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>> PAGES 12-13

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Occupy movement gaining ground nationwide

Elon students join thousands in protests against economic inequality

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

It was a time of immense fear, coupled with equally immense optimism.

They brought back tales of meetings filled with thousands of voices, stand-offs with the NYPD and a sense of triumph as they marched into Times Square.

But for the Elon University students who traveled to New York this month to participate in the Occupy Wall Street protests, the movement is bigger than even they can grasp.

They joined in solidarity with more than just the thousands marching through the streets of New York City. They became a part of a movement that is as far-reaching as it is grassroots.

Beginning Sept. 17, a group of loosely organized protests began in Manhattan's Zuccotti Park to draw attention to corporate greed and economic inequality. Now, a month later, the battle cry of "we are the 99 percent" has echoed around the country and the world.

"It's much bigger than any of us expected and can figure out," said senior Maggie Castor, one of the participants. "It's huge and it's wonderful and I've never been more optimistic."

Arrival at the camp

The group of about 10 Elon students arrived in New York early the morning of Oct. 14, shortly after a planned eviction of the park had been called off. Originally scheduled because of sanitary issues, the protestors worked together to clean up the entirety of the site and keep the space.

At the end of the day, they attended the General Assembly, a non-hierarchical open meeting used to determine various initiatives including how to use funds and develop a list of demands. With an estimated 1,500 in attendance and no single leader, the meetings were conducted using a system known as the human mic check, in which participants repeat the comments of an individual until everyone has heard.

It was a particularly moving experience for senior Kathleen Blackney and one she said should be replicated in general political discourse. Even when an attendee did not agree with the statement being made, participants had to repeat it.

"I think it's so beautiful because people are frustrated with each other, they do disagree, but with most political discourse in America, when



Junior Lauren Clapp and senior Maggie Castor were two Elon University students involved in an Occupy Wall Street march in New York City. PHOTO SUBMITTED

we disagree, we just don't talk to each other because it will just turn into a stalemate," Blackney said. "People do disagree and get heated, but then they come back. It's direct democracy in action. It's difficult but it's working."

Topics ranged from using funds to purchase puppets for use in marches to upgrading to a larger account at UPS to accommodate the more than 400 packages of donations the movement receives daily.

While protestors were not allowed to pitch tents in Zuccotti Park, Castor said other resources were plentiful, including three daily meals, stations to make clothing and a warehouse filled with mattresses. According to estimates she heard while at the camp, more than \$125,000 has been donated to the cause so far.

The march begins

Oct. 15, designated as a Global Day of Action for branches of the movement worldwide, began with an 11 a.m. gathering to prepare for the march from Zuccotti to Washington Square Park, but not without stops along the



Visitors to the Occupy Greensboro site are welcomed with signs highlighting the movement. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer

way. At every Chase Bank along the route, the protestors circled the block and chanted, Castor said. At one point, about 25 people were arrested at a nearby Citi Bank for closing their accounts.

"It's unclear what was happening because there is one video of a woman

standing on the street after she closed her account and an undercover cop comes over and arrests her," Castor said. "It's unclear if there's a law prohibiting closing accounts in mass."

After arriving at the destination and

See OCCUPY | PAGE 2

Elon addresses shortage of math, science educators with new master's programs

Caroline Hood
Reporter

Elon University officials hope to start a new master's program for science and math education in December 2013, according to David Cooper, dean of the School of Education.

The new program is still in the beginning phases of development and Cooper said he thinks a comprehensive proposal will be ready for review by the

end of this semester.

Drafting the proposal includes planning out the program in significant detail. The proposal outlines the courses students will take, the likelihood of students getting a job after completing the program, student teaching in public schools and research opportunities.

The education department, faculty, the Elon graduate council and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will then review the

proposal, which can take several months.

A budget model for the program will also be developed. Cooper said he hopes the program will be eligible for federal grant money, especially since some students will be leaving full-time jobs to complete their master's degrees.

"An interesting challenge will be financing the program because some students might not be able to give up full-time salaries to come into the

program," he said.

Scholarships will be offered to students during the 14 months they will be engaged in full-time study. The funding for those scholarships is still in the planning process.

Senior Jeff Serra, a North Carolina Teaching Fellow and mathematics with teacher licensure major, said the new program will expand his options after

See MASTERS | PAGE 3

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Protestors stand in solidarity, despite differences in goals

OCCUPY from PAGE 1

a brief rally, the group prepared to march to Times Square, not anticipating the barriers that would obstruct their entry into the square.

Filing along one portion of the sidewalk for two hours, stretching about a mile long, the march arrived on the street across from Times Square around 5:30 p.m. and immediately began funneling into the street.

"We'd been escorted by the police all day, everything had been relatively fine, but they wouldn't let us cross the final street (to Times Square)," Castor said.

It was then that the scuffle broke out. Batons began flying, people were arrested, a police barricade went up and horses were used to keep the protestors on the sidewalk. Senior Claire Healy, who documented the action, including the police barricade, said she was sure she'd be arrested.

"It was probably some of the scariest moments of my life," she said. "The one cop that could have hurt someone, we were all telling him, 'We have your name and number, you will be reported.'"

The power struggle continued for hours as the police attempted to hold the protestors back, while they in turn tried to make a plan of action using the system of mic check.

"You can hear this huge dialogue among thousands of people happening in real time," Castor said. "The police can hear everything you're planning all day. It's very transparent, there are no secrets."

In many cases, the police refused to make eye contact or communicate with the protestors. Castor remembers people crying in fear, saying they wanted to leave, but continued to stand their ground. Despite her own fear, Castor did the same.

"I have never been more scared in my entire life, but what was incredible is that I was firmly planted," she said. "I did not have the desire to go anywhere and I did not go anywhere."

A conclusion is reached

The standoff lasted nearly three hours before Joseph Esposito, Chief of Department of the NYPD, joined the scene and told the police officers to stand down and that they were disobeying orders. To the surprise of the protestors, he began using mic check to communicate.

"No one asked him to use (it)," Castor said. "It was incredible and then there was the start of negotiating between the whole group and one officer."

Castor and junior Lauren Clapp were two of the first protestors escorted across the street into Times Square. It was a process that took about three hours as a total of 6,000 people marched across the street in groups.

"We went from tear gas to being charged with horses and threatened with



Mat Masterson (left) and Max Silver (right) were two of about 40 participants at Occupy Greensboro Oct. 22, playing music for others in attendance. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer

arrest to everyone winning," Castor said. It was the best experience of the trip, Clapp said, and one she will never forget. "I didn't know what to expect and I wouldn't say I felt safe in that moment because it could have escalated to real violence really fast," she said. "Knowing that feeling makes it more meaningful that the whole situation diffused peacefully, it could have been the opposite reaction."

Angel Aguayo, a local North Carolina high school student, said she traveled to New York with the intention of being arrested in support of the cause. But, when the barricade was removed and she crossed into Times Square, the success of the march was worth more, she said.

"This was a victory for the protestors, we had won using nonviolent methods," Aguayo said. "This was by far the best experience I have ever had. I'm not sure I have ever seen anything as beautiful as the movement."

Grasping the meaning

As a horizontally led movement, some have questioned whether the protestors have any clear goals they are actively working toward. For the participants from Elon, that's not a fair judgment to make.

"When people say they don't have demands, that's the wrong question to be asking about the movement," Healy said. "It's more, how are they getting to their demands? What is making this such a success? You can't deny it's successful."

Hundreds of cities around the world are occupying so something is going right. We're trying to revamp an entire system, it's not going to be fast."

The plurality of ideas within the movement complicates the process of determining concrete demands, Clapp said.

"This kind of democracy is so hard because it accounts for everyone's differences," she said. "It's beautiful but very strenuous."

Blackney's hope is that the process of direct democracy is one that can eventually be applied to national political discourse.

"I think it would be awesome if, instead of money talking, the people talked, but it's important to remember that it's a month old," she said. "I have no idea what it's going to be yet. It's possible, but it could also fail, it's too soon to tell."

A national movement localized

Though small in comparison to the movement in New York City, another group of people has pitched tents in a small, grassy area in downtown Greensboro.

Julie Southerland, a resident of High Point, said while she identifies as a socialist, the group represents numerous political ideologies. Though standing in solidarity with the national movement, the Greensboro branch has also set its sights on more local problems, including foreclosures in Greensboro and cutbacks at the post office.

"We see the movement as the antithesis of the Tea Party," Southerland said. "We are from the left and more grassroots. We're working on developing concrete demands."

Many of those joining the movement, Southerland said, have been mad about the system, but have gone for many years without an outlet to express their frustrations.

"Individual people have connected with one another at occupy groups," she said. "A lot look to Wall Street for ideas. Their camp has been established a lot longer with many more people. We are taking cues from New York and other places."

Lauren Guy-Mcalpinsaid, a Greensboro resident, said she considers herself a long-time activist and has always been frustrated with the lack of alternatives in the U.S. political system.

"I think the two-party system of



Thousands of protestors filled the streets of New York City Oct. 15 in an all-day march from their base of Zuccotti Park to Times Square. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Republicans and Democrats won't change anything," she said.

For Max Silver, who has stayed at the camp for four days, the motivations for participation are different. After hearing his friends make fun of the movement, he decided to join in.

"I'm staying until it's torn down," he said.

Many of the hallmarks of the movement on Wall Street are intact, including a library, press area and three meals a day. Southerland said some of the homeless population from the local community has also taken up camp at the site.

Reflections on the experience

For the participants from Elon, a sense of community pervaded their time on Wall Street.

"In the park, everyone was committed to being a community and working together, even though they were pissed off," Clapp said. "They all had legitimate concerns for being there."

Though the thousands of protestors were not always familiar with one another, there was a feeling of safety that defined many of their interactions.

"In the middle of downtown New York for over 24 hours, things we needed and had brought were left unattended by us and were still in perfect condition when we came back," Castor said. "That was incredible."

Clapp and Castor are currently developing plans to return to New York during Winter Term and have already visited the Occupy Greensboro site since returning to campus from New York.

"I think now that we've had people there and are bringing back a very optimistic message with lots of information and levels of involvement, I think the conversation around Elon will become bigger," Castor said. "The optimism being part of it, that caught me off guard. It's easier to get on board with something that is so happy and positive. That can make the conversation easier and will help make it grow."



The camp site at Zuccotti Park is serving as home to thousands of protestors. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Financial model restructured on yearly basis

Grace Elkus
Senior Reporter

A number of liberal arts colleges across the nation are being forced to reconsider their financial models because of the increasing amount of money universities spend per student, according to a recent report from Inside Higher Ed.

Although Elon is considered one of the nation's "Best Value" institutions, it too must constantly revise its financial model in order to ensure long-term sustainability, according to Gerald Whittington, vice president of business, finance and technology.

"We rethink our financial model every year," Whittington said. "We have to constantly work at it to make it sustainable. Attracting the student body that is both highly academically qualified and as diverse as possible is a challenge for us and everyone else in higher education."

Elon's tuition is at or slightly below the national average for private higher education, Whittington said. But during the past decade, tuition at four-year, private nonprofit colleges and universities rose 28 percent, according to a report by the College Board in 2010. In order to keep Elon in its current price range, adjusting the balance between merit and need-based aid becomes necessary.

"We are always refining our financial aid mix, both merit and need-based," Whittington said. "We are trying to adjust to providing more need-based aid at Elon. In fact, our strategic plan calls on us to double need-based aid by the end of the plan in 2020. This requires a huge investment and fundraising process currently calculated at \$80 million."

Elon, along with most private universities, relies on a percentage of student families who can afford to pay most of the tuition cost, Whittington said. But being able to provide aid to families from a diverse range of backgrounds is important to both the university and to the student body.

"I think it's really great that we get one of the best values for our money because it allows us to have a diverse array of people," said Whitney Levitt, a sophomore business major. "If the cost of tuition went up, we would not have such a vibrant and unique student body."

Student tuition and room and board only pays for about 80 percent of the cost of the institution, according to Whittington. The other 20 percent comes from gifts, the endowment or grants. He estimates that the average amount of money that Elon spends per student is between \$44,000 and \$45,000.

But Levitt has confidence that even if the cost per student increased, Elon wouldn't significantly raise the cost of tuition.

"One of the main things that attracts students to Elon is the relatively low price," she said. "So it wouldn't be in Elon's best interest to go straight for tuition when looking for a way to bring in more money."



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

The Admissions Office at Elon has revamped both the application process and opportunities available to incoming students at the university.

Changes in Elon application for admission intended to narrow search for prospective global citizens

Kristin Martin
Reporter

The Elon University admissions application is getting an update, changes ranging from different essay questions to new scholarships and gap semester programs.

"We are deliberate as ever in trying to get to know our applicants," said Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions. "The questions are reflective of the things we value as an institution."

Even just changing the essay questions can determine who belongs in Elon's student body. This year's questions are geared toward potential global citizens and ask about what project a student would work on if they had the financial resources for it, meeting challenging experiences and learning from world travels.

"I plan on answering the question about what organization I would create with \$5,000, since that is exactly what I plan on doing with my college education," said Shelby Thomas, a high

school senior from Raleigh. "Either that, or be a part of or create an organization that works to provide clean water to every person in the world."

There are two brand new additions to the application this year: the Elon Engagement Scholarship and the Gap Semester Program.

"The Elon Engagement Scholarship is exciting," Zaiser said. "It will largely be based on the application essay. One hundred fifty

students will receive \$3,500 scholarships a year and a \$2,000 Elon Experiences grant."

This totals \$16,000 in scholarships during four years.

"The scholarship is a result of redirecting funds from the smaller Presidential Scholarships," said Zaiser. "We still offer students in the class with the strongest

academic profiles a Presidential Scholarship of \$4,500. The idea here is to offer scholarships to students at different academic ranges and not only offer funds to the top of the class based on GPA and SAT/ACT."

The Gap Semester Program

begins next fall. Students will return to Elon in time for Winter Term and spring semester. Currently, 15 freshmen will be able to participate in the program.

Students will be selected based on a formal review of their applications, according to Meredith Smith, associate director of Admissions for Campus Visits. Applicants must write an essay specifically for the program in addition to the required essay.

What do these new additions replace on the application? Not the SAT scores, according to Zaiser, who said those are here to stay.

"Having a test score is helpful criterion with a large applicant pool of strong high school students," he said. "The GPA and standardized test combined are generally about 75 percent of the admissions review process."

Some applicants say they would support the change.

"I would like the SAT scores to be optional," Thomas said. "That way, I could not include them if they were inferior to the majority of other applicants, and allow my grades to stand on their own."

The Office of Admissions isn't planning on replacing the current application with the Common Application either. The Common App is a basic application that students can use to apply to more than 400 colleges.

"While many private

schools have gone to using the Common App, we have not," Zaiser said. "Our applicant pool has grown exponentially over the last decade and we are aware that the easier it is to apply to a school, the more challenging it becomes to determine who is serious about attending and who is doing so just because they can check a box."

High school senior Becca Evans said she understands.

"I love the Common App," she said. "It'd be nice if Elon were on it, but the fact that it's not sort of sets it apart. It makes Elon look like something to aspire to."

Despite Elon's application process, more than enough students are applying to fill the freshman class. From 2010 to 2011, the class size goal grew from 1,350 to 1,400.

"That may not sound like a lot, but it certainly is," Zaiser said. "Particularly in these economic times."

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KATHERINE WISE
Multimedia Contributor

New program would only be second in state

MASTERS from PAGE 1

graduation.

"Right now the only school in North Carolina with a master's program in math education is NC State, so it would be nice to have another choice down the road," he said.

The master's program will be housed mainly in the School of Education and courses will be offered in various disciplines, such as chemistry,

physics and biology. Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences will also offer courses for the program. Cooper said it is anticipated about 20 students will be enrolled in the program initially with hopes of expansion in future years. The program also looks to incorporate a study abroad program as part of the curriculum.

The development of the new program is a direct response

to the chronic shortage of math, science, engineering, and technology educators across North Carolina and the country. Addressing this shortage is crucial to education, said Jan Mays, professor of mathematics and education.

"It is a continuing problem, especially in what we call the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and math," she said.

Traditionally, math and science degrees are employable in many different fields, according to Cooper. The incentive to teach is not high because working conditions and salaries for teachers are not ideal, he said.

"Teaching is darn hard work," Cooper said. "We want to retain teachers after their first year of teaching, the most crucial period when most teachers leave the field."



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer
El Centro offers free Spanish conversation classes, cultural experiences and plane tickets in exchange for 140 hours logged within the center. Native speakers work in the center and many praise its effectiveness.

Despite El Centro's success, demand for more language centers is low

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Every weekday at Elon, Carlton 114 is buzzing with people speaking Spanish. El Centro de Espanol, Elon's only language center, serves as both a home for native Spanish speakers at the university and a place for students of the language to come and practice their conversational skills and learn about Hispanic culture.

When El Centro was established 13 years ago, Elon students weren't required to take a foreign language. But now that the foreign language requirement has been implemented at Elon, students have more options and are trying out classes like Arabic and Mandarin Chinese — but there's no language center comparable to El Centro, where they can practice speaking and learn about the culture from natives.

"The whole dynamic of El Centro is different (from the classroom)," said Sylvia Munoz, director of El Centro. "You can't really teach any foreign language apart from the culture. Language is part of the culture or culture is part of the language. Any way you want to see it."

Although Munoz said she firmly believes the only way to effectively learn a language is to be around native speakers and be immersed in the culture, the possibility of building centers for less spoken languages at

Elon seems unrealistic.

"I would love if they could have places like this for every single language," she said. "But I do realize that the university has to put a lot of effort and money into a place like this, and the only way it has been able to survive is the numbers. If there's not enough demand to justify expenses, then they're not going to be able to do it."

Woody Pelton, dean of international programs, said there have been conversations about creating other language centers at the university, but no plans would be in place for such establishments without significant student demand.

"I don't know that we would ever be able to replicate El Centro for the different languages on campus," he said. "I just don't think that's feasible. But we do want to be supportive of other languages."

Pelton said organizations, conversation tables and other outlets are all available for students studying various languages at Elon. But, there are currently no other programs that offer incentives for students who spend a large amount of time learning about the language outside of class, as El Centro does. Students who log 140 hours in El Centro during a span of two years earn a free plane ticket to a Spanish-speaking country.

Beyond the incentive of earning transportation to experience Hispanic culture

firsthand, some students say they believe that time spent at El Centro, and being around natives so often, improved their speaking abilities and taught them more about the culture than what could be learned in a textbook.

"I think what helps El Centro succeed so much is the fact there's a pretty respectable population of native speakers who come here," said junior Anthony Phillips-Spencer. "I don't know if there are that many natives for other languages at Elon."

George Guerrero, a freshman from the Dominican Republic, said the 13 or 14 native Spanish speakers who spend a good deal of time at El Centro find solace in having a place where they can share commonalities with other Latinos.

"We feel like a family," Guerrero said. "This is a place where we can share our culture and tell people who we are."

Though no goals for additional language centers have been proposed, Pelton said the university's plans for the future could affect the decision. The possibility of new general studies requirements increasing the level of foreign language students are required to take, as well as the prospect of the International Centre moving to the Global Neighborhood in North campus, could play a role in whether additional language centers should be established.

Plan to increase campus diversity still in early stages

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

One of Elon University's most emphasized priorities is establishing a diversity plan, which is currently in its earliest stages after a summer committee of the Presidential Diversity Council and senior staff members worked to write the first drafts.

The plan will essentially expand on the first theme of the "Elon Commitment, which is an unprecedented commitment to diversity and global engagement."

Brooke Barnett, the senior fellow for diversity and global engagement in the Office of the President, said she and President Leo Lambert have shared the plan with a academic and staff councils and will begin to get feedback from other groups on campus throughout the fall.

"This plan builds on Elon's longstanding commitment to community and creating a community that warmly welcomes all fully into the life of the university," she said.

While the plan is not fully in place yet, Kenn Gaither, associate dean of the School of Communications and a member of the Presidential Diversity Council, said a number of initiatives are underway and some are already in practice.

As part of the plan, the council is not only looking at what other institutions have done, but what it needs to do to

increase diversity and ensure it is diffused throughout the Elon experience. One way the council is doing this is through research, surveys and focus groups in order to help them find out what the experience is like for an Elon student.

But Gaither said they are looking at diversity in a broad term.

"It's not just a black and white issue," he said. "It's about students who are underrepresented at Elon, like students with different religious backgrounds, students with disabilities and first-generation college students. We are looking broadly at all of these to make the best experience we can."

Gaither also stressed that the plan cannot work solely from the top down, but it has to be something that involves the whole community. The council encourages all faculty, staff and students to get involved in the discussions that will be held in the upcoming year. Even though the discussion topics may be challenging, they are important in moving forward because diversity is such an important part of being an Elon student, according to Gaither.

"Diversity is tied to a worldview when lenses are wide enough to understand and appreciate differences, and that is a fundamental part of the Elon education."

-Kenn Gaither
MEMBER OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL DIVERSITY
COUNCIL

Mind the Gap: Administration aims to increase study abroad participation

Strategic Plan focuses on global engagement, access for 100 percent of students to gain international experience

Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

"Why did you not study abroad?" This is a question that is being asked by many members of administration of the students who have not done either a winter term or semester abroad during their four years at Elon University.

The first point of the Elon Commitment is "an unprecedented university commitment to diversity and global engagement." The administration is aiming for 100 percent of students to have the opportunity to travel abroad during their studies and experience life immersed in a new culture.

"We all believe study abroad is very valuable," said Woody Pelton, dean of international programs and director of the Isabella Cannon International Centre. "Students who go abroad come back as changed for the better. It's important to gain that experience."

Seventy-eight and one half percent of the Class of 2011 studied abroad and this is typical of other recent classes, as well.

One of the hurdles that exists for the remaining 28.5 percent of students is money. The International Centre is trying to reduce the cost of study abroad, but there are limits because of

the cost of quality academics, housing and transportation.

"We are looking to create more scholarships, but we're not the only group on campus trying to raise funds," Pelton said. "We are trying to collaborate with the advancement office to find additional support."

The current scholarships are enough to help someone if they have almost enough funds, but not students who do not have any money for study abroad, Pelton said. The International Centre sometimes encourages studying abroad for a semester because it is less expensive than Winter Term programs.

The students who are less likely to study abroad are males, athletes, residents of North Carolina, participants in Greek Life, minorities and students from certain disciplines, like performing arts, according to Connie Book, associate provost for

Academic Affairs.

The International Centre is working with these academic departments, athletics, the office of Greek Life and the Multicultural Center to find out when the best time is for these students to study abroad and what obstacles they may have that would impede the feasibility of going abroad.

"Students who are in the musical theatre program are more likely to not study abroad," Pelton said. "They are always auditioning for or performing in a production during the semester."

There are also opportunities to study abroad in the summer and during Winter Term. But musical theatre students tend to try and get professional experience during those times, Book said.

The administration is still trying to figure out why males do not study abroad as much.

"In focus groups, males have commented that they wanted to count

toward their professional experience," Book said. "If they just think about it as enrichment in culture, then they won't be as engaged."

The trends that have been found for not studying abroad during these focus groups reflect national trends, Pelton said, including that student athletes do not have time to study abroad in their schedules.

"With student athletes it is a challenge and we are sympathetic," Pelton said. "What we're trying to do is work with the Athletic Department to try and determine what time of year is best. Maybe we will create a program for, say, baseball. Since athletes tend to be committed for most of the year, they might need their own program."

The International Centre is also following the new general studies program closely because the study abroad courses might meet those requirements, Pelton said.

A survey will be sent out in the next few weeks for students in the Class of 2012 who have never studied abroad, to find out their reasons for not studying abroad.

"We want to identify all of these different reasons, so then we can try and help as many students study abroad as possible," Pelton said. "It makes for a stronger student body and a more global community."

Elon assesses sustainability program

Despite top Sierra Club ranking, some calling for bigger 'green' push

Emily Hines
Reporter

Although Elon University is making a large push for sustainability, some students are calling for even more action by students, staff and faculty.

The Sierra Club recently released the 2011 Coolest School rankings. Elon was ranked No. 57 out of 118 schools on the list, scoring lowest in the category of energy.

"Being included in the Sierra Cool Schools list is great recognition for Elon's sustainability programs," said Elaine Durr, director of sustainability. "We continue to work toward implementation of the Sustainability Master Plan and Climate Action Plan."

Elon is currently in the process of assessing its sustainability program and determining how to improve it. The school has registered to participate in the S.T.A.R.S program, or Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, a self-assessment tool used by many institutions.

These efforts are attractive to Elon's prospective students, but current students are concerned about making changes that have a greater impact, according to Brett Evans, activism coordinator of Elon's Sierra Club.

"We want to make sure changes aren't just cosmetic," Evans said. "Elon changes things that you would put in an ad. We want to make sure the changes are on a deeper level."

Freshman Gina Malito lives in Colonnades and said she has noticed

the lights in the hallways and common area rely on sensors to conserve energy. Despite this and other efforts to conserve energy, the low ranking in the energy section indicates there is still room for improvement.

"It's not necessarily where we are, but the fact that we are making progress shows the commitment toward sustainability," said Elizabeth Gibson, president of the Sierra Club at Elon University.

Students recently received an email from the Department of Sustainability asking them to participate in a survey relating to matters of sustainability. They were asked various questions about their own habits that could affect the environment. One of the questions was whether students would support a Green Fund.

"A lot of other schools have them, and we have not made a lot of progress toward getting one," Evans



Biking is one way to encourage a more green lifestyle. More tips for students are available on a "Sustainable Living Guide." JULIA MURPHY | Photographer

said. "The money would go towards things that are above and beyond what Elon already does."

Durr said S.T.A.R.S will help Elon determine how to improve its sustainability efforts, particularly in comparison to peer institutions.

Students agree and have demonstrated their appreciation for the movement to save energy.

Students wanting to reduce their

carbon footprint and live greener lives now have access to the "Sustainable Living Guide." The first edition of the guide was published this year and is available on Elon's Sustainability website.

"The guide suggests tips to reduce your environmental impact in terms of power and water consumption, waste management, transportation and purchasing," Durr said.

Statewide debate over issue of fracking intensifies

Katherine Blunt
Reporter

The nationwide debate over the controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has split the state of North Carolina. The fracking process injects massive amounts of chemically treated water into subterranean shale formations to release natural gas, a valuable energy resource that yields a lesser carbon footprint than coal. But the method of extraction is not without serious environmental risks, and residents of the Piedmont area convened in Sanford Oct. 10 to voice concerns and discuss the issue.

State legislators, as well as civilians, attended the meeting to explore both the potential advantages and disadvantages of tapping into natural gas reserves in the Piedmont region.

Fracking is currently illegal in North Carolina, but proponents of the practice want to reverse the law in the economic interest of the state. Opponents fear environmental repercussions and often cite instances of safety violations and widespread groundwater contamination at and around fracking sites in other states. Both viewpoints were presented at Elon University's 10th Annual Fall Environmental Forum Sept. 30.

"There is evidence of growing concern (about fracking) in North Carolina based on comments presented at (the first) public meeting, and more events are being scheduled around the state," said Hope Taylor, executive director of Clean Water for North Carolina, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the state's water sources. "Our shale geology in North Carolina is even more challenging than in other states, as the basins are more fractured, and the shale layer is significantly closer to the groundwater layer used for drinking water."

Major concerns include not only the safety, but also the apportionment of the state's freshwater resources, which are relatively limited. Fracking may draw from both reservoir and groundwater sources to obtain the

millions of gallons necessary to penetrate the shale layer and release natural gas.

"Water (that may be used for fracking) is allocated for other uses, like drinking and recreation or maintaining ecological function," said Janet MacFall, professor of environmental studies at Elon University. "The water taken from ground or surface water sources is going to need to be cleaned (of fracking chemicals), which is a very costly process."

Within the 14 counties situated above the shale basins, including neighboring Orange and Chatham counties, major changes and additions to existing infrastructure would be needed to support the heavy industrial traffic to and from fracking sites.

"(Fracking) water is taken in by truck and taken away by truck, and gas and equipment are moved by truck," MacFall said. "Most areas are rural areas and don't support big, heavy-duty roads. There would be a significant cost of building infrastructure, as well as the environmental impact of transporting material."

In other states, inconsistencies in fracking regulations have endangered the health of the environment and the people living in it. Hiring authorities to oversee the extraction process would only be another cost of digging into the energy industry.

"All the wells would need to be inspected

frequently, but the State legislature has taken money from the State Department of Natural Resources (DENR) and scaled back on regulatory functions," MacFall said. "If we do allow fracking here, (legislators) might say inspectors and monitors must be hired, but if they don't have the money to hire, no one will do it."

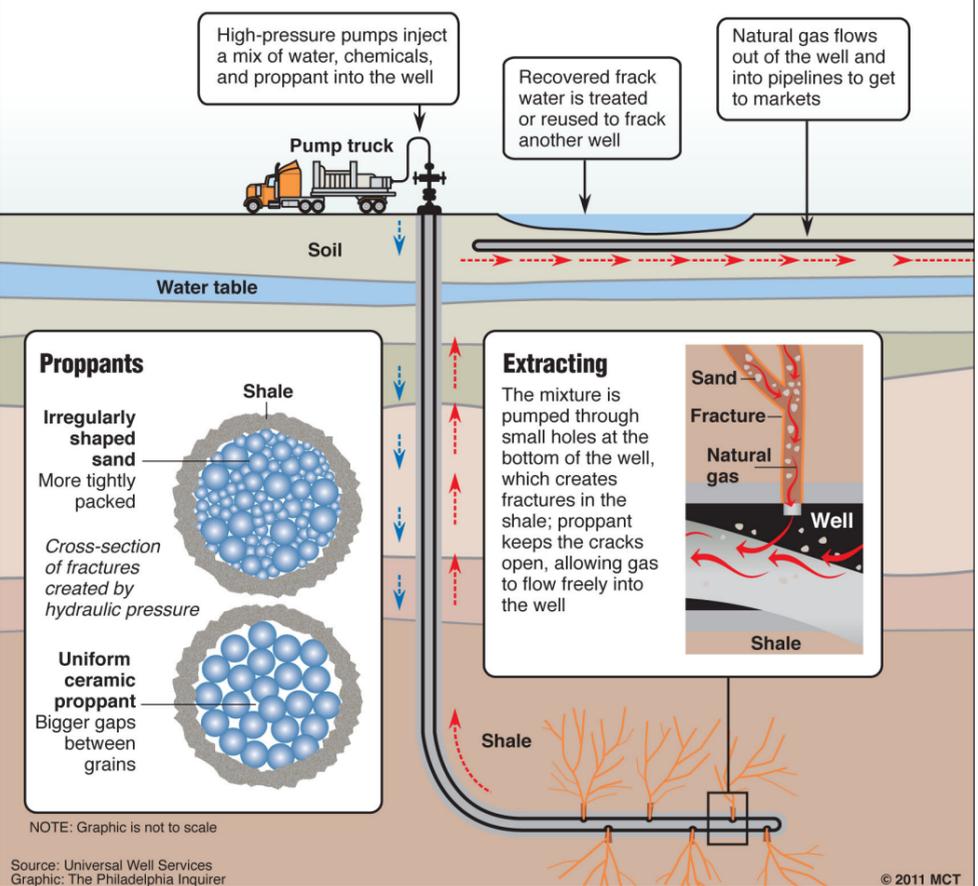
It is unclear at this point if the economic profits of extracting natural gas outweigh the environmental costs, according to MacFall. The

DENR is currently conducting a study to identify and compare both the risks and the benefits associated with drilling for natural gas in the Piedmont area. The study is expected to culminate in May 2012.

"We're trying our best with the money and the resources that we have to conduct a comprehensive evaluation," said Diana Kees, communications director of the DENR. "It will be up to the state legislators whether or not the current law is changed."

Ceramic vs. sand

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," involves the high-pressure injection of fluids into a well to shatter the rock to release oil or natural gas. The frack fluid contains a proppant, which gets lodged in the rock. While sand is the most common proppant, ceramic proppant, which Penn State University researchers say they can make from mine waste, can improve well production by up to 20 percent.



National Legislation

Jobs Act triggers mixed response from community

Niko Fraser
Reporter

In North Carolina, the general public sentiment toward President Barack Obama's American Jobs Act remains unclear. In an Elon University poll conducted last month, which surveyed 594 North Carolina residents, 36 percent said they would encourage their representative to vote against the bill. A total of 35 percent said they would encourage their member of Congress to vote for it, while 28 percent said they are unsure.

The response on Elon's campus has been mixed, as well.

"Given the current economic situation and levels of unemployment in the state, citizens are paying close attention to any proposal that may bring jobs and economic stability to the state," said Mileah Kromer, assistant director of the Elon Poll.

Embedded within the bill's proposals is Obama's motive of re-election, she said, and the proposal is about convincing voters that he deserves another four years in office.

Staci Saltz, lecturer in communications, referred to the

Act as a "moral Band-Aid."

"Unemployment has a domino effect," Saltz said. "When people are out of work, it takes down the morale and hope of the entire economy."

Although the bill is intended to boost morale in the economy, some remain skeptical about the financial inflation that may come as a result of putting more money into the economy.

Eric Hairston, associate professor of English, law and humanities, said he is hesitant to put full confidence in the bill.

"Some are calling this the 'Second Stimulus,' but I am not seeing that, like most people I worry about added costs at the foot of this bill," Hairston said. "I see a lot of early promises, from Obama's presidential campaigning, coming out now, that is good stuff."

With the economy in the post-Great Recession era, people are still trying to find employment.

The jobs bill will affect college students as well. The biggest impact will be deductions in the payroll tax, according to Steve DeLoach, professor of economics at Elon. This would put more money into the hands of employees.

Sophie Nielson-Kolding, a



President Barack Obama recently spoke at N.C. State University to raise support for his American Jobs Act.

senior at Elon, said she is very confident in her ability to get a job in the few months after college, regardless of the bill's passing or not.

"The economy is better than it has been, I have worked very hard in college," Nielson-Kolding said. "I have been networking, doing internships and I am very career oriented."

Brent Edwards, a junior, does not believe it's a solid investment in the future of the country.

"I don't think it is a good idea. We have no money to spend," he said. "We are floundering as a nation, and maybe Congress will latch onto this as a way of getting us out. It sounds like a good idea, but it is not the best way to go about it."

Some respondents said they felt the issue needed to move beyond spending.

"I watch the news station ABC and they do a lot of sections on Made in America," said

Teresa LePors, coordinator of library public services. "It is about purchasing here and manufacturing here, and I think it is going to help bring jobs back. Businesses are hampered by red tape, so we are going to have to correct these issues most likely through monetary means. It may involve spending more money."

Sheryl Fraser contributed to this article.

DREAM Act to offer options for undocumented residents

Hannah DelaCourt
Senior Reporter

Amid debt debacles and global financial crises, the DREAM Act on immigration has been forgotten by many. DREAM, an acronym for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, would affect millions currently residing in the United States unlawfully, but has taken a back seat to the country's economic problems, according to Adam Short, lecturer of political science.

The bill would give conditional permanent residency to certain undocumented students who arrived in the U.S. as minors, graduated from U.S. high schools and lived in the country for at least five consecutive years.

The students would obtain temporary residency for a six-year period and would receive lawful permanent resident (LPR) status after completing two years in the military or two years at a four-year college or university.

Proposals for the act have been around for 10 years but have never been passed. Short said other issues may take precedence at the time being.

"I would be skeptical of it passing in the next few months," he said. "A lot of things are going to be on hold until after the 2012 election, and I think this is something that will be in that camp."

While the bill has not been implemented on a national scale, some states have enacted similar legislation. Eleven states have passed laws that provide offer in-state tuition to undocumented immigrant students.

If Congress approves the bill, an estimated 2.1 million undocumented children and young adults in the United States would be affected, according

to a 2010 study by the University of California, Los Angeles North American Integration and Development Center. The estimated total earnings of those who could receive LPR status through the DREAM Act would be between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion.

Even though the DREAM Act would affect such a large number of people, many Elon students questioned about the bill were unaware of its details.

Short said the economic downturn probably plays a large role in students' lack of knowledge about the bill.

"The economy really dominates everything right now," he said. "When the economy is as bad as it is, that's the main thing."

But there are some Elon students who know about the DREAM Act through class or their own research of politics.

Freshman Rachel Miller has been studying the act in class and said she thinks it would be beneficial.

"I support it because it encourages immigrants to actually do something productive with their lives in America and get a better education and be successful," she said.

Sophomore Muhammad Musah, who has worked with undocumented high school students, said he agrees with the bill's goals but thinks it could be expanded to include more than just students.

"I think that it's essential that they have the full support of their parents," Musah said. "The problem is that under the DREAM Act, many illegal immigrant parents will have the same status. America would benefit from lessening the restrictions on illegal immigrants by giving permanent residency to all illegals already in the country."

New initiative to raise young adults' awareness of health care benefits

Emily Hines
Reporter

Before Congress passed the Affordable Care Act in March 2010, the least-insured group in America was adults ages 19-24, according to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Young people sometimes think they're invincible, but it's important for everyone to have insurance," said Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of Health and Human Services, in a post to the White House Blog in September. "One car accident, one slip in a shower or one sudden illness can result in months or even years of health care bills that can bankrupt the average family if that son or daughter is uninsured."

Health and Human Services paired up with the Department of Education in April 2011 to launch an initiative to make sure students are educated about what their new options are under the Affordable Health Care Act and how the recent changes in the country's health care system will affect them.

Letters are being sent to university leaders urging them to spread information about health care to their students, a key part of this initiative.

A new addition under the health care reform is Obama's effort to make birth control universally free in the United States, a provision that will take effect in 2013.

Elon senior Blair Bernstein said this initiative is one that has a direct impact on young women.

"As college-aged women, we work tirelessly to put ourselves in a better position for future success," she said. "I believe the preventive care component allows women to do just that. Now, young women will be given the tools they need to protect their physical health and avoid issues like unwanted pregnancy that may interrupt plans for the future."

Douglas Elmendorf, director of the Congressional Budget Office, has said that preventative care is going to be more expensive and increase federal spending.

"If we're talking about finances and the future of the country, I just think it makes more sense to provide the free medicine, as opposed to the much more immense cost to society if

hundreds more babies are being born when their parents can't afford to take care of them," said senior Kristen Van Fleet.

One of the other major provisions of the Affordable Care Act allows young adults to remain on their parents' insurance plan until they reach the age of 26. Previously, a health insurance company could remove a child from his or her parents' plan once becoming an adult, regardless of whether he or she were a full-time student.

"This provision of the Affordable Care Act ensures that those who cannot find jobs, or those that find jobs that do not offer health insurance, will continue to be covered as long as their parents have coverage and are willing to continue to pay for the extra coverage," said Steven Bednar, assistant professor of economics.

According to the Census Bureau, 500,000 more young adults gained health coverage in 2010, an increase Sebelius relates directly to this provision.

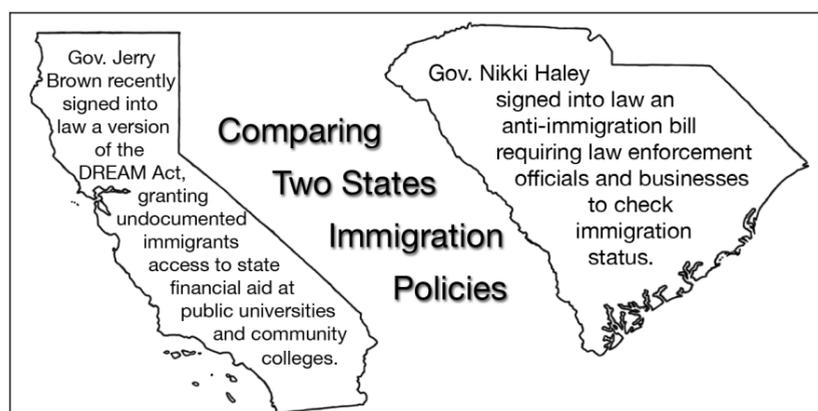
"It's comforting to know that if a job opportunity with those benefits doesn't come my way immediately, I have about four years to find one," Bernstein said. "It allows me to consider a wider range of employers right off the bat, rather than having to eliminate some based on a lack of health coverage."

But Bednar said the act will not give employers a real incentive to hire more college graduates.

"If an employer offers health care they must do so to all employees, so recent college graduates will only be a more attractive hire if they opt out of the employer provided health insurance, something I would find to be unlikely," said Bednar.

Van Fleet said she is skeptical about how much this provision will help, as well. She said she feels it will allow her more freedom in her search for employment after graduating, but only for a short period of time.

"I think it's still important to look for jobs with good coverage because once you hit 25 or 26, and you have to be dropped from your parents' plan, you can't be locked into a job with bad coverage or you're in trouble," she said. "So while I agree that it's a nice thing to not have to worry about right away, it's still something I can't let myself get too comfortable with."



CATE LESOURD | Graphics Editor

Mental health issues increase among college students

Nick Zanetti
Senior Reporter

Colleges across the country have seen increasing instances of mental health issues and psychological problems on their campuses. A 2010 survey of directors of campus psychological counseling centers reported that counselors noticed the trends among their respective student bodies.

The American College Counseling Association surveyed 320 counseling centers representing 2.75 million students. Increasing psychological problems were noted in 91 percent of student bodies. Almost 11 percent of students sought counseling services in the past year, according to the survey, compared to 9 percent in 2005.

Whether the rising statistics mean students today are more stressed than previous generations or that they are simply more willing to seek help is not entirely clear, according to Jordan Perry, coordinator for Student Development.

"There could be a true increase in the number of instances of depression, but it could also be that we are getting better at detecting issues and getting better at

getting resources to people who need them," she said.

Bruce Nelson, director of Counseling Services, said he started to notice there were more visits to the counseling center when it was combined with the health center, which he said may have helped reduce the stigma associated with getting help from counseling. Nelson said mental issues among students might actually be on the rise because of broader issues that cause stress or depression.

"I think technology and increasing communication have something to do with it," he said. "These days, bad news is inescapable, it's everywhere in so many different mediums. Sometimes it's hard for us to unplug from these images and reports."

Elon University is seeing an increasing number of students with mental health issues similar to the trend that is developing nationwide, according to Nelson.

"We are seeing trends of students that are having more complex types of issues, things like family members losing jobs and significant personal loss," he said.

Besides having the same sources of

stress and anxiety as any other college campus, Elon may have a certain culture that affects students' mental well being.

"From my observations, this is a high achieving campus, and there is a correlation between perfectionism and people dealing with anxiety and depression," Perry said.

College can be a stressful time as students transition to life on their own for the first time. According to Nelson, being away from home can complicate some aspects of a students' life.

"The new and increased demands of college can throw students off balance and they are away from the support system that they had at home," he said. "Students are confronted with new physical, academic and social demands in college."

Perry said another aspect of the college experience that can create mental problems for students is substance abuse, especially alcohol abuse.

"Sometimes people use substances to help cope with stress and blow off steam. The reason this isn't helpful is that when you sober up, your problems are still there and you've done damage to your body in the meantime," Perry said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Veteran's Day care package drive

Beginning Nov. 1, T.E.A.M. (Together Elon Athletes and Military) Hero will collect donations for a care package drive to conclude on Nov. 11 outside Koury Center with a care package assembly line.

Donations will be collected in Moseley Center, Koury Center and Colonnades and will be sent to troops in Afghanistan. Students, faculty and staff will also be able to write a letter to a service member overseas.

At the Nov. 8 College Coffee, there will be more information to learn more about T.E.A.M. Hero, Paws and Stripes and students can donate supplies to the troops.

Dedication of future site of Numen Lumen pavilion

On Oct. 21, a dedication ceremony was held at the future site of the Numen Lumen pavilion, or Multi-faith Center, incorporating students from multiple religious traditions.

Completion is planned for January 2013 with the university planning to break ground sometime this fall, according to a previous interview with Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

New life trustee appointed by Board

Warren "Dusty" Rhodes has been elected to be a life trustee by the Board of Trustees after serving as a member of the Board since March 1997.

Rhodes' financial contributions were crucial to the construction of Rhodes Stadium.

Oct. 26 - Nov. 1

Oct. 26

- Reusable To-Go Container Distribution: 10 a.m. to noon until Oct. 28, Octagon Cafe
- Graduate and Professional School Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., McKinnon Hall
- Diwali Celebration: 7:30 p.m., Isabella Cannon International Centre

Oct. 27

- Gaming to Learn: 12:30 p.m., Belk Library 102
- How to Succeed as a Communications Major: 4:15 p.m., McEwen 011
- Phoenix Fear - Haunted Trail: 8 p.m., Harden Clubhouse

Oct. 28

- Movie Run: Moseley Center Front Desk
- Zumba Fiesta: 3:30 p.m., Jordan Gym
- Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical: 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre

Oct. 29

- Elon Outdoors Day Hike at Hanging Rock
- SUB Cinema: Friends with Benefits - 8 p.m., Irazu
- Second Chance Prom: 9 p.m., McKinnon Hall

Oct. 30

- Fall Festival, 2 p.m., Greek Courts and Moseley Green

Oct. 31

- Halloween
- Bursting the Hetero-normative Bubble: The Ex(Gay) Factor: 7 p.m., Lindner 106



Nov. 1

- College Coffee, 9:40 a.m., Phi Beta Kappa Commons
- Tech Talks@2: Google Sites: 2:00 p.m., online
- The ABCs of Launching Your Career as a Teacher: 4:30 p.m., McKinnon Hall

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

Elon University Graduate & Professional School Fair

Wednesday • October 26
11am • 2pm
Moseley Center • McKinnon

*Drawing for a chance to win
an iPod or a \$50 gift card!*

Take advantage of this opportunity to meet directly with graduate school representatives!

Visit www.elon.edu/careers for more information.



Editorial

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

Smith Jackson emails losing significance

Information overload, lack of priorities mislead student body

Around 8 a.m. Oct. 19, students received a notification on their phone or laptop about an email from Smith Jackson, vice president of Student Life, titled "Missing Student." The email said that freshman student Matt Hunsinger had not been heard from since 5 p.m. the day before.

About five hours after the initial email from Jackson, another one was sent saying that Jackson had spoken with Hunsinger's parents and that he was fine.

Hunsinger was never a missing person. He is just the latest in a string of Elon students and alumni who have disappeared recently, to only later learn that they are not actually missing.

On Oct. 8, social media alerted the Elon community that senior Heidi Fuller had not returned home after attending Dayglow, a popular paint party in Raleigh. People learned of her whereabouts in less than 24 hours.

In May, reports went out that Matt Hill, a 2008 graduate, had not been heard from. Hill was considered a missing person by the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. There was even a "Find Matt Hill" Facebook page created. Later, people learned that he left and returned home on his own accord.

Student media, including The Pendulum, reported on many of these incidents. The

Pendulum staff felt it was their duty to inform the community about these incidents in case someone could help.

In all of these situations, the Elon community was alerted through email, social media or both. As a society, we are dependent on electronic devices. We use our news feeds from our social media sites as one of our main sources for news. In situations when we are not supposed to use our phones, like the classroom, we feel like we are missing something without our favorite device in hand. But now it has gone further than that. If we don't have our phone, other people think we have vanished, too.

Everyone is so connected and dependent on technology that for someone to go a few hours without contact leaves people worried. Do people no longer have the right to privacy? Has the new era of technology erased the right people have to turn off their phones and computers?

These recent events have made The Pendulum reconsider its policies on reporting on missing people.

From now on, people over the age of 18 must be out of contact for at least 24 hours before we will report on the incident, unless there are suspicious circumstances. While we want to inform the community, we do not want to make a spectacle of young adults who decide to turn their phones off or get away from reality for a brief amount of time. We encourage other organizations, including the administration, to do the same.

Technology has brought with it many advancements and conveniences, but it has also caused sacrifices. Every moment of our day can be preserved online. This leads to new questions and concerns. While we have the ability to share everything and be notified of every incident, should we?

On Sept. 30 at 9:44 a.m., an email was sent from Jackson about an incident of disrespect on campus. The email said "two females and two males had been walking together when some other male students walking in front of them started whistling to the girls inappropriately. An argument ensued and the female student was pushed to the ground; she fell backwards and hit her head on the bricks."

While it is important that all members of Elon University strive to keep this community as one where there is respect, and it is unfortunate that this girl was hurt in this incident, it makes one wonder what warrants an email from the vice president of Student Life? Is it anytime that there is disrespect shown on campus? Because if this is the definition, we should all expect several emails an hour. Is it anytime someone gets hurt? Is it anytime the campus police or town police want tips to help them figure out a case? Or is it when the community is in danger?

There is no easy answer to what warrants public attention and as fellow gatekeepers of information, we understand the difficulty in judging what is urgent enough to warrant publication. But Jackson emails are another form of news for this community and it's time to tighten the belt a bit. A girl gets solicited for sex from a stranger in a truck? We need to know. A girl gets whooped at from a passing car? We don't. A racial slur is said to a student? Tell us. An adult student doesn't answer a phone call for a few hours? No email needed.

This isn't about caring or not caring about other students on campus. This is about recognizing what is information-worthy and what is not. Sometimes, the saying "mind your own business" is dead-on.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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The screenshot shows an email inbox from 'student@elon.edu' with the search term 'labels:smith-jackson'. Three messages are highlighted with a white background and a black border:

- October 19, 2011 8:08 AM**
"First year student Matt Hunsinger left his home in Atlanta driving alone yesterday afternoon to return to Elon and has not been heard from since around 5 pm as he was entering South Carolina. He was expected to pick up another Elon student at the RDU airport last night but never arrived. University Police have issued a state-wide BOLO ("be on the lookout") for an "overdue motorist." If you know of the whereabouts or have any information about Matt, please contact University Police at 336.278.5555. University officials have been in contact with the Matt's family who is working with the Atlanta Police Department to file a missing person report."
- October 19, 2011 1:02 PM**
"I just spoke with Matt Hunsinger's mother who reports that Matt is fine. He will be returning to campus either later today or by tomorrow morning."
- September 8, 2011 3:31 PM**
"Last night at approximately 9:15 p.m. an African American Elon student was crossing North O'Kelly Avenue, going from the Moseley Center parking lot toward The Colonnades, when a grey, convertible BMW with five white males passed by. The vehicle and the young men loudly yelled a racially derogatory term (the "N" word) as they continued south toward Haggard Avenue. The men appeared to be of college age. Campus Police responded to the scene and while the vehicle was not found immediately, the investigation continues.

This type of behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. This incident violates Elon's Honor Code and the University policy on respecting diversity. It is disheartening that such an incident occurred on our campus. If you have any information, please contact Campus Security & Police at 278-5555 at any time day or night."

CATE LESOURD | Graphics Editor

MORE ONLINE

See more photos of Teddijo Watkins and her individualized ink on the website

<http://bit.ly/EPTattoos>

On the opinions blog this week: Why living in the moment in difficult in college

<http://bit.ly/EPOpsBlog>

Opinions

Written in ink: Tattoos serve as self-expression method



Andrew Creech
Columnist

White trash, thug, biker. These terms and more have been used for decades to describe people with tattoos and extravagant piercings. But those days are gone and a new era is coming into dominance. Tattoos are gradually gaining social acceptance and slowly losing the negative stigma commonly associated with them. As young adults, many people go through a rebellious phase and

tend to do things deemed stupid by adults.

The more common action is a piercing that can be removed and grown in, thus eliminating proof that it happened. Tattooing, however, is a permanent action and is becoming more common among young people, even those coming from well-to-do families.

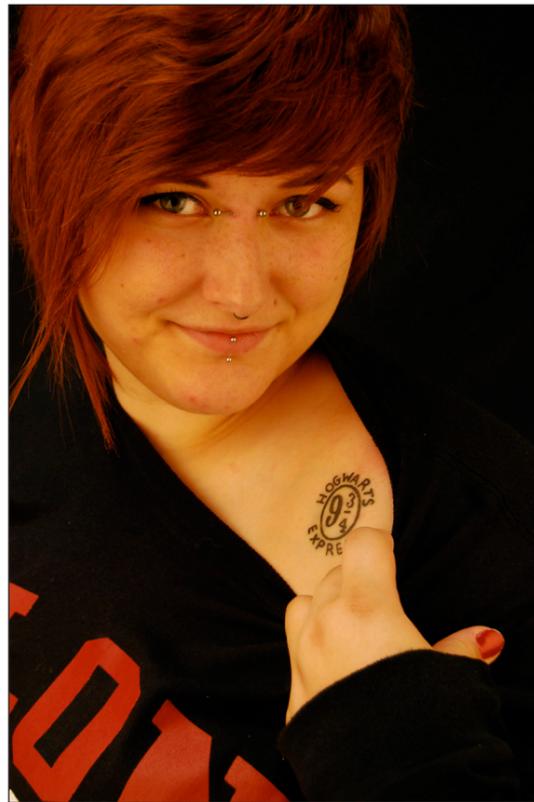
At Elon, we are oftentimes sheltered from the outside world, comfortable in our bubble, not seeing things like this. But times are changing. Only three years ago, a student with a tattoo was a very rare sight, while this year we can see more and more. It could be simply a word or two on a wrist, or on the side of a torso, hidden from view. But there are students with sleeves and half-sleeves displaying their

artwork to the world. Can we still claim that these demonstrations of creativity are just youthful acts of rebellion that will be regretted in later years? Absolutely not. Tattoos are no longer the dangerous act that leaves us vulnerable to hepatitis and other diseases and makes us unemployable.

Young people today have Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, blogs and websites to make their points known without permanently altering their bodies. This is what makes tattoos even more special. As we become more and more educated, students are making better and more informed decisions about ink choices. By talking to Elon students that have taken the plunge and gotten "inked," it is quite hard to find a student with a tattoo that they got just because it "looked cool."

Tattoos are actually meaningful exhibitions commemorating an achievement, the passing of a close relative or friend, or even a quote that is close to the heart. While smaller tattoos only take an hour or so to finish, larger ones require a commitment of many hours of sitting, months of healing and up to hundreds of dollars. None of these things are to be taken lightly or done simply to be a rebel.

In our world today, people gain recognition and protection from discrimination for just about everything under the sun. Anything that does not interfere with properly getting the job done is protected under discrimination law, except



Teddijo Watkins, a freshman at Elon, has several piercings in addition to five tattoos, each of which has a special meaning.

for tattoos. Unfortunately, many professions and organizations still desperately cling to the archaic idea that tattoos are bad and will interfere with performance. If anything, tattooed workers demonstrate that they have the dedication to live with a choice, even if it is one they later regret.

No matter if the ink is good or bad, meaningful or spur of the moment, it clearly displays a point in the life of the wearer, a point that they will remember. He or she can forever look back and see where their life was at that exact point.

That's the beauty of a tattoo.



Suz Manning-Osborn, a junior at Elon, has a tattoo on her back that says "Live free or die" with a moose illustration. "In New Hampshire our state motto is a point of pride, and I'm proud of where I come from. Now I'll always have a piece of New Hampshire with me, wherever I go," said junior Suz Manning-Osborn.

Working with what you've got Move forward, not back regarding undocumented immigrants policies

Her presentation was filled with harrowing tales of lost limbs, running from crooked cops and violent gangs and years spent searching for a family.

In a speech last month to Elon University students and staff, author and journalist Sonia Nazario shed light on one of the more contentious facets of current American political discourse: illegal immigration.

But rather than focusing on the effects of immigration on the United States, Nazario took the audience on a journey of another sort. She detailed her experiences traveling with a Honduran boy on his search for a mother who had left to find work in the United States.

"I've written about immigrants for two decades, but there were some things I didn't get about this issue until this journey," said Nazario, who comes from a family of immigrants herself.

There's a fine line between demonization and humanization, as Nazario pointed out, a theme that can be seen throughout the varying responses from state governments.

Earlier this year, South Carolina joined the ranks of Arizona, Alabama and others when Gov. Nikki Haley

signed into law an anti-immigration bill requiring law enforcement officials and hiring businesses to check immigration status when encountering individuals who they suspect to be illegal. But there's no clear definition of this concept, and the ACLU is currently suing the state over the matter.

Meanwhile, this month in California, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a version of the DREAM Act, granting certain undocumented immigrants access to state financial aid at public universities and community colleges.

It's clear that a consensus has yet to be reached, begging the question, where do we go from here?

Instead of attempting to prevent the flow of immigrants into this country, policies should aim to build positive outcomes from the situation. Undocumented immigrants are not going away, so why not give them the opportunity to not only better their own lives, but that of the country to which they have come?

Money from the DREAM Act, under the California law, is available only to those who can prove they are on the path to becoming legal citizens of the United States. Granting access to such funds only serves to encourage immigrants to continue their pursuit of legalization and become productive, contributing members of society.

It is not enough to simply use state policies to brush the issue under the rug and attempt to force immigrants into hiding. By investing in their future and potential, we are likewise investing in our own, as a unified nation.

'Believe in the struggle,' there's really no alternative

As college students, we see no end to the constant, conflicting messages that make us question whether our personal lives are important or frivolous.

There's no better time than the present. Enjoy your life, don't take a single moment for granted, do everything you can, have no regrets. That's what matters.

Kassandra Cloos
Columnist

Do your homework, or you won't get good grades or get into graduate school. Overcommit yourself now. If you're overwhelmed, you can always quit things later. Get a job, make money, get an internship, make a name for yourself, get into your career. That's what matters.

Quite often, we're too overwhelmed to even have time to think about what really matters most to each of us, let alone pay attention to our personal health. It's been proven time and time again that stress, poor eating habits, sleep deprivation and depression are undoubtedly siblings, and it has become clear that this miserable family loves the company of physical illnesses like the cold and the flu.

Here, the weight of the Elon experiences pulls us in multiple directions at once and it is often challenging to find a reasonable set of priorities and stick to it. Amid

the confusion, we forget that our stress will only compound itself if we don't take a minute here or there for ourselves, and attendance policies can make it seem unwise, irresponsible or unfeasible to take a sick day or a much-needed Mental Health Monday. And our professors, while usually well-meaning and genuinely concerned, often unwittingly make it impossible to, in good conscience, take time off for any reason.

I laugh to myself every time I hear someone say, "Get some sleep." Each class is different, but many professors will pile on the work without respect for students' other commitments, without understanding that there's only so much we can get done. It's frowned upon to admit there just weren't enough days in the week and to skip an assignment or turn something in late. But when a professor has an unexpected friend come to town or takes a sick day or finds that life outside of work is calling, there is no consequence for putting off grading papers or giving feedback on a project. A simple, half-hearted apology is all that is deemed necessary.

For students, all-nighters are unhealthily common and quietly expected. Every professor at this university has been in our shoes at least once, and many of them reference this as a deterrent to cheating, plagiarizing and procrastinating. But there's no book of rules on how to be a good student, no personal trainer for balancing academics with life, work, internships, sleep, health and friends.

The pressure is astounding. But then again, it's what we signed up for, right?

International



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Since the first Occupy Wall Street protests in the streets of New York City, similar protests have launched around the world. Some, like Occupy Stockholm, above, started out primarily to show solidarity for American protesters. Here, Swedish protesters carry a sign reading, "We refuse to accept the burden of the capitalism crisis."

Shalit goes home to Israel; 1,000 prisoners return to Palestine

Millie Rosen
International Reporter

HAIFA, ISRAEL — News of the homecoming of Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier in Palestinian captivity for five years, has sparked enthusiastic street parties in nearly every part of Israel. A celebratory atmosphere has permeated daily life since Shalit's confirmed return to Israel Oct. 18. Heard everywhere was the exclamation, "Gilad b'bayit!" or "Gilad's home!" Posters proclaiming "How good it is that Shalit is home!" sprung up on public roads.

Shalit was returned to Israel after an agreement between Israel and Hamas that he would be exchanged for more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody. He is the first Israeli prisoner to be returned alive in 26 years.

Rachel Karas, an American Jewish student at the University of Haifa's International School, said she is very excited about his return to Israel.

"Gilad's imprisonment has shaped how I view the Arab-Israeli conflict because he was captured at about the same time I started paying attention to it," she said. "It's shaped how I view Israeli military policy in terms of the sacrifices they'll make for their soldiers."

But the happy mood in Israel is deeply affected by the knowledge that Shalit's return meant the release of 1,000

prisoners considered terrorists by Israelis. The prisoners' homecomings have been celebrated in areas like the West Bank as happily as Shalit's homecoming in Israel. Many Palestinian mothers have not seen their sons in decades.

Israel and Palestine have been locked in conflict for decades as the debate continues on whether Palestine should become a sovereign nation. Israeli settlements on what was formerly considered Palestinian territory are illegal by international law, but the settlements continue to grow. Violence and vandalism have increased in recent months, especially in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Recently, more than 100 graves in a Muslim cemetery outside Jaffa were spray painted with graffiti and a mosque was defaced in northern Israel. The Muslim house of worship, located in Tuba Zangaria in northern Israel, was also subject to arson in the same attack, where Qurans and prayer rugs, among other holy objects, were burned.

Israeli police arrested two West Bank Palestinian men for the deaths of an Israeli settler, Asher Palmer, and his son after causing them to crash by throwing rocks at their car as they drove near Kiryat Arba. Police believe these most recent attacks are rooted, at least partly, in retaliation for the settlers' deaths.

Israeli police suspect far-right-wing

Israeli extremists, who do not represent the majority of Israelis, are carrying them out, either in protest of the removal of Israeli settlements in the West Bank or in retaliation for Palestinian attacks on Israelis, or both. Police have made several arrests.

Both the attacks by Palestinians on Jewish settlers and the vandalism to Muslim sites strike nerves within the Israeli populace. Bader Bader, a fourth-year student at the University of Haifa, grew up in Hourfish in northern Israel and holds an opinion in common with much of the Israeli population — namely, a disinclination for Israel to release Palestinian territory so that they can have their own state.

"I think the Palestinians have the right to declare independence, they have a land and everything," he said. "But it's not a good time because of the economy, they're not strong enough. In order to build a country you should empower them in the economy and with health care."

Bader also offered a partial solution to what is widely considered the crux of the conflict, the tension between Israel and Palestine.

"I think if Israel (empowers the Palestinians), it's going to be (better) for the two sides," he said. "You help someone, he's going to change the way he sees you. It will build a good relationship with the Palestinians."

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Gaddafi dies after capture, video of last moments goes viral

Libyan rebels are rejoicing following the death of their ousted dictator, Col. Muammar al-Gaddafi. He was killed Oct. 20 by gunshot wounds to the head after being captured by government fighters following a NATO strike on his convoy.

Shortly after his death was announced, a cell phone video of Gaddafi stumbling amid the rebels went viral.

American troops in Iraq expected to be home before Christmas

President Barack Obama announced the United States' exit strategy from Iraq Oct. 21. All American troops currently in Iraq will leave by the end of this year.

The decision to pull ground forces out of Iraq has faced opposition by many who said the pullout would be risky.

The pullout comes nearly nine years and more than 4,000 American deaths after the first troops were deployed in 2003.

Tunisia holds first democratic elections since revolution

Millions of Tunisians turned out to vote on Oct. 23 in the nation's first free elections since its revolution earlier this year. Citizens voted for a new leader and parameters for a draft of a constitution for the incoming government.

Late last December and early January, Tunisia was the first country to overthrow its government in what soon became known as the Arab Spring.

Results from this election are expected to be tallied within the next few days.

Earthquake in eastern Turkey kills, traps hundreds

An earthquake Oct. 23 in eastern Turkey near the Iranian border has been measured at magnitude 7.2 and is the largest earthquake to hit the region in more than 30 years.

The death toll for the quake is currently about 300 and hundreds more people are trapped amid debris of collapsed apartment buildings. About 4,000 homes are estimated to be destroyed, leaving 40,000 homeless.

About 200 aftershocks hit the area following the quake.

Kenya declares war on Al-Shabaab

Kenya declared war on Al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Somalia, Oct. 15 because of a recent attack on foreign workers. Two Spanish aid workers were kidnapped on the Kenya-Somalia border, the third kidnapping in the past month. The U.S. Embassy in Kenya warned American citizens of an imminent threat of terrorist attacks.

Correspondents' Corner

Chelsea Vollrath

BEIJING — My mom recently visited me in Beijing, and on our way to dinner, our cab driver became interested when he discovered we were from America.



CHELSEA VOLLRATH

He immediately started asking questions about the protests on Wall Street as if he'd been waiting to talk to an American all day. He seemed to have a basic understanding of what was going on, but clearly wanted to know more. In what seemed to be an indirect way to ask how protesters are getting away with their actions, he asked about

how people on the receiving end of the criticisms are affected. He wanted to know how close the protesters get to office buildings, since there are so many of them, and whether they disturb people working in the area.

In the short breaths he took between questions, both my mom and I did our best to answer him, and he seemed to be content with our responses. Knowing it wouldn't even be within the realm of possibility here, I asked if something similar has or ever could happen in China. As expected, he laughed. I was tempted to mention that my mom works at Standard & Poor's in the financial district in New York and has seen the protests firsthand. But I was afraid it would just confuse him and upset my mom since it's a sore subject for her, so I decided to keep it to myself.

Alyssa Dilly

SEVILLE, SPAIN — Since the beginning of September, I have witnessed three protest processions that have taken place in the streets of Seville. These processions



ALYSSA DILLY

block traffic, attract half the city's police force and draw a lot of attention with their flags, banners, chants, noisemakers and sometimes fire. The group that has been protesting is the UGT, the Union General de Trabajadores, Spain's labor union, which was created after the Spanish Civil War around 1940. Currently, almost five million people in Spain are unemployed, and Seville's province of Andalusia is suffering.

"When the economy began falling two or three years ago, our government did nothing," said Rocio Farile Rodriguez, my host mother. "They stayed silent. There have been many strikes the past couple of years, but I have not participated, and I am not part of the labor union because I need to keep my job. If you participate in the strikes, the UGT pays you a monthly stipend, but you are left jobless, and ignored by the government."

Many students in Spain earn their degrees then leave for jobs in other parts of Europe, she said, and many of those who are leaving are intelligent and capable, yet unable to find work.

Recently, there was a large protest in Plaza Nueva of downtown Seville, called ¡Toma la Calle! It was advertised in posters all over the city and publicized as "el 15 de octubre, el mundo se manifiesta y tú no te lo puedes perder" or "this October 15, the world will reveal ourselves and you cannot miss out."

Rocky start doesn't mar Homecoming concert



Singer-songwriter Corey Smith played the second annual Homecoming Concert after hecklers caused him to walk off stage. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Audrey Horwitz
Reporter

After dodging projectiles tossed by the audience, alternative-country musician Corey Smith left the stage and students wondered whether he would return.

But return he did. Appealing to students with songs about underage drinking, breaking the rules and "dancing with college girls and lying about who he is," Smith may have related to his audience, but consequently had to warn that he wouldn't play his set if harassment continued. It was unclear what was thrown and who may have thrown it.

The show went on and Smith reclaimed his easygoing reputation.

"This is a song I wrote about alcohol," said Smith, referring to "Drinkin' Again," a hit song off his 2004 album "In the Mood."

Smith performed his other classics including "In Love With a Memory," "Maybe Next Year," "Twenty-One" and "If I Could Do it Again."

Giving audience members a glimpse into his past, Smith explained that he used to be a high school history teacher. He played side gigs at bars and found that college towns were prime locations for getting his music out.

"Wherever there's a college, there's a college bar," Smith said. "I wrote a song about a bar."

He performed that tune, "Dahlonaga," also from his "In the Mood" album.

"Songwriting is my way of dealing with stuff," Smith said. "I guess I got a lot of stuff. Seven records worth."

Those seven records, spanning from 2003 to the present, feature songs very unlike the bestselling songs of pop idols. Smith writes all of his own music and lyrics.

"I'm a singer songwriter," Smith said. "I only sing songs that I've written."

He also had some advice for Elon students.

"The mistake a lot of people make is that they view their education as a means to an end," Smith said. "A more valuable approach is when education is an end in itself."

Smith wrapped up the concert with some classic covers. He performed "Desperado" by The Eagles and followed it with "Just Another Day in Paradise," written by Darrell Scott, one of his favorite songwriters.

The final part of his performance was a mash-up of some Nirvana along with other classics like "Hold the Line" by Toto.

Although there wasn't a huge turnout, the students who showed up seemed to have a good time.

"It's the best country concert I've been to," said freshman Josh Trudgeon.

There was one Corey Smith fan who stood out among the rest.

"I may or may not have started a riot at a Corey Smith concert in the past," said senior Jack Ruley. "I wish it (the concert) was a little more personal, but it's still very cool."

At the finale of the show, Smith threw his guitar pick into the audience, reversing the mood that had started the concert, and wished Elon a happy Homecoming.

Annual NPHC Step Show unites brothers, sisters, alumni



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

The Friday before Homecoming, rhythm and noise resonated from inside Elon's Alumni Gym across the Moseley Lawn. Elon's National Pan-Hellenic Council's annual step show was well underway.

Hundreds of students and alumni filtered into the show to see the six NPHC Greek organizations perform their step routines.

The crowd was filled with Elon school spirit. Some fraternities even incorporated alumni into their routines. Colored lighting set the mood and a DJ took requests in between routines while a panel of judges deliberated.

Each of the fraternities, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma and sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta, performed energetic and entertaining routines. The competitive energy was balanced with camaraderie when performers incorporated humor into their routines. But only

one could be crowned the winning team.

Alpha Phi Alpha took the first place prize money of \$750, and Delta Sigma Theta took second place prize of \$400.

Delta Sigma Theta wowed the audience with the loudest and most energetic performance, with only two women in their routine, earning points for creativity with their 1920s flapper costumes inspired by the musical "Chicago." The Delta's made their performance multi-media by showing a movie clip of "Chicago"'s familiar tune "Cell Block Tango."

Stepping is a dance form popularized by Pan-Hellenic Greek organizations. It has roots in African tradition and has long been a part of Pan-Hellenic Greek Life.

Pictured above: Sophomore Zeta Phi Beta member April Sutton.

Homecoming



EVER ELON

PHOTOS BY AL DRAGO
Photographer

TOP: Surpassing the original goal of \$100 million, the Ever Elon campaign intends to fund scholarships and professorships.

RIGHT: Elon president Leo Lambert was one of the many speakers at the Rally Elon event Friday Oct. 22.

More on
PAGE
19



FOOTBALL

PHOTOS BY AL DRAGO
Photographer

LEFT: Elon junior quarterback Thomas Wilson was 22 for 35 passing with one touchdown and two interceptions.

BOTTOM: Phoenix fans cheer on the football team, despite the numbers on the scoreboard. The team suffered a loss to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Saturday.

More on
PAGE
24



LIVE THE MAROON LIFE

King and Queen



TOP: Seniors E.J. Young representing Alpha Omicron Pi crowned King and Queen.

BOTTOM LEFT: E.J. Young representing Alpha Omicron Pi.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Ashton Young representing Alpha Omicron Pi crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

ING 2010

Queen



110%
ΑΟΠ



PHOTOS BY BRIAN ALLENBY
Staff Photographer

TOP: Country artist Corey Smith performs as part of the second-annual Homecoming Concert in the Colonnades parking lot.

RIGHT: Corey Smith threatened to abandon his concert after audience members threw items at him as he took the stage.

More on
PAGE
11



PHOTOS BY AL DRAGO
Photographer

and Ashton Vincenty, Iron Pi, won Homecoming...
ing poses with members of...
Vincenty reacts to being Queen.



Step Show

PHOTOS BY TRACY RAETZ
Staff Photographer

TOP: Members of Omega Psi Phi show their strength as they push themselves off the ground in order to leap over fellow fraternity brothers.

RIGHT: Six sororities and fraternities were present at the step show.

More on
PAGE
11



Woods of TERROR HORRIFIES

Year-round
planning brings large
crowds every Halloween season

Ashley Fahey
Features Editor

Haunted rides and houses, from the mild to the downright terrorizing are found in many cities and all regions of the country. They have become tradition and thrill millions every Halloween season.

Eddie McLaurin owns the Woods of Terror, a Greensboro-based haunted trail that runs weekends from late September to early November.

A Halloween haunt takes an entire year to plan and setup, according to McLaurin.

"We'll be open Nov. 4 and 5 and the next weekend, I'll be planning and rebuilding for the next season," McLaurin said. "I already know 50 percent of what I'm going to do for next year."

McLaurin has operated Woods of Terror for 20 years. What started as a small establishment that brought in fewer than 5,000 people in 1991 has transformed into a nationally-recognized haunted trail that attracted more than 30,000 thrill-seekers in 2010.

He expects just as many, if not more, to visit the woods this season.

To make the Woods of Terror as popular as it is, hundreds of volunteers and workers put in their time and energy.

"By 2000, I discovered there was a whole world of Halloween," McLaurin said. "I started going to haunted house conferences. I'd go out in July and start working."

When McLaurin visited the top-20 haunted houses in the United States, he realized that to make a top haunted venue, a year-round commitment was necessary.

"It has to be way in advance," he said. "You have to plan ahead and do a lot of stuff starting in January and February."

McLaurin's background in maintenance helped him construct, create and improve the haunted trail, which takes one hour to complete. But even with mechanical experience and education, there are continuous challenges.

"The biggest thing here is the upkeep of the property," he



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

The Woods of Terror takes an entire year to plan and construct, attracting more than 30,000 people each year.

said. "If I hadn't come from a maintenance background, I'd be in trouble. I have to know about chainsaws. I have to know about fertilizing for the cornfield so that it's not just two feet tall. The more you know, the better you can run the haunt."

This season's trail features everything from an infestation maze — including common human phobias, such as snakes and spiders — to the Horrorwood Cinema Grande, which brings famous horror movies to life through scene reenactments, music from the score and actual movie villains, such as Michael Myers from "Halloween" and Jason from the "Friday the 13th" series.

One of the biggest factors in making the trail as scary as possible is the characters, particularly their appearances. Whether the character is a pirate or a zombie, the behind-the-scenes work in making the character look as realistic as possible can take hours to complete.

"I work all year and start trainings in January," said Jenn Janus, makeup director at the Woods of Terror. "We've been out here practicing special effects makeup since February. I start by making prosthetic appliances and latex pieces for the characters."

Janus said each character's

makeup presents different challenges.

"Some of the makeup dries very fast," she said. "You have about 10 minutes a person, if that. We are definitely pushing it sometimes."

The 171 staff members must arrive at the Woods of Terror by 5 p.m. and be in character by 6:45 p.m. At 7 p.m., all characters walk out in a parade through the midway before heading to their places in the trail.

Once on the trail, the characters do their part in ensuring the guests' experience is as petrifying as possible.

"Once the makeup goes on, it's like slipping on a suit," said Fred Swink, whose character, Damon, can be found inside the infestation maze with a large snake. "You just get into character. You have to have a story behind everything. Why do you read a book? For the story."

Swink owns more than a dozen snakes, many of which are featured in the infestation maze on the trail. Although Swink has worked at the Woods of Terror for five years, he finds people have been most scared whenever he has a snake coiled around his neck.

"About 95 percent of people have been afraid of the snakes," he said. "I'll get them so that they'd be running backwards."

Some people have just quit and couldn't even enter the maze."

Although the haunted trail attracts large crowds each weekend of operation, McLaurin said there is always something to improve or change each year. This year, he added roofed houses, to give attractions such as the vampire house a more realistic touch.

"I'm definitely looking to improve each scene and the quality of the scenes, such as new scents, touching, hearing, sight, more fog," he said. "For the longest time, I did open-air haunted houses, but that was difficult. The roofed houses now allow me to do details that don't wash off. When you go through the haunt, it's like 'This is a real house.' Realism is what we're going for."

The Woods of Terror will be open until Saturday, Nov. 5.



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

The Woods of Terror trail covers 20 acres total and features a 3D clown house and the Horrorwood Cinema Grande, among several other horror attractions.

MORE ONLINE

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the Woods of Terror.

<http://bit.ly/EPterror>

KATELYN PULLMAN AND
JEFF STERN
Executive Editors

the Swing

Watch The Swing at bit.ly/EPswing1

Occupy Greensboro

News editor Catilin O'Donnell talks about her visit to the Greensboro branch of the Occupy Wall Street protests and the latest on the national movement.

J-Walking with Juila

Juila Boyd hits the sidewalks of Elon to get students' feelings about campus events.

North Carolina State Fair

Al Drago heads to Raleigh to check out North Carolina's once-a-year home for fried food, farm animals and carnival rides.

Timberlake Farm: Bringing youth back in touch with nature

Merissa Blitz
Staff Photographer

Summer weeds have grown over the annual flower beds. The persimmon tree is blooming with an abundance of its orange fruits, the bright autumn sun dancing through its green leaves. Winter crops of spinach and kale will soon replace the weeds that have learned to call that specific patch of soil their home. Volunteers dig through the dirt to rejuvenate the garden. Everything at Timberlake Farm is still, silent and at peace. There are no distractions, no technology — just people engulfed in the sacredness of nature.

The garden is one of many areas on Timberlake Farm's 165-acre plot of land that the Center for Education, Imagination and the Natural World uses for its youth programs. Its goal is to reconnect children with the beauty, wonder and intimacy of the natural world, using five miles of trails, 22 boardwalks and footbridges, creeks and ponds along with its many pastures, meadows, orchards and deep woods.

Timberlake Farm, a non-profit organization, has been a private family residence for 40 years.

"Over time, the property became a place of love and an

honoring of the sacred," said Sandy Bisdee, director of the children's programs.

She said the center is an earth sanctuary. Everything is allowed to live and everything has a place to be safe.

Bisdee emphasizes that the center is not an environmental education center but is an eco-contemplative center to reflect on the sacred aspect of nature.

"We don't teach," she said. "It's about experiencing what an earth sanctuary is."

Bisdee wants the children, primarily students ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade, to feel they can turn to nature for solace and that nature is a healing place.

"There's a growing separation between children and nature," Bisdee said.

In today's society, there are things that are keeping children indoors, such as video games or an unsafe neighborhood.

But when the children come to the center, they practice different methods of applying sight, smell and hearing senses. A group of 24 students is separated into three smaller groups and these groups take nature walks, where they walk in silence.

"It is a time to tune in to nature with their senses and is a wonderful experience for them," Bisdee said.

It takes the help of many



The Magical Garden serves as an educational tool where children can learn about different plants and animals in their natural habitats. Small groups take walks through the garden to enjoy the solitude of nature and enjoy the outdoors.

people to run the non-profit. There are only three paid staff members who work at the center: Bisdee, director Peggy Whalen-Levitt and business manager Rory Bradley. Others who help with the upkeep of the garden are volunteers.

The center gets about 30 to 50 volunteers to help per semester. Many groups come from Elon University, including the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, The Green Team, the men's track team and the

sociology club. Other students from Guilford College and the University of North Carolina in Greensboro also come to volunteer.

Lauren Remenick, a senior environmental science and psychology double major, interns at the garden.

"I pretty much tend to the garden, as sort of like a behind-the-scenes when the children aren't there," she said.

Remenick works in the garden about five days a week but this is the only time spends in nature.

"I do like to run, but I haven't found any running trails around Elon, so I mostly run on the side of the road, which I wouldn't exactly call nature," Remenick said.

The life of a college student is hectic and, in Remenick's experience, it comes with a lot of drama and craziness. She likes her time alone and working at the garden brings her peace and quiet.

"It's nice to hear the trees rustle in the wind and hear the birds chirping," she said. "It's also a lot of fun getting to see the different types of plants that you usually don't come into contact with, as well as several different insects."

Bisdee feels that humans are at a time in history where the earth needs a new story. She also believes that children are more likely to grow up and

care about nature if they have the chance to fall in love with the earth.

Remenick, like Bisdee, believes that technology is one of the main reasons why people don't appreciate nature enough, but she said that's not the only reason.

"We as a society don't go out into nature that much, especially college kids," Remenick said. "We go to bars, restaurants, school, the library, our house and maybe play a sport outside, but even that isn't technically nature. I think people have gotten too high strung and too busy for the calm of nature."

Children of the Forest, an after-school program, visited the center to experience the earth sanctuary. A television reporter had been there that day filming a documentary. The reporter asked the children, "What do you get out of this program?"

Bisdee said that most of the children, who were all around eight years of age, didn't know what to say. She was surprised when one girl spoke up and replied, "I feel like I'm all back together again."

It was exactly what Bisdee wanted to hear.

"I felt fulfilled," Bisdee said, "It was a confirmation that this is what the world needs right now, this is what children need right now."



Sandy Bisdee, director of children's programs at Timberlake Farm, believes that children don't experience nature as much as they should. Children visiting Timberlake Farm interact with nature through trails, pastures and meadows.

The Cottage at Blakey Hall provides volunteering opportunity

Sarah Carideo
Senior Reporter

The Blakey Hall Retirement Community is a popular place for Elon students to volunteer with the elderly in the area. A lesser known way of getting involved is through The Cottage at Blakey Hall, a separate unit that houses 16 residents with memory impairments such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Ellen Shatterly, a staff member at The Cottage, knows that some might be concerned about The Cottage residents' mental capacity.

"Don't be afraid of them," she said.

Shatterly said it's important for Elon students to work with the elderly.

"The younger population doesn't always have the advantage of having a grandparent," she said. "Older generations have a world of knowledge and through intergenerational activities, both populations can merge and learn from each other."

In addition to learning from the residents, Elon students can also expect to be rewarded with new friendships.

"There's a grin all over their faces when they see Elon students coming in," Shatterly said. "They just start laughing and want to give you a hug. They know

something special is going to happen. They're appreciative of the individual attention and may not remember your name, but will know who you are."

It is especially important to spend time with the residents of The Cottage, Shatterly said.

"It's great if you can keep them moving by going on walks and doing other physical activities," she said. "This helps the blood circulate to the brain."

While residents of Blakey Hall are able to go out or have family to assist them, Shatterly said volunteers are desperately needed at The Cottage because the residents are unable to go out on their own and many don't have family nearby to help.

She also said volunteering could especially help people with Alzheimer's disease because they are able to mirror the actions of others. Activities such as coloring and completing puzzles can actually be more than just fun for the residents.

Senior and Lumen Scholar, Ruth Robbins, is investigating the effect of cognitive intervention on memory loss in elderly members of the community.

Her research includes providing cognitive training to participants in the form of challenging brain games for one hour each week during a 10-week period.



Paul Davis, one of the 16 residents living in The Cottage at Blakey Hall, sits with his cat Tiger in his room. Paul is 102 years old and has two cats living with him named Tiger and Little Man.

"The games challenge the participant's frontal lobe, which challenges their attention and memory skills, and they are also enjoyable and interactive," Robbins said.

Because of the interactive nature of the games, social relationships are likely to form, which is an added benefit because it provides an incentive for continued participation. It has been

shown that social interaction improves learning and contributes to preserving brain function.

Past volunteers have participated in a variety of ways including watching movies with popcorn, ice cream parties, baking and decorating cookies. Students with special talents like tap dancing and piano playing have also performed for the residents.

Freshman appreciates university cultural events

Financial struggles constrain engaged student, must consider transferring from Elon

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

When she arrived at Elon, freshman Sam Mairson planned to complement her formal education with extensive extracurricular participation.

What she didn't anticipate was discovering she wouldn't have the money to stay.

"It was horrifying not having the financial security I thought I was going to," Mairson said. "I got here knowing that I wanted to make the most of the opportunities that I did come across, and it hasn't been difficult to do that, but I've got money on my mind."

After receiving her bill for the 2011-2012 academic year, Mairson realized she calculated her financial aid incorrectly. She paid for the fall semester with help from her mother, who insisted the assistance was a "one time thing." Now, she said she must find the scholarships and loans to remain at Elon without digging herself into debt.

"It's always been important to fulfill my obligations," she said. "I can't stand that feeling of letting people down. So I knew I wanted to attend as many events as possible."

And she does. Mairson attends lectures and programs frequently, sometimes three or four times a week. She said she believes the university's

guest speakers, theatre performances and athletic events are an invaluable part of the college experience.

"You'll never get this opportunity again, unless you stake out college campuses and sneak into lectures," Mairson said. "There's a very real chance I'll do that as an adult."

Not all students recognize the rarity of this chance, according to Mairson. She said she knows students at Elon paying for a liberal arts education without fully appreciating it.

"They don't make the most of it," she said. "It's hard to watch because I know the price tag, I know what you could be making of it, I know how engaging the professors are and want to be."

Because of her financial situation, Mairson said she can be fully appreciative of the college experience.

"When you're working for something and paying for something, you appreciate it," she said. "I know how to do all the financial work, how to get the master promissory note signed. You have to do the number crunching, and it teaches you something."

Despite this belief, Mairson said she will not be returning to Elon.

With the spring semester's insecurity hanging over her, what will Mairson do if she



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Freshman Sam Mairson looks through her planner, where she keeps ticket stubs and notes on the events she has attended. Mairson has been to more than 25 university events since arriving and plans to attend more this semester.

cannot return to Elon?

"There's a dorky part of me that wants to hike it out to Cambridge, Mass., and waitress and volunteer at the college library," she said. "I'd meet cool people and go to dorky cultural events at the smartest university in our country."

Although she admits this plan is unorthodox, Mairson is committed to optimism. Whether she will remain at

Elon or travel the country, she said she will take advantage of what comes her way.

"I should be freaked out that I can't afford my college education, but I take so much comfort knowing that I'm going to get the most of whatever education I do get," she said. "What matters most is what you put into it."

With a book full of ticket stubs, flyers and notes,

Mairson has taken a lot away from her time on campus. She said if she cannot add more to her collection, there is still a great deal to be thankful for.

"Even if this ends up being just one semester at Elon, if I can't turn it into anything more than that, it will be a semester that I haven't wasted," she said. "I think if you apply that philosophy to life, you'll be able to grow."

Elon Tonight's 'fresh start' brings crowd for premiere

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

Standing room only was the theme of the evening at Elon Tonight's season three premiere.

The student-produced sketch comedy show had its first showing of the academic year at 9 p.m. Oct. 24 in McEwen 011. The highly anticipated event was both stressful and exciting for producers, actors and writers.

"I think it's something that we can really be proud of," said Scott Richardson, executive producer. "It's definitely a step up in production quality. We set a high standard and we sustained it."

The new benchmark set by Richardson and executive producer Andy Hurst was attained by a renewed commitment to the show. The

staff welcomed more than 40 new members since last season and has experienced a contagious energy from freshmen.

"It doesn't seem real based on where we were last year that we have so many people that want to be here and show up and will do the necessary work to get it done," Richardson said.

Freshmen formed the show's first public relations team, which organized the premiere. These students also took on responsibilities as actors and writers.

"I'm a 'Saturday Night Live' junkie, so I was drawn to the show," freshman actor Kelsey McCabe said. "When I saw the cast list, I literally screamed."

Her excitement was not unusual. According to Richardson, freshmen have expressed interest in Elon Tonight since before the year

began.

"This summer, I got a couple emails that said 'Elon Tonight is one of the reasons why I wanted to come to Elon,' which is very uplifting and at the same time it puts a lot of pressure on me, but it's a good feeling," he said.

The executive producers had high hopes for the season's debut. After what Hurst called a "fresh start," the group believes it had the chance to make something the Elon community would want to see.

And they did. The Elon Tonight team offered an encore presentation immediately following the premiere to accommodate students forced to sit on the floor, in the aisles and stand in the doorway.

"I want people to be upset that there wasn't enough room to watch it," Richardson said.

They were.



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Freshman Courtney Vaughn films an interview with freshman Kelsey McCabe. The segment was shown at the Oct. 24 premiere of ESTV's sketch comedy show *Elon Tonight* in McEwen 011. The show is currently in their third season.

Walking on not-so-straight paths around Elon's campus

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Sidewalks on Elon's campus are evolving structures. Throughout the years, some walkways have gained and lost purpose as the university has constructed and torn down buildings. And students have not failed to complain about the nuisance of the meandering paths between buildings.

"I think the sidewalks are inconveniently laid out," said sophomore Meg Murphy. "I live in the Oaks, and to get to Lindner I have to take such awkward paths."

Murphy is among many students at Elon who think the layout of sidewalks on campus is less than ideal for quickly getting from building to building.

Tom Flood, director of landscaping and grounds, said he disagrees that the sidewalks are inefficiently placed, and said most of them easily lead to where the students want to go

— given there isn't a building or grassy space in the way.

Flood gave the example of there being no direct path between Belk Library and Koury Center, but explained that the grassy quad area students use for playing Frisbee, tanning and watching movies on the lawn was most likely more important to students than having a sidewalk run through the center.

"I didn't design the space, so I can't answer why no one put a sidewalk there," Flood said of the quad between Belk Library, Moseley Center and Koury Center. "But if we had bisected that space for a sidewalk, we would have lost a large section of green space."

New sidewalks, Flood said, are constructed as the university notices the need for them based on student traffic.

"When we have a strong desire line from point A to point B and no walkway, students will create a path," he said.

An example of such a path is

the one that goes from O'Kelly Avenue across McMichael to the parking lot of Belk Library and Moseley Center. Initially formed by students, the frequently traveled path over the grass outside of Belk Library was visible because foot traffic killed the area of grass students walked over.

"All of a sudden we started getting a path," Flood said. "We had a BioBus stop put at McMichael, so now you had people coming from the bus stop at McMichael to Belk or Moseley, and that path is the shortest distance. We tried to manage the path by reseeding the grass and couldn't."

Elon's attention to detail is not compromised when it comes to the laying of new sidewalks, Flood said. Depending on the area of campus, the type of sidewalk constructed can be brick, concrete or a combination of both.

"We try to be consistent in certain parts of campus,"

Flood said. "The historic part of campus, historically, was more brick. When McEwen was built, the sidewalk went in as concrete. We try to be consistent now in that core area by using brick sidewalk."

Flood said sidewalks on the east and west sides of Moseley, a combination of concrete and brick edging, are a less expensive alternative to the historical brick sidewalks, while still keeping with the overall appearance of the

university. An additional example of the blending of brick and concrete elements are concrete sidewalks that lead to the recently constructed brick patio by Alumni Gym, according to Flood.

MORE ONLINE

Walking from McEwen to Koury? See how much time you would save if you cut across the grass.

<http://bit.ly/EPindirect>

COURTNEY VAUGHN AND JEFF STERN
MULTIMEDIA CONTRIBUTOR AND ONLINE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Local wine shop combines education, fun

Julia Sayers
Staff Photographer

Looking for something different to do with your friends on a Friday evening? Lowell's Wine List could be a good alternative if you are 21 or older. The recently opened shop, located in Faucette House on Trollinger Avenue, offers weekly wine classes and tastings.

Owner Lowell Faucette has always been interested in opening a wine shop.

"I just have a passion for wine," Faucette said. "I love talking to people about wine and I'm also interested in education about wine."

Faucette became interested in wine education about 10 years ago when he took a series of classes on spirits education at Johnson and Wales University. He opened Lowell's Wine List Oct. 4 and has already offered classes and tastings. The class teaches what wine is, vocabulary, quality of wine and what a structured approach to tasting entails.

"It helps you pay attention to what you see, smell and taste," Faucette said. "You learn to appreciate it a little better."

The classes are offered Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and cost \$30. The tastings, which Faucette hopes to have every Friday evening, are often themed. So far, themes have included sparkling wines and wines from Tuscany.

"Ordinarily there will always be a theme, unless it's a blind tasting," Faucette said. "We always start with the light wines; we go white to red, light to heavy. The idea is to try to educate people and have fun."

Faucette hopes the



Lowell Faucette opened Lowell's Wine List, located in the Faucette House on Trollinger Avenue, on Oct. 4. The shop offers weekly wine tastings, usually with a theme, and classes every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Each of the classes cost \$30. Faucette currently carries 100 labels in his shop and has been interested in wine for 10 years.

tastings will do a good job representing the theme and will interest people in buying a bottle. The shop is organized by body of wine instead of region, which makes it easier for customers to find the exact type they are looking for. Faucette tries to stay away from selling wines found in a grocery store and he currently carries about 100 labels.

"I try to have a good selection in both quality and price," Faucette said. "We have about the same number of white wines as we do reds."

There is also the Value Corner, where customers can purchase cheaper or discounted wines. Eventually, Faucette hopes to offer wines made by local North Carolina vineyards. He has already talked to Gibsonville and Iron Gate Winery in Mebane.

Experience North Carolina wines

Wine Classes:

Learn about how wine is created, vocabulary, the quality of wine and the structured approach to holding a tasting every Wednesday. Classes are \$30 and begin at 7 p.m.

Wine Tastings:

Tastings are held every Friday around a particular theme. Previous themes included sparkling wine and wines from Tuscany.

"I want to support the local vineyards and see them be successful," Faucette said. "Scuppernon and muscadine wines are not something you can buy anywhere else and local folks might like that."

Another unique thing about the shop is that it sells wine by the glass. Customers can purchase a glass and sit outside on the porch to have a drink with friends. Faucette is

hoping that locals, Elon faculty, staff and students of legal drinking age will see something different in his shop and participate in some of the events.

"What I'm trying to do is introduce folks to the fact there's more to know about wine than drinking a glass," Faucette said. "If you're interested, I'm the one to come to. I'm trying to provide a place people can come and learn."

Denim drive fights negative self-image

Sorority collects jeans for Habitat for Humanity

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

Fat Talk Free Week, promoted by Elon University's chapter of Delta Delta Delta, is a campaign to spread awareness about the prevalence of body image issues. Tri-Delta hoped to spread knowledge of the damage an obsession with weight can cause by partnering with Habitat For Humanity and organizing a denim drive in Moseley Center.

Body image is a major problem in the United States, particularly for college students. In the U.S., millions suffer from an eating disorder, and almost 54 percent of girls aged 18-25 would rather be hit by a truck than be considered overweight, according to the Tri-Delta website. Fat talk includes negative and positive comments about weight, such as, "Do I look fat in this?" to "You look like you lost weight."

"It's a lifelong, cultural problem that can be challenged just by engaging in conversation and changing our minds," said junior Allie Weller.

Members of Tri-Delta participated in an awareness program as part of Fat Talk Free week.

"I just want people to start talking about body image issues and start to recognize the problems we face every day," Weller said.

Tri-Delta paired with Habitat for Humanity by hosting a denim drive where denim clothing, in any condition, was collected. The goal was

for people to give away the jeans they aspired to fit into, rather than jeans that actually fit their bodies.

Tri-Delta aimed to promote self-respect and love for students' bodies by taking the denim off the hands of students whose jeans did not fit. Those who donated also had the chance to sign the Fat Talk Free pledge online.

The denim will be shredded and used as insulation in the floors of Burlington houses.

"We're one of the few chapters that has actually gotten to try it (Habitat with Humanity and the denim drive) with their members," senior Ellie Stratton-Brook said.

Members of Tri-Delta also had sessions where the sisters discussed issues of body image and the definition of "thin" ordeal in today's society. These meetings, called Reflections, helped the women define who came up with the skinny image, how it is unhealthy, and why they feel they must fit into it.

At one meeting, they made a list of desirable traits.

"At the end, you're like, 'You have to be all of these naturally,' and that's literally and physically impossible,"

Stratton-Brook said.

The group members then analyzed celebrities who had the particular look they desired and asked themselves if the celebrities looked perfectly happy with their lives.

"You slowly realize, no, they're celebrities and they have just as many problems as we do," Stratton-Brook said.

Weller played a large role in the Reflections program. She helped educate her sisters about the dangers of trying to achieve the thin image. She wanted to take part as a way to grow closer to the younger girls in Tri-Delta.

"It ended up being way cooler than I thought it was going to be," Weller said. "It ended up being fantastic, because the way that it is structured is for girls like us, our age."

Although Tri-Delta only hosted this event for a few days, it is striving to implement it more in the future, according to Weller.

"We believe that it is important to try to engage others in the conversation about being fat talk free and promoting physical and mental health among women and men," Weller said.

Green Halloween helps save money

There are many ways to be green for Halloween, other than using face paint or hair dye. If you make some simple adjustments to how you approach your candy, decorations and costumes, you can work a little magic of your own to help the earth and keep your holiday costs down.



Sarah Carideo
Columnist

TREATS: Instead of buying the bulk, commercial packages of candy, stock your bowl with natural treats, suggests The Chicago Tribune. This will reduce kids' exposure to chemicals and preservatives. Some alternatives are fair trade chocolates and organic or natural candy made with pure cane sugar, fruit juice and natural colors. Another option is to skip the candy and hand out small toys, stickers or art supplies.

DECORATIONS: Natural items like pumpkins, gourds, straw bales and cornhusks are inexpensive and festive. They can also be composted when the holiday is done. If you decide to go the traditional route with your decorations, remember to save them to reuse next year. This saves money and reduces waste in the long run. Earth911.com also suggests using LED lights or solar-powered lamps to light the path to your front door for trick-or-treaters. The key to having an eco-friendly Halloween is to be creative with what you already have, says Planetsave.com. Gather up some branches, cut some silhouettes out of old cardboard boxes and paint them black and make tombstones out of old Styrofoam to create a spooky scene.

COSTUMES: Check your home and local thrift store to find great costume ideas and supplies. Again, think about what you can put together from the items you already have around the house instead of buying new things. If you do decide to invest, get items that can be reused for future Halloweens. Donate your costume to a thrift store if you don't want to keep it rather than throwing it away. And to limit exposure to chemicals, National Geographic recommends buying masks made of natural latex and water-based face paint.

Halloween can seem like a fun, wasteful holiday. Costumes are discarded once they've served their purpose, while candy and decorations litter the ground the next day. Don't trick yourself into thinking this is how it should be. Instead, your Halloween can be a treat to the earth and your wallet if you make some small changes to how to approach this holiday.

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Deep-fried fun at the North Carolina State Fair

Rebecca Wickel
Design Editor

Is it physically possible to deep fry Kool-Aid? According to multiple vendors at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh, it certainly is.

The annual festival boasted rides, food, exhibits and contests. Ten days of fireworks and fried food attracted more than one million residents from across the state and country. First-time attendees may have been overwhelmed by the size of the event, but among the bright lights and powdered sugar, there were many must-sees at the 2011 State Fair.

•Ferris wheel: getting an aerial view of the vibrant sights and sounds of the fair is a unique opportunity. Multiple ferris wheels stood at the fair, with varying heights and speeds.

•Village of Yesteryear: Professional and hobbyist crafters demonstrated their skills and provided opportunities for visitors to purchase and participate. Weaving, carving and modeling took place in the Holshouser Building.

•Ark Animals: North Carolina's

diverse livestock were featured at the Exposition Center. Fairgoers could milk a cow or visit with cattle, swine and goats.

•Scavenger Hunt: When roaming the fair grounds, visitors could collect facts and trivia from vendors, signage and exhibits in exchange for a collector's ribbon.

•Concerts: Fairgoers could attend a concert on most nights at the Dorton Arena. Kansas, Newsboys and Craig Campbell were some featured musicians at this year's festival.

•Concession stands: Leaving the fairgrounds hungry was not an option for most attendees. Turkey legs, corn dogs, gyros and chicken wings were plentiful. For vegetarians, deep-fried options included vegetables such as celery, tomatoes and cauliflower, while candy bars, cookies and cakes were also available. Novelty snacks were popular as well, such as the Krispy Kreme hamburger or deep fried alligator on a stick.

Next year's fair will come soon enough. To prepare, start saving your money for ride tickets and your appetite for snacks.



Brent Huddleston from Tampa, Fla., operates a carnival game, where fairgoers attempt to pop balloons with darts in order to win a stuffed prize. Games and rides line the midway at the fair.



Fans young and old ride a caterpillar roller coaster in the children's section of the midway.

the Swing

Check out coverage of the excitement at the North Carolina State Fair on this week's episode of The Swing.

<http://bit.ly/EPswing1>

AL DRAGO
Reporter

Performing arts students fear nothing during Homecoming improv show

Rebecca Iannucci
Copy Editor

Quick. Pretend you're Abraham Lincoln. Now pretend you're Abraham Lincoln standing in the middle of a Venus Flytrap. Now imagine the Flytrap is covered in honey, and it's about to kill you.

Students performing in "Instant Laughter: An Evening of Improvisation" had to act out that very scenario, and many others, during two improv comedy shows held Oct. 21 and 22 in Yeager Recital Hall.

To say the performers were fearless during the show would be an understatement.

"(Fearlessness is) exactly what is necessary when doing improv," sophomore Jared Allen said. "When you are not limited by reality and you accept any and all of the things that you, your partner or the audience say or do onstage, then you create a flowing

story that gets wilder and more crazy."

There was no shortage of crazy audience suggestions during Friday's performance. For many of the skits, audience members would call out the names of random people, places and things, upon which the skits would be based. At one point, Allen was asked to portray one of Santa's reindeer, which required that he crawl on his hands and knees around the stage.

If a performer commits to the situation, they cannot go wrong, according to Allen.

"As long as you are certain about your choice and you keep the energy up, the audience won't care how accurate you were," he said. "They'll be too lost in how much fun you're having onstage."

The comedy troupe consisted of eight students in the performing arts department, who auditioned last month and rehearsed consistently in the weeks leading up to Homecoming.

"We used rehearsal to test out different games until we chose the ones we wanted to do for the final performances," said Fred Rubeck, chair of the performing arts department and organizer of the comedy group. "This way, they get into their bodies and brains how each game works and they can focus on the suggestions and playing the scenes."

Watching the students perform for an audience was more than worth it, according to Rubeck.

"It was exhilarating," he said. "I was so proud of them all every night. I was often, in my mind, playing along with them."

Though the money raised from ticket sales will go toward funding master classes and guest artists for the Department of Performing Arts, Friday's performance had a relatively small turnout.

But Rubeck said it is the quality of the audience that matters, not the

quantity.

"The best would be a large enthusiastic crowd, but the most important thing is that the people there want to have a good time along with the performers," Rubeck said.

Regardless of the audience size, many of the performers said this experience has bonded them with their fellow cast members.

"We are a very tight-knit group," freshman Sam Jones said. "Performing improv comedy is all about trusting your fellow performers and supporting each other."

Allen agreed that the experience was unforgettable, and something he would do again.

"If you are really working hard to make the show fun and flawless, then you have no choice but to know and love the people you work with," Allen said. "And there is no way you won't become close to people you are working with if all you do is play games."



AL DRAGO | Photographer

Rally Elon capped off the ambitious fundraising effort, Ever Elon, with the announcement that the campaign raised more than their \$100 million goal. It is still accepting funds through December.

Ever Elon raises more than \$105 million, surpassing goal

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Elon University's fundraising campaign, Ever Elon, has surpassed the original goal of \$100 million, though funds will still be collected through Dec. 31.

At Rally Elon, a Friday night presentation at Rhodes Stadium for students, faculty and alumni, President Leo Lambert announced that more than \$105 million has been collected so far.

"We thank each and every one for your commitment to the school and the difference you've made here has shaped this university," Lambert said.

The ceremony, which concluded with a fireworks display, included brief remarks by those impacted by the goals of the campaign, which include student scholarships, faculty development, new facilities

and annual giving. Senior Andrew Somers, recipient of a scholarship, shared his experiences at Elon, including study abroad trips and opportunities for leadership.

"It's not just a financial gift, it was a door opened and it changed my life," he said.

George Johnson, dean of the School of Law, addressed the creation of three professorships at the Law School, while Alison Morrison-Shetlar, dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Matthew Matheny, men's head basketball coach, spoke to the creation of new facilities, including Lindner Hall and Alumni Field House.

Senior Nicole Morillo shared her experiences as a student who, in high school, was discouraged from applying to a private institution such as Elon. As a recipient of a scholarship to attend the university, she said she discovered her passion of

encouraging other underrepresented students to go to college.

"It not only gave me the gift of education, it opened up a world of opportunity," she said. "I hope to one day provide a similar opportunity to students."

Publicly launched in 2008, the Ever Elon campaign was an ambitious project to introduce during one of the worst recessions in the country's history, according to Allen Gant, chair of the Board of Trustees.

"What we need is more Elon graduates," Lambert said.

According to Lambert, the university has seen firsthand the power of philanthropy to share the direction of the university.

"We have great ambition as a university and together we are going to realize each and every one of them," Lambert said. "We are going to take this university to where it belongs - to the national stage."



AL DRAGO | Photographer

Ever Elon Co-Chair Allen E. Grant Jr. hugs senior Susan Scholar Nicole Morillo after talking about how Elon has affected them.



Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

Top-6: recipes with an autumn twist

It's the season for colder days and crunchy leaves. It's time for sweaters, boots and scarves. Fall is also a great time for delicious seasonal foods such as pumpkins and squash, apples and pears and hot beverages for those colder days. So grab some utensils and find the secret to a great fall through these popular recipes.

1. Pumpkin/Sweet Potato Soup: What's fall without pumpkins? Pumpkins can be served at all meals, whether it's roasted pumpkin seeds or pumpkin dip as a healthy alternative to popular sour cream dip. Pumpkin soup is easy to make and you can add a twist by adding spices or serve it in a hollowed pumpkin. If pumpkin isn't your thing, then try butternut squash soup or SimplyRecipes' creamy sweet potato recipe. Both meals are also healthy and can be garnished with diced apple or served with a tossed salad.

2. Fall Salads: Seasonal produce, such as cranberries, grapes, broccoli and Brussels sprouts, makes great appetizer or

entrée salads. Use baby spinach leaves or arugula leaves instead of the usual Romaine lettuce and throw in apple or pear slices, some broccoli, raisins, beets and you instantly have a low-fat fall salad. A simple vinegar and olive oil dressing will do just fine. The more color in your salad, the healthier and tastier it is.

3. Butternut Squash Risotto: Risotto is traditionally served after an appetizer, so it's great after you've had pumpkin soup. Like most fall recipes, this dish uses butternut squash, which is as sweet and creamy as pumpkin. Combined with chicken or vegetarian broth, risotto requires more attention than soup or salad, but is equally delicious.

4. Pumpkin Cheesecake Pie: This dessert is a twist on both the traditional pumpkin pie and creamy cheesecake, and it's simply genius. This treat has the sweetness of pumpkin pie and the richness and smoothness of cheesecake.

Allrecipes.com and Delish both offer this recipe, but the former suggests garnishing with whipped cream and pecan halves. Try Hershey's chocolate-chip pumpkin cheesecake if you want to take this recipe to another level.

5. Grilled Chicken & Apple Sandwich: While summer is over, there's still time to grill your

favorite foods and what better way to transition summer's grilled taste with fall's produce than in a grilled chicken and apple sandwich? Chicken is one of the leanest meats. Instead of stuffing the sandwich with popular condiments, this meal uses vegetables and fruits.

6. Gluten-Free Apple Crisp: You can't think of fall without thinking of apples—apple pie, caramel apples, apple pancakes. And just because you're allergic to gluten or choose not to eat foods that contain gluten doesn't mean you can't enjoy tasty fall treats.

Rachael Ray's Easiest Ever Baked Stuffed Apples

Source: FoodNetwork.com

INGREDIENTS

4 McIntosh apples
1/2 lemon
4 tablespoons butter, softened
3/4 cup whole-grain cereal with dried fruit (recommended: Mueslix)
2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
1 pint vanilla ice cream

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit.
Trim the tops and scoop out the center and the seeds of each apple and rub the edges of the trimmed fruit with the lemon.
In a medium bowl, combine the butter, cereal, sugar and walnuts.
Fill the apples with the cereal mixture. Set the apples upright in muffin tins and bake until tender and bubbly, about 20 minutes.
Transfer to serving dishes, top with ice cream and serve hot.

ONE on ONE SPORTS

Talladega just another racetrack

There was a point in time, not all that long ago, when any race at Talladega Superspeedway was among the most anticipated of the whole season.



Steven Taranto
Columnist

And why wouldn't it be? After all, Talladega was known worldwide for its snarling packs of more than 30 cars, all running two, three, and even four wide around the 2.66 mile oval at speeds approaching 200 mph. It was always unpredictable, and always extremely exciting to watch.

As the superspeedway portion of the NASCAR Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Camping World Truck Series schedules comes to a close, though, it would seem that those days are now a distant memory.

A new form of plate racing, the two-car draft, has completed a successful coup of the traditional style of superspeedway racing, breaking up the big packs and creating a much maligned form of racing that seems almost unrecognizable.

While a form of the technique traces its roots back to the introduction of the Sprint Cup "Car of Tomorrow," the two-car draft formally established itself at Daytona testing in January.

There, teams discovered that two cars hooked together can not only be faster than a pack of cars by up to 10 mph. This connection can also be sustained by keeping the front bumper of the rear car out to the right of the

lead car, allowing air to flow through. This keeps two cars from having to constantly swap positions in order to keep the rear car from overheating and losing an engine.

The result has been a cancer to superspeedway racing, resulting in a form of racing characterized by spaced out strings of cars, team politics and a comical amount of radio interaction between drivers, which has turned racing at Daytona and Talladega from a spectacle of tight quarters at high speeds into a farce of the movie Top Gun.

Despite the frequency of two-car draft races with close finishes and large amounts of lead changes, the form of racing is almost universally reviled as boring by fans and frustrating by drivers, who complain that they have no control over their own destiny in a two-car draft.

As Dale Earnhardt Jr. put it quite bluntly, "This is a bunch of crap."

There was a glimmer of hope going into this past weekend's Good Sam Club 500 that the two-car drafts would be broken up per rule changes that NASCAR had made to make the racing prohibitive. Restrictor plates were increased by 1/64th of an inch, pressure valves were recalibrated by 8 pounds per square inch and teams were prohibited from putting grease and lubricants on the bumpers of the cars. However, NASCAR failed to account for cooler fall temperatures, which allowed drivers to continue running in two-car drafts, rendering NASCAR's changes null and void.

Watching a race at Talladega has ultimately become just like watching a race at Michigan, Chicago or any other track on the circuit. There's nothing special about it - and that's a tragedy.

ELON ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

RESULTS

Football	Oct. 23
Oct. 22	Elon 2
Chattanooga 42	Western Carolina 1 (2 OT)
Elon 18	
Men's Soccer	Volleyball
Oct. 21	Oct. 18
Georgia Southern 4	Elon 3
Elon 2	NC A&T 0
	Oct. 21
Oct. 18	Elon 3
Elon 2	Wofford 0
Wake Forest 0	
Women's Soccer	Oct. 22
Oct. 20	Furman 3
Elon 1	Elon 0
Appalachian State 0	

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday
Women's soccer @ UNCG — 7 p.m.

Saturday
Cross country @ SoCon Championships — All day
Football @ Wofford — 1:30 p.m.
Volleyball @ Western Carolina - 3 p.m.
Men's soccer vs. UNCG — 7 p.m.

Sunday
Women's soccer @ first round of SoCon Tournament — TBA
Volleyball @ Appalachian State — 2 p.m.

Tuesday
Men's soccer @ Duke — 7 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Harris named SoCon Freshman of the Week

Elon University volleyball's middle blocker Kris Harris won the Southern Conference Freshman of the Week award for the week of Oct. 24. Harris recorded 24 kills and four blocks in three games.

Cross country to compete in SoCon championships

The Elon University men and women's cross country teams will participate in the Southern Conference Championship in Charleston, S.C., on Oct. 29. Last year, the women finished fifth and the men finished sixth in Boone.

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End of season draws near



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

Elon University's junior midfielder Jaelyn Wood scored the first goal for the team against Western Carolina University on Oct. 23. The Phoenix defeated the Catamounts in a 2-1 double-overtime match. Sophomore midfielder Simi Dhaliwal scored the game-winning shot with nine seconds left in the double overtime period. This brings the team to 7-7-4 overall and 5-3-3 in the Southern Conference, tied for fifth in the conference with Furman University.

The team has one more match before the SoCon tournament, a 7 p.m. contest Wednesday against Furman University at home that will decide who will be the fifth seed in the tournament, which begins Sunday.

The 'lifer,' McKeon reflects on 62 years working in professional baseball industry

Niko Fraser
Reporter

Jack McKeon, 81, leans back and takes a puff of his ever-present Padron cigar. He stares off into a cloud of smoke, seemingly searching through an endless hoard of baseball stories — maybe the memory of winning the World Series in 2003 or perhaps the slog of rookie ball in the Midwest.

Chuckling to himself, he returns from his reverie.

"Could you, the Blessed Virgin Mary, intercede with the Lord and convince my father to let me sign a professional contract?" McKeon recalls praying.

It was 1948, McKeon's freshman year at The College of the Holy Cross. There out of obligation, restricted from the fate that awaited him in professional baseball, McKeon learned the power of prayer.

He said these fervent prayers regularly on those cool autumn nights.

McKeon's father, a blue-collar worker without a college degree, refused to let him sign a professional baseball contract.

"All I wanted to do was play baseball, the game I love," McKeon said, "but my father wanted my brother and I to get a degree so we wouldn't have to live his lifestyle."

That Christmas, McKeon's father sat him down and told him that if he promised he would get a college degree, he would have his blessing to go to play professional baseball.

The legend was born, figuratively speaking, into professional baseball. A hybrid between new school and old school, the epitome of a "lifer."

Retiring this fall, for the second time, McKeon became the second oldest manager in Major League history.

"He is kicking and fighting to stay in the game," said his grandson, Zach Booker, a professional baseball player. "Baseball is his life, everything he does relates to it, he lives it and breathes it."

The game is McKeon's vantage point.

"Oh, it's a beautiful game. I don't understand why all you young people talk about it being a 'grind' playing every day," he said.

McKeon can't help himself; he speaks about the game with a passion similar to the tone of an aged lover.

Trader Jack is the name the game has yielded him after 62 years. His prowess in managing a baseball team is distinct and his methods of trading players championed the notion of purifying a clubhouse for the good of the team. In the early 1990s, he had the audacity to trade away All-Stars such as Sandy Alomar, Jr., Fred McGriff and Gary Sheffield.

In his last tenure as the Florida Marlins' interim manager, McKeon sent budding slugger Logan Morrison down to Triple A New Orleans. He



Former baseball player and manager Jack McKeon has been in the game for over six decades, from rookie ball to winning a World Series.

ELIZABETH EVERETT | Staff Photographer

had 17 homeruns at the time and was second on the team in RBIs. The Marlins fanbase was in an uproar over this decision. McKeon was unfazed.

"You come to the field and you talk about 'tweeter' or other 'bookface' things?" McKeon said. "No, when you walk into the clubhouse it's one thing you worry about, baseball. If not, you aren't playing."

There's the old school, stern McKeon, then there's the new school, fun-loving McKeon who will pat a player on the back and tell him a story, saying, "Hey Meat, I got a story for you."

"Meat" is a moniker that McKeon gives to almost everyone.

"What's your name? OK, Meat, go on with what you were saying," McKeon said.

Few know McKeon's hybrid better than Greg Booker, his son-in-law who was a professional pitcher. McKeon traded Booker to the Minnesota Twins for Freddie Toliver in 1989.

Snickering, McKeon recalls the trade.

"Yeah, I traded him," McKeon said. "He wasn't pitching well. Next question."

McKeon has the confidence to make the moves he believes are best for the team. Booker even notes that the trade in '89 was best for the team,

even though he was McKeon's son-in-law and the trade forced him to move his family.

Booker is now his neighbor and partner in landscaping McKeon's backyard.

"Jack doesn't care what other people think. He is always the same, whether it be cutting the grass or trading an MVP," Booker said. "That's why he is successful, he's his own man."

McKeon stories are as constant in his conversations as he has been in baseball the last 62 years.

"Every time I see him, I hear a new story," Booker said. "I keep thinking I've heard them all. Sometimes I think he makes them up. Either way, they are great."

One McKeon story took place in Missoula, Montana about Chuck Weatherspoon, a player of McKeon's in the Pioneer League in 1956. Weatherspoon was notorious for his fear of snakes.

"Hey Meat, let me tell you a story," he said. "I managed this guy in the Pioneer League who was scared to death of snakes, spiders and those little critters. All the guys on the team used to pull pranks on him and put rubber snakes in his equipment. Well, one day we were out on the field right before the game, when Chuck runs out of the clubhouse, stark naked,

because the guys put a rubber snake in his jock."

McKeon reclines in his seat, and puffs on his cigar as he laughs out loud at the memory.

A car drives by, honking and waving at McKeon. Waving back, McKeon turns and said, "I don't know who the hell that was. Everyone around here (at Elon) knows me. I just smile and wave, it works, try it."

On clear nights in the spring, McKeon stands right outside the gate of Newsome Field at Elon University, smoking his cigar, watching the game he loves. Whispers linger in the dugouts about the legendary Trader Jack's presence.

Sixty-two years after his debut in rookie ball, after his prayers were answered and his father let him sign a contract, McKeon talks about the game with childish excitement and a past master's knowledge.

"Meat, when you play the game, do it how you oughta," he said. "Play it with a lot of kid in ya."

McKeon flicks the foot of his cigar onto the sidewalk. With the finish of the Padron still in his mouth, he said, "Be excellent, have fun and make yourself great at this beautiful game. Never lose the kid in you. Look at me, I'm only 58." McKeon smiles and walks away.

Volleyball looks to even SoCon record on road

Adam Lawson
Reporter

Ten games into the Southern Conference schedule, the Elon University volleyball team finds itself in a familiar place. With a losing mark against conference foes, the team has to beat Western Carolina University and Appalachian State University this weekend to get back to even in the SoCon.

Almost a month ago, the Phoenix was in this exact situation. Coming off losses to UNC Greensboro and the College of Charleston, Elon was 0-2. That's when wins at home against the Catamounts and Mountaineers helped right a ship that was veering off course.

In order to get back on track this time around, Elon will have to find wins on the road, a task the Phoenix

had been unable to accomplish prior to a win against Wofford College Oct. 21.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," said head coach Mary Tendler of the win against Wofford. "I think that'll carry over to next weekend."

After sweeping Wofford in three sets, Furman University showed no mercy the next day against the Phoenix. After winning the first two sets 25-18, the Paladins took the third set, sweeping Elon off of the Furman home court.

"Everyone's disappointed that we lost," said freshman middle blocker Kris Harris, who had 16 kills in the two matches. "It's not frustration. We're just a little disappointed."

Toward the end of September, Elon had almost no problem taking care of Western Carolina, sweeping them on

Oct. 21.

It was Appalachian State that gave the Phoenix its toughest match of the weekend. The Phoenix was able to fight back from a one-set deficit and take the match in four. Since then, the Mountaineers have gone 6-1 and vaulted themselves into a first place tie atop the SoCon North standings.

"I think they're going to be hungrier to beat us," junior libero Ali Deatsch said. "They'll have a renewed fire now that we beat them. It'll be a battle."

Few on Elon's roster know the experience of defeating App State firsthand. The last time the Phoenix escaped Boone with a win was 2008, when the current crop of seniors were freshmen. In order to let last month's history repeat itself, the Phoenix will have to make history of its own by reversing its lack of success in Boone.

One advantage the veterans do have is knowledge of the opposing fanbases. They know that, for better or worse, fans in Cullowhee and Boone will show up and will be loud.

"I wouldn't say they're the nicest fans ever," Deatsch said. "There's going to be some heckling going on."

As of Oct. 23, Elon sits in fifth place in the North Division standings, a significant statistic because only the top four make the conference tournament. But right now, the Phoenix players say they aren't worried about it. Instead, they say their top priority is simply taking things one weekend at a time.

"We're working toward a goal," Harris said. "Right now our goal is to get back to .500."

Elon will return home to play its final four games of the year in Alumni Gym starting Nov. 4.

Balancing act: soccer captain focuses on academics, athletics

Zachary Horner
Assistant Sports Editor

James Carroll sings for fun, flies remote-controlled planes, develops algorithms and has received several academic awards.

He is also a co-captain of the Elon University men's soccer team.

A senior midfielder, Carroll is seen as a leader on and off the field by his teammates and coach.

"He's very reliable," head coach Darren Powell said. "You know he's going to put in a full effort. He's determined to do well on the field and off the field."

On the field, Carroll is noticeable. He may not be the loudest, but he is always moving with the ball or challenging to win it in the middle of the field. If he is carrying the ball up the field and it is stolen from him, he immediately turns tail and runs after the thief.

In high school, he showed the same passion for excelling. Carroll was the president of the National Honor Society chapter of Myers Park High School in Charlotte.

"I was lucky because I got an early start in high school," Carroll said. "I went to a competitive high school in Myers Park. Throughout high school, I tried to develop the right study habits."

Academics played a large part in Carroll's decision to attend Elon.

"It was really a balance between academics and athletics," he said. "I felt that Elon had that mix that worked well for me. I was a pretty strong student in high school and really focused on academics."

That academic mindset transferred to Elon. Despite starting all but two of Elon's soccer games since his freshman year, Carroll has managed his time and done his work to such a high level that last year he was named to the Southern Conference Academic All-Conference team and was the male recipient of the A.L. Hook Scholar-Athlete award, which is given annually to the Phoenix male and female junior or senior athletes who possess the highest cumulative grade point average.

"It's hard work," Carroll said.

"Having the right mentality to say I'm not going to give up until it's done the way I want it done. It's that hard work that will get you to the end goal."

That end goal is artificial intelligence work. During the summer, he did research at Auburn University working on rewriting collision avoidance algorithms for unmanned aerial vehicles.

"It was a lot of fun because we had these RC planes and we learned to fly them," Carroll said, "but then we were writing algorithms so that when they were flying up there with autopilots they would avoid each other. It just kind of inspired me to go more into that field and learn more about artificial intelligence in grad school."

Through Carroll's focus on academics, Powell speaks of him as leading by example.

"Every day he comes to practice and gives 100 percent," Powell said. "James is the type of leader that likes to lead by example."

It is an example that teammate and roommate Drew Gardner sees daily.

"He's definitely been a great leader and has developed

"I'm just motivated to excel in everything I do and with that you have to be able to handle the requirements that come along with that and the responsibilities."

-James Carroll
VARSITY SOCCER CO-CAPTAIN

in that way to help carry the team on," Gardner said.

Gardner said Carroll used to be quiet, but both he and Carroll attest to a change in that.

"I haven't always been the strongest leader vocally," Carroll said. "Over the years being captain, I've developed more of a vocal leadership."

Powell spoke also of Carroll's maturity in handling both school and soccer. Carroll has no idea where it came from.

"I'm just motivated to excel in everything I do and with that you have to be able to handle the requirements that come along with that and the responsibilities," Carroll said. "So it kind of enforces, requires maturity to be able to handle that."

With all the maturity and schoolwork and soccer, he still manages to find time to have fun.

"We have a running joke of whenever we leave, we'll see each other tomorrow," Gardner said with a laugh. "We really don't see each other that much because our schedules conflict



Elon senior midfielder James Carroll has started all but two games since his freshman year. HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

that much."

Gardner and Carroll make a great pair because of their similarities. Gardner said their relationship is "dorky and nerdy, but we like to have a good time."

One example of the two having a good time can be seen in two songs the pair created under the moniker of "White and Whitey."

"Two of our teammates were making rap songs," Gardner said. "So we were like, we should make up some songs. We should do something with academics."

The two songs are called "Student-Athlete" and "Food for Thought." The tracks are simply Gardner playing acoustic guitar and both players singing catchy rhymes about being a student-athlete and being nutritious. They are humorous and goofy but the pair's academic leanings are evident.

"That pretty much sums up our relationship," Gardner said. "We kinda feed off each other. We're both nerds. We like to study. So when we finally get time away from school and soccer, most of the time we just relax and hang out."

Women's basketball season approaches, team prepares for first game against Virginia Union

Julia Miller
Copy Editor

Elon fans got an early look at the women's basketball team Sunday at the Phoenix hoops preview. The team's first game takes place Nov. 12 at home against Virginia Union University and the players think they are ready.

"Our first home game is really exciting," junior forward Lei Lei Hairston said. "We're ready to hit the courts and run, basically. Literally."

First year head coach Charlotte Smith agrees.

"I'm just looking forward to the first game and getting that monkey off the back," she said. "I'm just like the girls, I'm excited about this team and what we can do. I think we can definitely compete for a Southern Conference championship."

That is the No. 1 goal for the whole team. The Phoenix reached the semifinals of the SoCon tournament last year, but this year the team is

determined to succeed.

"We're ready to win it," Hairston said. "For this entire season, (our goal) is, number one, win the championship."

But to get there, the team needs to constantly focus and work, something freshman guard/forward Sam Coffey is getting used to.

"It's definitely like a whole different level," she said. "Everyone is good. There are no weak links so every day you have to bring it."

But there are always things to work on and the players are fine-tuning as the season approaches.

"Some things that we need to work on are little nuances in terms of the offensive timing, angles and screens and taking care of the ball," Smith said. "The only way you can score is with the basketball, so you have to value it and not throw the ball away."

Each player has personal goals to work on as well. For Hairston, it's to become a leader.

"My goals are to be that motivator

on the team, to be a voice, to be the encourager and also help my teammates out in any way I can," she said.

Coffey wants to play and gain experience on the college level.

"I just want to, after every game, say that I gave all my effort," she said. "Just to give my best."

This is Smith's first year as head coach at Elon. The former University of North Carolina standout was a four-year letterwinner from 1992-1995 and led UNC to the 1994 National Championship. She was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player that year and is one of only two UNC women's basketball players to have her jersey retired. Smith then played in the WNBA from 1999-2006.

She also acted as assistant coach at UNC from 2002-2011.

"I've been involved in the Carolina program for almost two decades, so it was definitely hard to leave the people that are like my family," she said. "But you know, I said that if I

ever leave Carolina, it would have to be a very special place. And I've found a very special place here in Elon and it's home for me."

Smith said she admires her new players and their work ethic.

"They are competitive, they're warriors and they're relentless," she said. "The effort is always there and they want to win and they're very competitive, so I'm very excited for this season."

They feel the same way about her. "She's awesome. She fits in perfectly with us," Hairston said. "We all get along well. She is a great teacher and she's a great person, not only a great coach."

LOOKING AHEAD

Read about the upcoming men's basketball season in next week's Pendulum.

Phoenix unable to finish off Georgia Southern



Sophomore midfielder Daniel Lovitz has scored two goals and added two assists this season. AL DRAGO | Photographer

Kyle Maher
Reporter

The Elon University men's soccer team will play its final home game of the season at 7 p.m. Saturday against rival UNC Greensboro.

The team is coming off a loss in which it was unable to protect a 2-1 lead late in the second half and fell to Georgia Southern University 4-2 Oct. 21 at Rudd Field. The Phoenix was hoping to carry over momentum from its 2-0 win against Wake Forest University on Oct. 18 but was unable to stop the Eagles' relentless offense.

"I thought we played quite well in a few phases of the game," head coach Darren Powell said. "We put ourselves in winning position. We just conceded three quick goals at the end."

Elon struck first in the 11th minute, as sophomore midfielder Matt Wescoe drilled the ball into the net off a header sent into the box by senior midfielder Nick Millington.

Georgia Southern replied in the 34th minute with a goal when freshman midfielder David Vargas Masis tapped home a loose ball in the box off a cross.

right back in the 54th minute when senior defender Austen King headed home a cross from junior midfielder Gabe Latigue from right outside the box.

But Georgia Southern scored the equalizer in the 85th minute when sophomore midfielder Joe Hughes sent a cross into the box that senior forward Luigi Clendening netted for his 12th goal of the season. Clendening and Ethan LePan would each tack on another goal for the Eagles, bringing the final score to 4-2.

"Overall, I thought that we put together a solid performance for the first 85 minutes of the game," Millington said. "However, soccer is a 90-minute game and if you take off plays at this level, you get punished for it, and that's exactly what happened to us Friday night."

The win brought Georgia Southern to 8-6-1 overall, 4-2 in the Southern Conference while the Phoenix dropped to 5-9-1 overall and 1-4 in conference play.

"Georgia Southern is a very good team," Powell said. "They're a quick, athletic team with a never give up attitude."

The Eagles are in first place in the SoCon

standings and virtually guaranteed themselves a home match in the SoCon tournament, as the top four seeds get to host opening round games.

Elon plays rival UNC Greensboro Oct. 29 at Rudd Field. The Spartans are currently 6-7-1 overall, 3-1-1 in the SoCon. Their conference record puts them in third place in the SoCon.

Elon then travels to Durham for a Nov. 1 match with Duke University to end the regular season. The Phoenix is 2-0 against ACC opponents this year and hoping to continue that trend against the Blue Devils.

For Powell, one of the keys to the Phoenix having success down the stretch is how well the team can play from ahead.

"We have to manage the game in the final moments better with the lead," Powell said. "(The team) did that very well against Wake Forest but couldn't do it against Georgia Southern Friday night."

Elon is currently seventh in the SoCon standings and will wait to see how the final games of the SoCon season play out to determine who it will face in the SoCon tournament.

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Sports

Phoenix done playing blame game

Swepson backs quarterback, Wilson 'best chance to win football games'

Justin Veldhuis
Sports Editor

Heading into this weekend's showdown in Spartanburg, S.C. against Wofford College, Elon University football head coach Jason Swepson said his players have to "overcome the negative vibe" surrounding the team after it has dropped the last two games.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga spoiled Elon's Homecoming game Saturday in Rhodes Stadium by defeating the Phoenix 42-18.

Or maybe Elon spoiled its own Homecoming. The Phoenix committed four turnovers that led to 28 Chattanooga points while the Mocs never turned the ball over once.

"Same old same old," Swepson said. "Turnovers are killing us right now."

The Phoenix has now turned the ball over 29 times (18 picks and 11 fumbles lost) through eight games this season, the most by any team in the FCS. Elon also ranks last in the country out of 120 FCS teams in turnover margin per game (-2.25).

Elon junior quarterback Thomas Wilson has accounted for 19 turnovers, which is more than the total for 100 FCS teams. Those 19 turnovers have also led to 71 points for opposing teams.

Despite the quarterback's struggles, Swepson said Wilson shouldn't take all the blame.

"It's easy to point the finger at the turnovers, at the quarterback position," Swepson said. "But it's not all him. We're just not a very good football team at this point."

Starting quarterbacks are known to receive the most praise during the good times and take the most heat during the bad. It's a pressure that comes with the job.

Swepson has said he still has faith in his starter and has no intention to replace him with backup redshirt freshman Mike Quinn or Maryland transfer and redshirt freshman Tyler Smith.

"I still believe that Thomas gives us the best chance to win

football games," Swepson said. "I'm gonna try to coach the team on giving him support instead of pointing the finger."

Wilson was 22 for 35 passing for 241 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions in the loss to Chattanooga. Junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette had eight catches for 107 yards but did not find the end zone, snapping his streak of 8 consecutive games with a touchdown reception.

Elon trailed Chattanooga 28-0 at one point in the second quarter but managed to cut the Moc's lead to 28-18 early in the fourth quarter after a touchdown run by senior running back Dontay Taylor. The Phoenix offense scored 18 unanswered points while the defense held the Chattanooga offense to only four yards in the third quarter.

"We came out hungry in the third quarter," redshirt freshman linebacker Jonathan Spain said. "How we played in the third quarter in all three phases of the game is how we should play and could play every single game for 60 minutes."

The Phoenix will be looking to put together those 60 minutes as it enters a challenging three-game stretch to finish the season. The team will play at No. 9 Wofford Saturday, Oct. 29 before entering its bye week, and then play at Furman University Nov. 12 and finish its season at home against No. 5 Appalachian State University Nov. 12.

"(We're) just focused on one right now," Swepson said. "Those ranks don't really mean anything to us right now. It's a conference opponent, and that's what makes it special."

The Phoenix is now 4-4 overall with a 2-3 record in the Southern Conference. Despite the team's recent adversity, Swepson remains focused on the positives.

"We've got a chance to win three more, have a winning record and sneak into the playoffs," he said. "The team is coming together. It's a young team. It's very easy to point the finger, but that's not what we're going to do."



Senior running back Dontay Taylor scored one of Elon's two touchdowns in the Oct. 22 loss against UT Chattanooga. AL DRAGO | Photographer



Junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette was named to the Walter Payton Award watch list. Mellette is one of two receivers on the 20-player list. AL DRAGO | Photographer

MORE ONLINE

For more thoughts and analysis on the state of Elon football, check out The Pendulum Sports Blog.

pendulumsports.wordpress.com

ZACHARY HORNER
Assistant Sports Editor

BY THE NUMBERS

-51 point differential for the Phoenix this season

-2.25 turnover margin per game for Elon this season, which ranks last out of 120 FCS teams

4 sacks for UT Chattanooga's defense

8 -game touchdown streak for junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette snapper

11 tackles for senior linebacker Joshua Jones

29 turnovers committed this season by the Phoenix, the most in the FCS

71 points scored by opponents off junior quarterback Thomas Wilson interceptions, including three returned for touchdowns

100 FCS teams with fewer turnovers than Wilson

255 total yards for UT Chattanooga freshman backup quarterback Terrell Robinson

BREAKING DOWN THE UT CHATTANOOGA GAME



Junior quarterback Thomas Wilson was 22 for 35 passing for 241 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions in the Phoenix's 42-18 loss to UT Chattanooga on Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 22. AL DRAGO | Photographer