

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016  
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

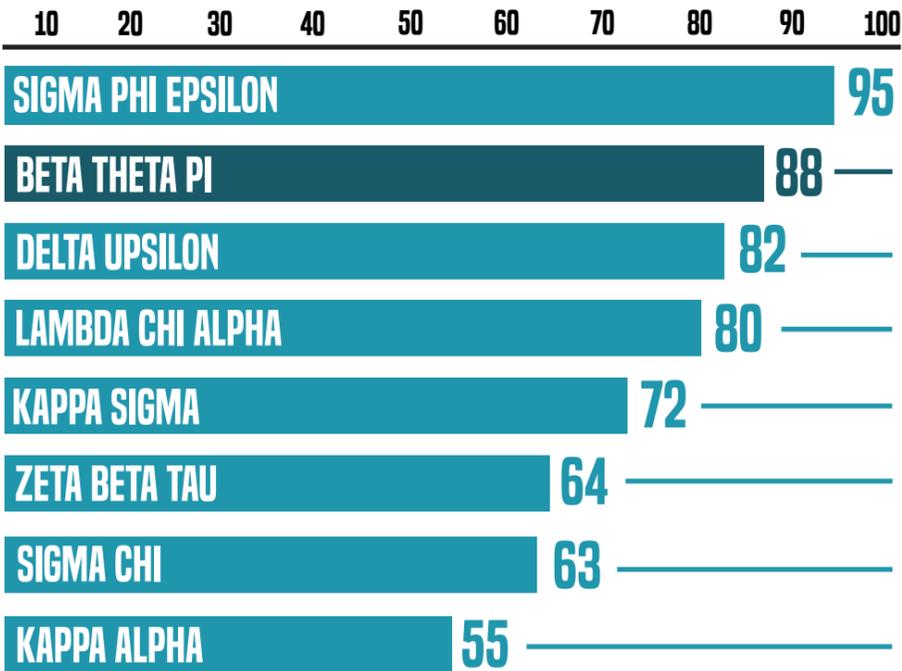
# THE PENDULUM

## BETA BOLSTERS IN POPULARITY

Membership has soared to 88 since Beta Theta Pi arrived in the spring

### IFC CHAPTER SIZE COMPARISON

Beta Theta Pi's size is second only to Sigma Phi Epsilon

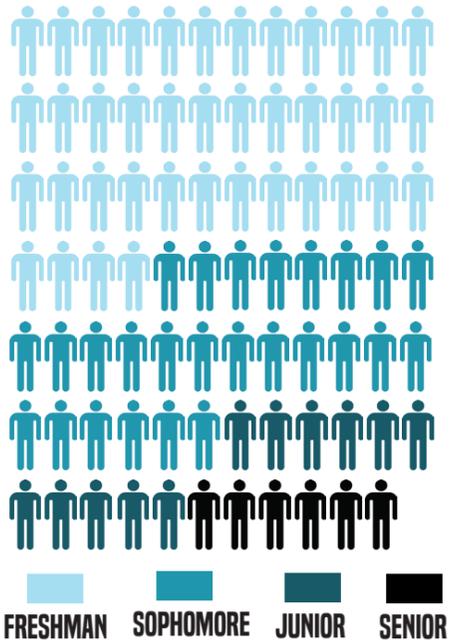


STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

STATISTICS COURTESY OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

### MEMBER BREAKDOWN

How many students from each class are involved in Beta



## Elon faculty issues resolution against HB2

McCrorry later makes provisions to bill

Tommy Hamzik  
Editor-in-Chief  
@T\_Hamzik

Add the Elon University faculty to the growing list of groups and individuals who have publicly voiced their disapproval of House Bill 2.

In a resolution released Monday by Wally Bixby, associate professor of exercise science and chair of the Academic Council, faculty members called the controversial legislation signed by North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrorry "an extraordinarily discriminatory act."

The resolution was approved at a special meeting of faculty April 8 by 97 percent of those in attendance. Bixby said the meeting was called after 54 faculty members approached him about the issue.

It was released a day prior to McCrorry issuing Executive Order 93, which updated some of the provisions in the bill.

"Elon's faculty affirms its support for equitable treatment of all residents and visitors of North Carolina and its opposition to discrimination, prejudice, homophobia and transphobia," the resolution read. "Elon's faculty is concerned that HB2 puts members of and visitors to our community at risk of discrimination, prejudice, homophobia, transphobia and unequal treatment under law."

HB2, passed March 23, has been heralded as the "Bathroom Bill" by many because it prohibits transgender people from using the bathroom of the gender they identify with. It's a response to a Charlotte City Council ordinance passed in February that approved LGBTQIA protections in the city.

By not including biological sex or sexual orientation on a list of protected classes, the bill makes it legal to discriminate against those who identify with the transgender and LGBTQIA communities.

Executive Order 93, announced Tuesday afternoon, expanded the bill to protect

See **BETA** pg. 6

See **RELIGION** pg. 5

See **HB2** pg. 6

### BY THE NUMBERS FOR BETA THETA PI

ELON'S CHAPTER HAS A CUMULATIVE GPA OF **3.41**

BETA THETA PI WAS FOUNDED IN **1839**

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS BETA THETA PI HAS NATIONWIDE: **134**

Madison Demmitt  
Senior Reporter  
@madi\_demmitt

Elon University welcomed its newest fraternity to campus this spring, Beta Theta Pi. With this addition, Elon now has eight Interfraternity Council chapters. The new Beta Theta Pi chapter,

more commonly known as Beta, has a total of 88 members that span all four class years.

With the second most members among Interfraternity Council chapters, Beta has become one of the more popular chapters on campus.

Though older fraternity chapters at Elon are smaller in size, the

addition of Beta has allowed for more men to become involved in Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL).

"Our office looked at the data for men who are selected and not selected for membership over the last several years and noticed that approximately 50 percent of men who expressed interest were not being offered the ability to join a

fraternity," said Director of FSL Dan Fail.

While there was large interest in adding a new fraternity to include more males, Fail said Beta underwent a lengthy approval before being added as an offi-

## Is Elon's religious affiliation still prevalent?

Historical influence remains despite decline in numbers

Micah Spoerndle  
Senior Reporter  
@m\_f\_spoerndle

In 1889, Elon College planted its roots just like most of the other esteemed colleges at the time: through the initiative of a church.

The Southern Christian Conference chartered Elon College in order to better educate individuals for the Christian

ministry. Elon's progression to its current status of no official affiliation with any religion demonstrates a great change in the university's goals since it was founded.

The Southern Christian Church eventually united with the Northern Christian Church to form the General Convention of the Christian Church in 1890. In 1931, this church body merged with the Congregational Church of England to form the Congregational Christian Churches. Finally, in 1957, the United Church of Christ (UCC) formed from the merger of

the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reform Church.

**The Southern Christian Conference chartered Elon College to educate individuals for the Christian ministry.**

of Oaks: The Story of Elon University." He stressed that Elon's founding was not much

different than to the other colleges that were founded with religious ties. He said the prevalence of the church's affiliation is decreasing over the past 127 years.

On page 118 of Troxler's book, he noted that there was no requirement by 1956 for members of the Board of Trustees to be members of their affiliated church as they had been previously. Required Chapel was also eliminated in 1968.

After hearing the statistic from the Spring 2016 Registrar Report

**NEWS**



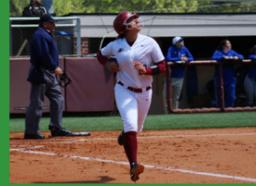
Residence Life addresses problems with housing registration **5**

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Alumna creates documentary **13**

**SPORTS**



Softball player leads team on field, in community **16**

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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

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ONLINE

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www.elonpendulum.com

news

Abigail Santamaria '00 discusses biography writing, first book

style

Senior releases EP after taking a break from YouTube

sports

Baseball battles Wolfpack in midweek tilt at Latham

GAMES

CRIME REPORT

April 5  
EAST HAGGARD AVENUE, ELON  
FOUND PROPERTY, POSSESSION  
OF FRAUDULENT ID

An officer responded to a call about property found in the Atkins room of the Koury Athletic Center. While attempting to identify the owner, the officer found and seized a fake driver's license, according to university police.

April 8  
UNIVERSITY DRIVE, BURLINGTON  
ARMED ROBBERY

A Burlington teen has been charged in connection with an armed robbery in the parking lot of the University Drive Target Friday night. Police are searching for two more suspects, according to the Burlington Times-News.

Police received a call shortly before 9 p.m. The victim had arranged to meet one of the suspects in the Target parking lot to buy a pair of shoes, but one of the two extra people in the car pulled out a gun and

took \$50 cash from the victim. One suspect was arrested Saturday and is being held in the Alamance County jail on a \$25,000 bond.

April 9  
OLD N.C. 87, ELON  
RESISTING AN ABC INSPECTION,  
POSSESSION OF COCAINE

The Burlington Times-News reported that a bartender and customer at Old Ski Lodge were arrested Saturday on separate charges during an Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) permit premises inspection.

The bartender was charged with resisting an ABC inspection and allowing conduct that violates the controlled substances act. The patron was charged with felony possession of cocaine, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting a public officer.

The State Bureau of Investigation reported the Alcohol Law Enforcement agent performing the inspection found Joshua Charles Hill, 26, openly in possession of cocaine inside the bar. Bartender Lisa Staley

Hernandez, 52, was not cooperating while officials were arresting Hill. Both are in custody, but bond information has not been released.

April 10  
GRAHAM  
SHOOTING

The Burlington Times-News reported that a Burlington man was shot in the torso by a car chasing him in Graham near Burlington city limits.

Police dispatchers said they were told a Chrysler was being chased by another car, and shots were being fired into the car. A Burlington officer encountered the Chrysler stopped at a traffic light where the victim got out of the vehicle and asked the officer to take him to the hospital.

He was transferred from Alamance Regional Medical Center to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Police are unsure how many people were inside the vehicle shots were fired from. No suspects have been identified at the time of the report.

FOR RELEASE APRIL 13, 2016

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**

- Like many knock-knock jokes
- Fit together, as some Russian dolls
- Commando ploy
- Square measures
- Pledge
- Magazine with annual Style Awards
- Impressionist who was frequently a guest of Johnny Carson
- Ink stain
- Quite a while
- Org. with Wizards and Magic
- Hard-to-hit pitch
- \_\_ tai
- Greek gatherings?
- Cleared (out)
- Clearasil shellmate
- Be in session
- Less-filling brews
- Phoenix-to-Albuquerque dir.
- Movie backdrops
- Statute that protects source confidentiality in journalism
- Column on a decision maker's list
- Govt. stipend
- Gem weight
- Copy
- Health club
- Golfer's booking
- Marilyn Monroe and Grace Kelly
- "Holy cow!"
- On edge
- Jackie's second
- Founded: Abbr.
- City near Tahoe
- Menu listing literally represented by this puzzle's circles
- "Dancing With the Stars" co-host Andrews
- Tan shade
- Teapot part

**DOWN**

- Snickers ingredient
- Paper work?
- Exchange need
- Slangy tumdowns
- Paris fashion monogram
- "Pretty good!"
- Frequent, as a diner
- Mo. town
- With 25-Down, what America is across, to Brits
- Contradict in court
- Court order?
- "This is awesome!"
- Loathes
- Memo starter
- Show sorrow or joy
- Bass, e.g.
- See 9-Down
- Jump on ice
- Hardy title teenager
- Yalie
- Hit

By C.C. Burnikel

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | N | I | M | M | A | V | S | A | G | R | A |
| A | M | O | N | G | P | L | E | A | C | O | I | N |
| M | I | S | S | M | S | K | I | N | G | R | A | F |
| L | E | T | I | N | A | N | D | R | E | T | T | I |
| A | D | O | S | M | A | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| J | O | H | N | G | R | I | S | H | A | M | C | A |
| A | L | I | C | E | E | W | A | N | M | O | S | H |
| R | I | V | E | T | S | E | T | M | I | A | T | A |
| E | V | E | S | S | T | E | P | A | C | T | O | N |
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| B | E | E | R | D | R | Y | S | S | I | E | N | A |

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- 44 Hobbyist
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UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL 13-19

7:30 P.M. | Percussion Ensemble Spring Concert 13

4:30 P.M. | American Forests Info Session 14

7:30 P.M. | Department of Performing Arts presents 'Clybourne Park' 15

1 P.M. | Knifty Knitters - Maker Meetups 16

1:30 P.M. | Baseball vs. Towson 17

4 P.M. | Black Sacred Music and The American Civil Rights Movement 18

7:30 P.M. | Orchestra Concert 19

# TOP PHOTOS

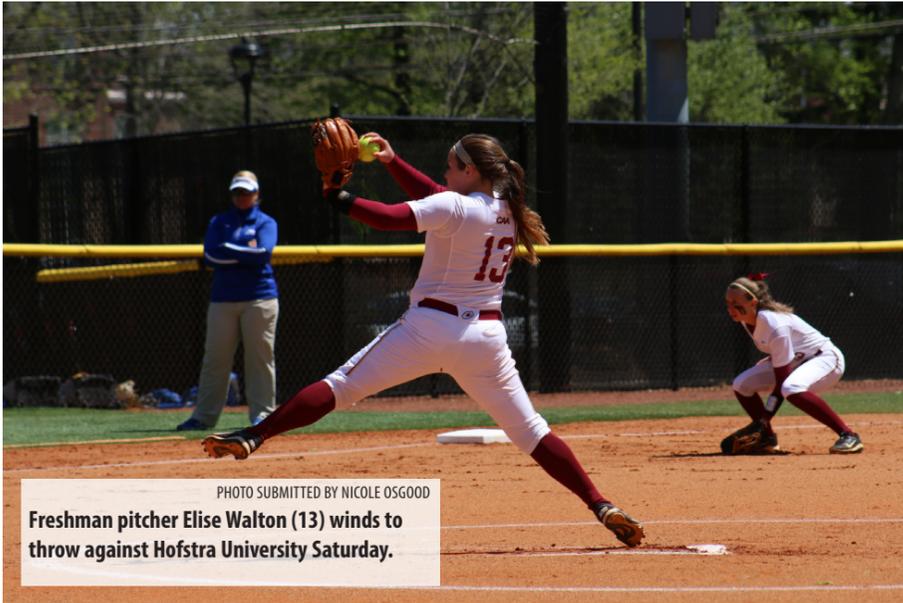
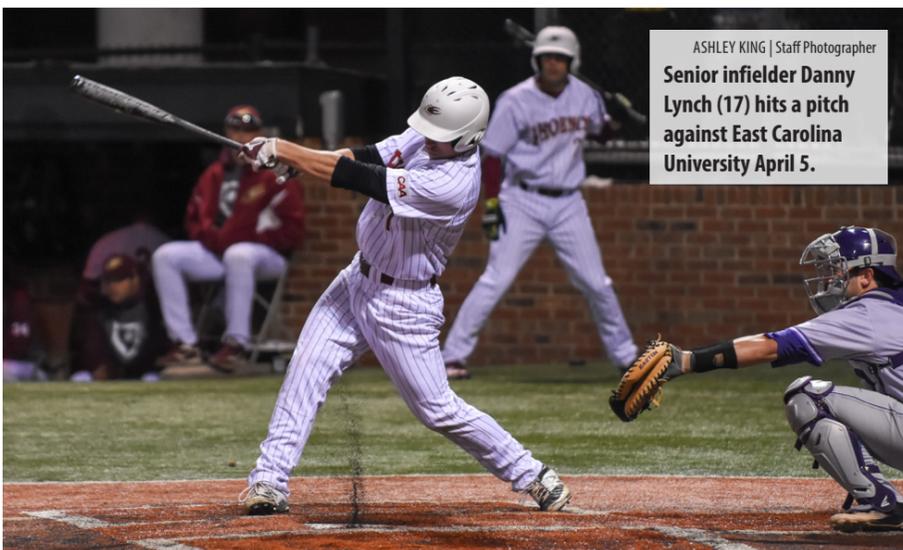


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NICOLE OSGOOD  
**Freshman pitcher Elise Walton (13) winds to throw against Hofstra University Saturday.**



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor  
**Ginny O'Keefe (top) and Caleb Albert rehearse for their performance of "Clybourne Park," which opens Thursday.**



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
**Senior infielder Danny Lynch (17) hits a pitch against East Carolina University April 5.**



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Photo Editor (Studio)  
**Sigma Sigma Sigma performed at Greek Week Dance Wednesday, April 6.**

**Want to see your photos in The Pendulum? Send your top photos to [PENDULUM@ELON.EDU](mailto:PENDULUM@ELON.EDU)**



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Photo Editor (Studio)  
**Sigma Chi came in first place among fraternities in the Greek Week Dance competition.**



DIEGO PINEDA | Staff Photographer  
**Students celebrate Holi, the Hindu festival of color, on April 8 on Young Commons.**

# Islamophobia remains prevalent

**Michael Somerby**  
Senior Reporter  
@m\_w\_somerby

Within an hour of the March 22 Brussels attacks, #StopIslam started trending on Twitter. The trend reflected a larger societal issue in which innocent Muslims are targeted for the actions of a radicalized minority.

The attack on Brussels was the third recent major terrorist attack on nations in the Western Hemisphere, following the Nov. 13 Paris and Dec. 2 San Bernardino attacks.

But many members within the U.S. Muslim community were prepared for such a phenomenon after the 9/11 attacks carried out by al-Qaeda.

Elon University Muslim Life Coordinator Anna Torres-Zeb is a Mexican-American woman who converted to Islam in her teens. Today, she urges people to use rational judgment before painting the entire Muslim world with a single brush.

"You can't apply the beliefs and actions of ISIS to one-third of the world's population," Torres-Zeb said. "And for people that do so, you have to challenge their belief because one-third of the world's people are obviously not like ISIS in any way."

In a 2015 Huffington Post survey of 1,000 U.S. adults, 7 percent indicated they had a very favorable view of Islam while 14 percent had a somewhat favorable perspective, 28 percent had somewhat unfavorable views and 27 percent had very unfavorable views. Twenty-five percent were not sure.

Using similar questions to reveal potential answers within the Elon student community, an informal canvassing yielded more positive results than those of The Huffington Post.

Of the 78 students surveyed, around 10 percent said they had very favorable views of Islam. Nearly 27 percent responded somewhat favorable, 28 percent somewhat unfavorable and about 11 percent very unfavorable. Twenty-three percent said they were not sure.

Torres-Zeb, while unsurprised by the numbers, said she feels Elon students have a negative outlook on the Muslim community's religious beliefs because a lack of exposure to Muslim individuals in their daily life.

"It's fair to say that many Elon students have probably never even met a Muslim person, and then established a personal relationship with that person," Torres-Zeb said. "Knowing and caring for a person who is of a different background is essential to breaking down preconceived beliefs. Exposure is the key."

Torres-Zeb said she blames the media for Muslim animosity in the Western Hemisphere.

"No one is born knowing anything about anything," said Torres-Zeb. "And at the same time, no one's born afraid of other people. They learn to be from what they hear and see, and it's an unfair portrayal."

University Chaplain Jan Fuller worries positive messages about the Muslim faith are being met with deaf ears.

Fuller said one of the biggest obstacles to equality and a better understanding of different cultures is education. She said one of her biggest struggles is incentivizing the naysayers on campus to take learning into their own hands.

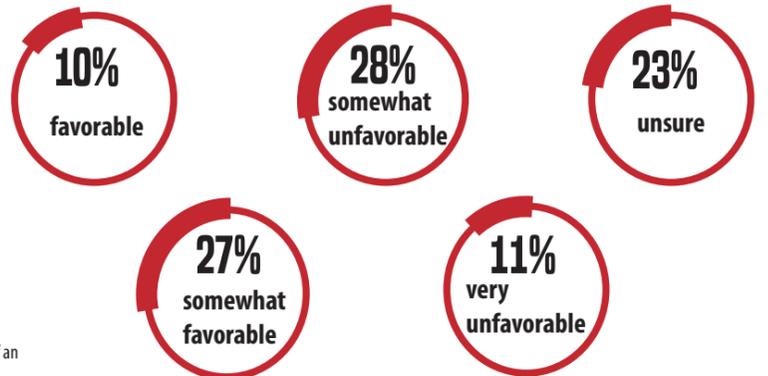
"We can offer programming all day long, but if people don't want to hear the message or are unwilling to educate themselves because of their own preconceived certainties, it's really hard to make an impact," Fuller said. "There are even faculty and staff in various fields that have made up their minds on the matter."

## ISLAMOPHOBIA

### HOW THE US POPULATION VIEWS ISLAM



### HOW ELON STUDENTS VIEW ISLAM\*



\*Results of an informal canvassing of Elon students

SHELBY BAITSHOLTS | Design Editor

# Study abroad safety concerns emerge

**Michael Somerby**  
Senior Reporter  
@m\_w\_somerby

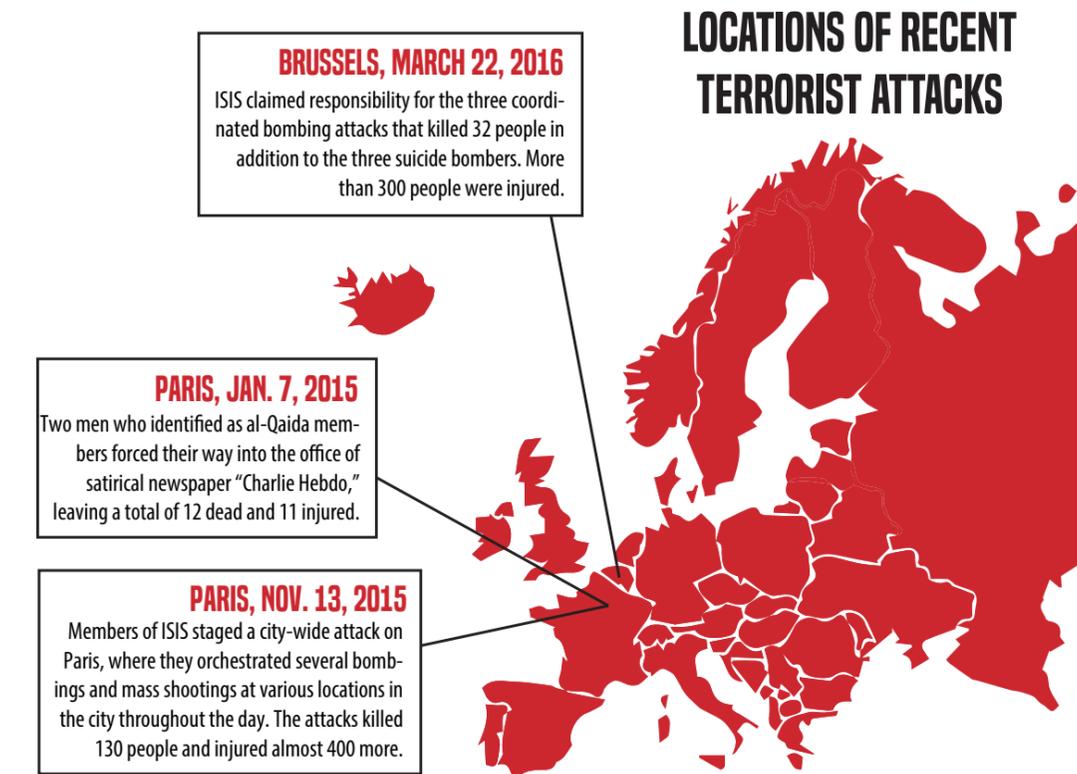
U.S. college students are more than twice as likely to die on their own campus than while studying abroad, according to a study conducted by The Forum on Education Abroad. The study reported 13.5 students out of every 100,000 die abroad each year.

But the study also found the number of college students who die each year in the United States is 29.4 out of every 100,000. And while the purpose of the report was to provide "objective information regarding the safety of study abroad," the recent terrorist attack in Belgium has raised concerns within the Elon community about student safety internationally.

Mykel Dodson '10 lives in Brussels and was standing about 100 meters from Maelbeek Station — the site where one of the March 22 blasts occurred.

In a video interview published by the university, Dodson described what it was like to be in the middle of an attack.

"As they were ushering people up the stairs and out of the station, it became more real, and once we arrived at the street it was pretty hectic," Dodson said in the university interview. "We were walked right past Maelbeek Station, and that's where you saw



a lot of things that you kind of wished you didn't see."

In an informal online canvassing of 78 Elon students, 20.5 percent said the Paris and Brussels attacks have changed their perspectives on studying abroad. They said they will likely stay home because of the attacks. More than 19 percent said the lasting fear of those attacks might affect their decision-making process.

But about 56 percent of those surveyed said they were unaffected by the terror attacks and intend to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by Elon's Global Education Center (GEC).

Richard Landesberg, associate professor of communications and traveling faculty adviser for the 2015 fall program in London, explained how study abroad is an opportunity to confront fears rather than run away from them.

"We want students to study abroad to get them comfortable with things that are different," Landesberg said. "Not better or worse, just different. Life is enriched when you accept and then learn to appreciate those differences. And if you're abroad living in fear, you've let the terrorists win."

Landesberg was tasked with calming fearful students after the Nov. 13 Paris attacks. He said his

primary concern was for the safety of his students, two of whom were in Paris on the night of the tragedy. He worked to reassure students of their safety through statistics and context.

Woody Pelton, dean of global education and assistant professor, reaffirmed Landesberg's beliefs.

Pelton noted that the GEC takes precautions when sending students to areas where staff members have reason to believe risk is higher than usual. He said the GEC uses news of current events and recommendations from the U.S. Department of State when making decisions pertaining to student safety on study abroad programs.

Recently, a program in Turkey was canceled because of increased political strains worsened by the continuing Syrian refugee crisis and because of numerous terrorist attacks in the capital city, Ankara.

Pelton and his team were able to salvage those students' study abroad experiences, rerouting the trip to several other Mediterranean nations.

Though Pelton recognized some may find heavy precautions unnecessary, he said overprotection can keep students safe.

"A little fear is not a bad thing," Pelton said. "It makes students cautious and keeps them smart in their decision-making while they are halfway around the world."

CHRISTINA ELIAS | Design Editor

# Residence strife hits Elon's campus

*How MyHousing failed, what's being done to protect system in future*

**Bryan Anderson**  
News Editor  
@bryanranderson

It was at 4 p.m. Feb. 23 when chaos ensued in the wake of the MyHousing system's spontaneous crash. As students rushed to make housing arrangements for The Station at Mill Point, they were met with the error message, "The service is unavailable."

But after weeks of reflection and analysis, Elon University's Residence Life is confident the system's failures are an issue of the past.

## Reasoning behind MyHousing launch

Associate Director of Residence Life Operations and Information Management MarQuita Barker said MyHousing, the self-service student housing registration system that launched at Elon in December 2015, was designed to replace the in-house OnTrack system used since 2008.

"OnTrack wasn't doing some of the day-to-day stuff that we needed," Barker said. "This new system would allow us to put a lot of our forms online and make some of our business processes a little more efficient. That's why we went with a third-party vendor."

One example of inefficiency with OnTrack was the inability for students to electronically submit their signed leases. This forced students to sign paper leases and Residence Life to collect thousands of papers.

Barker said the electronic signature feature is helpful for both students and administrators and allows Residence Life employees to more easily meet the needs of the student population.

## Experiencing technical difficulties

Despite positive intentions to increase efficiency, MyHousing began to fail as students flooded into the system. According to Barker, dozens of students registering at the same time led the system to crash.

"This system wasn't designed to do the

## RESIDENCE LIFE TIMELINE

### AUGUST 2015

Residence life works with MyHousing to coordinate logistics before getting registration system live.

### DECEMBER 2015

MyHousing replaced OnTrack as the housing registration system.

### FEBRUARY 2016

MyHousing crashed as students tried to register for housing at The Station at Mill Point.

### MARCH 2016

MyHousing crashes as students tried to register for sophomore housing.

### APRIL-MAY 2016

Incoming student online housing applications are available.

### JULY 2016

Residence Life releases housing assignments and roommate information for incoming students.

same thing as our old system in terms of live housing signup," Barker said. "Before, we could have a block of a hundred students that would go every 20 minutes. This system wasn't designed to do that. We had to reconfigure so everyone has a unique time so the system doesn't overload."

The solution then became allowing fewer students to register at the same time. The specific order for registration was, and still is, largely based on class year and academic performance.

Before the crash, Residence Life allowed 100 students access to MyHousing per 20 minutes. After the initial crash, access was limited to one student every 30 seconds.

"We tried the 30 seconds, that also didn't work," Barker said. "So we had to give everybody a unique minute."

## Later troubles affect underclassmen

This second failure particularly hurt

underclassmen who were looking for on-campus housing.

Sophomore Leah Pellett was one of hundreds of students who suffered from the second round of technical difficulties. At the time of the crash, she said she was put on a waitlist for The Oaks and didn't have a place to live next academic year.

"I'm homeless, and my roommates and I don't have housing at all," Pellett said. "We're on a waitlist right now for The Oaks, so we're hoping to get that. I have no idea where I'm living next year."

Freshman Jack Doherty said he was planning on securing a four-person Colonnades pod but was placed in Danieley after his registration time got bumped back from Thursday to Sunday.

Doherty complained that his rescheduling was the result of a roommate's grades being factored into the Sunday time slot.

Though Barker said the grades are based on the highest GPA of a group member, Doherty's thoughts reflect a communication disconnect between students and Residence Life.

"Originally, we had a Thursday slot to request housing, but then they set it for Sunday after they decided to factor in my friend's grades," Doherty said. "Now, instead of living in the Colonnades four-person pod like we planned, we're living in Danieley. They basically screwed us over."

Barker explained the sophomore sign-ups in March crashed because the 30 second period still caused too many people to be in the same system at the same time. As a result, Residence Life had to change the registration date and add one-minute gaps instead of 30-second gaps.

Since that shift to one-minute slots, students have had smoother access to MyHousing. Nevertheless, they're still upset.

During the February and March crashes, students flooded the Residence Life phone lines with questions about their inability to get housing approved.

Sophomore Ansley Hamilton said she called the Residence Life office Feb. 23 after noticing the site wasn't working and continued crashing.

"[Residence Life] told us the server definitely was working, which was strange because we were getting a server unavailable problem," Hamilton said.

## Moving forward

Residence Life responded to the Feb. 23 crash by starting the process over again, even for those who were able to get their registration approved through MyHousing.

"Housing is very important to everybody, so I completely understood the frustration and people worried about losing their space," Barker said. "We redid the process to make sure that it was fair. That was something that was hard to explain to some people who had actually gotten a space. They were upset that they would have to redo it."

Barker said she is glad the technical issues have been resolved but recognizes some students are still upset with their housing situations. She added that new software often brings problems. She is confident the MyHousing system will not have the same issues the next time students register.

"Anybody who uses a new software system is going to tell you there are problems ... We don't anticipate the same problems because the process looks different [with the one-minute time slot]," Barker said.

Incoming freshmen will not have to worry about using MyHousing since housing assignments are coordinated by Residence Life employees.

*Micah Spoerndle contributed reporting.*



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## RELIGION from cover

that 48 undergraduate students identify as members of the UCC, Troxler was surprised to hear such a low number. He referred to the fact that many students are second-generation Elon students and grow up with the religious background of their parents.

"Christianity is such a self-perpetuating religion that leads people to follow in the same footsteps as the people they know about and grow up with," Troxler said.

Ultimately, Troxler sees the influence of Elon's past religious affiliation through its embracement of various religions and cultures.

"We have a deeply religious culture, but we welcome all faiths," Troxler said. "Our respect for different faiths comes from a long tradition of being affiliated with a Christian church."

Though he admitted he didn't know much about the UCC's history at Elon, Associate Chaplain of Protestant Life Joel Harter agreed that Elon's previous religious affiliation is evident.

"The impact today on Elon's culture

is more subtle and less apparent, mostly in shared values for diversity, inclusive community and making a positive difference in the world," Harter said.

The Elon Community Church, which aligns with the UCC, is celebrating its 125th anniversary from the time that Reverend and President Long officially chartered the Church. Dr. Earl Danieley was the first university president who didn't also serve as the Elon Community Church's head pastor. Today, this church caters more to the local community residents, and only 5-10 Elon students usually attend their weekly service.

Despite its low attendance rate of about 150 regular members, the Elon Community Church remains highly involved with Elon's campus population, according to Senior Pastor Randy Orwig. He said the church's goal is to promote diverse theological viewpoints and withhold judgment.

"We're always trying to find ways to reach out, make [the church] a home and safe," Orwig said. "We're open and affirming no matter who anyone is, based on religion, race or sexual orientation."

This church holds various events throughout the year, including weekly farmers markets, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts meetings, free food samplings for students, fundraisers for organizations on campus and Catholic masses. Orwig and Harter both highlighted the Moravian Love Festival in December and the Winterfaith luncheons during Winter Term, which are co-sponsored by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

"The seal of the UCC shows that we all may be one," Orwig said. "We are redefining what 'oneness' means and are becoming a harmony of great diversity."

Orwig did not find the low number of UCC students today at Elon to be either shocking or a problem. To many of the religious leaders at Elon, the lack of university affiliation does not debilitate Elon from having reputable religious events and welcoming all faiths. As long as Elon's historical ties with the UCC are represented by showing no judgment and embracing all members of the Elon community, the fact that only 0.8 percent of undergraduate students are UCC members is insignificant, they said.



BRYAN ANDERSON | News Editor

**Elon Community Church remains committed to collaboration with the university as it prepares for its 125th anniversary.**

BETA  
from cover

cial organization.

When Elon decides to add a fraternity, a letter is sent to all fraternities to let them know the campus is considering a new organization. Interested fraternities such as Beta are required to submit an application, which is then reviewed by a committee of students, faculty and staff. A few selected fraternities will be brought to campus to give presentations outlining why they should be added.

"After the on-campus presentations, the committee, students and other campus partners provide feedback to our office, which FSL collects and makes a final recommendation to the vice president for Student Life, who has the final decision for approval and registration," Faill said.

Junior Nic Nelson, vice president of communications for Beta, said he heard about the new fraternity through its table in the Moseley Center.

"I work at the Moseley Front Desk and I was passing by the table all the time, so the thought of stopping by to talk to them made sense," Nelson said. "For the past three years, I have considered Greek Life to be a really interesting part of an Elon experience, so having the opportunity to become a founding father of a new fraternity sounded incredible."

While many students join FSL as



DANIEL MACLAURY | Elon Local News

Beta Theta Pi places second in annual Fraternity and Sorority Life Greek Week Dance April 6 in Alumni Gym. This is the fraternity's first dance performance as an organization.

freshmen and sophomores, Nelson decided to get involved as a junior.

"Being a junior, a lot of my friends asked me, 'Why now?' Nelson said. "My answer is simply that the opportunity came along at a time when it was convenient. I like being involved in the Greek community. People I've interacted with in the past two months have been really supportive of Beta and excited for what we will bring to campus."

Beta has worked to become heavily involved both on and off campus since its approval,

working with Allied Churches of Alamance County and placing second in the Interfraternity Council Greek Week Dance. Elon's chapter also has a cumulative GPA of 3.41.

"I feel like we have done a good job advertising ourselves on campus," Nelson said. "We hit the ground running with Greek Week and have tried to be as involved as possible."

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity was founded in 1839 at Miami University by its eight found-

ing fathers. There are 134 chapters nationwide and more than 200,000 members worldwide.

Though Greek life comes with its critics, Faill is hopeful that Beta Theta Pi will add to Elon's community in a positive way.

"My hope is that the men truly hold themselves to the Beta standard while advancing the fraternal movement at Elon in our community," Faill said. "They have an incredible capacity to shift the negative connotation of fraternities on this campus."

HB2  
from cover

biological sex and sexual orientation. That makes it illegal to discriminate on those bases.

It also restored employees' right to sue for discrimination, but didn't budge on the bathroom issue.

Days after the bill passed, Elon University issued a statement reaffirming the school's commitment to inclusion and equal protection for all. It also said since Elon is a private institution, the law doesn't apply to the university and won't affect its practices or policies.

The following week, Elon University President Leo Lambert wrote a letter to the editor of the Burlington Times-News, denouncing the legislation. He called HB2 "stunning and disappointing."

Bixby said faculty weren't consulted prior to the release of Elon's statement, which was part of the rationale behind issuing their own.

"As faculty, we interact with each other and with students, any of whom could be LGBT," Bixby said. "We felt it was important that we as faculty put out a statement affirming our beliefs on inclusivity."

Students have been vocal in their discontent with the bill, too. Bixby said making sure all students feel safe was a driving force behind the resolution.

"Elon's faculty calls on our colleagues at other North Carolina universities and institutions to consider the effects that HB2 may have on the well-being of those who reside in and visit North Carolina," the resolution read. "Elon's faculty encourages our staff colleagues and the student body to participate, to the extent that they are willing or able to do so, in affirming this resolution."

"Elon's faculty looks forward to a time when all residents of or visitors to North Carolina, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender presentation, gender identity, physical ability, race, religion, national origin, age or biological sex (including intersex persons), will be made welcome in this state," the resolution concluded.

## Course registration begins this week

Mackenzie Dunn  
Senior Reporter  
@mackenziev\_dunn

## TIPS FOR PULLING OFF REGISTRATION WITHOUT A HITCH

1.

Log in to OnTrack and select 'Register for Sections'

2.

Check the box next to possible classes you want to take in the fall

3.

10 minutes before your registration time, go on OnTrack and select 'Register and Drop Sections'

4.

Choose 'Register' under the 'Actions' drop-down for all relevant sections

5.

Keep refreshing the page so OnTrack doesn't log you out before your time

6.

Hit 'Submit' immediately when it becomes your registration time

CHRISTINA ELIAS | Design Editor

Selecting classes for next semester can be a major source of stress for college students, and Elon University is no exception.

The process of deciding what course description sounds most interesting, which professor is best, what time slots work for a certain schedule and what requirements are being fulfilled, along with a host of other factors, make the course selection process paramount to a smooth semester.

In the next few days, students will be awaiting their given registration times, hoping to check off more of the boxes in their degree audit. But Jim Donathan, associate director of Academic Advising and director of Academic Support, said the process doesn't need to be overwhelming.

Working with Elon students for more than 20 years, Donathan is well-versed in giving advice on strategies for effective class selection. He encourages all students to do their research and stay on track, but also to study something they are deeply passionate about.

Donathan added his hope for students not to stress about crafting a perfect schedule — a schedule that is neither feasible nor existent.

When it comes to registration, it's all about planning according to Donathan. Simple things like reading full course descriptions and reaching out to the professors teaching certain courses are steps that are too often overlooked, he said. Keeping an open dialogue on campus and speaking with other

students who have previously taken a class of interest is equally useful.

Though the process can often create stress, it is different for students by class years. For rising sophomores, fall registration means re-evaluating possible career choices or majors that may have changed since they first enrolled at Elon.

Donathan said students who change their minds feel like they are behind if they have not yet taken required courses in their new desired field of study. His advice is to avoid comparing yourself to others.

"They should ignore the anxiety of other students who are creating unnecessary drama over the registration process," Donathan said.

Sophomore Lily Mandell said she experienced drama after changing her major from theater studies to strategic communica-

tions at the beginning of this year.

"I thought it was my dream career path, but as soon as I realized that it wasn't, it was hard for me to let go of it," Mandell said. "Finding a new course was difficult and stressful, and I was worried it would set me back academically."

Though she initially felt behind and overwhelmed by her decision, Mandell said it was the right choice.

"Elon really encourages following a passion while finding a career path," she said. "I'm now more confident in my ability to graduate in four years and still be happy with my major."

As a sophomore, Mandell enjoys freedoms that upperclassmen might not have. More specifically, the students approaching graduation are tasked with finding jobs rather than finding classes.

Donathan said he often meets

with seniors who feel more stressed about what happens after they graduate Elon than what happens during the course registration process.

Questions that often arise from upperclassmen relate to how they have achieved their goals as well as whether they have studied abroad, completed an Experimental Learning Requirement (ELR) or received a faculty reference.

Overall, Donathan said he believes the process doesn't need to be fraught.

It ultimately comes down to choosing courses that sound interesting or exciting and taking advantage of the hundreds of varying classes available. If stuck on what to choose, Donathan recommends taking a language course, taking an interdisciplinary course or simply taking an intriguing, creative course that goes beyond the traditional classroom structure.



ALL PHOTOS BY DIEGO PINEDA | Staff Photographer

Freshmen Caroline Frankel and Rachel Wingrat throw paint at one another to celebrate Holi at Young Commons' Speakers Corner.

# HOLI CELEBRATION

*Hindu holiday event unites Elon  
community in celebration*



Freshman Lillian Engel smiles while enjoying the annual Hindu holiday festivities.



Freshman Maya Eaglin smiles while covered in blue Holi paint.



People of all ages attended Elon's celebration of Holi, the festival of color, spring and sharing love.



Freshmen Michaela Fogarty and Lucy Smith-Williams hug as the paint throwing comes to an end.



Freshman Andrew McGann and Lauren Fisher participate in a paint-soaked piggy-back ride.

**MORE ONLINE**

visit our website at [elondulum.com](http://elondulum.com) to see more

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

# Sustainability expert explains threat climate change poses

*Claussen distinguishes Democrats from Republicans on issue*

**Emmanuel Morgan**  
Assistant News Editor  
@\_EMorgan704

If anyone could find optimism about the world's climate crisis, it would be Eileen Claussen. With international experience as the founding president of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and Business Executive-in-Residence for Elon University's Love School of Business, she is more than capable of finding hope.

So it might come as a surprise that she is pessimistic about the future of international sustainability.

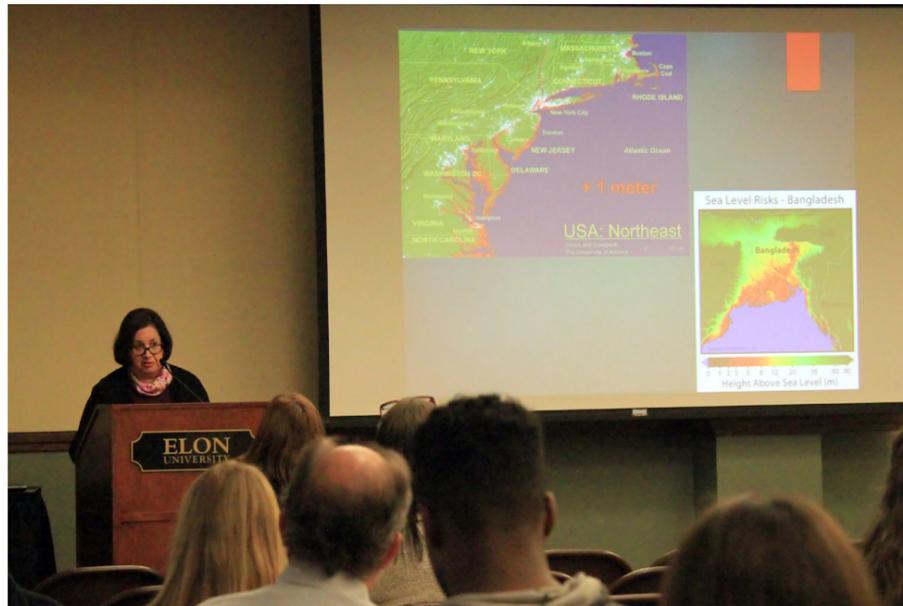
"Nothing I am speaking [about] today is good news," Claussen said. "In my 20-plus years of experience, I still find the path to a solution to be incredibly challenging."

Speaking to a large group of students Wednesday, April 6 in upstairs Lakeside, Claussen delved into the ever-growing danger of climate change and the repercussions of turning a blind eye.

She displayed disheartening statistics about the sea level rising three to six feet within the next several decades. According to Claussen, this rising sea level would devastate the United States, especially for the 40 percent of the population living in coastal areas like Miami and New York. Claussen's research also projects more droughts, floods and extreme weather will displace more than 18 million people by 2050.

She added that the main perpetrators of climate change are harmful emissions into the air. Claussen said emissions can come from anywhere, but the key sources are developed, industrialized nations. China is currently the world leader in emissions at 28 percent, while the United States is close behind at 16 percent.

Since 1992, the United States has been an essential player in international conferences



Eileen Claussen discusses the impact of climate change during a Core Forum lecture April 6 in upstairs Lakeside.

devoted to stopping climate change. But until December 2015 in Paris — when 196 countries agreed to reduce global warming by 2 degrees Celsius — many of the bills proposed failed to ratify and reach a consensus.

Claussen said most of the goals the countries set for reducing their emission discharge had been previously imposed voluntarily without any consequences.

Though she admitted the fervor this issue demands can't be placed on the shoulders

**NOTHING I AM SPEAKING [ABOUT] TODAY IS GOOD NEWS.**

**EILEEN CLAUSSEN**  
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS

the United States, she said it's hard to make demands to the rest of the world when the United States is somewhat hypocritical.

"The response to this has to be a global

one," Claussen said. "But how do you convince other countries that they must reduce their emissions when you are the largest emitter and have done very little to reduce yours?"

In light of election season, she praised Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders for having policy-driven debates about climate change. In contrast, Claussen said Republican candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz question the legitimacy of climate change.

Despite the gloom and despair, Claussen also offered a bit of hope.

She said the only way this issue can be solved is to acknowledge it exists and can be attacked.

She then said the biggest way to reduce global warming is citizen engagement. While clean technology, resources and a sense of urgency are all necessary, the general public's voice will force politicians to act.

"We need citizen engagement to make it clear to politicians that their fortunes and future are tied directly into reducing climate change," she said. "Whether we achieve this or not is up to us."

## Honors Program names new director

*Lynn Huber to take over for Tom Mould in 2017-2018 school year*

**Christina Elias**  
Assistant News Editor  
@eliaschristina4

Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies and chair of the Department of Religious Studies, will be the new Honors

Program director beginning fall 2017. She will succeed the current director, Professor of Anthropology Tom Mould, after shadowing him throughout the upcoming academic year. Mould will remain on staff as an



Lynn Huber

anthropology professor.

"It was a really hard decision to step down because I love it," Mould said. "It's a great program [with] great students. I really believe in the work we're doing, and I believe in the potential for transformative learning that the Honors Program facilitates."

Mould said the director position has a four-year term, so he knew he would finish after the 2016-2017 academic year.

"Because it's a pretty big and important job with so many pieces and parts to it, we like to have the next person in place a year early so they can shadow the director," he said.

Huber was selected by a committee put together for the position search. Mould said Huber will make a phenomenal director because of her prior experience at Elon.

"The job requires somebody who is very close to undergraduate research and student mentoring," Mould said. "She's led the Winter Term course for the Honors Program for three years. Not only does she know the program well, she knows the students well, she connects to them well, she understands the vision and she's a proven leader on this campus."

# NewsHour co-anchor finds refuge in poetry

**Micah Spoerndle**  
Senior Reporter  
@mfspoerndle

NewsHour co-anchor and Senior Correspondent Jeffrey Brown talked about his experiences in the television industry Tuesday, April 5 in Whitley Auditorium for the 11th annual James P. Elder lecture at Elon University.

In his lecture titled "Politics and Poetry: One Reporter's Notebook," he immediately connected with the college audience by reflecting on his academic life at the University of California and his love for visiting college campuses.

"People always ask me if doing live television every night is scary, but I say no," Brown said. "What does wake me up in the middle of the night is the thought that I still have to finish a five-page term paper."

Though Brown is highly regarded for his work in broadcast, it is his poetry that separates him from others in his field.

Brown talked about meeting an imam in Timbuktu who was more impressed with him being a poet than a news correspondent. He also traveled to Jerusalem and met a man named Steven Grossman. Brown was particularly inspired by Grossman, who wrote about relationships, intimacy and jealousy instead of bombings and the violent conflict that was going on in his country.

"These two taught me to question: How can we restore and revitalize the human being inside?" Brown said.

But Brown first embraced poetry and the study of humanities after taking a college class called "European Poetry and Classical Mythology." In the class, he studied

ancient Greek and Latin. He said in that class he found the key to understanding the past and connecting it to the present.

Brown also talked about his trip

**YOU MUST OPEN YOURSELF UP FROM JUST THOSE NICHES YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF.**

**JEFFREY BROWN**  
NEWSHOUR CO-ANCHOR AND SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake when cholera began to spread. Brown said he can still remember an encounter with a man who had

recently lost his son. The man compared himself to a bird without a branch to land on.

Interactions with others and deep conversations such as this one remain highly important for Brown. He said college is the perfect place to hold meaningful conversations that widen perspectives.

"It's incumbent on us, whatever our chosen fields, to broaden these fields," Brown said.

When a student in attendance asked about the changing business models as businesses cater to online media, Brown said media is dividing people up by only allowing them access to certain information. He expressed his sadness for the disappearance of water cooler discussions — an environment that allowed members of a community to come together to talk about the pressing issues of the day.

On the other hand, Brown sees

the accessibility of the Internet also as an opportunity to expand everyone's global outlook.

"You must open yourself up from just those niches you want to be a part of," he said.

After another member of the audience asked Brown about Washington, D.C.'s current environment, he said this presidential race is the most interesting one he has ever covered.

"It's a horse race, but it's the most exciting and unusual horse race in a long time," he said.

Nearing the conclusion of the event, Brown advised audience members to continue looking at issues from all perspectives and sources. As a poet, he suggested the use of studying the humanities side of politics. With this idea in mind, he remains optimistic about the future of journalism during this time of deep division in the United States.

CHEAT  
SHEET

## Panama Papers leak carries major significance



*Want a complicated news story explained?  
Email [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet*

A recent leak of 11.5 million emails, documents and invoices known as the Panama Papers is creating havoc internationally since news of the leak hit major newsstands April 3.

The documents contain information about offshore bank accounts and shell companies that influential leaders are providing to Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca to conceal.

#### What are offshore and shell companies?

Offshore companies are businesses that operate outside the country of their registration or the home of its shareholders. Their main purpose is to gain tax benefits through loopholes. These types of businesses are not necessarily illegal, but it is easier for them to perform activities under the radar.

Shell companies are dormant and exist to help perform transactions. The companies themselves do not have any assets or operations. These types of companies are also not always illegal, but they often help legitimate businesses avoid taxes.

#### Who is involved?

Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca, a law firm that works with companies in offshore jurisdictions like the British Virgin Islands, has been hiding documents that date back decades.

The papers reveal a mass network of rich and powerful people using tax loopholes. They also reveal business involving Russian President Vladimir Putin and



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca operates its Wyoming office out of this Deming Building (right) in the capital city of Cheyenne. Several public figures have poured money into Mossack Fonseca to avoid paying taxes on their assets. The Panama Papers revealed Mossack Fonseca's involvement in concealing money.**

members of FIFA's ethics committee. The leak involves more than 140 politicians from more than 40 different countries.

Because much more information will be released as major media outlets dig into the 11.5 million documents, more names are likely to emerge in the coming weeks, months and years.

#### Why are people using Mossack Fonseca?

Some offshore companies using tax havens have been accused of supplying fuel to the Syrian air

force over the past few years. In 2014, the United States and the United Kingdom issued bans on doing business with any of these companies. It was discovered that Mossack Fonseca was the law firm helping these companies operate. Many of the firm's clients have been involved in bribery, arms deals, drug trafficking and tax evasion.

#### How have the accused responded?

Several people named in the papers have directly denied that they have been a part of any illegal activ-

ity. Putin even said that his allegations were part of an American plot to undermine Russian unity.

Mossack Fonseca released the following statement in its response to the leak:

"Our industry is not particularly well understood by the public, and unfortunately this series of articles will only serve to deepen that confusion. The facts are these: while we may have been the victim of a data breach, nothing we've seen in this illegally obtained cache of documents suggests we've done anything illegal, and that's very much in keeping with the global reputation we've built over the past 40 years of doing business

the right way, right here in Panama."

The Panama Papers are opening up discussions about privacy and security as well as the ethics behind influential leaders concealing their wealth. The documents are raising a lot of political skepticism similar to the Watergate scandal in 1972.

The main consequence of the leaked documents is a breach of secrecy, which is the selling point for many tax havens like Mossack Fonseca. In the wake of the leak, businesses both mentioned and not mentioned in the documents find themselves in danger of exploitation should they continue conducting underground business activities.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Elonthon fundraising shatters last year's mark

Elon University held its annual Elonthon event April 8-9 to help raise money for Duke Children's hospital. This year's proceeds reached \$276,720.16 from almost 1,500 participants. This amount marked a 54 percent increase from last year and made Elonthon the 22nd largest fundraising Miracle Network Dance Marathon of the 300+ U.S. collegiate programs.

Elonthon is a 24-hour dance marathon held in Alumni Gym. It started 6 p.m. April 8 and continued until 6 p.m. April 9. Dancers were required to raise \$100 minimum and were allowed to sign up in six-hour, 12-hour or 24-hour shifts.

To make the event more fun, the committee added more meals during the event and had families come to share their stories.

### 'Tackling Climate Change' talk to be held April 19

Eileen Claussen, founding president of the

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. April 19 in McKinnon Hall about how the Elon community can best tackle the issue of climate change.

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions is an internationally recognized non governmental organization that works with progressive business communities. Her talk will cover implications of climate change, how to address the issue and the roles of the government and the general public in change.

### Multiple events to be held during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Beginning Monday, April 11, Elon University started hosting events to raise awareness of sexual assault. On Thursday, "Take Back the Night: Survivor Speak Out" will begin with a community gathering at 6:30 p.m. outside Whitley Auditorium. A reception will take place in McBride Gathering Space in Numen Lumen Pavilion after the event.

The documentary, "The Hunting Ground,"

will be shown April 13 and "The Mask You Live In" on April 19.

An Active Bystander Training Pilot Program will be held 4:30-8:30 p.m. April 17 to teach students how to prevent sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking at Elon. There will be dinner provided to participants. Attendees can register by emailing [rweeks2@elon.edu](mailto:rweeks2@elon.edu).

SPARKS and IRC will host Consent & Sex Trivia at 10 p.m. April 21 in McKinnon Hall. On April 27, or "Denim Day," students are encouraged to wear denim to show their support of sexual assault survivors.

### Sigma Phi Epsilon wins student organization of the year

This year marked the 21st annual Organization Awards and Inauguration Ceremony (OAIC) hosted by SGA. The N.C. Mu Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity was judged on its benefits offered to the Elon community, campus involvement, connection to other organizations and individuals and meeting of

annual goals.

This was the second award the fraternity has received in 2016 — in February, the chapter received the Donald C. McCleary Excellence in Member Development Award.

### Guest lecture will speak on independent council and risk management

Thomas M. DiBiagio, a partner of Baker Botts LLP, will be giving a lecture on global businesses in the LaRose Digital Theatre 10:50 a.m.-noon Friday. DiBiagio is a civil and criminal lawyer who focuses on various investigations involving corrupt foreign practices, anti-corruption enforcement and government and criminal antitrust.

He has been working more than 30 years with both state and federal courts. In 2001, President George W. Bush named him United States Attorney for the District of Maryland.

His lecture is highly recommended for any business or even non-business majors who are interested in working in a global environment in the future.

 **STAFF EDITORIAL**

# Research can fulfill more than just a requirement

## HOW TO EARN YOUR RESEARCH ELR

TAKE AT LEAST

**2** RESEARCH COURSES NUMBERED

**499**  
OR  
**498**

**OR**

ENGAGE IN ELON'S **SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH** EXPERIENCE (SURE)

## WHY DO ONLY 25 PERCENT OF ELON STUDENTS UTILIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY?

### HOW WE SEE IT

Elon students should see undergraduate research as an opportunity to expand on their learning and community.

Elon University is known for the vast amount of opportunities for learning and growth that it offers to its students. Such opportunities range from exotic study abroad courses to career development to service learning, but one of the most valuable — though often overlooked, is research.

With the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) occurring this past weekend and SURF Day approaching in the coming weeks, it is an appropriate time to recognize the research students have done and think about other ways to get involved.

The university defines research as “activities undertaken by an undergraduate student with significant faculty mentoring that lead to new scholarly insights and/or creation of new works, add to the discipline and involve critical analysis of the process and/or outcome of the activities.” Currently, approximately 25 percent of students participate in mentored undergraduate programs.

For many, the term “undergraduate research” immediately brings about thoughts of conventional or stereotypical research with beakers and chemical reactions. But students of any discipline can engage in undergraduate research — including the kind outside of the laboratory.

One of the biggest problems with research at Elon is the fact that many students do it simply to fulfill a requirement or gain credit for an Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR). Elon College Fellows and Honors Fellows are required to complete research as a part of their program, and many students conduct research to simply be able to graduate as Fellows.

But it is important to remember that the university establishes such requirements for a reason. Students must recognize the numerous ways that research can help them and the greater community.

Through the ELR, Elon hopes to encourage experiential learning for students through giving them oppor-

tunities to incorporate experiences into their education across a number of different fields. Research is considered one of these experiences because it allows students to take what they are learning in the classroom and ask new questions, form predictions and reach conclusions.

Conducting research is necessary in answering important questions that can further academic disciplines or contribute toward solving bigger issues. Instead of looking at it as simply a requirement, students must look at

to conduct research in their line of work. Often, results from research in a number of different fields yield answers that can help people, a goal that so many college students have for themselves.

The research students conduct in college can be used as the groundwork for further research in their professions. It can be much more than just a requirement if students take the time to develop research proposals to their full potential and take the time to reach out to professors who will help their ideas flourish.

The university also places a large emphasis on the mentoring process during research. Through research, students have the unique opportunity to work intimately with their research mentor. This chance to learn from an experienced professor in a one-on-one setting is valuable to the learning process and is a privilege that is rare for students not pursuing research.

When we consider the opportunities for research Elon students are given, the percentage of those participating in research should be much higher than just 25 percent. The opportunities are here to give students a multidimensional learning experience, and they should be utilized.

### STUDENTS MUST LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE TO REALIZE WHAT THEIR RESEARCH CAN ACCOMPLISH.

the bigger picture to realize what their research can accomplish.

In addition, research should not only be viewed as something done as an undergraduate, but also as a career. Many professors at Elon continue

# Don't allow fall classes to ruin your spring

Besides the few people who truly mastered the four-year plan in “Elon 101,” April is known by students for more than just its showers. It's one of the few times of the year when we log into OnTrack and actually look at “Degree Audit.” We grab a notebook and jot down the next courses to take and what sections and teachers are being offered.

Some prioritize by class time, and may even filter their search to

only see classes that start after 10 a.m. Others focus on the professor and browse through RateMyProfessor.com, even though the reviews tend to come from either the teacher's pet or the kid who never did any of the readings but still attests his low grade to the teacher's lack of knowledge and understanding.

The problem is that it's just a piece of paper. Even after nervously watching the spots in the class slowly get filled as we await our registration time, the final schedule isn't real yet. We like the sound of it, the way it looks in our calendars, but we don't know how we'll feel when fall comes around.

Will we be as content as we are with that schedule now, or will

we look at it and wish we thought about how little time we've left ourselves outside of class? Will we fear that cumulatively the workload will be too much or, after a

### WILL WE BE AS CONTENT AS WE ARE WITH THAT SCHEDULE NOW, OR WILL WE LOOK AT IT AND WISH WE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW LITTLE TIME WE'VE LEFT OURSELVES OUTSIDE OF CLASS?

rejuvenating summer, will we wish we challenged ourselves more?

We are basing our fall semester on our spring semester mindset. As we sit in shorts and look at the

blue skies out the window it might be exhilarating to imagine a Friday with no classes, but it's still just a piece of paper. How are we to know if that day off will really be worth it

— if the extra classes we added on other days of the week cause more stress than just going to class on Friday would induce.

The answer is simple: We don't.

Without knowing what new things we will try, who we will meet or what we'll overcome this summer, we won't know exactly who we'll be. It's fair to assume our general interests and majors will remain the same, but every minor detail that we stress about now may not even matter by the time this piece of paper becomes reality.

So as we feel our hearts beating faster and faster with each spot that gets filled in our intended courses, we must remember that, as of now, it's not real. If in the end we don't change significantly, our schedules can. Letting lines on a piece of paper taint our last weeks here is just as silly as that kid's grammatically incorrect review on a tentative teacher's Rate My Professor page.

Want to share your opinion? Let us know. Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu)

THE PENDULUM

Letters must be 350 words or less and must be signed and submitted in a word document to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). The Pendulum reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Religious diversity must include Christianity

My husband and I are both graduates of Elon University. His class celebrated their 25th reunion this year. We are part of the fabled couples who met on Elon's campus and married one month after my graduation.

We both fondly remember our four college years as some of the best of our lives. Because of our love of Elon, we have spent the past 23 years of our marriage in Alamance County. Bill's business degree prepared him for the two successful small businesses he owns. My education degree allowed me the privilege to teach in public, private and homeschool settings all over Burlington.

As you might expect, we receive annual phone calls requesting a donation to Elon. Despite our overwhelmingly positive experiences, we have never contributed. Read our wildly politically incorrect reasons that follow.

Elon University's motto, Numen Lumen, professes the idea of intellectual and spiritual light. Unless, of course, you are an Evangelical Christian.

Ostensibly, the Numen Lumen Pavilion is a place for robust dialogue about religion on

campus. This open dialogue does not extend to the annual fall organization fair where an Evangelical Christian group is no longer welcome to dispense information. In fact, the leader of this campus ministry was very nearly arrested on an Elon city sidewalk for passing out flyers inviting students to a meal and Bible study on campus.

Upon hearing the details of this open discrimination, I was saddened but not surprised. I hear much about visiting Buddhist monks and Muslim/Jewish relationships in the Magazine of Elon for alumni. Prayer in Jesus' name ... nothing.

There are numerous reasons Elon's policy toward Evangelicals has prohibited our campus donations. It is disingenuous to declare campus as interdenominational and multicultural when Bible-believing Christians are systematically excluded from participating openly in student activities.

Parents and students are no longer offered information about Christian ministries in orientation packets or at organizational fairs. Evangelical Christians are prohibited from

posting flyers in any common areas on campus. The opportunity to know about meetings not only limits an open religious dialogue, it moves the choice to participate away from students toward Elon policymakers.

A liberal arts education should include a working knowledge of the Bible. Studying the humanities without understanding biblical context is like reading "Huckleberry Finn" without knowledge of Mark Twain or the antebellum South. Biblical allusions abound in Renaissance art, Shakespeare's plays, lyric poetry and innumerable works of literature. Our government and history as a nation are rooted in the free practice of religion. Our Constitution and rule of law were modeled after biblical principles by Christian forefathers.

According to Guinness World Records, the bestselling book in history is the Holy Bible. Can a liberal arts education be complete without acknowledging the Bible's influence on literature, art, government and history? Why, then, is Bible study relegated to coffee shops and sidewalk flyers? Why must it be so tightly regulated by Elon University?

For Elon University to earn our patronage, we are looking for true religious openness that includes evangelical Christianity. The academic and spiritual study of the Bible should be embraced instead of infringed.

If the Dalai Lama is invited to speak, why not the Rev. Franklin Graham? If candidate Bill Clinton made a campaign stop in the 1990s, why not Dr. Ben Carson in 2016? If students can learn Hindu spirituality in yoga, why not conservative Christianity in Bible study?

An open, respectful exchange of ideas should not offend. A sure sign of maturity is the ability to agree to disagree. I concur with President Leo Lambert that support for Elon can surpass 22 percent of alumni. When religious freedom for all is embraced in principle and practice, Bill and I will be the first to offer a donation. I feel sure other sincere Christians will do the same.

**Cheryl Fowler Sandford '93**  
**Harry William Sandford Jr. '90**

# Recognize the power of intentional kindness

Almost every day, I wear a piece of ceramic jewelry around my neck: a yellow flower with the inscription, "Be Kind."



**Courtney Campbell**  
Columnist  
@courtcamp

It reminds me of the power of intentional kindness, which is one of the driving motivational factors in my daily life. It's something so simple, yet so powerful, but still doesn't occur on a day-to-day basis.

We live in an era that can be angry, hopeless and bleak. With recent terrors, like the attack in Brussels or the mass shootings that have occurred in the United States, like the one that happened in my own hometown, Newtown, it doesn't seem like there is much we can do.

But we can always be kind.

While eating breakfast at my favorite diner in my hometown, my friend and I noticed a young man eating alone. After he left, the waitress approached us asking us if

we knew the man.

We didn't, but she said he paid for our meal, saying it was his act of kindness for the day. I was shocked. I didn't particularly need a free breakfast, but his thoughtfulness and kindness touched me.

I had heard of kindness chain events where a line of people will pay for each other's meals at a drive-thru, but nothing like that had ever happened to me. It made me feel positive and have faith in people.

I was unable to thank him, but to continue the kindness and return the favor, I left the waitress a large tip. Though events like this are a rarity, there are small acts of kindness we can still do every day.

It's so simple to hold a door for someone, give a compliment or even just smile. Depending on the day, these simple acts can make a world of difference.

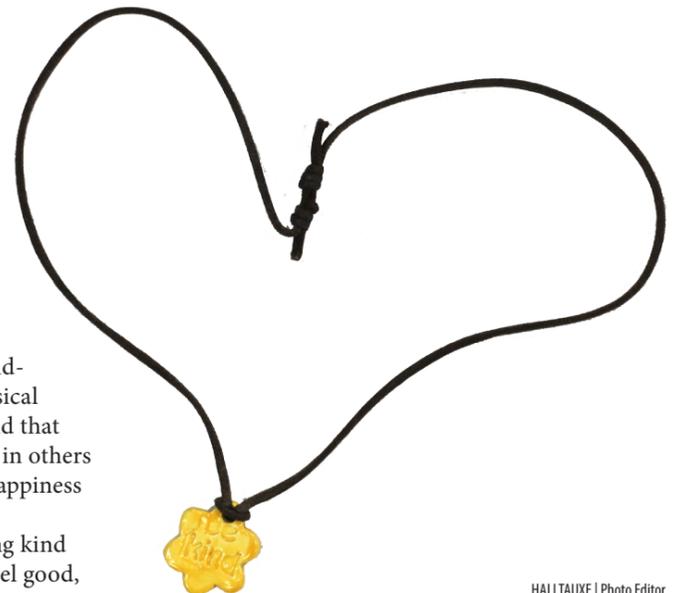
Legislation is slow, people can be selfish and I accept that I can't make things change in the grand scheme of things. But if we each complete one act of kindness every day, we could band together to create a more positive, happy environment.

The necklace I wear comes from Ben's Bells, an organization whose mission is to inspire, educate and motivate people to realize the impact of intentional kindness.

According to their site, "Recent research demonstrates that kindness benefits our physical and mental health, and that recognizing kindness in others increases a person's happiness and satisfaction."

Not only does being kind make someone else feel good, but it also makes us feel good as well. That is the power of positivity.

You can never know what someone is going through by looking at him or her. Hardship, pain and sadness are not always visible from the outside, and one simple act of kindness could do so much to brighten



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor

someone's day.

I challenge everyone to do something nice for someone each day, whether it's holding the door or buying your roommate her favorite chocolate. What will be your act of kindness today?

# Students must be open to using their resources

It seems hard to believe, but we're already approaching the end of spring semester. While the yearning dreams of summer may already



**Tim Melton**  
Columnist  
@elonpendulum

be fresh in our minds, it's time once again prepare for the annual onslaught of exams and final projects.

I've previously written on the dangers of excessively stressing over exams — that one's confidence in having learned the material should be considered superior to the grade. But, I will also make a point that because the final is generally the greatest opportunity to demonstrate said

confidence, it should always be approached with some measure of gravity.

Unfortunately, many students — myself included — often approach finals with the belief that because they are meant to test our abilities, we should strive to approach them on our own merit, without any help. We sometimes assume that needing help implies weakness, or somehow speaks against our character.

We should be ready to accept that there are countless resources — whether it be study groups, the Tutoring Center, the Writing Center, our own professors and so on — that are meant to help us.

These resources do not necessarily signify that those who use them are weak, but instead seek to bring out their strengths. As a consul-

tant for Elon's Writing Center, I can personally attest that we, as a resource, try not to talk down to those we are trying to help, but rather try to help them find the answers on their terms.

It takes a certain type of willpower to ask for help, willpower that comes more naturally to some than others. No matter what type of student you are, though, there's no question that finals are important, and as such, the acceptance of resources can only help to improve one's results.

Consider both the resources you use now, and those you may be neglecting or dismissing. After all, the skills to seek and accept help are not meant to be relegated simply to finals, or classwork in general — these skills can be applied in practically all manners of life.

**Walk-in tutoring is offered 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday during Fall and Spring semesters in Belk Library.**

**The Writing Center is located in Belk Library from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday.**

Want to share your opinion? Let us know.  
Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing  
[pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu)

THE PENDULUM

Letters must be 350 words or less and must be signed and submitted in a word document to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). The Pendulum reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.

# 'Clybourne Park' play tackles racial inequalities

**Lea Silverman**  
Senior Reporter  
@leasilverman

Portraying events taken place before and after the Hansberry play, "Clybourne Park" discusses racial issues and show the similarities between the world today and the 50s, which is a time that seems far away and less progressive despite only being 60 years in the past.

"Clybourne Park," a play by Bruce Norris, was written in 2010 as a spin-off to Lorraine Hansberry's play, "A Raisin in the Sun," which is loosely based on historical events that occurred in Chicago.

The Department of Performing Arts will be putting on "Clybourne Park" April 14 through 17 in McCrary Theatre at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

There will also be a post-show discussion of the play in the theater at 4:15 p.m. immediately following the final performance on Sunday. All who see an earlier performance are invited to return then to share their thoughts and ask questions of the cast.

Unlike many plays, the two acts in "Clybourne Park" are split up into two time periods, with the first act taking place in 1959 and the second act taking place in 2009. In the first act, a white family is selling its home to a black family in a predominantly white neighborhood. The second



Senior Ginny O'Keefe (left) and senior Caleb Albert (right) participate in dress rehearsals for 'Clybourne Park.'

act skips forward to a white couple buying a house in the same neighborhood, which has become predominantly black.

Actors switch between different characters in each act, to further show the similarities between the two time periods.

Senior Nicole Brydon Bloom plays Betsy Lindner in the first act and the role of Lindsey in the second act.

"Both acts kind of deal with how

views on racism have or haven't changed between the 1950s and 2000s," Bloom said. "But it's a funny show. It sounds pretty serious, but it's not politically correct at all. It's a very sharp satire."

With race as the main topic of the play, some lines are so sharp that Bloom said the audience might not know exactly if they should laugh or not. Some of these lines are even uncomfortable for the actors to say because they are

not politically correct.

For example, one of Bloom's characters tries to be politically correct but fails.

"At one point, Lindsey is trying to make up for her husband's racial comments and tells the two African-American characters, 'Half of my friends are black,'" Bloom said. "She thinks this helps the situation, but it's one of the hardest lines for me to say. It's not politically correct or helpful at all."

## 'CLYBOURNE PARK'

**Who:** Department of Performing Arts

**When:** April 14-17

**Where:** McCrary Theatre

Bloom finds the greatest challenge is to play a woman who thinks she is knowledgeable about a subject, when in reality she is almost as ignorant as her husband, played by junior Christian Frost.

"My favorite part is probably being able to portray two completely different characters in different time periods and exploring the social norms of those times," Frost said.

But for Frost, it is also difficult to get into the complete mindset of two unique individuals.

"The most difficult thing is trying to find out who these people are and figuring out what they are outside of this play. Where they work, what's the relationship between them and the spouse and how this topic affects them personally," he said.

But no matter how challenging the roles may be, the actors feel that the play leaves students with an important message by juxtaposing the two decades.

"I think it offers a new perspective on this part of American history that we all have learned about but often sidestep or avoid," Bloom said.

## Student writes and directs 1st musical revue



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENEE SCHIAZZA  
Renee Schiazza directed her first musical, a tribute to the 'Great American Songbook,' as her senior thesis.

**Alexandra Bater**  
Multimedia Editor  
@alexandra\_bater

Beyond acting and singing on stage, Elon University musical theater students also dabble in directing and writing, creating works of their own. Senior Renee Schiazza recently wrote and directed a musical revue, "Revue-ing A Century of the Songbook: Who Could Ask For Anything More?" as a part of her Elon College Fellows senior thesis.

Schiazza, a double major in music theater and arts administration, had always planned to dedicate her senior thesis to the "Great American Songbook," a collection of the most influential American pop songs and jazz standards from the early 20th century.

But she was not quite sure how she was going to express her passion through her senior thesis.

Schiazza began her fascination with the "Great American Songbook" when she was just in high school while she was a part of The Great American Songbook High School Vocal Competition.

"I always loved listening to Standards and old American classics," Schiazza said, "but being a part of Michael Feinstein's Vocal Competition really sparked my knowledge for the research

behind this and the relevance of this genre across American culture."

The Great American Songbook Academy designs a curriculum for the younger generation to introduce and teach them about the American Songbook, something that Schiazza had contemplated doing for her senior thesis project.

With the help of her mentor Linda Sabo, associate professor of Performing Arts, Schiazza decided that writing an original musical revue would be the best way to teach the Elon community the importance of the "Great American Songbook."

Schiazza completed her research on the "Great American Songbook" over her last three years here at Elon and spent her senior year writing the show.

"I wrote the show partially during the process [of directing]," Schiazza said. "I finished the show after I knew my cast [and] I could really tailor it to them."

Looking back, Schiazza never saw herself as a director. She had only pictured herself as a dancer and a singer since that was what she had always been trained to do.

During her junior year, she had her first ex-

perience directing by being the assistant director of Titanic alongside Cathy McNeela, director of the music theater program and professor of performing arts, which taught her to "look at things from a different picture" and allowed her to find a passion for the directing side of shows.

"I originally didn't intend to direct this show," Schiazza said. "I was going to music direct it. But as I was researching, I really felt like I had a great knowledge of this genre and the history surrounding it."

Schiazza was inspired not only by her love for the "Great American Songbook" and the Michael Feinstein's Great American Songbook Academy, but also by other shows and musicians who appreciate the American Songbook just as much as she does.

After Schiazza's freshman year of college, she went back home to Indiana and saw a show put on by the Actors Theater of Indiana about Frank Sinatra that shows the audience the music behind Sinatra and how his music has affected American music today.

"I didn't really think about it until I sat down to write this show, but that show left such an impression on me that it led me to where I took this show," Schiazza said, "I wanted this show, to

make this work an education work and not just a performance."

Schiazza's main intention for this revue was for her audience members to recognize that this type of music is extremely familiar in our everyday lives, even though it is not something we think about when we listen to music today.

Schiazza was able to pursue this dream of teaching people the necessity of the Great American Songbook with the help of the musical theater program at Elon.

"Whenever a student is interested in doing something else — directing, being on the production side of things, choreographing — they are extremely supportive of that and the faculty helps make that happen," Schiazza said.

Directing her own musical did not only help Schiazza as a director but as an actress as well. Through sitting in the director's chair, she now looks at her acting decisions in a completely different way, especially in ways to connect with her audience.

"Putting different lessons that I have learned in high school and learned through music theater into directing has really opened my eyes for different ways to get to an audience," Schiazza said.

# Running without vision, seeing a future

*Alumnus creates first documentary on legally blind ultra-marathoner*

**Courtney Campbell**  
Style Editor  
@courtcamp

One hundred eighty-three miles in less than 60 hours. This was the requirement Jason Romero, a legally blind ultra-marathoner, had to meet for the Puerto Rico 150+ race.

This was also the premise for Taylor Shain's '12 first documentary: "Running Vision," a 45-minute movie focusing on overcoming challenges and never giving up — both on the racecourse and in life.

Shain found the story when he met Romero working part-time in a running store in Colorado. Originally, he had no idea Romero was an ultra-runner, someone who runs more than 25.2 miles at a time, until Shain saw an article of him running laps around the park for awareness of a charity.

"I ran a couple laps with him looking to do a video to do this run in Puerto Rico," Shain said. "I told him I wanted to go. Six weeks later, I went and shot the movie."

Though he dabbled working for a few small production companies making corporate videos, Shain had never tackled a project this large before — or one he was this passionate about.

"When I was at Elon, I think one of my professors told me, 'You guys work as hard and you can and one day you'll find a story that makes you want to work really hard,'" Shain said. "I think this running story is that."

To create "Running Vision," Shain began filming preliminary interviews in January 2015



Taylor Shain poses with Jason Romero (center), a blind ultra-marathoner, and his crew after the Puerto Rico 150+.

and flew down to Puerto Rico for three days to film the race in the beginning of February.

Filming got off to a rocky start, though. While charging his camera in the airport, Shain left the battery charger behind. He was forced to scramble to different electronics stores in Puerto Rico to find the right one.

Additionally, he filmed the entire documentary by himself, following Romero in a crew van and a police escort — even running beside him for 15 miles of the race and only sleeping for the four hours Romero did.

Once he returned to the United States, Shain spent a month and a half transcribing the interviews after some well-needed sleep. After the footage was organized, he planned the film by creating small vignettes and editing them together.

Originally, Romero was nervous to be the main focus of a documentary. But after seeing

how powerful it could be, he opened up more.

"I watched Jason evolve," Shain said. "When we first started, he didn't want to tell anyone. Once he started getting ready for his run, he saw how impactful it could be for people and started talking about it."

Though he was doing all of the production, he had some help from his wife, Mary Yost '12, who, as long-distance runner herself, helped him prepare for the trip and gave him feedback on the film.

"There is always an intrinsic reason for running, especially for running long distances," Yost said. "Taylor did an excellent job of telling Jason's story and sharing his reasons for running: to show his children that anything is possible and to raise awareness about the visually impaired community."

Looking back, Shain believes he could have done more to convey Romero's visual impair-

ment, possibly by having a scene where he takes a great deal of time to open mail, only to find it's junk — one of the many difficulties Romero faces.

Also since this was his first film, Shain was unaware of the scope of the project, and wished he had fundraised and hired creative partners or an assistant to help with transcribing interviews.

"Since I've graduated, I've shifted gears to always learning as much as I can," Shain said. "I joke that this is my grad school and I didn't have to pay for it."

For his next large project, he wants to get word out about the film earlier to build buzz even before filming begins.

"Really my goal is for people to be aware of it," Shain said. "It has a lot of value because there's such a strong, niche audience. This summer I'm connecting with visual impairment communities to get as much exposure as I can."

The film premiered in Denver on Oct. 28, 2015 with more than 100 people in attendance, mostly friends and family. Shain said some of the people didn't realize that Romero had a vision impairment.

"Running Vision" was also shown to the racers of this year's Puerto Rico 150+ race and will be featured in the Rincon International Film Festival in Puerto Rico on April 13. The documentary will also be available on Vimeo on April 21.

The film inspired Shain as well, and he hopes to create more adventure-themed films in the future.

"I met Jason, and his whole thing is that even though he has challenges in life he still goes further," Shain said. "And that was inspiration as to me because as a filmmaker, I needed to prove to myself what I can do."

# Biking nationwide for awareness, service

*Student prepares for Bike & Build tour this summer*

**Miranda Siwak**  
Senior Reporter  
@MirandaSiwak

Starting May 21, junior Cody Hoyt will start a summer journey known as SC2SC on a bicycle across the United States as part of the Bike & Build program, taking several days off along the way to help build affordable housing.

Prior to joining the Bike & Build program, Hoyt had never even worn bike shorts. But his love of the outdoors, group physical experiences and community service were enough to persuade him to join the

**Hoyt will bike a total of 4269 miles across the country and will spend 18 days building houses.**

summer program. "We have 30 riders and leaders so far," said SC2SC Bike & Build trip leader Hope Hart. "We'll follow the tradition and dip our tires in the ocean in Charleston. Over the course of 82 days, we'll cross 14 states and bike over 4,269 miles before ending in Santa Cruz, California."

While in Santa Cruz, Hoyt will participate in 14 build days where he will be partnering with affordable housing affiliates to help construct homes.

Bike & Build is a national non-profit organization that raises

awareness and money to support affordable housing. Last summer, Emma Kwiatkowski '15 participated in a trip from New Haven, Connecticut, to Vancouver, Canada.

Hoyt knew Kwiatkowski through the improv comedy club she founded on campus, Laughelongs, and tracked her journey via social media. That was enough to spark his interest.

"Over the summer, when she was going across the country, she kept posting Instagram photos," Hoyt said. "I remember this one day in July, I saw one photo [and thought], 'I need to do this. It's too cool not to.' It's kind of messed my academic plan up a little bit, because I still need to complete my communications internship, but at the moment, I have no regrets. I'm very excited about it."

Since he's from Oregon, Hoyt has visited a few of the states on the Bike & Build trip itinerary — but most of the states will be new adventures for him, one of the reasons Charleston to Santa Cruz was his top route choice.

"I really love immersive experiences that are purposeful and are designed to help others, as corny as that is, but are designed to have some long-term, big-picture impact," Hoyt said. "I had a very emotional, disturbing sophomore year, and went through [a] very deep depression, so there is a small part in the back of my mind that says, 'This is another way to show you what you can do and how far you've come.'"

Deciding on a trip and applying was only the beginning of the lengthy

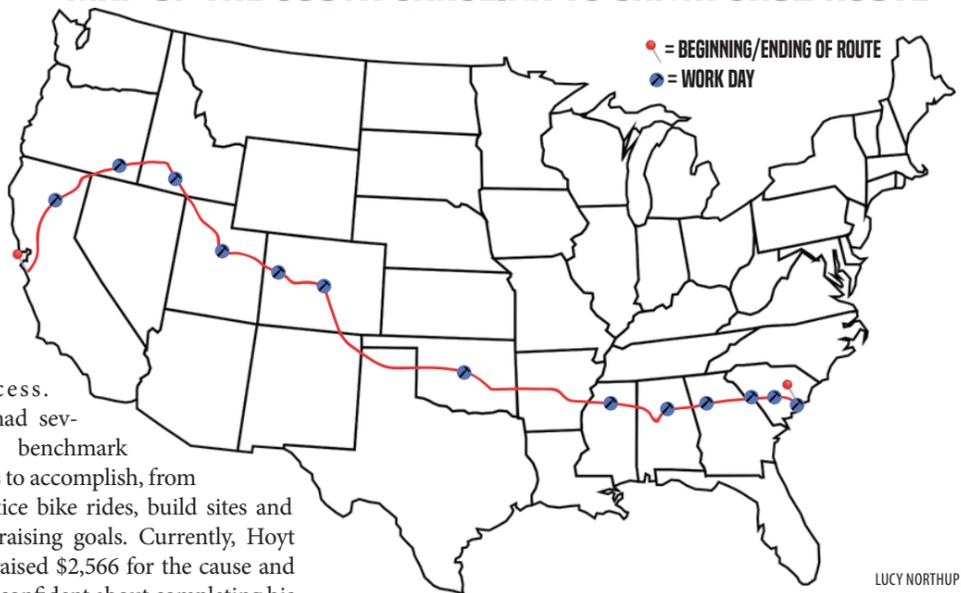
process. He had several benchmark goals to accomplish, from practice bike rides, build sites and fundraising goals. Currently, Hoyt has raised \$2,566 for the cause and feels confident about completing his goal of \$2,000 more, for a total of \$4,500 toward building grants.

Hoyt has been fundraising since January, tirelessly working to complete his goal.

"I've been fundraising primarily through letters and social media, writing letters to prospective donors and then posting about it primarily on Facebook," Hoyt said. "I've had close to 35 donors. It's exciting that I have a lot of support."

According to Hart, Bike & Build's main goal is to help eliminate the country's affordable housing crisis. Through riding bikes across the United States, participants will help advocate for the cause and assist building teams as well as fundraising. Hart said biking becomes an effective tool to spread the causes' messages.

## MAP OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TO SANTA CRUZ ROUTE



LUCY NORTHUP | Design Editor

Hoyt looks forward to recapturing his joy of training for an athletic excursion and a reintroduction of his adventurous identity that has diminished in college. He has been learning about the cause and gaining an interest in the organization's mission before the ride even begins.

Reaching the Pacific Ocean after a cross-country bike ride will be a huge accomplishment for Hoyt, but that's just the beginning of his hopes for the trip and journey.

In addition to participating in weekly discussions about Bike & Build, their mission and the housing crisis, Hoyt also does practice builds with Habitat for Humanity and practice rides of 500 miles.

"Working with Cody has been great so far," Hart said. "We've only been able to communicate via email

and I'm excited to meet him in person. I respect Cody doing this trip in response to some flavor of existential angst. I can tell he's a very motivated individual with an inquisitive mind and a passion to help others."

While his schedule remains extremely busy as he approaches the end of the semester, the chance to spend the entire summer outdoors and working to help those who need it is truly priceless.

"I'm learning that the value of a roof over your head that you own is not quantifiable," Hoyt said. "Bike & Build really emphasizes the 'housing first' philosophy: that you deal with other issues in people's life after you give them a house. If you give them a house first, then it becomes a safe place and a comfortable place to start to figure out those things."

# Elon Eats: Promoting diversity through food

## Morazi's Pizza and International Grill has community ties

**Kayla Hoey**  
Assistant Style Editor  
@kayla\_hoey

The drive down N.C. Highway 87 from Elon to Ossipee seems long, but it's only a few miles. The scenery is a blur of fields and ranch houses, with three stoplights between campus and an unassuming white building on the right side of the road: Morazi's Pizza and International Grill, owned and operated by Max and Terry Akhlaghi, which has been in business for more than 30 years.

Inside, a few booths and tables occupy the space, along with an extensive model car collection.

Max Akhlaghi brings a plate of homemade chips and dip to the table and launches into lively conversation about history, passions and, of course, food.

"If you're running a mom-and-pop for 30 years, you have to be doing something right," Akhlaghi said. His voice echoes in the small restaurant as he greets his customers by name and engages in conversation.

Akhlaghi, originally from Iran, came to the United States on Sept. 7, 1978. In Iran, he was always around the kitchen and developed a love for cooking. He recalls with fondness childhood days in the family garden.

"We would can everything," he said. "We never bought tomato paste — my mother made it. We never bought lemon juice — my mother made it."

When he arrived in the United States, his love of cooking pushed him to seek work in the food indus-

try. He began in St. Petersburg, Florida, as a dishwasher and moved his way up to a cook.

"If you work in a restaurant, you are never hungry," he said. "I like eating, so I liked learning to cook."

From Florida, Akhlaghi moved to Norfolk, Virginia, to obtain a degree in electronics technology from Norfolk State University. His degree brought him to Los Angeles, where he worked assembling keyboards and computer parts for companies such as Graham and Apple.

It was while working in California that he met his wife, Terry.

"She was the prettiest girl there," he said. "We started eating lunch together, and now we've been married 30 years."

The couple has five sons, with one in the Air Force and two others studying at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Appalachian State University.

"I wanted to get rich," Akhlaghi said. "But we've got five sons — college-educated, self-starters — and very positive [to be around]. I am very proud. That's why I work so hard."

Akhlaghi has also made personal connections with the patrons.

"When you walk in here, I don't see a dollar sign," he said. "I see a friend. My customers are my best friends."

As for the food, it's a hit.

Morazi's offers an extremely extensive menu — including pizza, pasta, salads, subs, Greek specialties, Mexican choices and burgers — at affordable prices. Most meals total \$6-10.

"I don't usually like any of the meats on [the meatlovers] pizza," said sophomore Lexie Nixon. "But I really like this pizza."

Akhlaghi remembers Elon students who used to come into his restaurant and fill the tables. Akhlaghi worked for Elon for 4.5 years



KAYLA HOEY | Assistant Style Editor

**Morazi's Pizza and International Grill offers a wide variety of pizza and Italian food.**

before a back injury made it impossible for him to continue working there.

But while working at the university, he had a good experience. What he misses from working at Elon is the interactions with the students. He doesn't get many Elon students, but he wants that to change.

"I lost my connection [with students] when I left," he said. "There is so much [food] on campus, and this is too far away."

But Morazi's is only four miles from campus, and students are known to travel much farther distances to Greensboro and Raleigh for lunch. The restaurant is located at 2085 North N.C. Highway 87 and is open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

To get more customers, Morazi's offers a 15 percent discount for first-time visitors, and if students



KAYLA HOEY | Assistant Style Editor

**Besides pizza, the restaurant offers Greek, Mexican and American food.**

pay with Phoenix Cash, they get an automatic 10 percent discount.

Customer service is of the utmost importance at Morazi's. Not only does Akhlaghi know every recipe and how many slices of cheese to put on the subs, but he goes out of his way to make sure his customers are satisfied by ensuring that each burger is char-grilled to his high standards or cooking custom orders.

"I could cook anything you

want," Akhlaghi said. "We don't have chicken ranch wrap on the menu, but if you wanted it, I can make it."

The menu is influenced from his own Persian heritage and his wife's Spanish heritage. The mix of cultures in the Akhlaghi family makes it easy for them to serve a variety of cultures of food. But Akhlaghi's standards are always high.

"If I don't like it," he said, "I won't serve it."

# Former athlete researches transitional challenges for D-I athletes

**Alexandra Schonfeld**  
Senior Reporter  
@aschonfeld096

Junior Mikayla Shaw came to Elon as a Division I soccer player, but after quitting the team last year, she has found a way to bring

## Shaw's research investigates the challenges student-athletes face in transition out of their sport.

her personal experience as a former athlete into research that could help others transition from student-athlete to simply student.

Shaw chose to leave the Elon women's soccer team after two years as a player.

"There was a lot of things going on with the team at that point — some people got dismissed, some quit and I quit in the middle of all that," Shaw said.

With all the extra time on her hands, Shaw knew she had to find a way to fill that void. Prompted also by her need to make some extra money for law school, Shaw turned to the Elon Job Network in hopes of finding one

She applied for a number of jobs and now works for both the ticket office in the gym and the Office of the Registrar, which she knew was a job she wanted.

"It's been amazing. You know how you have that coping mechanism, you go through all of your classes and you're drained," Shaw said. "When I go into the office and sit at that front desk — and I know it sounds weird — but even answering phones and doing my research,

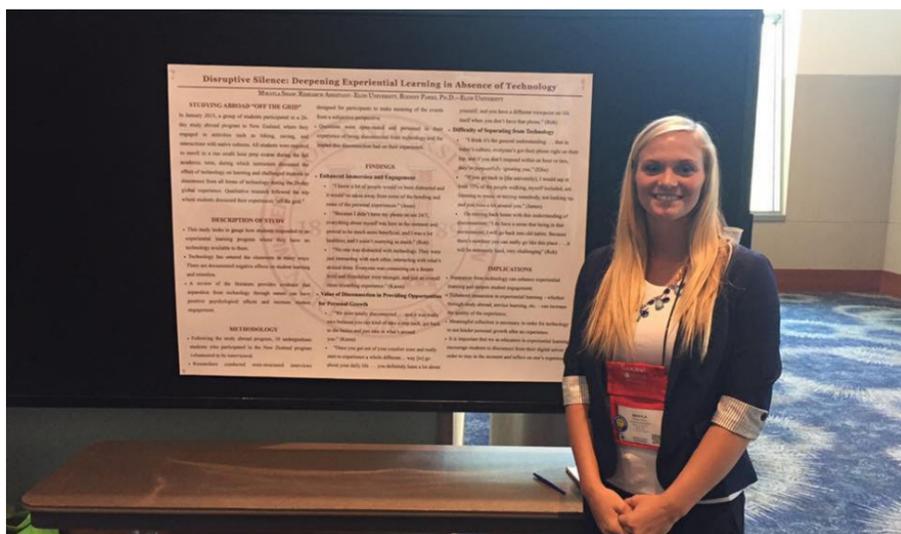


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MIKAYLA SHAW

**Junior Mikayla Shaw presented her research on transitioning athletes at the AACRAO meeting in March.**

that's my time."

Every student worker in the office — there are more than 10 — is assigned both office hours and research hours. After she was offered the job, Registrar Rodney Parks sat down with Shaw to discuss her interests.

"There were six or seven girls who stopped playing at the same time as me," Shaw said. "I wondered how many people have quit or got dismissed from teams to the point where transitions were really hard — because it is. The athlete world and the traditional student world are two completely different things."

Parks was sold, and Shaw promptly started her research on the topic. To her surprise, there was little research done on the topic, which led

her to conduct her own interviews with more than a dozen former athletes at Elon.

She was interested in the simple things, like how all athletes have an academic adviser who essentially organizes each student's schedule, taking a lot of stress out of the class registration process. When athletes leave the team, they lose that support system.

"What I found is that student-athletes who quit don't want to be cradled into the position of traditional student, but they do want a guideline," Shaw said. "They don't want to just be thrown into a whole new life."

Shaw remembers she had many classes with teammates, and roomed only with other freshmen on her team.

"Traditionally, you would hang out with the people on your team or people on other teams," Shaw said. "My point was to see if it happened anywhere else, and ways that higher education can help student athletes transfer to traditional students."

Last month, Shaw had the opportunity to travel to Phoenix to present her research at the 102nd annual American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) conference. She was the only student alongside Parks and two other faculty members of the registrar's office.

There are two parts of the meeting: presentations and posters. Not only did Shaw present her own research about student athletes, titled "Transitioning Challenges for International Student Athletes," but she also presented her poster, titled "Disruptive Silence: Deepening Experiential Learning in the Absence of Technology."

"You didn't think it was really a big deal until you got there, and it was like, 'Yeah, this is a big deal,'" Shaw said.

While working in the Office of the Registrar, all the student workers help each other on their research. Senior Alexander Taylor, who also works in the office and works closely on other projects, helped Shaw prepare for AACRAO.

"Mikayla is a very driven individual and has made a significant impact on Elon University over her three years through her athletics, her work and her overall demeanor," Taylor said. "I was able to collaborate with her in preparation for her Arizona conference and she is very focused, very methodical with her work."



DANIEL MACLAURY | Elon Local News  
**Sigma Kappa placed first for PHC in the competition. Their theme was "American Horror Story Freakshow."**

# GREEK WEEK DANCE UNIFIES AFFILIATES

**Lucia Jervis**  
Senior Reporter  
@elonpendulum

The Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic and Interfraternity Councils at Elon University competed in various events for the annual Greek Week philanthropy competition, including canned food drives and board game nights. But the highly anticipated Greek Week Dance has always been the biggest event, with dancers practicing multiple times a week for hours on end to perfect their moves.

"It's really a week of bringing them all together through competition, like tug of war or fun barbecue things, and then there is obviously Greek Week Dance, which is a huge competition that brings all of Greek Life together," said senior Rachel Ingersoll, who choreographed Alpha Chi Omega's dance.

Each dance was choreographed with a different theme in mind. PHC organizations had many elaborate themes, such as Alpha Omicron Pi's "Clique," Kappa Delta's "The '90s," Alpha Xi Delta's "Nightmare," Sigma Sigma Sigma's "Sigma," Delta Delta Delta's "Bittersweet Symphony" and Alpha Chi Omega's "Straight Outta Compton" theme.

The winning sorority for this year's Greek Week dance competition was Sigma Kappa, followed by Zeta Tau Alpha's baseball theme in second place and Phi Mu's James Bond-inspired piece in third place.

Sigma Kappa's theme was "American Horror Story Freakshow." Each dancer wore pleather black tops with patterned leggings — one-half solid black, the other black-and-white checkered squares — and the crowd was cheering non-stop.

"It feels amazing to win. We worked so hard and we had some great heads who were helping us," said sophomore Kiley Shannon, a member of Sigma Kappa. "It was honestly just amazing. It was like a dream."

Sigma Kappa's dance was broken up into 11 song segments. According to senior Rachel Zain, who choreographed the dance, each song segment took her 30-45 minutes to create, spending about eight or nine hours total just creating the dance, not including the time that it took to create the music mix and the costume designs.

The winning fraternity was Sigma Chi, followed by newly formed Beta Theta Pi's "Oscar" theme in second place and last year's winner Delta Upsilon in third place.

Sigma Chi's theme was the "Jabberwockies." They were all dressed in black, wearing white masks and black hats as they danced to an EDM rendition of a phone ringtone.

"How does it feel to win?" said freshman Nicholas Disa, a member of Sigma Chi. "It feels like I need to win every single year of the rest of my life, and come back to Elon after I graduate and win again."

Most sororities have been practicing their dance since February, usually meeting two

or three times a week and working for long hours each practice.

"We began practicing the second week of spring semester. Each week we had three two-hour practices amounting to over 45 hours in total," said senior Nicole Barletta, who choreographed Phi Mu's dance.

Besides the hours put in during the rehearsals, some members still needed to practice or have individual sessions outside of practice to master the dance.

"I know some people who thought that they needed help even met with me outside regular practices," Ingersoll said. "It was just cool to be able to work with all of those people and be able to see the transformations and how hard everyone worked, especially since they are non-dancers."

Planning for these dances extends beyond the costumes, makeup and themes that culminate in the Greek Week Dance competition. Choreographers usually begin their planning in the fall so the dancers can jump into rehearsals shortly after Bid Day and the beginning of the spring semester.

"It's hard to quantify the amount of time specifically, but I have been planning for it since around this time last year," Barletta said. "Throughout the fall and Winter Term, I worked on finding inspiration and creating the mix, so by the start of the second semester, we were able to practice right away. I could be found doodling formations and scribbling down ideas all the time."



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

**Sigma Chi's "Jabberwockies" dance shocked the crowd and earned them a first place trophy.**

Though some of the choreographers were dance majors or minors, they needed to create a dance for non-dancers that was still impressive to watch.

"I'm a dance major, and I've always loved big groups of dancers that don't think that they can dance, and showing them that they really can dance," Zain said. "I think they really crushed it. I've helped choreograph it every year since I was a sophomore so it's fun being the head and it was really exciting — for my senior year — to win the last one."

The hard work paid off and victory was sweet for those who placed.

"Performing had never felt so good," Barletta said. "I was beyond excited to share my creation with the Elon community. Our dancers worked so hard. I couldn't be more proud of what we did. To place was a dream come true. It was an honor to be recognized for all our hard work and dedication."

# Orchestra takes on 'Mamba Vibe,' classical music

**Ally Feinsot**  
Senior Reporter  
@ally\_feinsot

With both contemporary and classical music coming from the strings, the Elon University Orchestra will perform its spring concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 in McCrary Theatre.

Directed by Thomas Erdmann, professor of music, the orchestra consists of Elon students of all years and majors as well as community members outside of campus.

To audition for the orchestra, students must play two prepared pieces, a sight reading piece and two scales for faculty members.

Sophomore Rebecca Surprenant has played the violin her whole life, and despite being a public health major, she wanted to continue her passion while at Elon.

She got involved with orchestra right away after returning from Elon's Gap semester program her freshman year.

"Playing the violin is a huge part

of who I am and being in the orchestra is a great way for me to continue to play and be in a group because I have grown up playing in tons of different orchestras," Surprenant said.

Surprenant plays alongside members of the greater Elon community who volunteer their time to pursue their passion for music.

Community members range from young adults who are masters students to retired senior citizens. Some members still play in professional symphonies.

"If you grow up as a classical musician, it's the kind of thing where you don't retire," said junior Isaac Bates. "That's what I love about the industry — there's really passionate people who just do it because they want to and they love seeing young kids getting into it, too."

The concert features contemporary music and classical sounds, as well as a challenging piece called "MarimbaVibe" by Michael Mantler.

"Playing the song is challenging because as a musician you approach music from, 'Does this sound good

to me? How will it move my soul and the audience's emotions?'" Bates said. "It is hard to listen to a piece that is purposefully dissonant. It's like the hipster of the classical music scene."

The piece also features Mariana Poole '10, adjunct instructor and Elon music graduate.

Poole was approached by Erdmann two years ago about performing the difficult piece.

"My practice strategy is typically repetition of small sections that I can link into larger ideas," Poole said. "But this piece in particular is a challenge because it does not have a specific key, its melody is very unusual and hard to memorize."

When she isn't teaching music classes or directing Elon's percussion ensemble, Poole is rehearsing her solo with the orchestra.

"I really enjoy working with such high quality musicians," Poole said. "It's fun to get to interact musically with a group of people that put so much into their work."

Each piece has a different feel to it, such as three pieces composed by

Edvard Grieg, Norwegian composer and pianist.

"[Grieg's piece] is my favorite because it is more upbeat and showcases all of the different parts of the orchestra — it's fun," Surprenant said.

Junior Cindy Kuo, who plays the viola, said she prefers playing pieces that are more classical.

"I love Mozart because it is so clean-cut," Kuo said. "Contemporary makes up most of our concert, and it's a difficult genre to play."

Kuo believes orchestra is special because as a finance major, she is able to interact with different students on campus by playing in the orchestra.

"I lived in the same building as my stand partner freshman year, and I would not have seen him otherwise if it weren't for orchestra," Kuo said.

Many students involved in the orchestra have pursued music their entire lives and want to continue to do so in the future.

"Growing up, I played violin with the same group of people and became really close with them," Surprenant said. "It's cool to have that

## SPRING CONCERT

**Who:** Elon Orchestra  
**What:** Spring Concert  
**When:** April 19, 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** McCrary Theatre

musical experience because I grew up where everyone knew I was a violinist and that was very much my identity."

Bates has been involved with music ensembles such as chorale, percussion ensemble and Techtronica, an ensemble focused on the use of technology in musical performances of popular music. Bates said the most rewarding aspect of being in an ensemble is when it all comes together.

"There's a tangible atmosphere when you have a really good performance or in rehearsal when it's been going bad and everyone in the last 30 minutes pumps out a really great performance," Bates said. "It's moments like that when everything clicks that I live for in music, when everyone gets on the same page."



# GIVING IT ALL, GIVING IT BACK

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NICOLE OSGOOD

Junior catcher Emily Roper (23) runs to first and watches as a ball she hit heads to the warning track. Roper has been a consistent force in the middle of the lineup, hitting 20 homers in her Elon career so far.

## On, off field, Roper commits to community

**Hannah Silvers**  
Managing Editor  
@hannah\_silvers

When making her college decision, junior catcher Emily Roper knew she was going to be a student-athlete.



Emily Roper

“My dad was a big athlete growing up, and with my brothers being college athletes, I understood the process,” she said. “When it came to me it wasn’t a, ‘Are you going to play in college?’ It was a, ‘Where are you going to play in college?’”

She found her way to Elon, where she has so played in 143 of the Phoenix’s 145 games since she’s stepped on campus. This season, Roper is batting .333 with five doubles, five home runs and 29 RBI.

With numbers like that, it might be tempting to let them define her. But Roper’s career at Elon — and her path to the softball program — is far more three-dimensional than a stat sheet could capture.

### A nontraditional path

It’s unsurprising that Roper would look for a mix of academic and athletic reputation in her college search. She was in the National Honor Society in high school, a National Achievement semi-finalist and a NMSQT Commended Scholar in 2012. She even made the Academic All-Greater Miami Conference team her last two seasons at Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

But even after she and her father had started to answer the “where” question, they had another one left: “What?”

Though she knew she wanted to play a Division I sport in college, Roper didn’t know which she wanted to pursue. In high school, she played both varsity basketball and softball.

Junior outfielder Alaina Hall said she was surprised by what she found when she searched her future teammate online before moving in her freshman year.

“She’s a really phenomenal basketball player, and she didn’t know if she was going to come play softball or basketball, here or any-

where,” Hall said. “So I had crept on her before. I went and typed her name in, and all these things come up about basketball. And I’m like, ‘Why is she playing softball?’”

So with the “where” and “what” still left to figure out, Roper started reaching out by sending emails to coaches at the schools on her list. That’s when Elon — and softball — started to stand out.

“Before I was born, [softball head coach Kathy Bocock] was at a different school, and she coached against my uncle,” Roper said. “One of the reasons I heard back from her was because she recognized my last name.”

Bocock said Roper’s uncle contacted her and asked for her help. He wanted a coach he had worked with before and whose opinion he valued to help the Roper family make the decision of whether Roper should play softball or basketball in college. Bocock immediately agreed.

“I was like, ‘Absolutely, send her to camp!’” she said.

When she arrived at camp, though, Roper made a special kind of first impression.

“When she got here, she forgot her equipment,” Bocock said.

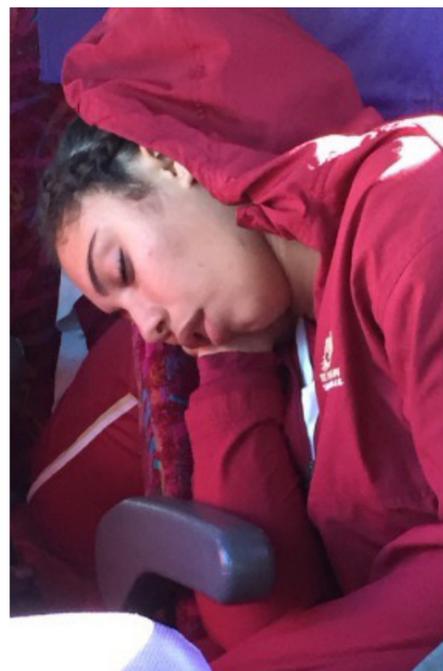
She said Roper’s dad had to go get her a bat so she could participate in the camp. Once they passed that hurdle, Roper’s work ethic had the opportunity to show. That’s when Bocock realized how valuable she would be to the program.

“We watched her at camp, and she’s exactly the person now that she was then,” Bocock said. “During lunch breaks, she just wanted to

work on her hitting.”

For Roper, the “where” and “what” pieces fell into place during her experience with Bocock at camp.

“I came down, and obviously the school is gorgeous, but the coaches were really welcoming. It’s hard not to see Coach Bo’s energy,” she said. “You talk to her for 30 seconds and you know this is the kind of person who brings



Roper’s teammates snap photos of her catching up on her sleep whenever and wherever possible.

energy to everything she does.

“I think I decided in that moment that if they offered me a scholarship that I was going to come here. This is somebody that I want to play for. This is somewhere I want to be.”

### Making her mark at Elon

Once she made her decision, Roper committed herself to the Elon and Bocock’s softball program.

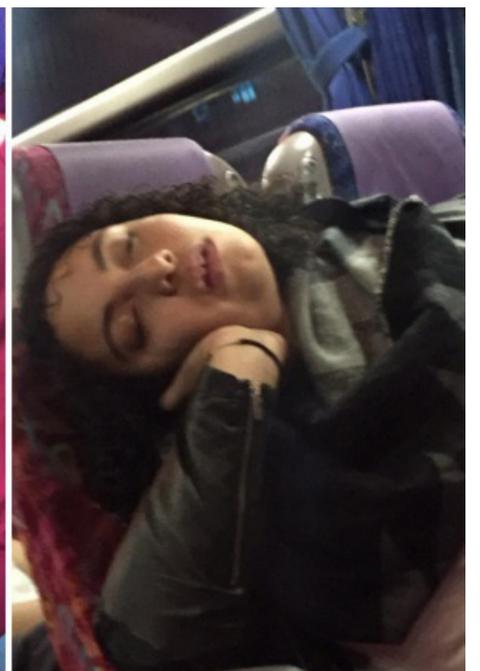


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALAINA HALL

freshman softball players could match.

Bocock said Roper earned everything she got, even though softball didn’t come as naturally to her as it did the other players. In fact, Bocock said it was the need to work harder to match her teammates that made Roper stand out.

“Even though she was raw, she was ready to get on the field that spring,” Bocock said. “She doesn’t let anyone outwork her. Her work ethic and her ability to get better every day is what created the opportunity for her to step in and do what she’s done.”

But even with her outstanding commitment to softball, Roper committed herself to much more than the team when she settled in on campus.

Roper entered Elon with the intent to double major in English and human services, though she realized early on that double majoring while playing Division I softball was unrealistic. So she did some thinking, then came to an easy conclusion.

“I’ve never been the kind of person to sit around, so I did a lot of volunteer projects [in high school] and just really fell in love with serving other people and working for other people,” she said. “And I knew coming in that whatever career I had was going to be about helping other people.”

SHE JUST REALLY PRIDES HERSELF ON ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT SHE DOES, AND THAT’S WHAT MAKES HER SUCH A SPECIAL PERSON.

**KATHY BOCOCK**  
HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

“When she got here as a freshman, there was never a time she wasn’t getting extra work,” Bocock said. “Her work ethic is incredible.”

She made a name for herself as a hard worker, hitting before and after practice with Hall to work her way to a starting spot the spring of her freshman season — in which she started all but five games, a number few other

THE  
**PHOENIX  
FOCUS**

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

|  |                           |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
|   | April 8<br><b>4-3</b>     |    |
|  | April 9<br><b>7-0</b>     |   |
| <b>Away</b>  | April 14<br><b>2 p.m.</b> |  |

**MEN'S TENNIS**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

|   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
|  | April 6<br><b>3-4</b>     |  |
|  | April 10<br><b>6-1</b>    |  |
| <b>Home</b>   | April 16<br><b>1 p.m.</b> |  |

**WOMEN'S LAX**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

|   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
|  | April 8<br><b>5-4</b>     |  |
|  | April 10<br><b>9-11</b>   |  |
| <b>Home</b>   | April 15<br><b>7 p.m.</b> |  |

**SOFTBALL**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

|   |                               |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
|  | April 6<br><b>4-2</b>         |  |
|  | April 9-10<br><b>1 W, 2 L</b> |  |
| <b>Home</b>   | April 13<br><b>5 p.m.</b>     |  |
| <b>Away</b>   | April 16-17<br><b>3 games</b> |  |



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

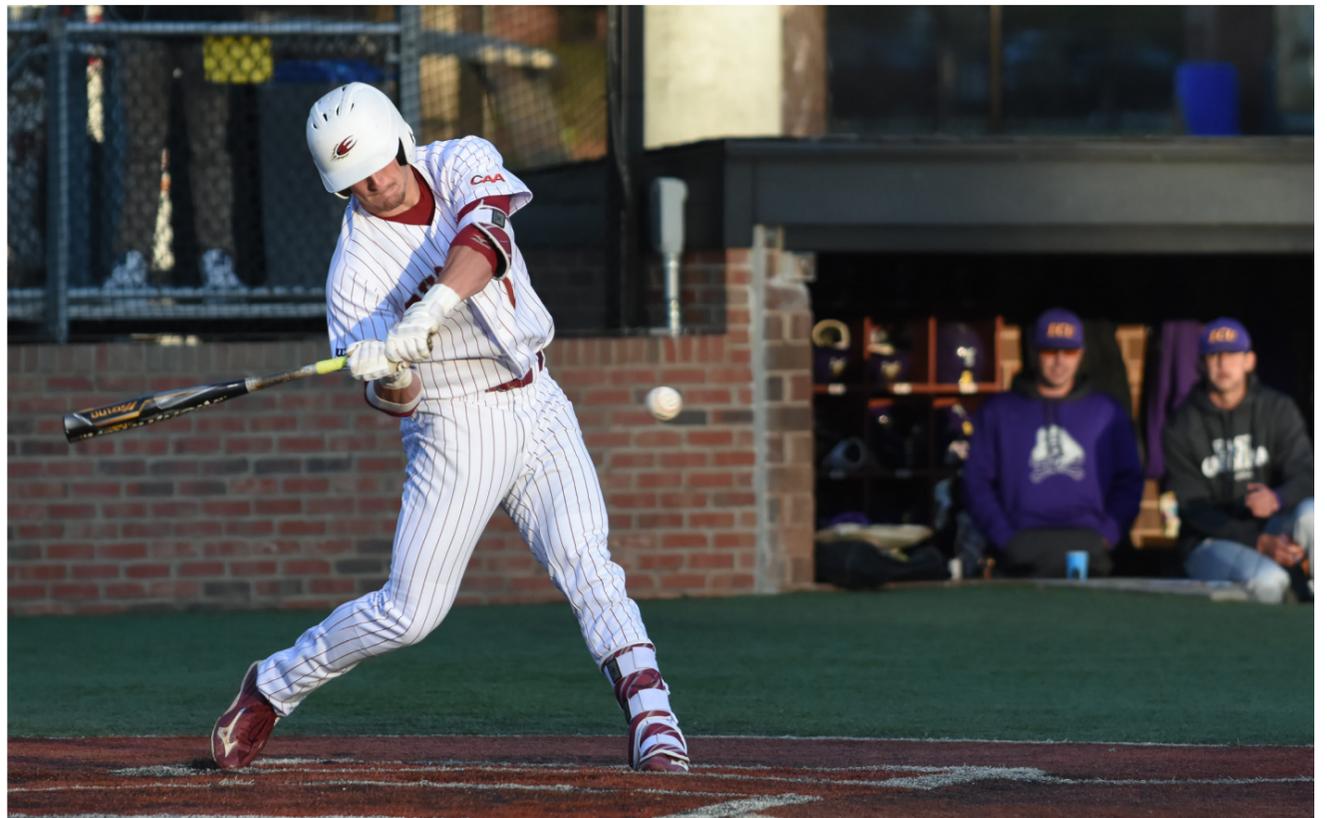
**BASEBALL**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

|   |                               |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
|  | April 6<br><b>7-8</b>         |  |
|  | April 8-10<br><b>2 W, 1 L</b> |  |
|  | April 12<br><b>Late</b>       |  |
| <b>Home</b>   | April 15-17<br><b>3 games</b> |  |
| <b>Away</b>   | April 19<br><b>6 p.m.</b>     |  |



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Women's track records 4 wins at Aggie Invitational**

The Elon University women's track team claimed four individual titles at the North Carolina A&T State University Aggie Invitational Saturday.

Junior Briana O'Grady set a personal best with a throw of 47.97 meters, winning the event. Elon also won the discus event, which sophomore Bryanna Hames won with a throw of 45.11 meters.

Junior Carrie Abraham won the long jump with a leap of 5.41 meters, and freshman Desiree Ross won the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.93 seconds.

Freshman Ellie Bennett set a personal-best 3.21 meters in the pole vault, finishing third.

**Men's basketball assistant named to 30-under-30 list**

Elon University assistant men's basketball coach Jack Wooten was named to the 2016 Under Armour 30-under-30 team by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The award was announced at the NABC's Convention in Houston during the Final Four weekend.

Wooten has spent seven seasons at Elon, with the last six as an assistant coach. He was the director of basketball operations for one season before being promoted to assistant coach.

Wooten graduated from Williams High School in Burlington and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he won a national championship in 2009.

**Baseball senior named CAA Pitcher of the Week**

Elon University senior pitcher Michael Elefante was named Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Pitcher of the Week Monday.

Elefante threw eight shutout innings against Northeastern University Saturday, allowing just two hits and two walks and striking out 11 hitters. His performance led Elon to a 2-0 victory over the Huskies.

After sitting out the first two weeks with an injury, Elefante is 1-1 with a 2.28 ERA. He has made nine appearances and three starts, throwing 23.2 innings and striking out 25 batters.

**Football completes 1st scrimmage of spring**

The Elon University football team played its first scrimmage of the spring Saturday at Rhodes Stadium.

The morning scrimmage saw the offense score four touchdowns, as rising sophomore quarterbacks Connor Christiansen, Connor Hughes and Daniel Thompson each threw touchdown passes.

Rising sophomore running back Copeland Spell made a punt block that resulted in a touchdown on special teams.

The Phoenix has completed eight of its 15 spring practices. There is a practice today at 3:45 p.m. and the second of three scrimmages in Rhodes Stadium will be played at 10 a.m. Saturday.

# College athletes see overlap between faith, sport

## Tommy Hamzik

Editor-in-Chief  
@T\_Hamzik

Sophomore forward Malaya Johnson's mother, grandmother and uncle were all big supporters of her local church. They held executive roles and brought Malaya along with them from when she was a baby.



Malaya Johnson

She sang. She read the Bible. She helped with Communion. She did it all.

For as long as she can remember, religion has been a key aspect of her life. As has her sport, basketball.

"Every aspect of the game is intertwined with my religion," Johnson said.

Her teammates and coach are part of that, but really, it goes back much further.

Religion and athletics have gone hand in hand for decades. A football player scores a touchdown and crosses himself. A baseball player hits a home run and points to the sky. A runner wins a big race and the first thing he or she says afterward is, "I'd like to thank God."

An NCAA report conducted in 2011 found that 75 percent of student-athletes identified with a Christian religion. Just 13 percent of respondents said they weren't religious.

Striking the balance between faith and sport can be difficult for some, especially at the collegiate level when athletes are tasked with adjusting to their new school, being away from home and assimilating to their new team's culture.

But the foundation formed before college can be vital for those athletes, as can the resources available.

## Transitioning to college

Rising sophomore quarterback Daniel Thompson arrived at Elon confident in his faith, a product of his Bible Belt upbringing. Then once football camp started the fall of his freshman year, the quarterback saw a decline in his faith. He'd return to his room at night dead tired and wouldn't read his Bible as often.

Now that the season's over, he's refocused and "instead of trying to fit God into [his] schedule, [he's] starting to work [his] schedule around God."

Thompson said his religion helps "keep things in perspective" when it comes to football. He listens to Christian music before games and makes sure he finds time to worship outside of practice.

"In the moment, competition is hard. Religion and sports is hard," Thompson said. "When you get in the heat of a moment, you might say something you don't mean, think something you don't mean or do something you don't really mean."

"My relationship with Christ is a lot more important than my relationship with football. When you [think about] that, it makes you think about it during the game. I don't want something in this game, like a dumb mistake I make, to affect my walk with the Lord or how people see Christ in me."

University Chaplain Jan Fuller said the regimen and discipline of athletics can create a parallel to Christian life with regard to practicing and taking action rather than



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

**Daniel Thompson (11, with ball) would "take a loss every game my four years at Elon" if an opponent came to him to talk about his faith after a game.**

just speaking. She said being on a team and either having that faith or seeking out information about faith can help an athlete's transition to college.

She doesn't see athletes as more or less religious than anyone else, but said there's a certain "fervor" one can sense around a team, one that sometimes directly ties in with religion.

"I think there's a particular way in which the bonds of the team either bring out the best or the worst in players," Fuller said. "Religion is a place to be the best they can be in a whole way."

## Teammates can play a role

When Johnson, a native of Mount Airy, North Carolina, arrived at Elon, she was scared for her faith. She worried, with her practice schedule and classes, she wouldn't have the time to be spiritual and practice her faith.

A few teammates and an influential coach changed that.

The women's basketball team holds open-invite, non-mandatory Bible study sessions on the morning of road games. Many players are also involved with the Gospel Choir and the newly-formed Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Through these opportunities, Johnson found an outlet for her faith and a way to help manage her busy schedule with her beliefs.

"I can't remember the last time I had free time to go to church, and that's something I enjoy doing," she said. "FCA is the one time a week I can let go, not worrying about basketball, not worrying about school, just talking with the Lord."

Her teammate, senior guard Josepha Mbouma, first convinced Johnson to come to Bible studies and Gospel Choir.

Johnson was hesitant, since she was new to Elon and struggling to fit in. Now she's an active participant of the 15-person group that puts on multiple performances per year.

"Everyone's so open [on my team]," Johnson said. "Nobody's afraid to keep it in. With any discussion we have, people can voice opinions and be heard."

That was key for Johnson when choosing a college.

When visiting Elon, Johnson and her mother met with head women's basketball



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

**Malaya Johnson (44) performs multiple times a year as a member of Elon's Gospel Choir.**

coach Charlotte Smith. Smith immediately struck Johnson and her mother as someone in tune with her faith, which stood out to them.

Smith participates in the Bible studies on the road. She's outspoken about her relationship with God, and she authored a book titled, "When Coaches Pray: A Guide for Every Minute of the Game of Life."

"I can talk to Coach Smith about anything," Johnson said. "She's great at explaining things and breaking down things in a religious aspect so you can

understand it. Even if it's just about life, she can tie life situations into religion."

Smith's father was a preacher, so she grew up in the church, too. She remembers being there for hours on end, even sneaking out to grab some snacks at the candy store across the street.

In the 1994 national championship game, when Smith played for the University of North Carolina at Chapel

**FAITH**  
from page 18

Hill, she recalls moments during the game where she stopped and thanked God for the opportunity.

She hit a shot at the buzzer that game to give the Tar Heels the victory.

When Smith played in the WNBA, her team had chapel before every game. Being able to share her faith with her players now is important to her.

"I think it's awesome," she said. "In those moments, I've been able to be transparent and share some real things that happened in my life. For example, the death of my parents and how my faith helped me deal with that.

"It gives me an opportunity to show I'm not just a coach — I'm a human. I have feelings. I have emotions. I go through some of the same things you deal with. It's created a real genuine and close bond."

**Religious demonstrations by athletes**

One of the most prominent examples of religious athletes in recent memory is ex-University of Florida and NFL quarterback Tim Tebow.

He famously wore "John 3:16" on his eye black during games, and was extremely vocal about his faith when speaking to the media. He'd frequently mention his mission trips, both past and planned.

A 2014 study by Grey Matter Research and Consulting found just 19 percent of people react negatively to such "demonstrations of faith" by athletes. Forty-nine percent react positively, while 32 percent are indifferent.

"It's passion more than anything," said head football coach Rich Skrosky. "We know as athletes we have a platform. If you feel strongly about something ... And you know you have a platform on which to share that passion, they can do so."

Thompson and Johnson both said it has to do with the genuineness behind the actions.

Brian Cavanaugh, teaching instructor in the Department of Health Education and Promotion at East Carolina University, was drafted to play professional baseball and eventually released before rediscovering his faith. He agrees with Thompson and Johnson, noting that it's very evident that Tebow isn't faking anything.

"You only see it when something good happens," he said. "That's the biggest issue. When things are going good for them, it's easy to say thank you. But when things are going bad, you don't see them rejoicing. I think that's the biggest negative."

**Putting it in perspective**

Johnson's much more open with her faith now than when she arrived on campus. She's brought friends to church with her when she's home for breaks.

She also remembers a high school classmate specifically wanting to discuss her faith with her, something Thompson said he dreams of doing with an opponent.

"After the game, we're going to be friends," Thompson said. "If someone were to come to me and say, 'I really want to talk more about this Jesus guy' ... I would take a loss every game my four years at Elon if someone were to talk to me like that. Jesus is so much bigger than football. When football isn't a sport anymore, he's

gy to devote to pursuing as many passions as Roper does. But just like with her community service, the key is simple: she puts others first.

"I just want to do whatever I can to help the team," Roper said.

Sometimes, putting herself second means putting herself in the way of a rogue pitch. In the first half of this season alone, Roper has been hit by pitches 13 times, for a career total of 35.

"I think right now I'm at five bruises and counting on my left leg alone, but it's a good way to get on base," Roper said. "I was always taught to never be afraid of the ball, and I've never been afraid of the ball. So unless it's coming at my head, if I wear it, I get on base and it helps the team."

Hall said because Roper knows and commits to her priorities, she can manage her time and give her energy to whatever needs it.

"Her school comes first, and she does everything she has to do that way," she said. "And then if anything interferes with softball, she's always willing to stay after or some before and make sure she doesn't cheat the team out of anything."

That willingness to put in extra effort for others is evident to the team, and not just as a total number of bruises or number of community service hours.

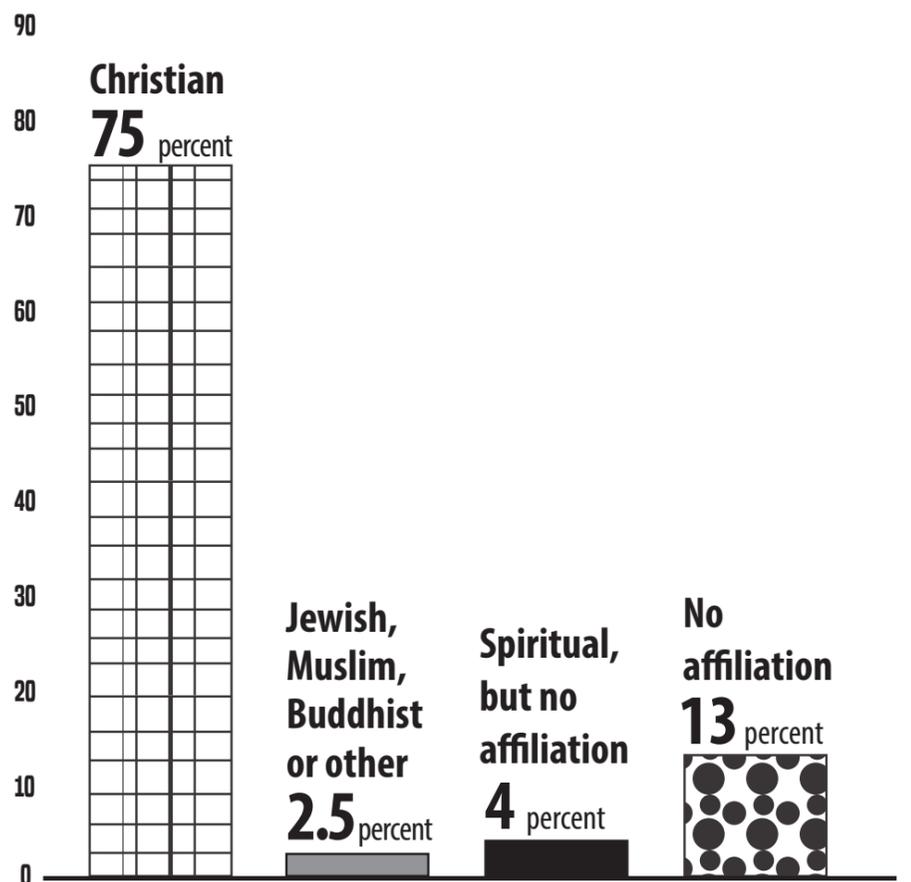
"She sleeps here [in the clubhouse] all the time," Hall said. "I have a bunch of pictures of her."

According to Bocock, for Roper, it's not a matter of dividing her time between her many commitments. Instead, it's about committing herself completely to everything that matters to her.

"She just really prides herself on anything and everything that she does, and that's what makes her such a special person," Bocock said. "A lot of people would pride themselves on certain avenues of their life, but she prides herself on every aspect of what she does: family, education, community service, playing ball here for Elon, playing ball here for me."

Hall knows that mindset will follow Roper past softball at Elon and into the rest of her life.

"Whatever she decides to do, if it's social work or a family lawyer, she'll be great at it, because she puts everything into it," Hall said.

**NCAA ATHLETES' RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

BJORN BATES | Design Editor

still going to be there."

Johnson said her passion for basketball and her work ethic within the sport have made her stronger in her faith, something that she notices every day.

"On a daily basis, I remember how

blessed I am," Johnson said. "I have this family on my team outside my family at home. I have a coaching staff I can go to for anything. All of the bonds I have outside of basketball, I see that I wouldn't be here without the Lord."

**SOFTBALL**  
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So she took her English major down to a minor and began to pursue a major in human services. For her intro class, HSS 111: "The Art and Science of Human Services," Roper was assigned work with an English as a Second Language class for adults in the community to get her 20 hours of required service. She said that experience was perfect for her.

"It was great for me because it was an opportunity for me to practice my Spanish — because all the people were Spanish speakers — and at the same time help someone else," she said. "So I continued on. In-season it's a little difficult to get that service in, but I did a project with that organization last year for the volunteer drive."

Now, since that class is over, she participates in community service whenever she gets the opportunity. And sometimes, she even makes the opportunities for herself.

The softball team volunteers with Allied Churches the first Friday of every month in the fall, serving dinner to food-insecure families in the county. Bocock said even though she split up the team into groups so every player didn't have to go every time, Roper added extra shifts for herself.

Bocock said she wasn't surprised.

"When she's involved in anything we've asked her to do, she's the first one on it," she said. "And it's real. She loves people, and there's no forcing her."

Hall couldn't agree more, and said Roper dedicates so much of her energy to serving her community because helping people is so important to her. Hall also said Roper's goal of becoming a family lawyer speaks to her dedication to others before herself.

"Of everything she could do and make thousands and thousands of dollars, she wants to give it back and be able to help the community," Hall said.

**Balancing passions**

With only so many hours in a day, many would find it difficult to find the time or ener-

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