environment. But it's a mere scraping of the surface of all that Elon has to offer, and now, it's time to dig down even further.

The U.S. should keep its distance from political upheavals in other nations



Ryan Maass
Columnist

It's official — protests in the Middle East are spreading like wildfire. Following the successful protests against President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, citizens across the Muslim world are calling for an end to authoritarian rule.

The challenge for those being pelted by rubber bullets in the streets is a tough one: remain peaceful, and don't let up. The challenge for the United States is easy: back off.

What the Middle East is experiencing is a power shift. Democracy is at play here, but calls for free and fair elections and liberalized markets are in danger of falling upon deaf ears. There's no question that the people in Egypt, Yemen, Iran, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria and Jordan, all of which are experiencing massive protests, want a system like that in the United States.

Whether it is a system they will receive is a different story.

Standing in the way for the push for freedom are two distinct enemies: Muslim fundamentalists and the governments themselves.

The Muslim Brotherhood has a powerful presence in Egypt. In fact, it is the only formalized partisan group in the country. Leftist writers in Time magazine and other publications have dismissed the Brotherhood as not being a threat. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Brotherhood leader Mohammed Badie serves as the "Supreme Guide" — a high ranking position in the group. In his own words, published in the Wall Street Journal, "[The Brotherhood] will continue to raise the banner of jihad."

It is also reported that Badie named the Jews the Brotherhood's "first and foremost enemies."

Government leaders in Iran have threatened the protests there with executions. Two college students have already been murdered at the hands of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's regime, which has already arrested 1,500 protesters that don't share America's freedom of expression rights.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, who has been instrumental in the fight against the Taliban, used security forces to break up a fresh wave of protests there.

These protests are not an isolated incident. If the protesters remain as persistent as they have been on the streets of Cairo, a change of power will occur just as we saw in Egypt.

But this does not mean the Middle East has suddenly opened up to democracy.

It is imperative that the federal government of the U.S. is as least involved with the actual conflicts as possible. There have been countless instances where the government helps put in ruthless dictators who later have to expend American and foreign lives alike.

While protesters in the Muslim world contend with their own governments, this is a good time for us to re-evaluate our foreign policy.

Alliances with dictators who repress human rights and are permissive of groups like the Muslim Brotherhood need to stop. There needs to be a policy that lets world leaders know that the United States is willing to open up markets to them, but to not expect meritless handouts in foreign aid and security backup for problems they can and should handle on their own.

President Barack Obama has so far done an adequate job of orally supporting the peaceful democratic gatherings. But, that's as extensive as U.S. involvement needs to be.

Wave of revolution is far from over in the Middle East and North Africa



Neima Abdulahi
Columnist

The revolt bug first took a bite out of history at Tunisian civilians in mid-December 2010. Tunisians advocated against unemployment, poverty and food inflation. Their demonstrations led to Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of 23 years, fleeing for Saudi Arabia. This episode would then lead to a series of revolutionary events. The world was watching with eyes wide open.

The sentiment spread and bit into the vessels of the Egyptian youth and gave them a bloodstream of hope, within just a few days. Tens of thousands of protesters took action Jan. 25 to publicly display their civil unrest for their regime. What Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak failed to realize is that the world is a different place than when he first took power in 1981.

One out of every four Arabs is Egyptian.

Considering there are 21 other Arab countries, that number is staggering. This certainly has been an advantage to getting the attention of other Arab countries. Tunisia and Egypt set a new tone for the rest of the world, and demonstrating that asking politely is not always the best way to get what you want.

Egypt's neighbor, Libya, soon joined the revolt movement. Feb. 17 was dubbed as a "Day of Rage," a day dedicated to national protests. Demonstrators in Libya are currently protesting to take down President Muammar Gaddafi, who has been in power for 42 years. On Saturday Feb. 19, The Human Rights Watch reported that 25 protesters were killed in Libya. The anti-government protests took place in Benghazi.

The death toll in Libya will continue to rise as the government continues to tighten its belt of tolerance. But if this is anything like Tunisia and Egypt's protests, the people will prevail. There has been unrest that has spread within Arab countries, leaving us wondering if every Arab country will be consumed by this revolt movement.

Just a few days ago, Bahrain, a small island country in the Persian Gulf, showed signs of revolt. Protesters asked their king, Sheikh Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifa, to step down. Opposition groups and protesters have centered in the country's capital, Manama, while also dealing with the government trying to break up the protests by any means necessary. As of Sunday, Feb. 19, according to Al Jazeera, the monarchy has offered to open up dialogue between the government and the people.

Yemeni citizens have also asked for their president Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down. Opposition groups, protesters and the people have realized that the power truly lies in the hands of the people. As the death toll increases in these countries, the unrest continues to grab national attention. With Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Bahrain revolting, it will be no surprise if this unrest keeps spreading.

As thrones and leadership positions become vacant, the people must establish a general consensus on what form of government will work for them. This is important too, because it determines the well-being of future generations.

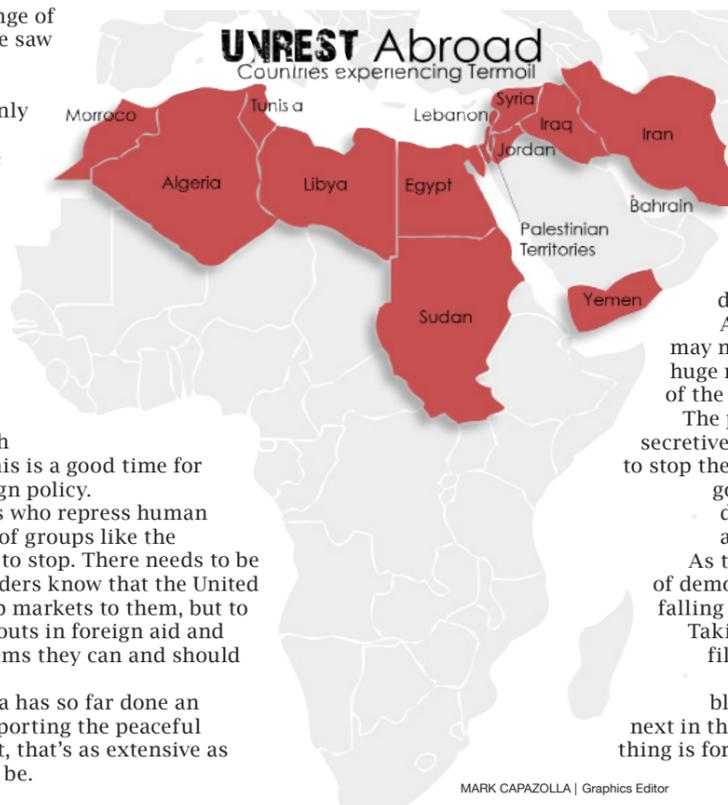
Although the protests have been democratic, Western democracy may not be the best route for these countries. Religion has played a huge role in the autocratic regimes, but it has not been the central focus of the protests.

The protesters have called for the ousting of their government's secretive rulings, not the Sharia laws. For instance, Tunisians wanted to stop the food inflations and Libyans wanted to get rid of their government's secretive rulings. The protests started off as peaceful demonstrations but became radicalized once government forces attempted to break them off by any means necessary.

As the revolt bug continues to open vessels of unprecedented level of democracy, the autocratic regimes in the Arab nations will continue falling to protests and opposition groups.

Taking down a regime was the easy part. Finding a government that fills the void of fragility might take years.

Hopefully, this revolutionary enthusiasm will not turn into a blood bath of disagreements regarding who should take power next in these nations. As history continues to unfold in the Arab world, one thing is for certain — this revolution is far from over.





PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Resident Student Associations' sixth-annual Phoenix Phind began Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. Phoenix Phind is a scavenger hunt mission where student teams have to complete a list of more than 150 tasks. Above: Peter Cooper, Clay Holland and Stuart Jones represent Team Domination, six-time Phoenix Phind champions. Right: Team Matrix in Easter bunny attire. The team came in third place. Far right: Team Domination embraces to celebrate their sixth victory. Below: Team PLL had to pose in a wheelbarrow with all group members to complete one task for Phoenix Phind. PLL received an honorable mention.



Phoenix Phind

Annual scavenger hunt causes a phrantic weekend for student participants



Tensions and Traditions: International Student embraces Elon, holds on to home

International student finds love in Saudi Arabia and education opportunities in America

Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

In the last year, Abdullah Alyahya has learned English, celebrated his 30th birthday, moved to the United States, enrolled as a master's student at Elon University and met the woman he would marry eight months later.

As a little boy, Alyahya's father sat him down and said, "When you want to study, don't think about any other country than America." These words served as an impetus, forcing him to leave his home country of Saudi Arabia and enroll at Elon University to work toward his master's in computer science information.

"I was born in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia," Alyahya said. "There are 7 million or 6.5 million people who live in Riyadh. It is a very modern city; you could compare it to New York City."

Alyahya found out about Elon University while studying at the English Institute at UNC at Greensboro. He applied

University was the first school that accepted him.

"When I got accepted I met some people from International Admissions and they were so polite and willing to help me," Alyahya said. "The behavior here is so different from other schools. When I go anywhere, there are people smiling on campus."

Alyahya lived with his father in Arizona from 1983 to 1985. During this time, he made the decision to come back and study in the United States when he was older.

"I like the American education system because I feel the outcome is usually better than in other countries," Alyahya said. "Americans are also more friendly than people in other countries. Americans accept foreign people."

Elon puts a lot of emphasis on international students and the study abroad experience. Alyahya said he has had challenges with the small number of international students who attend the university.

"Since there are not many

sometimes teachers don't realize I come from my country," Alyahya said. "When they explain literature they will say 'everyone knows this,' but I have not been taught that in school before."

There are many traditions at Elon that Alyahya has embraced. He attends music and dance performances, went to Convocation in the fall, plays pingpong with other students and loves College Coffee.

"One thing I really like about Elon University is that you can find the president of the university and teachers on campus, like at College Coffee," Alyahya said. "I went once and met three professors and one of them said I was in his class next semester. It was nice he knew who I was and that we got to talk over coffee."

Alyahya returned home to Saudi Arabia the summer of 2010 after his first year studying at UNC Greensboro.

"When I returned home, my aunt told me she knew a really beautiful girl," Alyahya

to ask the father the first time we meet with a girl. The next few weeks we talked about life and our future. I asked her if she wanted to study in America with me and she said yes. One month after meeting, we decided to get engaged."

One difference between Saudi Arabian culture and American culture is that two people cannot go on dates until after they are engaged, according to Alyahya.

Soon after proposing, Alyahya had to return to North Carolina for his first semester at Elon. They talked on the phone for an hour every day, and he returned home during the winter holidays for the marriage ceremony.

"Our ceremony is really different than the American

said. "Women and men have to be in a different hall for the wedding. Our wedding was medium-sized with 80 men in one hall and about 70 women in the other hall. It was just our close family."

Alyahya's wife returned to North Carolina with him, and she now studies at the English Institute at UNC Greensboro like Alyahya did.

Once Alyahya finishes his degree, he plans on moving back to Saudi Arabia with his wife.

"The opportunity to find a job in Saudi Arabia is very high right now," Alyahya said. "Plus, our societies are sometimes different. I can't leave my family. In our culture, it is normal to try and see your mom and dad, especially your mom, every day. I like studying in America but I do

"I like the American education system because I feel the outcome is usually better than in other countries. Americans are also more friendly than people in other countries. Americans accept foreign people."

-ABDULLAH ALYAHYA
MASTER'S STUDENT

1. Wayfarer style sunglasses have been popular for a while, but with the sun coming out again, this trend is back on the forefront. Wayfarers have stayed fashionable because they are flattering on just about every face shape.

"It's really reminiscent of California in the '80s," freshman Kylee Hefty said. "They're definitely an essential for spring." Instead of the usual black or tortoise shell Wayfarers, try a two-toned colored pair, or maybe a fun color to go with your nautical stripes and your nude frocks. Ray-Ban is a designer that makes many different colors and patterns of Wayfarers. If you don't want to pay a high price, head over to Target. They have knockoffs that look just as good.

1. wayfarer sunglasses

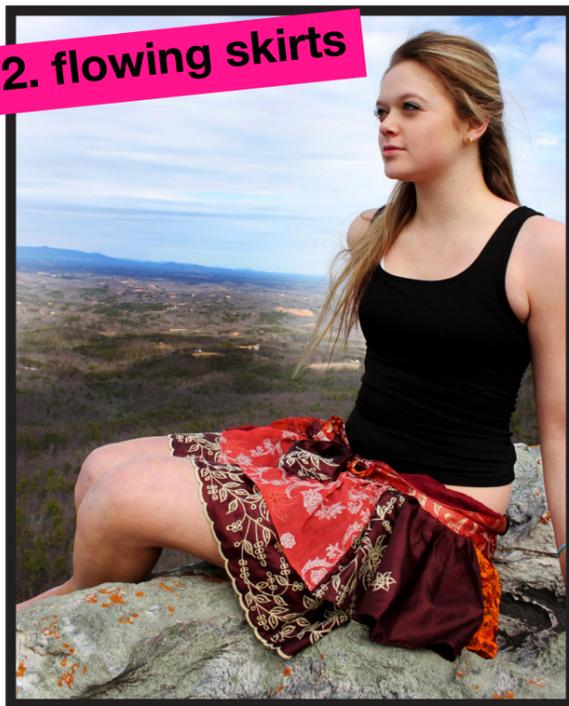


Top 6 fashion trends for spring

Jessica Petrocchi
Reporter

2. This Boho trend is back this spring. Feminine skirts that hit lower than miniskirts are a great all-around wardrobe piece and are very versatile. Belt a flowing skirt at the waist to give your body more shape. There are many colors and styles, so take the time to find the best one for your style and body type. J.Crew has billowy skirts that will give you the perfect feminine edge this season.

2. flowing skirts



3. bold colors



4. For this trend, remember to keep it classy, because lace can go either way. It can look tacky and suggestive, or classy and feminine. According to Elle.com, all-lace outfits are all over high fashion runway.

For college women, lace is more flattering in moderation.

"It's the perfect addition to an outfit to make it more girly and fun," freshman Whitney Levitt said.

Free People clothing boutique incorporates a lot of lace into clothing.

Look for solid tops with hints of lace on the back and sleeves. For a bargain, check stores like TJ Maxx and Marshalls for discounted prices.

4. lace



5. stripes



3. It's springtime and everything is typically more colorful, including clothing. Refinery29.com says the best color to wear this spring is orange, specifically "rich mango." If you're feeling brave, work neon into your outfit. If orange isn't your color, feel free to try out a bright yellow, or a rosy pink.

6. This trend is big and it is everywhere. Glamour.com suggests pairing a nude-colored article of clothing with a piece of a different, solid color, especially red or black. What's the best part about it? Neutrals make you look tan, which is perfect for coming out of the pale-skinned winter season. Also, nude heels will look great with adorable spring dresses and go with almost any outfit. Steve Madden has an incredible selection of neutral heels starting at \$79.95. For less expensive options, try Marshalls or TJ Maxx stores.

6. neutrals and nudes



5. Stripes pop up as a trend almost every spring, but the style of stripes continues to shift. This season, nautical stripes are in. Navy and white or black and white stripes on a skirt, shirt or blazer are going to be everywhere. If nautical isn't your style, incorporate rich colored stripes into your outfit. According to StyleBakery.com, yellow and navy stripes are a fabulous alternative. Madewell clothing store and online retailer is a big fan of thick, horizontal stripes and you can find a great selection at Madewell.com. Also, check major department stores like Belk and J.C. Penney for other options.

ALL PHOTOS BY TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer



Support group helps members cope with losing a pet, move on

Kyra Gemberling
Design Intern

The grief experienced from the loss of a pet is just as significant as the loss of a human for many people, spurring the creation of a pet loss support group in Alamance County.

MJ Tucci is a bereavement counselor and chaplain at Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell. The center began offering the pet loss support group two years ago to help grief-stricken individuals cope with the death of an animal companion.

"We have a lot of families and couples who don't have children that recognize their pet as their family member, so the grief is very similar," Tucci said. "It's a disenfranchised grief that isn't recognized well in society."

The group meets once a week for six weeks and provides an opportunity for members to share their feelings and bond with others who have had similar experiences.

Tucci said sharing is done in a number of ways, such as music, art or journal writing, depending on the interests of the group.

"We give them a framework and ask them to bring things in that link them to their pets and allow them to heal," Tucci said. "We usually have a theme and go off of that theme and we allow them to talk to each other about how they're coping and managing."

Tucci emphasized the importance of receiving support from others as members gradually learn to cope with their pain.

"It's about healing, which is different for every person," she said. "It's about sitting alongside them and allowing them to tell their stories

and talk as much as they need to talk until they feel like their grief is less intensified," she said. "There's no way to measure that."

Arielle Weil, a freshman, has experienced the pain of losing a pet after coming home one day to find that her dog Max had eaten two chocolate bars that had been left out.

Weil, knowing that chocolate is hazardous to dogs, rushed Max to the vet, but it was too late.

"They said he was basically dead, so they had to put him to sleep," she said.

Although Weil said she finds it hard to talk about personal issues like the loss of her dog, she said the pet loss support group could definitely come in handy for others.

"I do think it's a good idea because I know that a lot of people are the type that want to talk about things, especially older people and young kids," Weil said.

Weil said the group is beneficial to members because of the support it will provide.

"People will go seeking someone who's in the same condition," Weil said. "In every group, you're trying to get over something, and they're looking to have people who have felt the same they have."

Tucci said that one of her biggest goals with the group is spreading knowledge about the grief people experience after losing a pet.

"We try to get people to understand that it's necessary for people who have lost a companion pet to grieve and to recognize that as significant," Tucci said. "That's been our biggest challenge to get that education out there."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Arielle Weil, an Elon sophomore, considered Max to be an integral part of her family and even called him her 'brother.' Max lived until the age of 14.

Though some may assume that the group will help them get rid of their grief entirely, Tucci said this isn't true.

"One of the most important things is that you never get over your grief, you learn to live with it, and we make that distinction right from the very beginning," Tucci said. "The truth of

the matter is that the relationship will live on forever."

Hospice offers the pet loss group twice a year. The next session starts Feb. 22 and runs through March 29. The group meets every Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 914 Chapel Hill Road in Burlington. The group is free and is open to whomever is interested.

Recent videos present professor's research to students, community

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

While the work professors do inside the classroom is important, the research they do outside of it is equally significant. A recent collection of videos, produced by Elon's University Relations, seeks to highlight professors' knowledge and research and make it available to Elon's community.

Eric Townsend, director of Elon's News Bureau, said University Relations has always discussed featuring faculty expertise through videos. With the addition of Brian Meyer to its staff as an interactive media developer, it became easier to make time for professors to be on tape.

"It certainly shows the knowledge that we have here and the expertise that professors have from many different points of view," Townsend said. "This is a way to educate people on our (E-Net) site about issues of the day and a chance to show prospective students the professors we have here and the opportunities they would have to study here with those professors."

It also serves as a way to share with media sources in the area the professors who are available to comment on the news, Townsend said. Elon

fans and alumni can also view the videos and stay up-to-date with what's taking place on campus.

"It shows familiar faces and reminds them of some of the good professors they had here," he said.

So far, three videos featuring faculty have been produced, but there have been other instances of professors speaking on camera about research. Some have spoken at speeches, lectures or in coordination with News 14 Carolina.

"It's not as if showing what faculty know and have researched is new," Townsend said. "It's more that this is a lot more highly produced piece that is meant to have professors available to comment about issues in the news that people may already be following."

A staff member for three and a half years, Townsend said while he doesn't know every professor, he's met many and gotten to know them and their work.

"When we have a topic in the news that the professor is following or they know about, I'll call them up to see if they have interest," he said.

It's a matter of timing, but also planning, he said. For example, Elizabeth Bailey, lecturer in the department of health and human performance, was involved



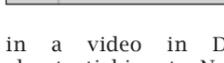
Laura Roselle
Professor in
Political Science
*video on protests
in the Middle East*



Rudy Zarzar
Professor in
Political Science
*video on protests
in the Middle East*



Amy Overman
Assistant Professor
in Psychology
*video on tips for
weight loss
resolutions*



Elizabeth Bailey
Lecturer in
Health and Human
Performance
*video on brain
injury recoveries*

Professors that Participated in E-Net Videos

LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

in a video in December about sticking to New Year's resolutions.

"It's looking ahead a month or two down the line and seeing what's coming up that professors can give short presentations about, based on what they know," Townsend said.

Rudy Zarzar, professor of political science, recently spoke about protests in the

Arab world for an E-net video, along with Laura Roselle, who is also a professor of political science.

Zarzar said he believes he was chosen to be interviewed because he teaches a course on the Middle East.

"As I see it, professors share their research findings with others for a variety of reasons, but for me, the most important one is to help citizens become

better informed about political phenomena," he said. "An informed public is an asset to democracy and controversy, an ignorant public is a liability to democracy."

Townsend said he is currently talking to a few professors who like the idea of sharing their research and knowledge, but it's a matter of finding time during their busy schedules.

So what do you think of the construction on Williamson Avenue?

Compiled by Jack Dodson
Multimedia Editor

Frank Hurd, senior

"I don't know a ton about it," Hurd said. "I'm not really sure when it's supposed to be done. Personally, I think it's kind of exciting that something new is getting put there. I don't really know all the details."

"I think it's strange timing. I guess you would think they would pick a time when classes aren't in session."

Patrick McIntyre, sophomore

"I mean, it's kind of an eye-sore now, but the stuff that they're building sounds kind of cool," McIntyre said. "But I mean it sucks for The Pendulum people, obviously."

"I'm trying to take pictures out here for a class and I can't even concentrate because everytime I go to take a picture a giant truck is right behind me. But I don't think it'd be a good idea for them to disrupt classes either. Time will tell," McIntyre said.

Shanna Van Beek, junior

"I lived in the Pavillions last year when they were doing the whole tunnel business, and I just had to put up with it," Van Beek said. "From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. you could hear and feel the whole building shaking. It's for the better of the community. I think students can suck it up, honestly."

James Shaver, junior

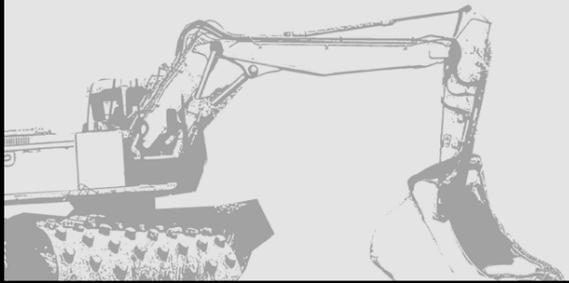
"I think what people have got to realize is sometime you have to stomach a temporary bad for the good of the community," Shaver said. "When I was reading about what the building is going to hold, it seemed like it could do a lot of good for the Elon student body. There are going to be some problems, but it's for a greater good. I don't really see a problem with it."

Katie Whittaker, junior

"I understand that it has to be done," Whittaker said. "Overall, I'm not a fan of the construction. If people want it to be like UNC, they should go to UNC, but I live far enough away that it doesn't affect me. I do have a class in the communications building, but it's downstairs so that part won't be as big of a deal."

Katie McKenzie, junior

"I thought it was good that (the administrators) let us know what is going on in the e-mail, but I also feel like everyone knew already," McKenzie said.



MORE ONLINE: STYLE

Thoughts on Construction

Timelapse – <http://bit.ly/TPOconstruction>



JACK DODSON | Multimedia Editor

No rehearsals for this play: Improv musical visits Elon University stage

Bonnie Efir
Features Editor

Warning: "Baby Wants Candy" is not your average musical production, according to Emily Dorezas, producer of the 60-minute improvised musical production. There's no time for rehearsals, planning or talk about lines, songs or dances.

"A lot of people want to know how they do it," Dorezas said. "People think it must be scripted, but it would be way too hard to prepare for that. I can see why people would think they script it because they are so good, but it's not like that."

Despite this common suspicion, Dorezas and the players of "Baby Wants Candy" said they create an entirely improvisational musical based off the first original title shouted out by the audience. The title becomes the theme for the night, and so the show begins—lights, curtains and action. The band starts up, and the players are on.

How do they do it?

Many of the players in "BWC" have acting or musical theater backgrounds, but, according to Dorezas, improvisation uses a different part of the brain than regular acting.

The improvisational group "Baby Wants Candy" performed at Elon University at 9 p.m. Feb. 22 in McKinnon Hall. The show was sponsored by SUBstage, and was put together by the chair Meaghan Britain.

To prepare for their shows, "BWC" player Ashley Ward said they practice just as a sports team would practice for a game.

"When we rehearse, all we can do is practice improvising different types of songs like a love duet, for example," she said. "We work on fundamentals and skills, just like a sports team practices

different plays before games, but like in sports, they never know where the ball is going to go and how the game is going to play out. It's the same for an improvised show."

Ward, a part of the New York "BWC" cast, said they have rehearsals once per month and they perform in New York City every weekend.

Ward is a musical theater veteran turned improvisation queen and teaches improvisation classes in New York City at the People's Improv Theatre. She's also a part of several different improv groups out of New York.

After getting frustrated with being typecast as the blond-haired, blue-eyed innocent character in traditional musical theater productions, Ward made the switch to improv.

"I like the freedom of being able to play whatever I want," she said. "I can play a man, baby, woman or a leopard, anything I want. I just have always loved comedy."

Jody Shelton, the pianist who accompanies many of the "BWC" shows and singer-songwriter and recording artist, has been with the show since it first began in 1997 and said that "BWC" is growing at a rapid rate and recently has completely sold out audiences.

He also referenced a recent New York Times review as something very exciting for "BWC." The review was overwhelmingly positive and led to more and more sold out shows.

Shelton said he has to listen closely throughout the whole show as he is constantly composing music on the spot for 60-minutes.

The common thread amongst the players in "BWC" is their love for comedy and respect for one another's talents.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
The cast of "Baby Wants Candy," a 60-minute improvised musical, is made up of 40 actors from all over the United States. "BWC" has three casts in Los Angeles, New York City and Chicago.

"BWC" player John Hartman, a working actor in Chicago and part of the Chicago "BWC" cast, said that working with his fellow players hardly feels like work.

"To get to play with so many amazing people that I really looked up to before is an honor," he said. "This is one of the best ensembles I've ever worked with. It's a real pleasure to get to work with these guys."

"Baby Wants Candy" started in 1997

in Chicago. It started with a small group of actors interested in improvisation, and since has grown. There are now about 40 actors across the United States involved in "BWC" and there are three casts — a Chicago cast, a New York cast and a Los Angeles cast.

Elon students will experience a mixed cast with a few players from the New York group and a couple from Chicago. Among them are Ward, Shelton and Hartman.

Hidden in plain sight: Elon's art collection

Stephanie Butzer
Reporter

There is sure to be a piece from Elon University's art collections nearby wherever people go on campus. Students may have wondered where they came from, but many never follow up on their curiosity.

There are more than 700 pieces categorized into seven collections scattered around campus. Some are in Belk Library, some are in Lindner Hall and some line the brick walkways. They range from sculptures to prints to paintings. A few are donated from residents of North Carolina, while others come from Africa and Asia.

One of the seven distinct collections is the Collection of Public Sculpture. Those who walk past the McMichael science building, Center for the Arts or Arts West have definitely seen the art in this collection. They are large sculptures with various meanings, artists, and themes.

The second collection is Davidson's Prints. These are 2D pieces and are located all around campus, but especially in offices.

Also featuring 2D images, the General Collection fits the traditionally accepted definition of fine art with paintings and prints.

The International Collection contains pieces from Africa and Asia. There are a lot of pieces from this collection behind glass casing on both floors of Lindner Hall, but the majority are in Belk Library.

"A lot of the pieces we have, especially from Africa, were functional pieces,"



Sculptures, like these in Center for the Arts, are a part of Elon's permanent art collection. The collection has been curated during the years with donations and acquisitions from all across the state, country and world. Pieces in the six collections can be found across campus.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

said Ethan Moore, an art and art history professor at Elon.

In addition to foreign art, Elon's collection contains works by local traveler and artist Maud Gatewood.

"She gave her collection of travel curios she picked up in her travels to us, and now we have things that are more decorative. Vases, urns, that sort of thing. She was (also) an artist herself," Moore said.

Gatewood gave some of her original pieces to Elon's art collection as well. Both this collection and the International Collection have the bulk of their pieces in the Multicultural Center

Another collection is the Joe King Collection. Upon his death in 1996,

several of King's paintings were donated to Elon College because of the outstanding support Elon provided for its students. This closed collection contains many portraits.

The final collection is the Portrait Collection. This collection consists of many portraits of famous people in Elon's past. Most of these are in Belk Library, but there are others scattered around campus.

Moore said he has high hopes for the collection. "The way I see the collection, I want it to be used as a hands-on tool for anybody," he said. "I would love for students to engage in the collection, as well as faculty members who might be able to highlight their courses."

One Acts Festival lights up the Black Box

Kit Arbuckle
Reviewer

Domestic dramas and classic theatre parodies rarely show up on the same stage. But, during the One Acts Festival, student directors and actors shine and take over short productions ranging from tragedy to comedy.

This year, the two one-act plays were the drama "The Seventeenth of June" and the parody "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls." Each was directed by juniors, Kabby Borders and Julia Gallagher, respectively, and featured thoroughly brilliant four-person casts.

"The Seventeenth of June" was a riveting drama about Dee (freshman Kim Zlogar), her two sisters (senior Ella Rinaldo and sophomore Mal Marcus) and her lover (senior Alex Carmine) coping with the death of her abusive husband Ant. It is soon revealed that Dee's sisters and lover were much closer to Ant than she believed, and Dee has a hard time accepting that.

According to Borders's director's notes, Dee "is a damaged woman, fighting her last fight to save any ounce of dignity she has left."

Zlogar was heartbreakingly believable in her portrayal, Marcus endearing and Rinaldo brimming with confidence and sass.

But Carmine's performance was pleasantly surprising, as his character Chet turns out to be much more forceful and more connected with Ant than anyone in the audience supposed. The scene where Dee and Chet, acting as Ant, relived the traumatic events of June 17 — Dee's 30th birthday — that ultimately set the events in the play in motion and had the audience on the edge of its seat.

"The Seventeenth of June" was Rinaldo's first student show.

"I feel really lucky to be a part of it," she said. Rinaldo, a B.A. Theatre Studies major, transferred to Elon last spring and will direct a full-length play later in the semester.

"Each person deserves to live a life that is their own," Borders said of the play's message. "Everyone deserves their



"The Seventeenth of June" unraveled a complex relationship between Dee (Kim Zlogar) and her abusive husband (Alex Carmine), after his death. The student-directed play was part of the One Acts Festival, an annual Elon event showcasing student directors and actors.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

own happiness."

The second play, "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls," differed greatly from the first, from genre to execution. "Southern Belle" is a parody of Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie." In Williams's original, mother Amanda pressures her children to be people they're not. Her son Tom feels trapped, and her daughter Laura escapes the overwhelming anxiety caused by her typing class by playing with her glass animal collection.

In "Southern Belle," Amanda (Sarah Nutt) is just as overbearing, Tom (Brandon Curry) just as eager to escape and Laura's character turns into Lawrence (Matthew Summers), a young man crippled by insecurity and obsessed with his collection of glass cocktail stirrers. Lesbian warehouse worker Ginny (Chelsea LeValley) completes the uproarious picture.

Summers practically stole the show with his outrageously awkward portrayal of Lawrence. Nutt and Curry, both veterans of the Elon comedy stage, proved their mettle yet again. LeValley won the audience's hearts as warm, honest, almost stone-deaf Ginny caught

family politics.

Curry called such student-directed shows as the One Acts "very renegade" and "pure fun." He said he learns more about all aspects of a show by participating in student-directed plays. Performing Arts department shows get more time to rehearse and more attention from faculty, he said, but Rinaldo pointed out that such obstacles "really show the power of what students can do."

The auditions for the One Acts were the first day of spring semester; Borders, Gallagher, and their casts and crews only had two weeks to memorize lines, create set and costumes, work out lighting and sound design, establish blocking and, in "Seventeenth's" case, develop a fight scene. The stage crew was so small that the actors of "Seventeenth" helped with set changes for "Southern Belle."

The sets were not elaborate, nor the lighting or sound as dazzling as that of "RENT" during Feb. 10-13. But, the plays of the One Act Festival were provocative and entertaining in their simplicity, and the students shone when all was stripped down to the bare bones of

FASHION COLUMN

Fashion Week: What to expect for fall



Alexandra Johnston
Fashion Columnist

New York Fashion Week Fall 2011 has come and gone. With the runways cleared and warehouses emptied, the world is left with a new set of trends for this fall. Many showgoers struggled to

label the season with a single word, but the New York Times deemed this fall "Americana," a display of United States culture and style throughout the decades. While this might seem fairly broad, key trends emerged and will guide fashion this fall.

Orange You Glad

It isn't an obvious choice for fashion, but dark burnt orange surfaced as one of the top chosen colors for fall. Paired with rich warm browns and reds, the color can be a great bold choice for colder weather. Marc by Marc Jacobs showed fabulous print orange wrap dresses and short sleeved tops that hinted at safari, but maintained class. Tory Burch used orange as a pop of color on trim for jackets and coats that added great detailing to already impeccably tailored clothing. Transitioning this bright orange from spring looks to fall should be handled with care and paired with dark muted hues to avoid eye shock from too many brights.

Time Travel

There are always vintage trends at fashion week, but this year the sense of old world style and romanticism came through in many shows. High-waisted pants were back this season, with little belts and tapered legs topped off with knitted socks and chunky heels. Ralph Lauren showed chic hair turbans and glamorous thick coats topped with bright colored long stranded beads. Ralph Lauren continued with full-beaded black dresses and tops reminiscent of the '20s, with models sporting their hair in sleek buns or short bobs. A great way to work the old world style into an everyday wardrobe is to start with the accessories. It is easy to pair great gilded and jewel tone beaded jewelry with a simple dress silhouette for a vintage romantic feel.

Pattern of Fact

One of the overarching trends this season was an abundance of printed clothing. From plaid to tribal, almost every designer embraced bold prints in a big way. Thom Browne, who held a show in the New York Public Library, displayed a mix of plaid on plaid blazers and skirts in a range of colors. The sisters at Rodarte worked in bold Native American influences from beaded shoes to bold patterned tops and dresses. Displayed in a range of muted hues, the effect was almost romantic, yet still bold.

Proenza Schouler displayed rigid patterns in knitwear reminiscent of a grandfather sweater, but paired with tapered printed pants. Big prints can be hard to match correctly, so take it slowly and work them in one at a time. Try experimenting with a bold plaid or printed dress and adding a muted blazer or jacket. The difference between the two will be complimentary to the look as a whole.

Fall fashion traces the journey of American style from the romantic to the bold and unforgettable. With so much material to work from, there is a style bound to work for everyone and enough choices that fall will certainly not be boring.

Students experience filmmaking first-hand

Stephanie Butzer
Reporter

Every film student dreams of the chance to make a widely-distributed movie. For 13 Elon students, their dreams may come true before they finished their undergraduate degree.

Sprite Refreshing Films was introduced to Elon students in late October, with an application deadline in November.

This program, sponsored by Sprite and Dreaming Tree Productions, allows college students from 12 colleges, including Northwestern University, University of Colorado Denver and Savannah College of Art and Design, to write, create, direct and edit short films for contest. If these movies move to the final round, the resulting short will feature a celebrity and move further into the competition.

Although this contest has been around since 1998, 2011 is Elon's first year competing. It already has the highest participation of any school eligible for the program. Eight of the 24 staff interns and two of the six screenwriters are Elon students.

The staff interns are seniors Beatrice Copeland, Philip Kimbrough, Michael Heil, Michael Bergin, Andrea Bernick and Kaitlin Buck; junior Tim Mollen and sophomore Jenna Strucko. Student filmmakers also include freshmen Andrew Riley, Tyler Oberle and Chelsea Wingo. The two screenwriters involved with the program are seniors Kristin Genszler and Joshua Chagani. Senior Austin Mintz was selected as first alternate screenwriter.

Every competitor who made it into the competition was assigned a city where the filming took place. Each city had four college-aged interns and ten teenage filmmakers working with an executive producer and Sprite representatives. Each of these cities had one unique script written by student screenwriter.

Elon students selected for production were spread across the country in competing cities. The group of students assigned to each city had just one day to shoot their short film.

Genszler got back from Miami, Fla. with Buck after their day of shooting on Feb. 16.

"It was cool because I knew what I had written, and to see it actually come to life was an incredible experience," Genszler said. Strucko worked in Dallas. Chagani's script was produced in Chicago, though he was unable to make it to the set himself. The other locations were New York City, Los Angeles and Atlanta.

Many of the students found out about Sprite Refreshing Films through professor Paul Castro.

"He really believed in my screenwriting and he encouraged me to apply," Genszler said.

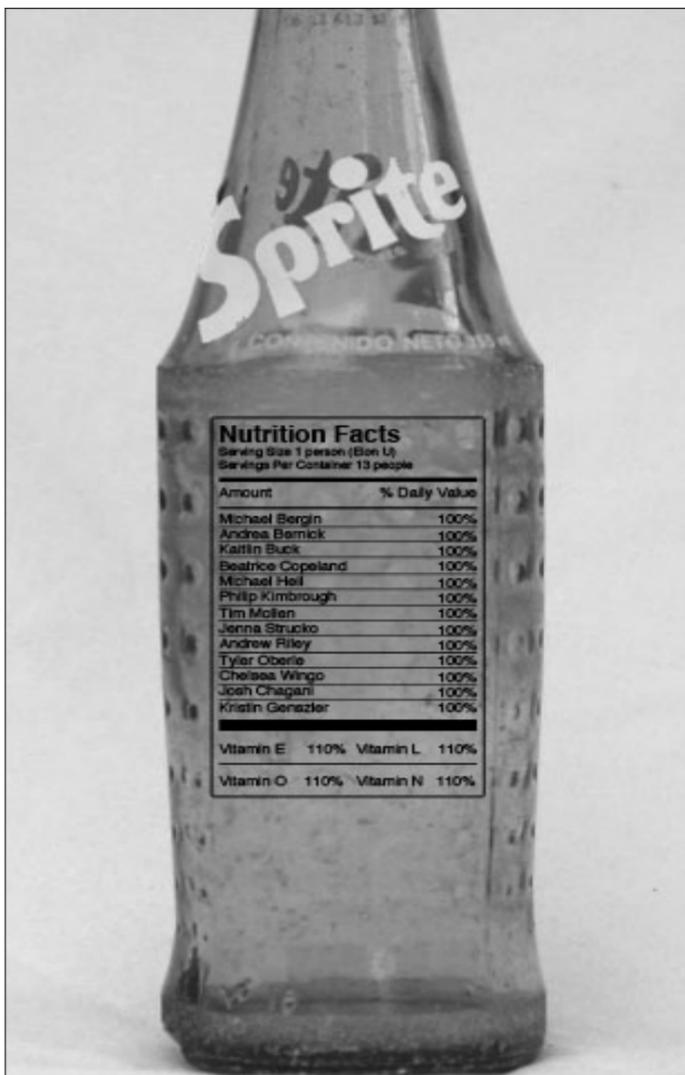
But for most of this process, the students were working on their own and had to rely on their own ingenuity and creativity.

The participating students said they became involved in this program for a variety of reasons.

"I was interested in the national recognition. I'm an editor and occasional director so having a screenwriting accolade is a real self-confidence booster," Chagani said.

Strucko wanted to gain more knowledge about filming and editing in general, as well as the documentary style.

Strucko heard about the competition through a friend. "I wasn't planning on applying until he told me there was a behind-



MARK CAPOZZOLA | Graphics Editor

Thirteen Elon students and one alternate attended the Sprite Refreshing Films Competition. They participated in everything from directing to screenwriting. The competition lets high school and college filmmakers access a set and actors.

the-scenes documentarian Strucko said. "If you think position. It sounded like a perfect college students are passionate fit for me," she said. about their work, try working with middle and high-schoolers getting their hands on cameras for the first time. Their energy and excitement was so encouraging, and they really ignited the project and made it their own."

The students gained valuable skills and knowledge from this experience.

"The best advice I've gotten is that it's called show business, not show art, about the client," Genszler said.

She explained how she had to rewrite her script several times in order for it to be perfect for Sprite.

Strucko agreed. "I learned a lot about working for a corporate sponsor and how to work under a very hard deadline," she said.

Even though this experience was full of challenges to overcome, the students said they had a good experience.

"The best part of my experience was getting to work with the teen filmmakers,"

"The best part of my experience was getting to work with the teen filmmakers. If you think college students are passionate about their work, try working with middle and high-schoolers getting their hands on cameras for the first time. Their energy and excitement was so encouraging, and they really ignited the project and made it their own."

- JENNA STRUCKO
SOPHOMORE

"Dreaming Tree will fly the winning group out for film festival," Genszler said. "The film will also be shown in every theater that sells Coke (products), which is about 20,000 (theaters)."

The film festival will take place in early June.



The 'Friends' are back in town



Michelle Wilson
Columnist

It's a fair assumption to make that anyone who watches television regularly has seen at least one episode of "Friends." Most people know the theme song and the will-they-won't-they storyline of Ross and Rachel.

Fewer people, however, know about the "Friends" Curse, a term

coined to describe the apparently failed careers of the six former Central Perk-ites. It's difficult to find successful new work after playing the same character for a decade.

This term is reminiscent of the "Seinfeld" Curse, used to describe the careers of Jerry Seinfeld, Jason Alexander, Michael Richards and Julia Louis-Dreyfus when their show ended after nine seasons. Then, Louis-Dreyfus found her Emmy-winning show, "The New Adventures of Old Christine," seemingly breaking the curse.

For the most part, the "Friends" all appear to be breaking their predestined doom as well. After their failed stunts in shows like "Dirt," starring Courtney Cox, "Joey," starring Matt LeBlanc, a spin-off that no "Friends" fan likes to talk about, and Matthew Perry in the clever but barely-watched show "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip," it's about time they all had more success.

Cox is doing well on her comedic and charming, if slightly boozy, show "Cougar Town." She was nominated for an Emmy last year, and this year, she's co-starring in the fourth installment of "Scream."

David Schwimmer is milking his voice for all its worth, starring in "Madagascar 3" as Melvin the Giraffe, but is also taking some time behind the camera to direct shows like "Little Britain USA."

Lisa Kudrow is starring in the web series "Web Therapy" and was a major scene-stealer in "Easy A."

Jennifer Aniston is starring in "Just Go With It," which grossed higher than "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never" on its opening weekend. If beating Justin Bieber isn't the ultimate success, then what is?

Lastly, there's LeBlanc and Perry, the bro-mance of "Friends." Currently, out of the two, LeBlanc's comeback is a bit stronger. Perry starred as Zac Efron's older self in "17 Again," as well as some cringe-worthy TV movies. His latest voyage to television is in the new ABC show "Mr. Sunshine." Nevertheless, in this case, it's quality over quantity. LeBlanc hadn't done much since "Joey" ended, but this year he's on the small screen once again in the Showtime series "Episodes." The witty comedy pokes tons of fun at Americanizing British television, and LeBlanc stars as himself — or, at least, a fictionalized version. The show looks quite promising, which is more than can be said at the moment for "Mr. Sunshine." Not that the latter doesn't show promise, but the first two episodes haven't shined the most brightly.

Regardless of what happens with "Mr. Sunshine," Perry always pulls himself up alongside his fellow "Friends," who at the moment, are only rising higher. The whole gang can rest easy knowing that their fans will always be there for them, when the rain starts to pour.



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO
During last year's Elonthon, 250 students committed to the full-day dance. This year, organizers hope to raise more than last year's total funds of \$100,343.96. The money raised will go to the local medical facility, Duke Children's Hospital.

Elonthon raises money, awareness for Duke Children's Hospital

Julia Sayers
Reporter

Imagine not being able to sit down for 24 hours. Sounds painful right? But for the past eight years, Elon students found the fatigue to be worth the reward.

Elonthon, Elon University's 24-hour dance marathon, is a yearlong fundraising event culminating in a dance where students are not allowed to sit or sleep.

Now in its ninth year, Elonthon raises money for Children's Miracle Network and its affiliate Duke Children's Hospital. Each event features "miracle children:" children with diseases, injuries or birth defects.

Mason Lindley, a child involved in an unfortunate accident, was the first miracle

child of Elon's event. He attended every Elonthon until he passed away a few years ago. His family still attends each year.

Elonthon is now the campus' largest philanthropy. Last year, 1,200 students danced and the event raised \$100,343.96.

Alexandra Lawrence, executive director of Elonthon, said that this year, they are hoping to exceed that amount and the amount of people who sign up.

Students have the option to dance the entire 24 hours or do six-hour shifts. Last year 250 students committed to the full-day dance. In addition to students, there are usually about 16 to 20 miracle families in attendance. About half of these families choose to share their stories during

the event. Some organizations, like on-campus fraternities or sororities, sponsor a child. They get to know that specific child and make banners for them.

"It's really cool to see the children look up to the college kids," Lawrence said. "They're like celebrities to them."

There are activities for students and families to enjoy during shifts. These activities include free food, entertainment, gaming systems, photobooths, inflatables and games.

"We try to make a lot of different options available to keep people's minds off of their tiredness," Lawrence said.

Elonthon is the only event that doesn't have a budget, since everything is made possible through donations.

"Best Buy has been really great," Lawrence said. "Last year, they donated a Wii, Xbox 360 and two TVs. This year, they're going to donate an Xbox Kinect."

Other entertainment includes Elon's a cappella groups, DJs and entertainers.

"We always try to switch it up," Lawrence said. "Last year, Miss North Carolina spoke and we had SkipSations, a jump rope group from Chapel Hill."

The DJs chosen are family-friendly and play upbeat, fast music.

"We want the music to make people want to dance and have a good time and not think about the fact they're standing for 24 hours," Lawrence said.

Each year, Elonthon has a theme, and this year's theme is based on the Adidas logo. The motto is "For the kids,

impossible is nothing."

"We want to play music that relates to the sports theme so we'll play songs like 'All I Do Is Win,'" Lawrence said. "We try to incorporate it as much as possible. It makes it fun for the little kids who come."

During each shift, a coordinated dance, called the "morale dance," is taught. The morale chair makes up the dance and teaches it to the board and committee prior to the event. During the event, the dance is taught to the attendees.

"It really brings the event together and keeps the morale up," Lawrence said.

This year, Elonthon starts at 6 p.m. on April 8 and ends the next day at 6 p.m. Students can register with an organization or individually online at org.elon.edu/elonthon.

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ONE ON ONE SPORTS

Thoughts on Los Angeles' All-Star Weekend

Sean Dolan and Christian Binder
Sports Commentators

NBA All-Star weekend has come and gone with all of its bright lights and festivities. The West All-Stars beat the East All-Stars 148-143, which begs the question, is the All-Star game relevant anymore?

Sean Dolan: The NBA's All-Star game, along with most other All-Star games, has no meaning. When the two teams score a collective 291 points, you can't assume either side is trying very hard on defense and therefore any offensive accomplishments lose their value. The only thing the All-Star game in the NBA is good for is giving the league yet another opportunity for its premier players to be flashy and showy, which I think speaks to how the league approaches its business today.

Christian Binder: I like the idea of the All-Star game, but it's become a total joke. Nobody tries anymore and Doc Rivers (the head coach of the East) barely played his Celtics players. He ran the Heat's big three, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, for most of the game, as well as Chicago's Derrick Rose and New York's Amare Stoudemire. So in that sense, he's brilliant. Also, was there any question Kobe Bryant was going to be the MVP?

The game was played in Los Angeles.

Sean: If you look at Kobe's stats from the game, of course there's no question he'd be the MVP. 37 points and 14 rebounds is nothing to turn your nose at. But I completely agree with your assessment of the amount of playing time given to each side's players. When half of the East's roster is represented by two teams, the Heat and the Celtics, you can hardly expect to see a variety of faces on the floor. For me, the All-Star game has only reaffirmed my dislike of the NBA because the focus seems to no longer be on the athleticism, but rather on the face-time and showboating.

Christian: The showboating is the main part of the entire weekend. Look at the dunk contest. Blake Griffin dunked over a car. I mean, if that's not showboating, what is? That's not to say it wasn't impressive, but still. I think the dunk contest is the best part of the weekend, and the only way the game is ever going to matter is if it determines who has home court advantage in the Finals. But, that's not the case, so I continue to not care about the game. To be honest, I didn't watch it, but I'm sure it was a spectacle of epic proportions.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Track and Field enjoys weekend of success at Virginia Tech

It was a record setting weekend in Blacksburg, Va. for the women's track and field team, as four school records were broken. Junior Amy Salek was part of two of the history-making events, running a record 55.47 in the 400-meter dash as she finished third.

Salek, along with freshmen Bria Bell and Veronica Luedke and senior Sarah Skogen, finished fourth in the 4x400 relay with a school record time of 3:50.70. In the triple jump, senior Veronica Day set another school record with a jump of 12.22 meters. Finishing the historical run was senior Justine Robertson, who threw for a distance of 13.27 and finished fourth in the event.

Men's soccer inks four for 2011

Elon men's soccer coach Darren Powell announced the signing of four players for the upcoming season. Thomas Allen Jr., Greensboro, N.C., Austin Dunker, Greensboro, N.C., Chris Essman, Spartanburg, S.C., and Modou Jadama, Alpharetta, Ga., will suit up for the Phoenix next season.

Those four new additions will join Nathan Dean of Prescott, Liverpool, England, who will compete with Elon during the spring season.

Softball's Taylor honored by conference

Senior pitcher Lauren Taylor was named the Southern Conference pitcher of the week after picking up two wins in the team's four-game Elon Invitational. Her victories came against Seton Hall and Dayton, as Taylor pitched 11 innings and allowed just one earned run during the weekend.

2011 football schedule released

The Elon University Department of Athletics released the 2011 football schedule. The Phoenix will play five games at Rhodes Stadium in addition to taking on its first Southeastern Conference foe in Vanderbilt University. The game against the Commodores is marked for Sept. 3.

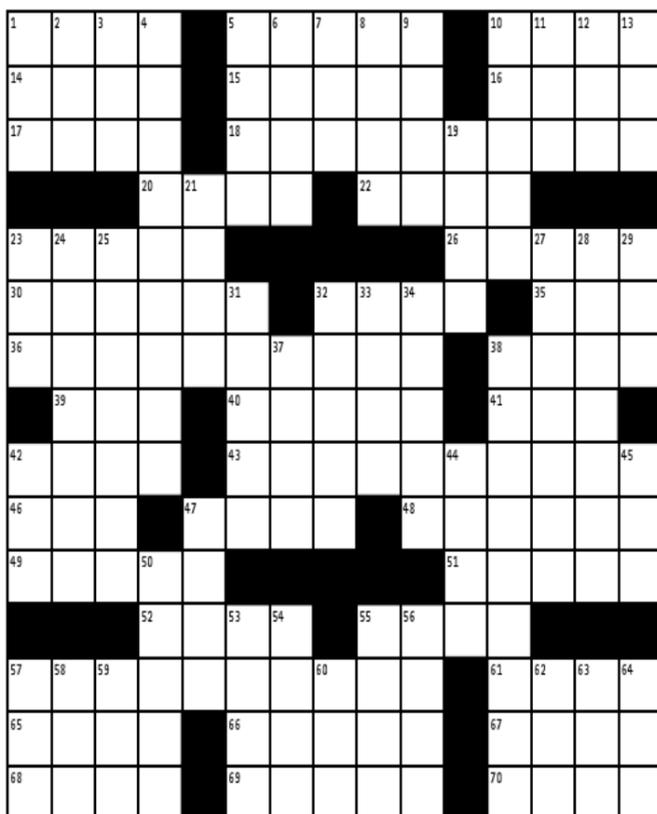
Elon's Homecoming will be Oct. 22, when the team faces University of Tennessee Chattanooga. In the last game of the season, the Phoenix will travel to Boone for a Nov. 19 game against Appalachian State University.

State College

by Steve Ferguson, Class of 2011

ACROSS

- 1 Eye muscle
- 5 Fissure
- 10 *Mamma Mia!* quartet
- 14 Extinct bird
- 15 Major artery
- 16 Burden
- 17 Minute particle
- 18 Home of Piedmont Triad International Airport
- 20 Balanced
- 22 Ballerina's skirt
- 23 Declare
- 26 Express feelings
- 30 Chowing down
- 32 Browse for gifts
- 35 ___ for the course
- 36 USS *North Carolina* Memorial site
- 38 Euphonium, e.g.
- 39 Town where Amelia Earhart was last seen
- 40 San Antonio battle site
- 41 ___ carte



DOWN

- 1 Actress Lupino
- 2 Deteriorate
- 3 Bachelor's last words?
- 4 On occasion
- 5 Imprison
- 6 Ram's feature
- 7 Who ___ you?
- 8 Editor's mark
- 9 NBA player Ginobili
- 10 Collection of songs
- 11 Halloween exclamation
- 12 Unit of candy, perhaps
- 13 Heightened fuss
- 19 Type of dance
- 21 ____, vidi, vici!
- 23 Use thread and needle
- 24 Adjusts, as a resume
- 25 Home of Coca-Cola

27 Wealthy

- 28 Hot sauce brand
- 29 Baseball stat
- 31 Bothers (with "at")
- 32 Vested interest
- 33 2006 Chris Daughtry hit
- 34 Type of switch or button
- 37 Glitz, briefly
- 38 Large arachnid
- 42 Garfield, e.g.
- 44 Televangelist Roberts
- 45 Number of bowling frames
- 47 Land surrounded by water: Var.
- 50 Quick
- 53 Some deciduous trees
- 54 Footwear
- 55 Downhill ride

56 Bottom-row computer keys

- 57 *The Price Is Right* prize
- 58 Take on color
- 59 Lemon or lime suffix
- 60 Hostel
- 62 Brawl
- 63 Neither's companion
- 64 ___ *High* (2005 film)



THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS



FILE PHOTO | Julia Sayers

Philip Nemeč shows his emotion after winning a point Feb. 15 against UNC Wilmington. Nemeč, a senior, and his Elon teammates will host Lees-McRae College at 10 a.m. Saturday. The Phoenix looks to get back on track after losing its last three matches, while the team attempts to become 4-4.

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Lighthouse Resort Services, the premiere resort management company on the northern Outer Banks, is now hiring students to participate in their 2011 Summer Internship Program. We are seeking out individuals who have an energetic personality, a positive attitude, and the desire and motivation to GET PAID, EARN SCHOOL CREDIT, AND LIVE AT THE BEACH FOR FREE!

Recruiters will be at Elon on Monday, February 28th to give informational sessions and interviews. For more information, please contact us at:

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Samford's hot start quells women's basketball

Zachary Horner
Sports Multimedia Editor

The Phoenix battled from behind from the opening tip and almost came up with a comeback, but ultimately fell to the Samford University Bulldogs 83-80 Saturday Feb. 19.

After Samford's junior guard Ruth Ketchum made one of two free throws to put the Bulldogs up 83-80, Elon senior guard Julie Taylor attempted a 3-pointer to tie the game, but it fell short.

"These losses hurt, but they make you better," head coach Karen Barefoot said. "They made big shots. They're a great offensive team."

Samford (21-7, 14-6 Southern Conference) had a 5-0 lead 2 minutes and 18 seconds into the game and went on a 12-0 run midway through the first half, giving them a 21-10 lead that was never lost.

SoCon preseason Player of the Year and Bulldogs senior guard Emily London scored 33 points, including six of seven attempted 3-pointers. She had five rebounds and three steals to lead Samford.

"She's a preseason pick for player of the year for a reason," Barefoot said. "She's a big-time player in our conference. She was hot."

Ketchum went three for five from behind the arc and notched 17 points, and forward senior Savannah Hill had 12 points and five rebounds.

Elon sophomore guard Ali Ford led four Phoenix players in double-digits with 21 points and 12-13 from the free-throw



Junior guard Aiesha Harper scored 20 points against Samford Feb. 19. Harper and the Phoenix will face College of Charleston Saturday Feb. 27.

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

Looking ahead:

Saturday 2 p.m.
vs. College of Charleston

line as Elon went 22-26 from the charity stripe.

Sophomore forward Kelsey Evans notched a double-double with 13 points and

11 rebounds, and junior guard Aiesha Harper hit key shots down the stretch, scoring 20 points for the Phoenix.

It turned into a competitive game that seemed unlikely after the first half. The Bulldogs were hot, shooting 50 percent from the field in the first half while holding Elon (17-10, 11-7 SoCon) to 36 percent from the floor in the second half.

"All year long we've been

a defensive team," Barefoot said. "We were able to put a lot of pressure on them, and just really had to make it hard for them to get good looks."

The Phoenix outscored the Bulldogs 57-48 in the second half and came within three points of a tie four times. Elon also improved from the field, hitting 51 percent of its field goals and 40 percent of its 3-pointers.

"If we play like we did down the stretch, we'll be tournament champions," Barefoot said. "We are a fighting team with a lot of passion."

That passion was seen in the last 26.9 seconds. Ketchum hit two free throws to give

Samford an 82-75 lead. Elon brought the ball down the court and Ford missed a three pointer.

Sophomore forward Lei Lei Hairston grabbed the rebound and the ball came around to Taylor, who put in a layup, was fouled and made the ensuing free throw to bring the Phoenix within four.

Samford's inbound pass was stolen by Harper, who nailed a short jumper to make it 82-80.

The next inbound was caught by Ketchum, who was then fouled and made the first of two free throws. Hairston got the rebound, drove down court and found Taylor for the

contested and missed three-pointer.

The women's team has one game remaining before the SoCon tournament. Monday night, the Phoenix celebrated senior night, but fell to the University of Tennessee Chattanooga 73-63.

Elon has a game at College of Charleston next Saturday.

The Phoenix has clinched at least the fifth seed in the tournament, but as of post-game Saturday, it is tied for third in the conference with UNC Greensboro.

If the Phoenix wants to stay in the top four and earn a bye, it will need to win at least one of those two games.

New bats perform well in early season

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

Phoenix fans who have grown accustomed to seeing balls fly out of Latham Park might have to change their expectations this year.

Beginning this season, all NCAA Division I teams are using metal bats that restrict bat speed. The change is meant to reduce injuries to pitchers and third basemen, as players in those positions are put in jeopardy on sharply-hit line drives.

The new bats are said to be the closest thing to wood bats without being wood bats, according to the NCAA regulations that went into effect Jan. 1.

With a series win against the North Carolina State University Wolfpack in the opening weekend, the Elon University baseball team now has a little experience with the new bats.

"With the old bats, you would get a bunch of cheap hits, but with these bats you have to square (the ball) up," sophomore catcher Alex Swim said.

As a freshman last year, Swim batted .310 and ranked third on the team with 71 hits. He thinks the unusually high batting averages will be a piece of history with the changes made.

"I feel like you are going to see some truer averages," Swim said. "You're not going to see the .430's anymore or anything like that. You're going to see guys who can actually put the

ball in play consistently."

Another area of emphasis will be on batters working the count against pitchers. Evidence of this can be found in Elon's home opener, when sophomore outfielder Niko Fraser fouled off five pitches while facing a 2-2 count before hitting a three-run triple.

"We moved runners over and we got them in, and we fought some pitches off and found some holes," head coach Mike Kennedy said. "That's the approach that we are trying to get across to our guys."

Through the first weekend, the approach worked for the Phoenix, as the team won two of three games against the Wolfpack. Senior outfielder Harry Austin played a key role for the team, recording four hits in nine at-bats and driving in three runs.

All four of Austin's hits were singles for a player with 12 doubles and two triples last season.

"I'm not going to hit it over their heads. They played me shallow all weekend, so I just have to go with what I have," Austin said.

He said the changes made have worked to improve the mechanics of his swing.

"The new bats have definitely made my swing flatter, which has actually helped me," Austin said. "Last year I tried to lift it a little bit."

While Austin and Swim have three career home runs in four combined seasons, other Phoenix sluggers have been more successful in the past few years.



Beginning this season, metal bats that restrict bat speed replaced the wooden bats used by the Phoenix.

MARK CAPOZZOLA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

In the 2009 season, eight players recorded 10 or more home runs en route to the team, hitting a school record 138 homers.

Last year, six players reached double digit home run totals as the team launched 86 round trippers.

But Kennedy had a point to make following Saturday's game, when the Phoenix scored 12 runs and hit just one long ball.

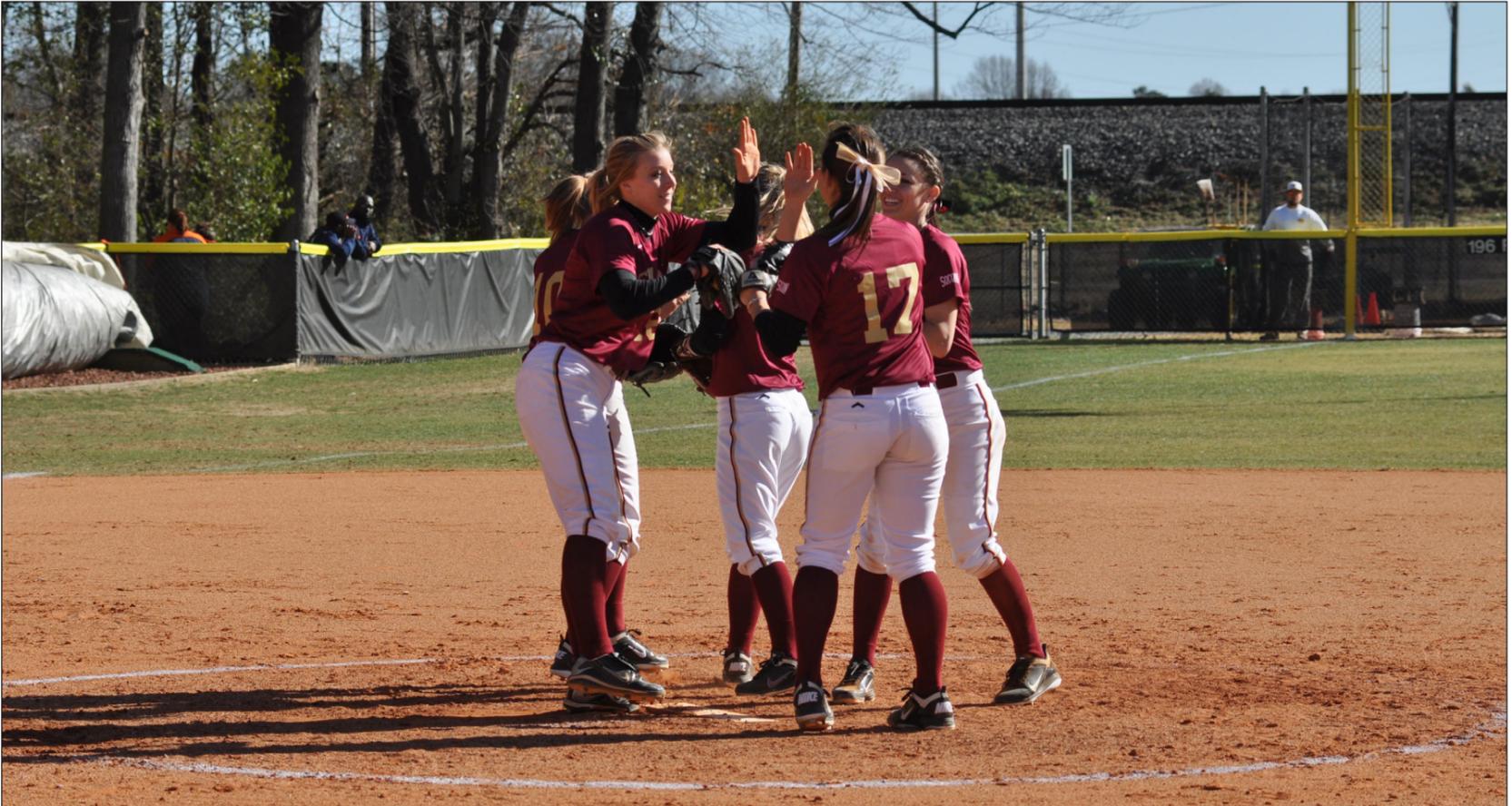
"We are not going to hit 75 to 100 home runs, we know that, so we are going to have to play a different style game," Kennedy said.

That new style means the team will focus on moving runners over to the next base with hit and run plays and bunts, two features that were seen often during the weekend. Austin said the bunts can be a way for the team to get

pumped.

"It takes a lot to get a bunt over, and we get excited about it," Austin said.

While the team gets excited for bunts and other aspects of baseball, fans could still see a fair amount of long balls this season. In three games during the weekend, the Phoenix and Wolfpack combined to hit six home runs.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

The Phoenix softball team celebrates on the mound after going 4-0 at the Elon Invitational. With a 7-1 record, Elon travels to the University of South Carolina this weekend for a doubleheader.

Softball goes 4-0 as hosts of Elon Invitational, improves overall record

Through first eight games, the Phoenix has outscored its opponents 52-25

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

Last season, the Elon softball team started its season 7-0, on the way to a 38-24 overall record and the program's first-ever Southern Conference championship.

This year, the Phoenix hopes its 7-1 start is an indicator that the team will continue its success.

The Phoenix hosted the Elon Invitational from Friday, Feb. 18 to Sunday, Feb. 20. In three days, the Phoenix played Seton Hall University, the University of Dayton and Morgan State University.

In the four games, the Phoenix outscored its opponents 32-6 and won all four games, improving its record to 7-1 on the season.

"As a team, we are getting more confident in ourselves," said head coach Patti Raduenz. "It's been showing on the field, as we are putting together consistent play."

In its Feb. 18 game, the Phoenix hosted the Seton Hall Pirates. Sophomore outfielder Tomeka Watson led the Phoenix with five RBIs, and went 2-for-3 at the plate. Senior Lauren Taylor went four innings, giving up one earned run on five hits while improving her record to 3-0 on the season.

"As a team, the only way we're going to win is if we execute on the field," Watson said. "It's all about being a tough out and getting on the base paths."

On Feb. 19, the Phoenix took on the Dayton Flyers and Morgan State Bears in a doubleheader.

In the first game, the Phoenix rallied behind Taylor, who threw a five-hit shutout and led Elon to a 5-0 victory. Improving to 4-0 on the young season, Taylor lowered her earned run average to 2.23, with 25 strikeouts in 25 innings of work.

In the second game, the Phoenix offense got going early, with five runs in the first inning and an additional eight runs in the second inning, leading the Phoenix to a 15-2 victory.

Sophomore pitcher Kari Pervell got the win for the Phoenix.

Looking ahead:

Saturday 2 p.m.
and 4 p.m. @
University of South
Carolina

In the final game of the Invitational, junior pitcher Erin O'Shea conducted a two-hit, complete game shutout, on the way to a 4-0 victory for the Phoenix against the University of Dayton.

In its second weekend of a young season, the Phoenix went 4-0 after going 3-1 in the previous weekend. But, Coach Raduenz saw quite a difference between the first two weekends of the season.

"We were more aggressive and played our style of softball all the way through the weekend," Raduenz said. "Everything came together, which wasn't necessarily the case the previous weekend."

With a mixture of youth and veteran players, the Phoenix is looking to continue its recent successes. While the 2010 season brought unprecedented heights for Elon softball, this year's squad thinks it can continue last year's accomplishments, and create a lasting program.

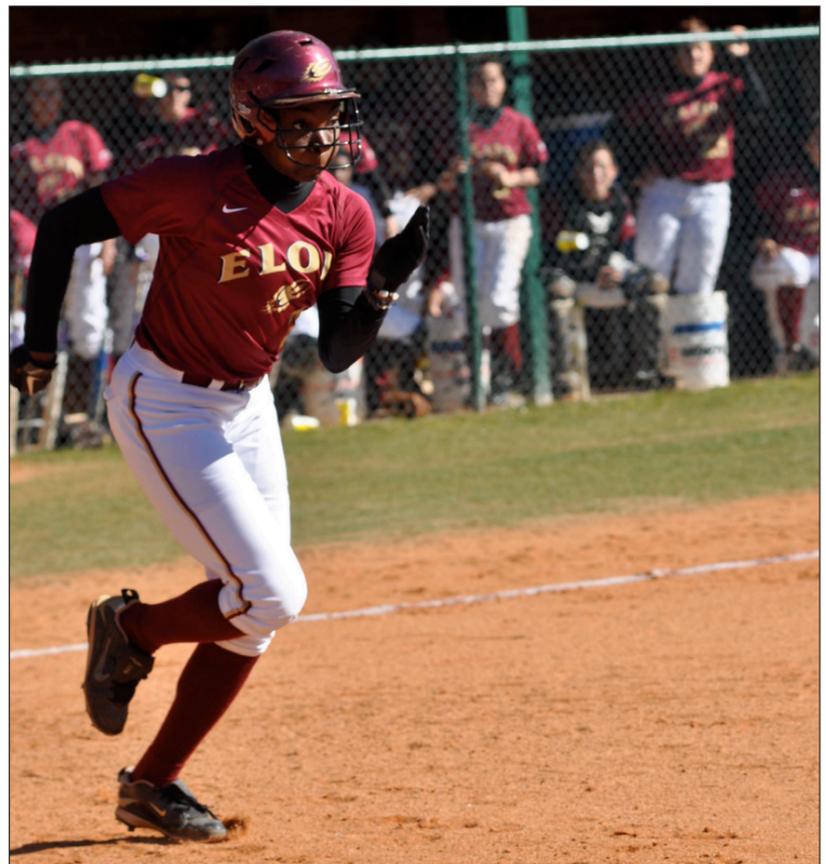
"We didn't necessarily have a lot of depth last year," Raduenz said. "All year, we were hoping the injury bug wouldn't hit us."

This year's team has benefited from extra depth, with six newcomers to the softball program. The six seniors, many whom are starters for the Phoenix, have helped the newcomers get comfortable with the program and get involved from the onset.

"There are younger girls pushing and challenging the older players for positions," Raduenz said. "We also have more speed on the base paths with younger players pinch-running."

The Phoenix travels to Columbia, S.C. this weekend for a series against the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, where the Phoenix will take its game to the road for the first time this season.

"It will be a step up in competition, playing an SEC school," Raduenz said. "Our girls will continue to practice hard this week to be ready."



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Sophomore outfielder Tomeka Watson leads the Phoenix with seven stolen bases this season.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Junior pitcher Erin O'Shea is batting .333 for Elon through eight games, and is 2-0 on the mound.

Men's basketball capitalizes on strong shooting for Senior Night

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

Although the Southern Conference Tournament is 10 days away, the Elon men's basketball team has decided to play every game with the fervor as if it were a tournament game.

This mentality helped the team earn a 99-90 victory against UNC Greensboro Feb. 19, improving the Phoenix record to 12-15 overall and 6-10 in the SoCon.

"We talked in our meeting that we are going to approach every game from here on out like it is the conference tournament," senior guard Chris Long said. "We look at it as if we win or we're going home."

Long celebrated his last home game with a career-high 30 points and said it was a memorable way to play his last game in Alumni Gym. He also dished out 10 assists.

On the receiving end of two of Long's assists was senior forward Scott Grable, who emphatically finished each play with a rim-shaking dunk. He finished with four points and five rebounds.

But it was a complete offensive effort by each Phoenix player that had head coach Matt Matheny smiling after the game.

"We are willing to take a lot of threes, but I think UNCG encouraged it by the way they defended us," Matheny

said. "They kept the ball out of the paint and dared us to take contested shots on the perimeter."

Elon took plenty of perimeter shots, as Matheny took note of the 34 long range attempts taken by the team before taking questions after Saturday's game. But thanks to Long and freshman guard Sebastian Koch, who combined to make 11 of 20 three-point shots, the offense was potent in nearly reaching the century mark.

"I am more happy about the win (than my points)," Koch said. "That is what matters and we played as a team."

Koch recorded a career-high 23 points and added four rebounds. He filled in at the guard position for junior guard Drew Spradlin, who suffered a back injury Friday after the team's practice.

Spradlin is second on the team in scoring with 13.9 points per game.

With the excitement of Senior Night in the distance, the Phoenix shifts its focus to finishing strong with two road games against teams Elon defeated at home earlier this year.

At 7 p.m. tomorrow, the team travels to in-state rival Davidson for a conference tilt. The last regular season game for the team is a game in Statesboro, Ga., against Georgia Southern University Feb. 26.

In its previous game against



Senior guard Chris Long scored a career-high 30 points and 10 assists during Senior Night in Alumni Gym Feb. 19.

HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Davidson, the Phoenix rallied from a double digit deficit in the first half for a 77-70 victory.

The Georgia Southern Eagles occupy last place in the conference with a 1-15 SoCon mark and an overall record of 5-24. In the Jan. 22 contest between Elon and Georgia Southern, the Phoenix cruised to an 84-62 victory.

According to Long, it doesn't

matter if the team is playing the top team in conference with the way the offense has been performing.

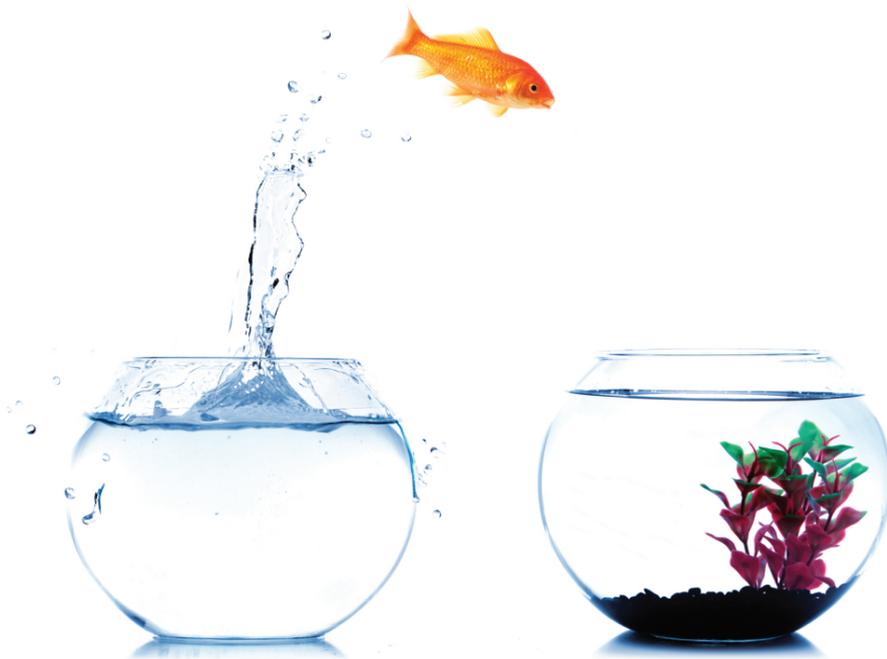
"You have to pick your poison when we are running the system effectively," Long said.

The two-game win streak for the team comes after the team lost five straight, and Matheny is pleased with the way the team

has responded to adversity.

"I'm excited that we went through a tough stretch and our veteran guys got together and said, 'We want to leave a mark and build on this foundation and we are going to pull together,'" Matheny said.

The team will continue to pull together with just two games remaining until the SoCon Tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn.



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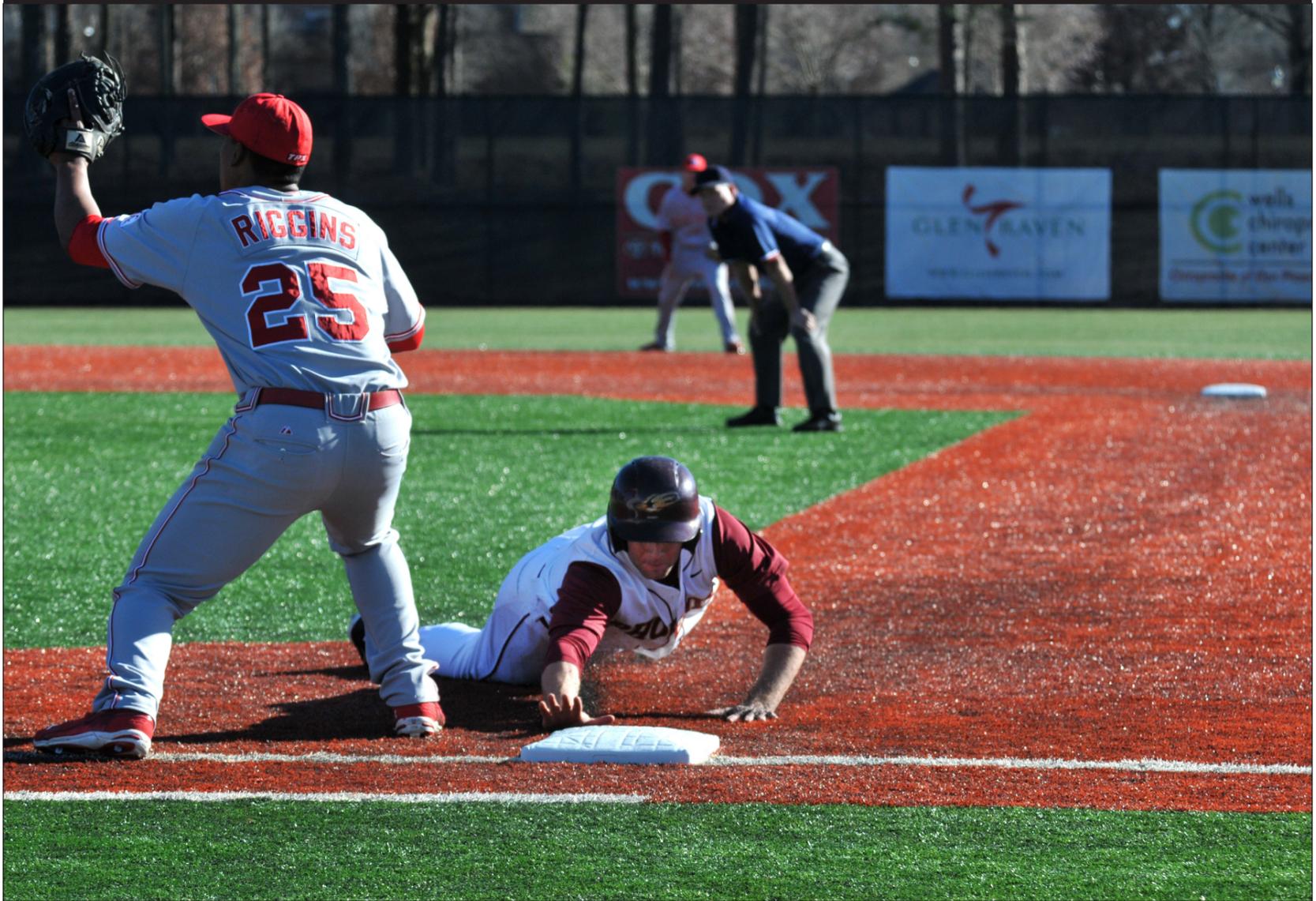
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Sports



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Elon sophomore catcher Alex Swim dives back to first base against N.C. State University on Feb. 19. Swim went 3-for-4 and scored two runs in the game, helping the Phoenix to a 12-2 victory.

Baseball carries momentum into series against South Florida

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

Sometimes, a humbling loss in the season opener is just what the doctor ordered.

The Elon baseball team followed a 17-4 drubbing with 12-2 and 4-2 wins against the North Carolina State University Wolfpack from Feb. 18-20 to open its season.

After allowing 17 runs in the first seven innings of the season, Phoenix pitching limited the Wolfpack offense to four runs in the last 19 innings of the series.

"We showed we can bounce back from getting smacked, and we showed we can play in a tight ball game and make some plays and execute a little bit," head coach Mike Kennedy said.

The beginning of the change in Phoenix pitching started with sophomore Kyle Webb, who took the mound for Elon's home opener Saturday and pitched six innings, allowing two runs on five hits with eight strikeouts. It was Webb's first career victory after spending most of last season in the bullpen.

Earning a save after he relieved Webb was sophomore pitcher Dylan Clark, who finished the home game with three

shut-out innings.

"The defense made some great plays, so we will try to build off of that and go forward tomorrow," Webb said after Saturday's game.

The team did move forward, closing the series with a two-run ninth inning at North Carolina State's Doak

Field for the decisive third game of the weekend. Elon got another strong pitching effort, as senior pitcher Ken Ferrer allowed one run in 5.2 innings and gave up just four hits.

Scoring didn't start for the Phoenix until the ninth inning with two outs. Junior Cyle Rasmus's bunt attempt was bobbled and called safe at first base. He then stole second, setting the stage for sophomore first baseman Grant McCoury.

"I saw the opportunity," Rasmus said. "The guy was deep at first and the guy was deep at second, so I figured I could get on base (with a bunt) and try to get a steal."

McCoury worked a full count before doubling to left-field, scoring the go-ahead run. Senior outfielder Harry Austin followed with his third RBI of the series on a single to right field.

Coming back to earn a

series victory against an ACC team shows Kennedy know more about the character of his team, he said.

"I told them that we're going to find out a lot about you," Kennedy said. "Are you going to roll over and let them take three games from us or are you going to show up and compete? I thought we did that across the board."

The team stays on the road this weekend, going to the University of South Florida for a three-game series against the Bulls.

Competing in the Big East Conference, the Bulls compiled a 26-32 record last season after entering the year ranked No. 32 in the country. Of the 32 losses, 13 were lost by one run.

Another opponent does not derail the Phoenix from trying to compile some wins before Southern Conference play begins in the second week of March.

"It's exciting, but we will take it one step at a time," Webb said. "We have South Florida next week, and High Point on Tuesday, so we have to rack some wins right here."

The game against High Point University marks a local rivalry, one that was a split decision last year with each team winning on the other's field.

For Rasmus, the series against South Florida is not only a chance to win a series, but to win all three contests.



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Sophomore pitcher Kyle Webb earned his first collegiate victory, limiting the Wolfpack to two runs.

"It's good to win the series, but we're all about sweeping," Rasmus said. "We want to get the

sweep every time we can, and we feel like if we play our game, then we have a good chance

for a sweep."

The series begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 at Red McEwen Field.