



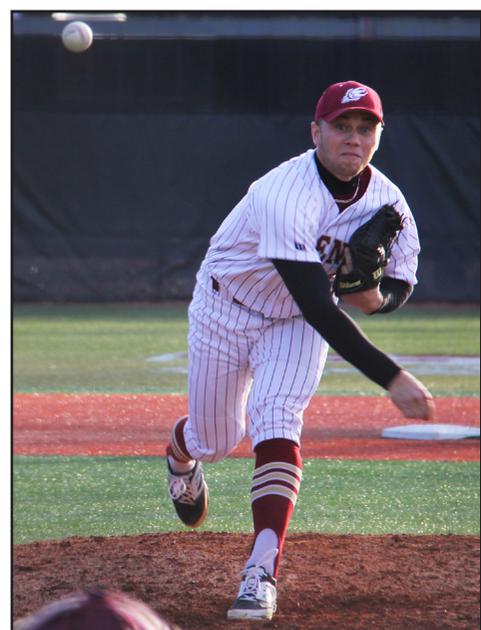
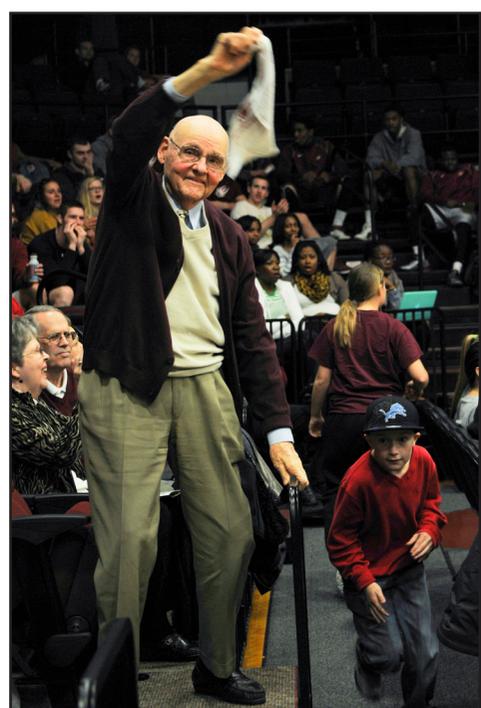
COMMENCEMENT EDITION

• FAQs about Graduation
• Words of Wisdom
• Elon traditions

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2014 • VOLUME 40, EDITION 14

www.elonpendulum.com



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What time is the continental breakfast over?

The breakfast closes at 8:45 a.m. All guests should be seated by 9 a.m. to ensure a prompt start of the ceremony.

Q: What time should graduates arrive?

Graduates participating in Commencement Under the Oaks should arrive at Jordan Gym no later than 8:15 a.m.

Q: What happens if it rains the morning of Commencement?

If the weather forecast predicts rain will clear during the morning hours, the university may delay the start of the outdoor ceremony until 10:30 a.m. If conditions do not improve, Commencement exercises will be moved to Alumni Gym in Koury Athletic Center. Graduates may pick up two rain tickets in Alamance 109 (Office of Student Life) beginning May 6. It is the responsibility of each graduate to give the tickets to those who will use them May 24.

Q: Are tickets required to attend the ceremony?

No, tickets are not required to attend the outdoor ceremony.

Q: How long is the Commencement ceremony?

The ceremony, including the academic procession and recession, will be approximately three hours and conclude by 12:30 p.m.

Q: Are professional photographs available?

Yes, a professional photographer will take photos of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. Photo proofs will be available online through Lifetouch a few days after the ceremony.

Q: How can I order Commencement on DVD?

Elon DVD sales tables will be located Under the Oaks and near Fonville Fountain. Staff at these DVD sales tables will provide sales information and accept orders.

Q: Is water available during the ceremony?

Water stations are located behind the seating Under the Oaks.

Q: Where are the restrooms?

There are bathrooms in McEwen School of Communications, McEwen Dining Hall, Alamance and Long buildings. There are comfort stations located at the parking lot behind the seating area. The comfort stations have baby changing facilities.

Q: Where do I meet my graduate after the ceremony?

A reception for graduates will be held around Fonville Fountain (same location as breakfast). Signs for each of the academic degrees/departments will be placed above the reception tables located in Scott Plaza. Please plan to meet your graduate near the sign of his or her academic major.

Q: Where do graduates pick up the oak sapling?

Oak saplings are available near Fonville Fountain at the Alumni Information tables.

Q: Where do I get my sticker that says "I'm a Proud Parent"?

You can pick up these stickers at the information tables and the alumni tables around Fonville Fountain.

Q: Where are the First Aid station and Commencement Communications center?

Commencement Communications, Campus Police and First Aid are located under the tent between Whitley Auditorium and the parking lot.

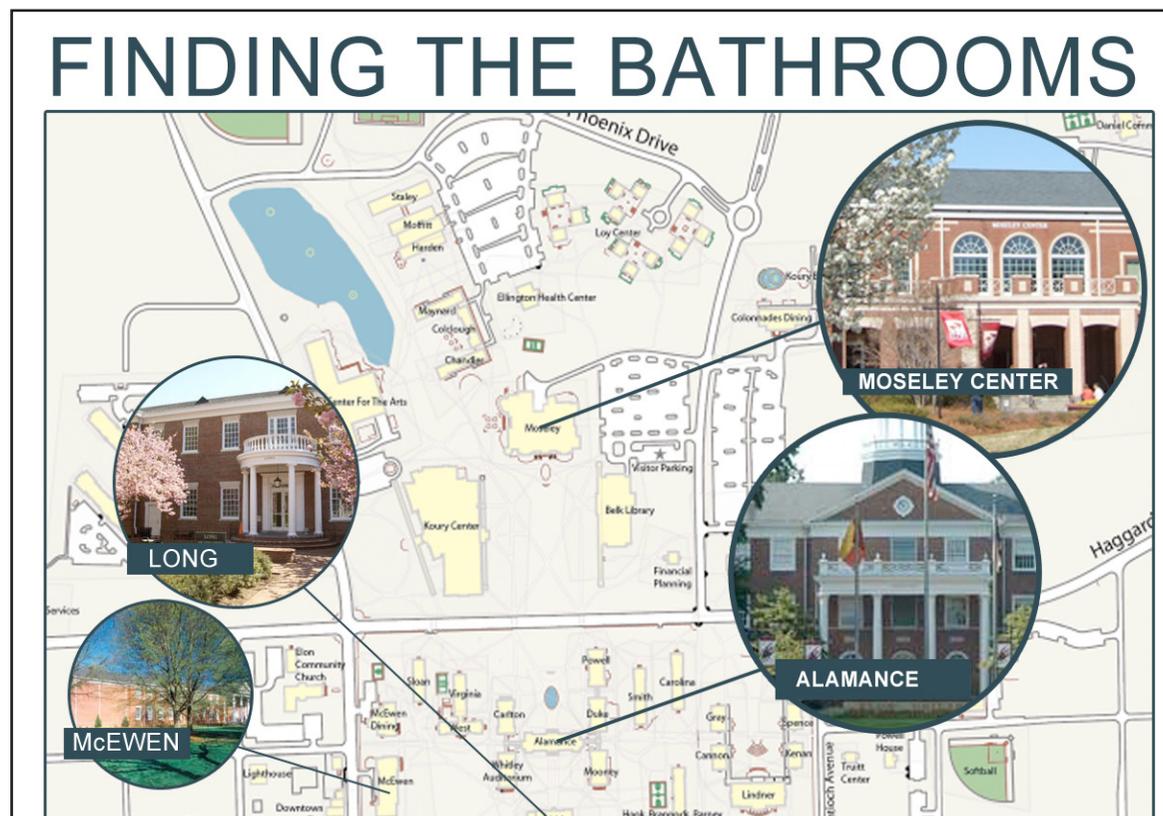
Q: Where is the lost and found?

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

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

Contact Patti Gibbons, associate director of cultural and special programs, at pgibbons@elon.edu.

For additional information, visit the Commencement page on Elon's website at www.elon.edu/e-web/news/commencement



FILE GRAPHIC BY SARAH BETH COSTELLO

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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Treasuring traditions: Elon's oak-giving custom lives on

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

It was just shy of four years ago, that vast canopies of oak trees engulfed the skies above unfamiliar, wide-eyed faces during Fall Convocation. In the midst of nervousness, excitement and confusion, each student from the Elon University Class of 2014 received an acorn, a gift that 18 classes of students before them also received.

This is the tradition inspired by Furman Moseley, a graduate of the Class of 1956 and a Californian entrepreneur in the timber industry.

In his 1991 commencement address, Moseley gave each graduate a redwood sapling to symbolize the importance of growth through hard work. Recognizing the value behind the idea, President Fred Young established the practice as a tradition the next year, swapping redwood trees to oak trees. President Leo Lambert later completed the tradition by giving the acorn to new freshmen.

Staying faithful to Elon's 23-year-old tradition, this commencement day, the now-graduates will receive a sapling, a reflection of their growth, achievement and intellectual nourishment. Just like the graduates, each sapling has its own story. Each seed sprouted at its own pace and faced its own challenges, but all saplings collectively survived an epic journey of growth.

As the graduates bid Elon farewell, they will find themselves in familiar seats, filled with similar sentiments but possessing a newfound development, sense of accomplishment and vision for the future. The saplings and the graduates will travel far, and though they will plant their roots elsewhere, their collective foundations will be rooted in their hearts as they continue growing parallel to one another.

Rachel Southmayd, a member of the Class of 2013, planted her sapling in a pot on her balcony, right next to her fiance David Campbell's sapling.

"Receiving our saplings was a lot like getting our acorns. The first thing on your mind is, 'Now that I've been given this

thing, this symbol, what do I do with it?' For us, the answer both times was, 'Treasure it,'" she said. "This was Elon's gift to us, much like our Elon education, and we take the responsibility of caring for our trees and the lessons Elon taught us very seriously."

These saplings, although ordinary plants, are gateways for alumni to return to their alma mater. They are a reminder of their former selves and the changes they have undergone since Elon. As such, they are cherished.

"Two days after graduation, I went to a nursery to get instructions on how to care for our trees and just last week, we transplanted them from their 'starter pots' to larger ones to allow them to continue to grow on our balcony of our apartment until we move somewhere permanent," she said. "Today, the trees have gotten taller, and like us, they stand on their own better now than they did a year ago."

Other saplings have traveled to various corners of the nation — including the sandy beaches of California.

Dan Quackenbush, '13, had a classmate ship his sapling to him in Santa Monica Pier.

"Because of all the separation anxiety and nostalgia that recent grads feel after leaving Elon, it's nice to have a strong reminder of where you came from and everything that happened to bring you here," he said. "I would say that the person that I was when I first came to Elon is far from the person that I am now, the same way that a sapling is far from the acorn that it started as."

Other sapling stories have not been as successful. Elizabeth Neirch, '13, lost her sapling to the blades of a lawn mower.

"The morning after I had planted him in a plot near my house, I was outside and saw that he had been viciously cut down. And by viciously, I mean the gardener hadn't even noticed my little sapling that took four years to get, and he got mauled by the blades of the lawn mower," she said. "Hopefully the rumors aren't true that where you plant your seedlings points to what your future holds."

While the prospects of Neirch suffer-

ing a similar fate are slim, she said she believes planting the sapling helped quell her nostalgia.

"I planted it because I had a major case of graduation blues," she said. "I spent four years at Elon, and after I had packed up my house and said goodbye to some of my best friends, I really wanted to have a way to stay connected to Elon."

Tyler West, who graduated in 2011, gave his sapling to his grandmother as he believed her green thumb would be able to provide the nourishment that it needed.

"I knew she'd take good care of it. She planted it outside her kitchen window so she could keep an eye on it," West said. "She staked it, waters it, takes pictures of it. I guarantee it's been nurtured more than any other Elon oak tree."

West, who has kept the acorn he received as a freshmen, said he never considered throwing such symbolically important gifts away.

"I never throw anything away. The gifts are lasting souvenirs of my time at Elon," he said. "The sapling is taller than me now, but it still has a lot of growing to do. And I suppose that's how I consider myself."

Adam Constantine, Class of 2010, said he has never once regretted his decision to plant the sapling.

"Being able to see that sapling turn into a young oak was a surprisingly satisfying experience. Every time I come home, I see it and I can't help but think about my time at Elon," he said.

Constantine said his now eight-foot tall oak has grown with him through the challenges and successes that many alumni face after graduation.

"As silly as 'growing alongside my sapling' may sound, it really does reflect what after school life has been," he said. "There are times where everything seems to be budding with potential. Then there are times where it seems nothing is going right and your life seems to just go dormant. However, no matter how many trials you go through, you keep getting stronger, keep growing taller and dig your roots further into the ground."

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Elon commencement rooted in history, customs

Courtney Campbell
Senior Reporter

Every year a new class of seniors walks across the stage at Commencement to receive its diplomas. Despite a different class leaving, the traditions stay the same each year.

The school has worked hard to ensure the Elon experience comes full circle, starting with New Student Convocation and ending with Commencement. This involves one of the most well-known Commencement traditions: the giving of the oak saplings.

According to George Troxler, professor emeritus of history and official Elon University historian, this tradition began in 1992 when President J. Fred Young took the idea from the year before, when the Commencement speaker gave out redwood saplings. President Leo Lambert took this idea a step further by giving freshman their acorns during Convocation.

“At Elon we did something this way and this is why,” Troxler said. “That’s a tradition. It is only an oak sapling tradition because the oak has special meaning to the school. Elon is Hebrew for oak.”

During Convocation, the new freshmen exit the ceremony by walking past Elon’s faculty, a sign of support of the university and

what is to come. This trend is repeated at Commencement, where students leave Jordan Gym and once again walk by the faculty to say their final goodbyes to their advisers and past instructors.

These two traditions form connections between students’ years at Elon and the end of their time here.

Despite its growing size, the university has also made an effort to hold a graduation ceremony that includes the entire class. Each student has his or her name called by Lambert and receives his or her diploma on the spot. This tradition creates one last feeling of togetherness.

“It represents that people matter and that people are important,” Troxler said. “It is a sense of community, that you really matter. Things might not stay this way forever, but we want to hold onto this for as long as possible.”

Elon also represents all nationalities of the senior class. Starting in the 1990s, the university chose to display the flag of each international student in the class as well as the American flag — bringing the class together into one unified body.

The university has tried to tie the Commencement speaker to Elon since 2002. This person meets with students privately in the

Jordan Gym to prepare them for the ceremony.

“It is usually an alumni, faculty member or parent that will make the speech,” Troxler said. “It ties the Commencement to the school. We prefer to get the big-name speakers for the convocations instead.”

To lead the ceremony each year, the senior member of the faculty will carry a handcrafted, 40-inch long staff called the mace. It represents leadership and professionalism and is

meant to leave students with this ideology for their years to come.

Elon’s graduation traditions leave a certain mark on the school.

“There is something distinctive about an Elon education, as I hope for everyone,” Troxler said. “Tradition is important because we want this to be distinctive at Elon. We didn’t take the normal way of doing a graduation and copy it. We made it specific to our school and specific to our students.”



FILE PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAMILLE DEMERE

Seniors receiving their oak sapling is one of the many graduation traditions Elon has maintained.

From the desk of the Editor-in-Chief: It is one big accident



To look back at how I started at Elon University, it almost seems like an accident.

I had always hated the news growing up, because it seemed as if there was

nothing good ever going on in the world. I came to associate Brian Williams’ face and perfectly coiffed hair with death, conflict and all manners of natural disasters.

So it was with trepidation I chose to sign up junior year for the newspaper class my high school offered because I needed another class.

I remember my first story being about Jaycee Dugard, the woman who had been kidnapped for 11 years. It was, more than likely, a poorly written piece but the thrill of seeing my name in the paper was an ego boost, which still drives me today.

I did not realize it at the time, but this would be a turning point in my life, one that would eventually take me on a path leading to Elon and The Pendulum.

The Pendulum’s 60 plus staff mem-

bers and I have had the pleasure of delivering the most important news not only to the university, but to the surrounding community as well. There have been incredible highs and equal dips in the last nine months. From the low sanitation ratings for on-campus dining establishments to the scheduled opening of downtown’s newest business, The Oak House, we have striven to keep the community constantly informed.

It is safe to assume, like the more than a thousand of you crossing the stage on commencement, Elon has changed. It has been an honor reporting on the issues as they have unraveled across the campus,

town, state and even the nation.

Whether or not you had always planned on receiving your diploma Under the Oaks or it turned out be a complete accident, you should be proud of your accomplishments. If nothing else, you’ll always have the memory of President Leo Lambert telling you not to make a bologna sandwich.

Best of luck to you, seniors. Based on any indication from past graduating classes, you won’t have any trouble finding success.

Jonathan Black
Editor-in-Chief

Mary Carillo heralds successful career, connection to graduating class

Katy Canada
Managing Editor

The primary factor considered when selecting commencement speakers at Elon University is the candidate's connection to the graduating class. The selection of Mary Carillo, the 2014 headliner, is no exception. Carillo is the mother of a Class of 2014 graduating senior.

Apart from her affiliation with the Class of 2014, Carillo stood out to the Student Government Association (SGA) because of her prolific career as a tennis player and as a sports analyst and commentator. Carillo played tennis professionally from 1977-1980 and won the mixed doubles championship at the French Open in 1977. She has covered 12 Olympic games and currently works as a sports analyst for CBS, NBC and the Tennis Channel. She is a correspondent for HBO Sports on

"Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." Sports Illustrated named her "Best Sports Analyst of the Decade" in 2000.

Connor O'Donnell, president of the Class of 2014, said Carillo's notable resume of accomplishments solidified her as a candidate.

"We really were impressed with her coverage of the 2014 Winter Olympics," O'Donnell said. "We thought that would translate to a great graduation speaker."

The selection process for commencement speakers began in September, when the SGA senior class officers met with the provost and other university administrators to establish a list of possible speakers.

The SGA officers returned several months later, having narrowed the list down to their top three or four preferences. Each possible option was in some way affiliated with Elon.

"We always like to have that connection

to the graduation speaker," O'Donnell said. "The thing that we like is that the speaker has a certain tie to Elon, so when they give their speech, it gives them a more personal touch or connection."

Also, by reserving speakers with a personal relationship to the graduating class for commencement, the SGA and administration are more ambitious when choosing convocation speakers.

"[The commencement speakers] only speak about five to seven minutes," Clark said. "We would rather bring big name speakers for convocation."

According to Jeff Clark, executive director of cultural and special programs, this emphasis on connection to the Elon community is rare at university commencements, but it's something to be cherished.

"We are all Elon on that day," Clark said. "We try to frame it as a family event."



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
Sports analyst and former tennis player Mary Carillo will headline commencement May 24, 2014.

Physical Plant prepares Elon for commencement

Michael Bodley
News Editor

12,000 chairs, 190 workers, one Elon University graduation.

When more than 1,000 Elon seniors in the Class of 2014 graduate Under the Oaks on the morning of Saturday, May 24, hundreds of hours of work will have already gone into preparing for them to receive their diplomas.

Nearly 200 Physical Plant employees — both full-time and part-time — will play an active role in everything from hanging flower baskets to placing chairs with "military precision" under the shade of the oak trees according to Robert Buchholz, director of the physical plant.

"As exams are finishing up, we're getting in and making sure everything looks bright and shiny for parents coming in and alumni to go through places that they have gone through before," he said.

It was especially important for the groundskeepers to tend to Elon's flowers and lawns after the past unusually harsh

North Carolina winter paid its toll not only in canceled classes, but also in damages to the campus' carefully-tended plants.

"It's tough when there's a rough winter," Buchholz said. "It means the grass and everything else doesn't start growing right away."

Members of the Physical Plant's grounds-crew began spreading grass seed and working on irrigation systems in March, before winter was really over.

To accommodate the friends, family members and other well-wishers of the Class of 2014, Physical Plant places more than 1,000 chairs for commencement. Workers began setting up on Reading Day, which was Wednesday, May 14, to ensure the chairs are ready for the ceremony Saturday.

At the same time, regular Physical Plant operations — checking trash cans and bathrooms during the day and cleaning high-traffic areas — remain underway with a three-shift system that covers all 24 hours in a day.

It's important to maintain day-to-

day chores, Buchholz said, because the university doesn't have much of a break after commencement before summer students move in, as well as some of those studying for the North Carolina Bar Exam or their MBA certification through the university.

Immediately following commencement, Physical Plant employees will move in and begin breaking down many of the chairs set out to provide a smaller venue for the Elon University School of Law's own graduation ceremony later that same day.

In the parking lot outside Whitley, limited, reserved parking is available for handicapped persons attending commencement. In addition, Physical Plant employees will be operating a shuttle system of bus and golf cart cycles to accommodate visitors who park farther from the area Under the Oaks.

Those seeking accommodations can contact the Physical Plant at any time before Saturday, though the spaces available are limited, and the reserved parking spaces tend to fill up fast.



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Elon Class of 2014 graduates to immerse

Caroline Fernandez
Design Intern

Internships, job hunting and graduate school — the real world. That is what is on the minds of the Class of 2014 as they leave the comforts of Elon University and take on responsibilities of the world at large.

But for graduating seniors Katy Steele and Alice Sudlow, their post-graduation paths are slightly different. Steele and Sudlow will not be entering into a “real world” of big cities, bosses and responsibilities but will instead experience the world in action through an 11-month journey called the World Race.

Beginning in September, Steele and Sudlow will travel to 11 develop-

ing countries around the world in 11 months, spending one month in each country.

The World Race

Three times a year (January, July and September) non-denominational Christian organization Adventures in Missions sponsors the World Race. It takes approximately 50 adults ages 21-35 and sends them throughout the world with the purpose of spreading biblical teachings. The 50 adults are divided into smaller communities of seven people with whom they will work, pray and travel around the world with.

The smaller communities each follow a unique route for their 11-month journey. Steele will embark on Route 5,

which starts in Southeast Asia. For three months Steele will travel through Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before travelling to Africa and Eastern Europe for three and two months, respectively. There, she will do missionary work in Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa, Turkey and Albania. Steele will finish her remaining three months of missionary work in Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Sudlow will be taking Route 3, which begins in Haiti and takes her across South America to Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. Sudlow will continue her journey for three months in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe and finish her four remaining months by continuing her missionary work in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Finding the World Race

Sudlow and Steele were inspired to participate in the World Race from 2012 Elon graduate Mary Safrit, who participated in the journey after she graduated.

Steele was friends with Safrit while Safrit was still a student, but it was through an Eric Townsend email that Sudlow was inspired by Safrit’s work with the World Race.

“Back in 2012 I discovered Safrit’s blog through an Eric Townsend email,” Sudlow said. “I read her entire blog in a night.”

The World Race blogs changed Sudlow’s life. After reading Safrit’s blog, Sudlow read all blogs by World Racers.

“I was reading these stories of amazing personal transformation,” Sudlow said. “[They] shifted how I understood Christianity and how I understood myself.”

Becoming a World Racer is such a large undertaking that neither Sudlow nor Steele said yes to the challenge overnight. It was after contemplation that Sudlow and Steele decided to apply for the World Race.

Their application opened in October 2013, 11 months before their September 2014 journey was scheduled to begin.

The World Race application process helps applicants decide if they truly want to commit instead of choosing specific people and turning others away.

“It was a year of praying of, ‘Is this where God would want me to go after college?’,” Sudlow said. “Right after a year I firmly decided and applied. I wanted to be involved in a God who looked like the one I was reading about on the World Race blogs.”

The cost of change

Participating in the World Race comes at a price, though. Each racer is expected to raise \$16,000 to cover the expenses of the 11-month journey. Sudlow and Steele have been working since the beginning of the semester to spread the word about their faith and mission. They have done everything from sharing their stories at churches to sending out support letters to everyone who has been a part of their lives.

Steele has become entrepreneurial and had a yard sale where she raised more than \$2,000. While volunteering in the Dominican Republic in January Steele encountered another opportunity to raise money for her journey with a local jewelry organization.

“This woman sat down next to me at lunch one day, and she told me about this ministry her daughter runs in Haiti that employs local people to make jewelry,” Steele said. “They have a program for missionaries to fundraise.”

Steele partnered with Haiti’s Jewels. Half of the money made through Haiti’s Jewels went back to the company while the other half went to Steele’s fundraising. Through the interaction she was able to raise about \$2,000 by selling the jewelry to mostly Elon students.

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themselves in 11 countries over 11 months

T-shirts for free to help missionaries fundraise, Sudlow designed meaningful T-shirts to help fund her journey. Sudlow designed the T-shirt with a line from band Hillsong United's song "Oceans." The lyrics on the shirt, "Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders", have meaning to Sudlow.

"That song was really important to me when I was deciding whether to go on the World Race," Sudlow said.

Growing stronger in faith

Sudlow and Steele came to Elon driven and energetic yet unsure about their faith and purpose.

"When I came into college I would've said, 'Yeah, I'm a Christian,' but that part of my life was on the edge of everything. It was an extra, like a cherry on top," Steele said. "It didn't mean much to me. The decisions I made were my decisions, and I lived for myself."

That all changed in November of Steele's freshman year when she got involved in College Life, an on-campus Christian fellowship.

"God changed from being on the outside of my life to the center," Steele continued. "All of a sudden I wasn't living for myself anymore, I was living for something greater, I was living for Jesus."

The flip side

Many people have argued that missionary trips do more harm than good. They argue that well-meaning people will drop in for a short period of time and then leave forever. But the World Race works with missionaries who are permanently settled in the community.

Once World Racers touch down in each country, they'll be connected to local missionaries that live in that country.

"It's not just parachuting in, doing something good for a couple of weeks and then leaving," Steele said. "We're partnering with people who invest their



Sudlow and Steele will be traveling throughout the world doing missionary work as participants in the World Race after commencement. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATY STEELE

lives in these communities and doing work there and serving people there. It takes on a longterm vision."

Life after the World Race

It isn't uncommon for Steele and Sudlow to get questions about what will happen after the race is over.

Steele and Sudlow have maintained strong faith that their journey and God's guidance will help them after their race.

"So much of what this journey is going to look like is having a deeper understanding of where God is calling us in our lives beyond the World Race,"

Steele said.

Sudlow said she is living in the moment instead of having anxiety about the future.

"Right now God hasn't called me to worry about what is to come after. I know he has called me to the race," Sudlow said. "If I worry about what will happen when I come back I will be missing out on what He's doing right now."

Right now Steele has aspirations of doing market and public relations for nonprofits and NGOs.

"The chance to see all of these communities on the ground will give me a

really good perspective," Steele said.

As they will be living with just one backpack and the recommended total of three shirts for 11 months, Steele and Sudlow are preparing for an experience different from any corporate job or graduate school.

"I'm really looking forward to the ways the next year is going to change every single thing I have ever thought about the world," Steele said.

To follow Katy and Alice's blogs before and during their mission or to contribute to their journey, go to katysteele.theworldrace.org and alicesudlow.theworldrace.org.

WORDS of

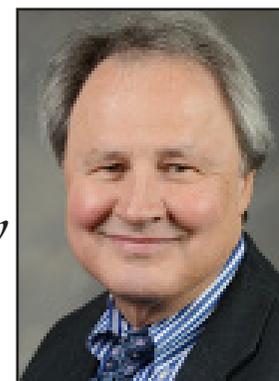


"I would tell the graduating seniors to be nice to everyone they meet because you never know who that person is, what their background is and what they can do help (or hurt) you in the future. Being humble is a great asset and will take you far."

-Dr. Robert Vick

"My valedictory advice: Know what to remember and what to forget."

-Michael Skube



"Many new sources of joy in life await your embrace. The best of these sources may come without price tags, but don't be fooled. Embracing them of your own free will may reward you much more than any brand or other material thing you may have been encouraged to desire."

-Dr. Brian Nienhaus



"My honest to god true from my heart advice is to be fearless. Life is short and there's no time to worry about who's watching you dance."

-Gerald Gibson



"Your relationship with your alma mater and all of its people will be important to you for the rest of your life. Make a commitment to stay connected and invested in Elon. And always remember that the reputation of all great universities rests on the accomplishments of its alumni body—so go out into the world and make us all proud!"

-Dr. Leo Lambert

WISDOM



“Remember that only you can live your life.”

-Kirstin Ringelberg

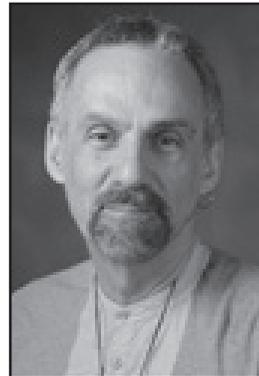
“Be respectful of other people’s perspectives and ideas. Be grateful. Be genuine. Be authentic. Be eager to keep learning. The real journey starts from now on, but you are ready.”



-Vanessa Bravo

“Anything you do in life, whatever it may be, however seemingly significant or insignificant.. There is something meaningful in everything. Be sure to reflect on the moments and find that significance. Then life really does make sense.”

-Ken Hassell



“No matter how carefully you plan, life will throw you curves. Be open to the wonderful places that those curves may take you — places even better than the ones you had planned.”



-Janet Warman

Good luck, Class of 2014!

The Pendulum and Elon University wish you all the best of luck!



TOP 10

news stories of
2013/2014



1

Colonnades Dining Hall lapses on many sanitation standards

During the last week of September 2013, the Alamance County Health Department found Colonnades and what was then the 1889 Grill Room (Now Green World) responsible for violating several health and sanitation practices. The transgressions — including moldy ice machines and undercooked chicken — earned the dining hall a rating of 82, down 14 points from its former 96 rating.

The dining hall made sanitary revisions and received a score of 95 Oct. 1.

2

Man exposes himself to female student, arrested

A man later identified as Colin Mahoney of Chapel Hill, 31, indecently exposed himself to a female student near the intersection of O'Kelly and Haggard Avenues Feb. 18. The man stopped his car to ask the student a question before exposing himself to her. Following an extensive analysis of video camera footage, Mahoney was arrested without incident in his Chapel Hill home by Elon University Police Feb. 27.

COMPILED BY
Michael Bodley
NEWS EDITOR

3

33 percent of Elon students unsatisfied by lack of intellectual climate

In an SGA survey published in April, slightly more than one-third of students reported being unsatisfied with the state of Elon's intellectual climate. To combat the numbers, SGA in 2013 created the Intellectual Climate Committee to foster discussion and work with the university to improve intellectual climate.

More recently, a Deliberative Dialogue was held in which students, faculty and staff gathered to discuss and create plans to best aid the university's intellectual climate moving forward.

4

Students, staff address causes of discrimination on campus

In September 2013, students, faculty and staff converged to discuss incidents of bias that have occurred on campus over the past several years. The forum was a response to an incident in September in which a black student and a Jewish student found a swastika, the letters "KKK" and male genitalia scrawled across a whiteboard outside their Colonnades D dorm room.

The discussion prompted an examination of how the university handles responses to incidents of bias or racism, which typically have come through an email from Smith Jackson, vice president of student life.



5

Gender inclusive housing on the rise

In an effort to meet the needs of students who don't identify as traditionally male or traditionally female, Elon University announced over Winter Term that next school year, a portion of Colonnades A will be reserved for gender-neutral housing. The move followed an announcement earlier in 2013 that the University of North Carolina Board of Governors downvoted a proposal to bring gender-neutral housing to the system's flagship institution: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

6

Student-led HOPE partners with restaurants to feed the hungry

A student-led nonprofit aiming to raise funds for needy food pantries in Alamance County was founded by two Elon University students.

Sophomore Jensen Roll, one of the co-founders, said he noticed food pantries often ran out of food quickly, did not have enough volunteers and lacked funds for facilities and individuals.

The organization, Helping Other People Eat (HOPE) began March 7, 2014. It initially partnered with four local restaurants and has expanded since.

7

Student newspapers grapple with the future of industry

In a recent study by Student Monitor, an organization that surveys college students, 63 percent of students are at least light readers of their college newspapers, leading the papers to reconsider their audience for the increasingly digital age. Throughout the country, college newspapers are exploring new models of content and revenue options, in keeping with the changing state of media on the professional and collegiate level.



8

Elon blue lights aim to prevent crime at cost

This year, Elon University added to its already-extensive system of blue lights and cameras throughout campus. There are now more than 300 cameras monitoring locations on campus from the Station at Mill Point to the outlying Loy Farm. In addition, 31 blue light systems are scattered across campus, lighting its darker reaches at night. The blue lights cost \$5,000 to install and have additional yearly electricity fees, but Director of Campus Safety and Police Dennis Franks has said they're an effective deterrent to crime, citing the university's comparably low 10 burglaries in 2012.

9

Elon sustains damages, outages from brutal winter

North Carolina as a whole had a rough winter, and Elon didn't escape unscathed. Several windy snow and ice storms brought down power lines across campus over the winter, leading to two campus-wide blackouts and several days of class cancellations. Most notably, Belk Pavilion sustained massive damages when an oak tree was uprooted by an ice storm and crashed into the pavilion in March.

Repairs on the pavilion are still in progress and are expected to be completed before the end of the year. Physical Plant emergency personnel maintained vital university operations even when campus was closed.

10

Cost of Elon fire alarms over-budget, underfunded by university

In 2013, The Town of Elon Fire Department responded to 216 calls from campus at a cost of \$400 to \$500 per response. Most of the calls were a result of dormitory smoke detectors being set off because of cooking.

Forty-six percent of the 466 fire alarms the Town of Elon Fire Department responded to were from campus, at a cost up to \$113,000 for the year. The university contributes \$50,000 a year to the fire department to help defray costs, which is an average of up to \$63,000.

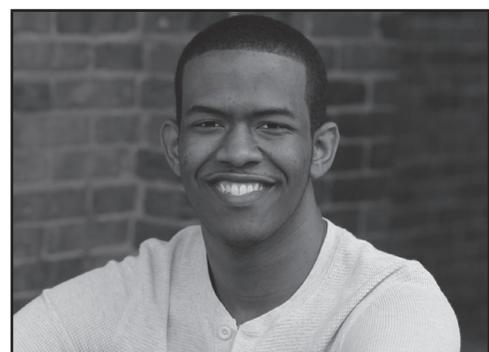
Seniors look back on the past 4 years

Joe Bruno

Flashback to my freshman year of high school — I sat with two strangers at lunch, felt alone and had no confidence. Fast forward to now — I am leaving Elon beaming with confidence, a huge support system and ready to take on the world. I know I am not the only one feeling this

way. I speak on behalf of the many seniors Under the Oaks who have changed for the better because of their Elon experience. I'm speaking for those who found homes at this school (shout out to Elon Local News and Delta Upsilon). I'm speaking for those with best friends that have done more for us than we could ever do for them. And I'm speaking for those who have had those moments where you

realized you were exactly where you belong. For me, my Elon experience is not defined by what I have done, but by who I was with. Because odds are, I won't remember screaming and singing the lyrics of "Mr. Brightside" at a party or eating too many cheeseburgers at Late Night McEwen. But I will remember the way the people who surrounded me at Elon made me feel loved and at home.



Patrick Clanton

Looking back over the last four years, it's difficult to choose one specific memory that stands out above the rest. If I had to choose, I'd say my favorite Elon memory would be the opening night of RENT my freshman year. I played Tom Collins, which was a dream role that I'd wanted to

play ever since I saw the movie. The show opens with no overture, no announcement, no anything. The actors all walk on stage and the show begins with Mark's monologue. We knew people were excited to see the show, but we were completely unprepared for the reaction we would get from just walking out onto the stage. The show began and the audience immediately erupted into cheers and applause for what

felt like forever, but was probably only about a minute. The love that the opening night audience showed us was unlike anything I'd ever experienced before. All I could do was stand there and cry. If I had any doubts that I was meant to do theatre, they were all washed away in that moment. I remember thinking "If this is the closest I ever get to Broadway, that's just fine."

Cara McClain

Undergraduate research has been the most transformative experience at Elon for me, allowing me seek answers to questions I really have. Conducting research, collecting data, analyzing it and writing up results has a level of depth unlike anything I've ever experienced. And I have a deeply supportive relationship with my

mentor, Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, that has carried me throughout the process. My thesis explored the impact of nature experiences on preschoolers' psychological development and environmental awareness.

My favorite memory from conducting research happened last spring. On my last day of data collection at a local preschool, I found myself splashing through a narrow creek, deftly defying branches in my

way while videotaping and trying to keep up with five preschoolers as they joyfully navigated ahead of me. The children were feeling a rich and full sense of satisfaction as their last river trip of the year drew to a close. This was, after all, their biggest adventure yet — going off the hiking trail and into the water, searching for a shortcut that would lead them back to their teacher. And I felt unbelievably lucky to be along for the ride!



A letter from the president of the class of 2014



Connor O'Donnell Senior Class President

I have been honored to serve as your Senior Class President throughout the past year. I am exceptionally proud of all that we have accomplished this year. It is with great pleasure that I announce the Class of 2014 has set the record for total class donations.

Together, 42 percent of our class has given donations to the Senior Class Giving Campaign. This achievement surpassed the previous record-holder by 5 percent. However, this was not our only

success throughout the year. On Elon Day, the senior class made up 10 percent of the overall donations received that day, a feat culminating in \$1,804. These accomplishments noted, and many more showcase, the philanthropic nature of the Class of 2014 and I am exceedingly proud of this overall sentiment and outlook within our class.

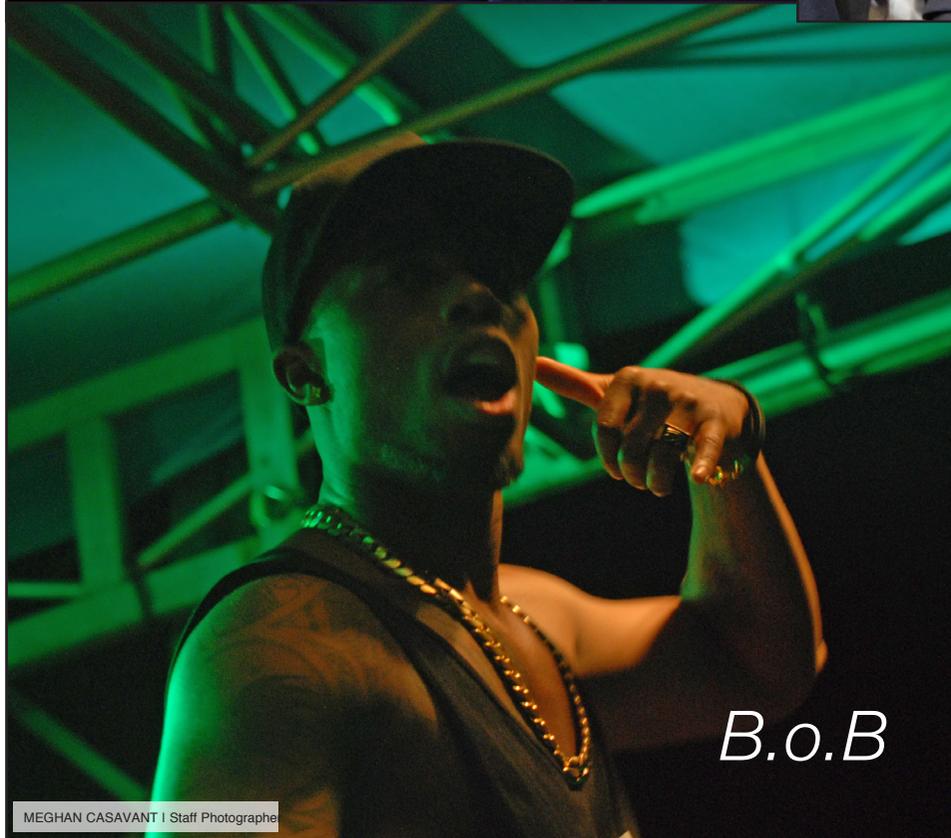
Unfortunately there have been a lot of "lasts" within these final few weeks as Elon. Whether it was our last trivia night, our last trip to Club Belk, our last College Coffee, or our last late night trip to Cookout or Taco Bell (pick your poi-

son), there has been much finality to your actions.

While you took time to appreciate these moments, I hope you took the time to appreciate Elon as well. Elon has given us so much during these past four years, and it's time for us to start giving back. I cannot wait to see all that the Class of 2014 accomplishes in the world outside of this beautiful campus. I wish you all many successes.

Good luck in your endeavors and stay connected to the university. I look forward to seeing you all once again at Homecoming!

A year in song



Class of 2013: Alumni find successful careers across country, abroad

Kaitlin Dunn

International Editor

Will Anderson

Camera assistant — Freelance
Los Angeles, CA

Will Anderson knew he wanted to move to Los Angeles after graduating from Elon University. He packed his bags and after several months, he worked his way from nothing to being a freelance camera assistant.

“There’s no such thing as a typical day for me, and I love that,” Anderson said. “I’ve worked on everything from a McDonald’s commercial to a Rod Steward music video to a television show.”

Anderson is a freelancer, which gives him the opportunity to work for many different companies.

“My job is very flexible, so I have to make my own schedule, which is a new thing for me, coming out of Elon, which is so regimented,” he said. “Now that I’m freelance, I really have to figure out how to compartmentalize everything in my life.”

Anderson said the most important thing he gained from Elon was the network.

“Even though I graduated from Elon, I still feel like I’m getting my Elon education,” he said. “There are so many people out here who have my back even when I’m having a drought. I still feel protected by all of my professors and connections, and I know they’re still there to help me with anything I need.”

Anderson encouraged students to utilize these connections in whatever field they go into.

“I always write a thank-you note after every shoot to every person I work with,” Anderson said. “You always have to put yourself out there, and it’s hard, but if you put on a good face for everyone, you will go further.”

Anderson has not given up on his ultimate goal of becoming a cinematographer and intends to keep working his way up.

“I’ve learned a lot as a camera assistant, and hopefully I’ll keep building my resume and continue to grow and transition into one day working my way into a creative position,” Anderson said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL ANDERSON
Will Anderson lives in Los Angeles and works as a freelance camera assistant.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID GWYNN

David Gwynn has spent the past year living in Denmark producing films for the Danish Institute for Study Abroad.

David Gwynn

Filmmaker — Danish Institute for Study Abroad
Copenhagen

Directly after graduation, David Gwynn moved to Copenhagen, where he works for the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS) making films and documenting students.

While studying abroad in Copenhagen during his time at Elon University, Gwynn used his connection with an Elon student who was then an intern for DIS. She introduced him to the director of marketing, and he made several films for them. After graduation, he was offered the chance to go back to Denmark for a year to make films.

“It took me by surprise because the marketing director at DIS first asked me whether I would want to do it after I graduated at the end of my semester in Denmark, and I said no,” Gwynn said. “Alas, reality hit, and I went into senior year with nothing drawing me anywhere. When the offer came early senior year I was thoroughly sold with it.”

Gwynn goes to meetings, edits videos, brainstorms and shoots films. He said the best part of his job is traveling all over Europe to make films about people.

“There are these surreal instances where

I’m rapidly snapping mental pictures trying to burn the memories into my head: walking through the Holocaust memorial in Berlin at night, sitting in a cafe in Paris while two women kiss at the next table over, having a prostitute guide me through the red light district in Amsterdam,” Gwynn said. “It’s like being paid for something that I definitely need to pay for.”

Gwynn credits getting his position with his Elon connections and experiences.

“The time spent editing projects, learning different pieces of software and honing an instinct for rhythm were activities endorsed and enabled by Elon that have prepared me for what I’m doing right now,” Gwynn said. “The other part of that is the social side. The only reason I was put into the crosshairs of the brand-new marketing director at DIS was through an older friend of mine. Meeting motivated, adventurous, quality people ended up being crucial and could be the springboard to the rest of my life.”

Gwynn will be leaving Denmark in June, and, while he doesn’t have any jobs lined up, he knows he wants to continue in this line of work.

“I think that my career will take me into more areas of video production, perhaps eventually of a non-profit nature,” Gwynn said. “I’ll see where freelancing takes me. I can definitely see collaborations with Elon friends and classmates in the future.”

Samantha Siberini

Casting assistant — Avalon Artists
New York City

When Samantha Siberini graduated from Elon University, she didn't know what she wanted to do, but she knew she wanted to live in New York.

After struggling for several months, Siberini was hired to be an intern by Avalon Artists talent agency where she has gained to experience production and the casting in show business.

"I'm so lucky that I've gotten the chance to dabble in so many different things," Siberini said. "I'm at a crossroads right now, deciding if I want to go back to production like I always thought I would or if I want to continue working with actors. I can't go wrong either way."

Now that she has been at her job for several months, Siberini has settled down into a consistent routine.

"The first few weeks it was really different because I would be doing producing, so I could be starting at noon and not get out until 2 a.m.," she said. "But now my life is pretty regular. I get to the office around 9:30 a.m., work hard and then get out around 6 p.m."

Siberini spends most of her days working with actors and setting them up with casting directors.

"I really love being at a company that cares so much about the actors," she said. "When we see the actors we represent get a job, it's so exciting because we've invested so much time and energy on them and we're so happy."

The biggest project Siberini has been involved in is a web series called "Gays: The Series."

"It's the one thing I've been most passionate about since coming to New York," Siberini said. "The cast and crew really are like my family. They're the first real friends that I made here, and their passion made me even more passionate about the series."

Siberini said she wants to encourage students to find something they are truly passionate about and not to do something that doesn't feel right in the long run.

"The biggest worry I had when moving to New York was finding something worthwhile to do," Siberini said. "I've had to do unpaid internships and random gigs, and I've had to turn down jobs because they made me uncomfortable, but it's okay. I finally found the place I want to be."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTH SIBERINI

Samantha Siberini has spent several months producing a webseries called "Gays: The Series."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE JACOBS

Jesse Jacobs and Chris Sonzogni attend a meeting with the rest of the board of their company, GenFKD.

Jesse Jacobs and Chris Sonzogni

Cofounder and Outreach Director —
GenFKD
New York City

When Jesse Jacobs graduated from Elon last year, he, like many other graduates, struggled to find a job. As Jacobs watched his friends get rejected from jobs they were overqualified for, he found himself asking, "why?" He turned to The Wall Street Journal and The Economist, but he still found himself confused.

So Jacobs decided to start his own company, GenFKD, which stands for Financial Knowledge Development to explain the economy and make financial literacy more accessible to his generation.

Fellow Elon graduate Chis Sonzogni joined Jacobs as the outreach director of his company, and they, along with several other recent grads, officially launched their company in August.

"GenFKD exists to introduce students, recent grads and twenty-somethings to economic concepts in a fun way," Jacobs said.

Jacobs and Sonzogni agreed that starting a company right out of college is difficult, but they have learned a lot in the past year.

"The difficulty in running your own organization right out of college is that you don't really know what it takes to be successful," Sonzogni said. "Even if you have had an internship, you still don't know everything that goes on behind the scenes in a company. You just don't have enough real-world experience."

Jacobs said he never imagined himself running his own business, but now he can't think of anything he'd rather do.

"The best part about this venture is that we can shape it to be exactly what we want it to be," Jacobs said. "Nobody is pulling the strings, and we can do what we want."

GenFKD has campus representatives at 10 colleges right now and is expanding to 25 campuses this summer. Campus reps are in charge of spreading awareness about the company and planning two events per semester for students.

"We are a Millennial organization," Sonzogni said. "We are our target demographic, so we get the struggle, and we're the ones who understand how to help others."

Their goal is to continue expanding the company.

"I would love to see us go fully national and have representatives in all 50 states," Jacobs said. "We're taking baby steps right now, but I definitely think this is something that we can keep going with. We have no end date in mind."



The Elon Bucket List

Before finding a job, applying for grad school, or preparing for whatever your post graduate life will be like, here are the five things every Elon University student should do before graduating.

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

Going to College Coffee

What other school lists “take the free food we give you” as a bucket list item? Take advantage of what you have now because outside these walls, free coffee and doughnuts are so rare, they’re an omen of an early death. And yes, it’s “doughnuts,” not “donuts,” you troglodytes.

College Coffee is the one thing that

gets students not to dread 8 a.m. classes. It is like the Poincare conjecture solution, but for university morale. Student organizations come to you instead of the other way around so you can be a front-row audience member to the passion and expression of your peers. It can make you feel productive by proxy. Make sure you go to College Coffee with your friends so you can share a laugh and some food and then awkwardly walk away when the conversation dies down.

Going into fountains

Considered an Elon “rite of passage,” while the uninitiated could easily dismiss this as hooliganry, there is a lot of planning that goes into finding the perfect fountain to wade around in. First you need to pick your fountain. Boney Fountain is easily accessible, but it also looks like a grave. Chandler Fountain has the impact, but it’s surrounded by lots of sharp metal teeth, both inside and out, like a goblin fortress. That leaves the

heavily trafficked Fonville Fountain so you can get the attention you crave from passersby and anyone who looks at the Alamance webcam.

Then you need to pick the right time to go in the fountain. Go too late in the year, and you’ll come out dripping with pollen like Swamp Thing. Go too early, and the water will cool you down to kidney-harvesting temperature. You also need to decide whether you’ll go into the fountain late at night when the Phantom is on the prowl or do what no Elon student has ever risked and wake up early. Whatever your decision, you will succeed in getting covered in dirty water. It’s worth every \$1,000 fine.

Stealing a brick

Wow, a lot of these bucket list items involve causing problems for campus staff. This tradition says a number of things about Elon students. It could mean that students want to keep a piece of Elon with them, and instead of showing appreciation through their degree or full-size acorn back tattoo, they decided to get a dirty brick. It could also be an expression of Berlinesque rage mixed with a hatred for anyone who rides a bike around campus.

Or, the most likely theory, is another step in the very popular hobby of brick



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON CAMPUS RECREATION

More than 200 competitors participated in this year's Turkey Trot on November 22, 2013. Freshman Matthew Perry came in first place with a time of 18:00, equaling a 5:48 pace per mile.

collecting. There's frogged, perforated, face, mortar and the ever-popular "solid" brick. Rumor has it campus legend "Stubbs" has his hand on an oversize modular brick from behind Maynard Hall.

Running the Turkey Trot

From the first day of an Elon student's sophomore year, the goal for the rest of the college career is getting rid of the Freshman 15. A lot of people will try to take the shortcut of joining Elon's secret brawling society, but if you go one round with Stubbs, you won't even have the chance to get a sweat started. So running the Turkey Trot is your better bet. The easiest part of the event is getting the canned goods for charity because we all have a big sock stuffed with cans within arm's reach of our bed.

The true challenge is mentally pacing yourself during the 5K because no one really knows how far five kilometers is. Is that like five miles? Is it the distance from Koury to McEwen? How many 5Ks would I run to get from here to the moon?

And when you finish the Turkey Trot,

waving to the children in their extravagant playgrounds you pass by, you are rewarded with the most difficult meal to eat — an unsqueezed orange slice — and the pride that comes before realizing you now need to walk all the way back to your apartment.

Studying Abroad

If you work best on a deadline, this step on your Elon bucket list might be a bit tricky if you're graduating now. But, the rest of you still have time to travel the planet with Elon's study abroad program. In fact, the one downside is that Elon does not offer study abroad to other planets. I can't think of an Elon student who wouldn't want to study sociology on Mars or state government in the Betelgeuse star system.

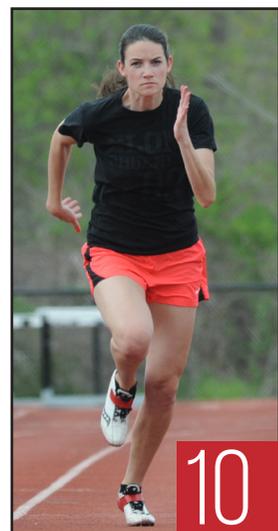
Studying abroad is like exercising the back muscle you didn't know you have when practicing your tsuki. Seeing things from an international perspective helps inform opinions and creates a better understanding that will make you a better employee and a better person. Traveling will also blow up your Instagram account and get those likes rolling in.



KATY CANADA | Managing Editor

London is one of the most popular destinations for Elon students to study abroad for a full semester.

TOP 10 in Elon Athletics for 2013-2014



10 Elon garners six individual titles at SoCon Outdoor Track and Field Championships

En route to a third-place finish, its highest in program history, the Elon women's track and field team saw six athletes take home individual crowns at the SoCon Outdoor Championships. Bria Bell won the 400-meters, while Jen Esposito took the title in the 400-meter hurdles and Sydney Griffin won the 100-meter hurdles. Breanna Warren finished first in the discus throw, Megan Kirschling won the high jump and Tereza Novotna took home the title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

7 Carleigh Nester shatters multiple Elon softball records

It was a storybook senior season for the Elon softball outfielder who began her career in the shadows of star Tomeka Watson. Nester broke the Elon career records for home runs, doubles, slugging percentage and RBI. She also has the single-season home run record. Nester earned All-SoCon First Team accolades.

4 Women's Lacrosse gets first win in inaugural home game

After three road losses to start the season (and the program), Elon came home to Rhodes Stadium March 1 and beat St. Francis (Pa.) 16-7 for the team's first win. Freshman Sloane Kessler led the way with five goals, while goalie Rachel Ramirez made seven saves. The Phoenix would go on to earn the No. 2 seed in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament before losing to Detroit in the Semifinals.



6 Women's Soccer advances to first SoCon Championship, Nicole Dennion wins Player of the Year

In its final year in the SoCon, it was a year of firsts for Elon. The Phoenix went 13-3-6 overall and advanced to its first-ever SoCon Championship game, where it lost 3-1 to Furman. Sophomore Nicole Dennion scored 15 goals on the season and was named SoCon Player of the Year for her efforts. Dennion had four game-winning goals and three multi-goal games.

3 Men's Tennis rolls through SoCon play, earns No. 3 seed in NCAA pod

Dominant is an understatement when describing Elon in SoCon play. The Phoenix went unbeaten en route to the SoCon regular season and Tournament Championships. Cameron Silverman starred, earning an appearance in the NCAA Singles Tournament. Elon was awarded the No. 3 seed in its NCAA Tournament pod, where it lost 4-1 to Tennessee.

2 Women's Tennis has 'Cloud 9' run through SoCon Tournament

Entering as the No. 4 seed with a brutal route ahead, Elon didn't back down. The Phoenix knocked off No. 1 Furman and No. 2 Samford to win its first SoCon Championship and advance to its first NCAA Tournament. The win helped ease the pain of a tough loss in last year's SoCon Final. Elon lost to top-seeded Georgia in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

9 Rich Skrosky named head football coach

Less than three weeks after the removal of Jason Swepson, Elon announced Rich Skrosky as the new head football coach Dec. 12, 2013. Skrosky previously served as the offensive coordinator at Ball State under former Elon coach Pete Lembo. Skrosky served on Lembo's staff at Elon for five years, two as offensive coordinator. He will be looked to revive Elon's program as it makes the jump to the CAA.

8 Elon sells out Alumni Gym against UMass, Davidson

Raucous crowds became commonplace at Alumni Gym for Elon men's basketball games, but none could match the turnouts for games against No. 16 University of Massachusetts Jan. 18 and Davidson March 1. Lines of students waiting to get inside stretched down Haggard Avenue toward Belk Library. Hundreds were turned away. For the Davidson game, students were seen camped out at the student entrance as early as 11:30 a.m. Official attendance was listed at 1,857 against UMass and 1,871 against Davidson, while Alumni's capacity



5 Men's Basketball completes dramatic comeback at Davidson

Down 15 points with less than five minutes to go against Davidson, Elon found a hot stretch and built an unprecedented comeback. Jack Isenbarger hit a 3-pointer from the top of the arc to tie it with 2.4 seconds in regulation. Davidson cut the deficit to two with under a second left and stole the inbounds pass, only to have the potential game-winning 3-pointer rim out. It snapped a 23-game home SoCon winning streak for the Wildcats.

1 Men's Soccer defeats Clemson in first round of NCAA Tournament

In the first NCAA Tournament contest ever hosted at Elon University, the Phoenix did not disappoint. With more than 3,300 fans crowded around Rudd Field, Elon and Clemson fought to penalty kicks. Jason Waterman had the game-winner, and, of course, he ripped off his shirt.



Chris Little returns to Elon as men's soccer coach

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

Chris Little was the academy director for the NC Fusion and head coach of the Carolina Dynamo soccer team of the Professional Development league when he received a call from former soccer coach Darren Powell in April.

Powell, a close friend of Little and whom he worked under as an assistant coach at Elon University from 2010-2012, had just resigned from Elon to take a position with the Orlando City Soccer Club of Major League Soccer and was helping Athletic Director Dave Blank find his replacement.

Naturally, Powell thought first of his close friend and former colleague, who, after a short exchange of pleasantries, he asked to return to Elon to become the head coach.

The decision, Little said, was a no-brainer. He was going to return to his old stomping grounds, where he had so much success under Powell's guidance.

"Darren and I are close friends, and he told me on the phone about his new opportunity," Little said. "Then he finished the conversation by asking if I would have any interest in coming back to Elon, and there was no hesitation. The answer was yes."

Little wasn't handed the job right then and there. After his conversation with Powell, he contacted the university to gauge its interest in him and to make known his desire for the job.

After going through the formal interview process with Blank, Little was named head coach April 29.

The announcement was welcome news to the players. Jason Waterman, a senior next season, said it was a perfect fit because of the team's familiarity and comfort with the former coach, who recruited most of the players to Elon.

"We were all thrilled," Waterman said. "We knew he was a candidate and he was someone we were all really pulling for because we know him personally and, more importantly, we know he'll hold us to the championship expectations that we've



After serving as an Elon assistant coach from 2010-2012 under Darren Powell, Chris Little has returned and accepted the head coaching position. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

had in the past."

As a result, Waterman said, the transition from Powell to Little will be virtu-

**"IF YOU LOOK AT
THE SUCCESS IN
THE LAST COUPLE
YEARS, IT'S
UNPRECEDENTED."**

**CHRIS LITTLE
MEN'S SOCCER COACH**

ally seamless. Much easier, he said, than if the school had brought in a coach from

outside the Elon coaching network.

"It's much easier to transition to Coach Little because we've all worked with him before," Waterman said. "We know what he's going to expect out of us and his style of coaching, which you don't really get if you get a coach who hasn't worked with you before."

Little understands his players wanting to keep everything as similar to Powell's regime as possible and has therefore pledged to keep his coaching philosophy as similar to Powell's as he can.

"There isn't anything that's broken," Little said. "If you look at the success in the last couple years, it's unprecedented. So why change anything? It's only a matter of continuing where Darren left off."

Little understands that it will be difficult to maintain the success Powell had, especially after last year's NCAA tour-

namment run, but doesn't feel any added pressure to live up to lofty expectations.

"Any time you're going to take over from someone who's had such a high level of success, it's going to be difficult," Little said. "What he's achieved at Elon has been incredible. I have some very big shoes to fill, but I'm to add to Darren's success."

Waterman doesn't see any scenario in which a new coach limits the success the program has had over the last few seasons. In fact, Waterman said he thinks Little will bring the program to new heights.

"There's no question we can maintain the recent success we've had, even with a new coach," Waterman said. "Coach Little is going to take the success we've already had and build on it and take us to a level we've never reached before."

An Ode to the SoCon

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

Follow me to Cullowhee.

High in the mountains, far from Elon's fountains.
There's no Zack's Hot Dogs, but you'll drive past
some hogs.

Home to Catamounts football, a disaster each fall.
Poor WCU, at least Elon couldn't beat you.
A school in the valley, surrounded by a hill.
Better scenery than a Burlington textile mill.

Statesboro, Ga., we haven't ignored ya.
Middle of nowhere, the Eagles' lair.
Country folk abound, no phone service to be
found.

Wanting a payday, GSU called a mayday.
An FBS conference would be better, they felt.
So Southern headed off to the Sun Belt.

They brought along their friends from Boone.
App State is moving up, despite last season's
swoon.

No more Elon visits to the Rock,
Or to see Chattanooga's Moc.

Seven hours away in Tennessee bussed the

Phoenix to UTC.
Instead of facing chaos, Elon would rather play
lacrosse.

Furman plays this hot new sport.
Upon a horse the Paladin did ride, but the
Phoenix did not turn and hide.
Elon pulled the football upset, easing that pain of
athletic debt.

Nearby Furman lies the grounds of Wofford.
We will miss the thrill Terriers games offered.
A frequent visitor to the Big Dance, the campus is
filled with Khaki pants.

Down in Charleston lies The Citadel,
Where football games are celebrated with cannon
shell.

Basketball is a struggle at this military school,
Where a rifle is an essential tool.

Samford is so far away,
In the Central Time Zone do the Bulldogs play.
The trip there is quite the ride, down to the land of
the Crimson Tide.

It's a shorter journey to the home of the Tourney,

For at Greensboro Coliseum you can see,
Wes Miller's Spartans of UNCG.
It's a neighborhood rivalry when these teams ball,
Elon sees them at the mall.

Wes has an empty trophy box, a far cry from that
of the Silver Fox.

It only takes one gas tank fill-up to reach the
abode of Bob McKillop.

Davidson College is the league's hub of
knowledge.
A traditional rivalry, Elon-Davidson was the place
to be.

As we approach this historic day,
An exit fee is left to pay,
as Elon heads off to the CAA.

Colonial Williamsburg is a new destination,
Near Jamestown, the birthplace of our nation.
Same with Drexel in the heart of Philly,
January there could get chilly.

Goodbye SoCon, we will miss you so,
To greener pastures Elon must go.
CAA-ya later.

