



THE PENDULUM

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History of conflict in Egypt hits home for Elon community



Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Although riots in Egypt are calming down, Shereen Elgamal, assistant professor of Arabic, has not stopped worrying.

Elgamal said she lived in Egypt for 28 years before coming to the United States in 1993 and is "beside herself with worry." Except for her husband and children, all of Elgamal's relatives still live in Egypt.

"I called back home and some people are apprehended and in custody and some people are not and waiting for this to happen," Elgamal said. "Some people are missing, totally, and some people are badly hurt and in hospitals trying to get treatment."

Following the Tunisian uprisings that resulted in the ousting of President Ben Ali, millions of Egyptians have been protesting in the streets of Cairo in an attempt to force President Hosni Mubarak, who has ruled since 1981, out of power.

What started as mass protests against Mubarak Jan. 25 soon escalated when pro-Mubarak forces entered the equation

and clashes became violent. As many of the protesters coordinated through social media, the government turned off all Internet and mobile phone access on Jan. 28.

While access was restored Feb. 2, after Mubarak announced he would not run for reelection in September, the communication gap did not stop the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who continued to convene in Tahrir, or Liberation Square.

"Didn't anybody see this happen?" Elgamal said. "Was it a surprise that Hosni Mubarak has been resented by his people for many years? Has it been unclear that he is 82 years old preparing to run for presidency? Was the suffering of the Egyptians unknown? It has been known to everybody, and everybody was sitting and watching."

Freshman Ronda Ataalla, whose parents are Egyptians currently living in North Carolina, said the violence in Egypt was difficult for her parents.

"They're taking

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Photos courtesy of MCT Campus LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

Elon's price tag expected to increase by \$1,496

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

In the face of major tuition increases at colleges around the country, Elon University's administration has planned to increase tuition by 3.98 percent for the 2011-2012 academic year, totaling \$1,496, the smallest increase in more than a decade.

Steven House, the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Elon has made a conscious effort to uphold its lower tuition prices in order to preserve its reputation as a best-value university.

"One of The Elon Commitment goals is to maintain Elon as a best-value institution, which means big bang for the buck," House said. "And we're trying to make the bucks as small as possible. When you compare us with our peer institutions, our tuition is considerably lower."

Meghan Green, a junior athlete on the Elon golf team, said despite the low tuition increase and her partial athletic scholarship, the raise in her tuition is still a stretch for her family because of the tight economy.

"Elon is an expensive school to begin with, but one of the best buys for a private school, as they say," Green said. "My family and I are looking at Elon more as an investment and less as a cash outflow. However, as a business major, I can understand the tuition increase with the increased cost of commodities and the declining value of the dollar."

A recent article in The Burlington Times News stated 13 of the University of North Carolina's 17 campuses want their Board of Governors' permission for maximum tuition increases, which are limited to 6.5 percent per year, because of statewide budget cuts.

Gerald Whittington, senior vice president of business, finance and technology, said although Elon suffers from the same general deficits as the rest of the country, expansion and growth are still possible.

House said he is grateful Elon is not enduring the same financial burdens as larger, public universities because private funding allows the university to continue to seek excellence.

"We are very blessed," House said.

"There are institutions all around that are cutting because there aren't enough funds to support the programs they already have, but we're supporting the programs we already have and supporting new ones. We're very fortunate."

In considering the allocations of this year's budget, Whittington, House, President Leo Lambert and the Business and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees weighed the external forces affecting the university, Whittington said.

"We consider questions such as, 'What's the national economy like?'" Whittington said. "How's our enrollment doing? 'What's retention like? 'What's the consumer price index doing?' Things of that nature."

According to House, the next step involves collecting revenues and considering where money should be spent. He said funds are allocated toward programs deemed the highest priorities according to The Elon Commitment. This year, financial aid, faculty salaries, various

academic programs, a national center for engaged learning, gender equity scholarships for athletes and numerous construction projects are receiving sufficient amounts of money.

Whittington said most of the gifts Elon receives each year from philanthropies go toward financial aid and scholarships for students. He said funding also stems from increased tuition rates in the MBA and law programs, as well as from higher room and board prices.

Whittington said a raw copy of the budget is in its final stages of the process and has been given to the Board of Trustees and a final verdict is expected by Feb. 14.



Elon students abroad in Egypt evacuate safely

Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

In response to the current unrest in Egypt, Elon University students studying abroad at the American University of Cairo have been safely evacuated from the country. According to Paul Geis, assistant director of affiliations and exchanges at the Isabella Cannon International Centre, all of the students are safe and have contacted their families.

Elon canceled its affiliate program at AUC Jan. 30, and of the six students studying in Egypt, five were evacuated together to Istanbul Monday, Jan. 31 by flights organized by the United States government. The sixth evacuated with his family, who was also in Egypt, during the weekend.

According to Geis, the students did not know the evacuation location until they boarded their plane. Flights left as soon as possible to one of three "safe-haven" locations in Istanbul, Athens and Cyprus and flight destinations were determined based on the airport that was able to receive the plane first.

All U.S. citizens evacuated in this manner were required to sign promissory statements ensuring they would pay for the flight at a later date, once the cost was determined. According to the website for the U.S. embassy in Cairo, all evacuated parties will need to make their own lodging arrangements and plans to return to the U.S.

Although the main AUC campus is in the desert, away from the protests in Cairo, Geis said that Zamalek Island, where the students were living, was not isolated.

"Trouble could have easily

spread there," he said, adding that there was a significant concern for the lack of police and the lawlessness that was spreading. "It's absolutely unsafe for students to be at or near the protests."

Geis said the students expressed interest in staying in Cairo, but that if they had chosen to stay, they would have had to continue the semester as non-Elon students.

"Our primary concern absolutely is student safety and well-being," he said. "We would not be able to support them there."

Any classes they would have taken would appear on their transcripts as transfer credits and the grades would not be reflected in their Elon GPAs. Elon-administered financial aid also would not have applied.

Geis would not release the names of the students abroad, but said the five who evacuated to Istanbul will soon head to Israel to start the new semester at the University of Haifa. He said he was not informed of the plans of the sixth student.

There are no current plans to cancel the fall program at AUC, but Geis said the situation will be monitored closely and Elon will not allow students to go if there are safety concerns. He said it is not typical to allow students to apply for multiple programs, but that they are looking into the possibility of allowing students interested in AUC to choose a backup program.

"This is a fluid situation," Geis said. "If someone had called us a week ago, we did not think there would be any issues for fall. This can change as the situation evolves."

He said he expects the decision to be made within the coming days.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
During her first and last attempt to vote in Egypt, Elgamel said she was threatened for supporting the opposition and left without casting her ballot.

Shereen Elgamel on voter fraud in Egypt

"My husband was actually serving the one year that the Muslim Brothers were allowed to run, I think it was '92; my husband was representing one of the candidates in his neighborhood, or in his precinct. And he said 'I sat there and people would come and give their names and we would look for their names and I saw so many deceased relatives. My grandfather had a check mark next to his name; he voted, my uncle, my great uncle, he had a check mark next to his name; he went and voted.' They had died! These people were dead at this time, so he tried to raise this point and the other person said, 'You want to sit here and preserve your well-being, or you want to make noise?' So he said he wanted to sit and observe. They actually undid the tape that was securing the ballot box and started filling out the papers and putting them into the box (unfolded), just throwing them into the box. So he said 'what are you doing, this is totally unacceptable.' He was beaten up really badly and put in jail for this and he was roughed up a little bit in jail and then they usually just let them out because in '92, he was 30 years old. They called it teaching him a lesson. These are the elections. That's why I said when Americans say, 'I didn't vote, or I didn't go or I didn't have time,' I find it very offensive. I find it very, very offensive."

MORE ONLINE: NEWS

Audio: Hear Shereen Elgamel share her predictions for Egypt in the coming days.
<http://bit.ly/Elgamel>

Protests should not deter study abroad programs in Jordan

Anna Johnson
Editor-in-Chief

Elon University students interested in studying abroad in Jordan will still be given the opportunity despite recent protests in the Middle East.

There is not an Elon-sponsored trip to Jordan, but there is a semester-long affiliate program through the Council on International Educational Exchange that students can participate in, said Woody Pelton, dean of International Programs. The program to Amman will begin in fall 2011.

Jordan's King Abdullah II fired his cabinet and named a new prime minister after several anti-government protests in early February. CIEE's website says it is still hosting students and the Amman campus was one of the alternative locations considered by Elon students evacuated from Egypt.

Elon senior Andrew Black went to Amman, Jordan during his spring semester and summer junior year with a different program, AMIDEAST.

"What was unique about the program was you can live with host families," Black said. "So I stayed with a Jordanian family and it was a tremendous experience. You learn things that you never learn in a classroom."

During his seven-month stay, there were protests between a tribe and local police forces around the area. From what Black saw, the monarchy was a unifying presence rather than the source of tension.

Regardless of the protests, Black intends on applying for the Fulbright Program and traveling to Egypt this summer. The protests should not deter students looking to study abroad, he said.

"I mean, obviously you want to plan carefully as not to get interrupted by domestic or international crisis, but I wouldn't discourage those from continuing studying in the Middle East," he said. "It's such a wonderful experience and the people are amazing. It would be a shame to abandon your (study abroad) ambitions all together."

Offering more programs in the Middle East is part of a push from the Isabella Cannon International Centre for students to visit places outside of Europe. For the 2012 Winter Term, a study abroad trip to Turkey, Greece and possibly Morocco is currently in the works.

"We're not exclusively pushing Middle East trips, but (we're) trying to get students to consider places beyond Europe," Felton said. "This is a big world and there's a lot of places. So think about the Middle East, China, India or Africa."

Egyptians risk lives to fight 'years of oppression'

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are Egyptians currently living in North Carolina, said the violence in Egypt was difficult for her parents.

"They're taking it hard," Ataalla said. "We have property in Egypt, family in Egypt."

Ataalla was born in the United States, but she and her family return to Egypt every other summer. She said her family has several houses in different cities in Egypt, including Alexandria, and while she said their property is fine, some of their neighbors' property has been damaged. Some of her male friends have had to act as security guards outside their homes.

"I feel like it's great people are fighting for their rights," Ataalla said. "I'm not liking the ending. I like how it started."

Ataalla said many of her Egyptian friends are pro-Mubarak and those that are not did not participate in the protests. She said the first protests, which were peaceful, started as "educational." Now, she said, the toll the riots have taken is too great.

"The people don't know how to deal with each other now," she said. "There's too much fighting going on in the Egyptian race. It's very sad to see."

Elgamel, however, said people need to continue with the resistance.

"People need to continue to die, actually, in the thousands," she said. "So that at least they would leave behind the legacy of a huge smear on this system. The system that is sacrificing thousands for one person who is in the eyes of many, useless, and in the eyes of some others, valuable, depending on who's looking at it."

Elgamel said the protests turned violent when policemen in street clothes went into crowds and instigated fights in order to have reason for retaliation against otherwise peaceful demonstrators.

According to Elgamel, her brother-in-law, Mahmoud Abouzeid, is still awaiting arrest at his home. Abouzeid is on the advisory council of the Muslim Brotherhood, a banned party that Elgamel said is moderate and

represents about one-third of Egyptians.

Elgamel said Abouzeid was taken from his house at 3:30 a.m. Jan. 27, just after the protests started picking up momentum, but was freed when a prison break-out was staged by the police.

"Another technique the police use lately is to free the prisoners, set the facility on fire and claim the prisoners had an uprising or something," Elgamel said.

While Abouzeid returned to his home, she said she is sure he will be apprehended again.

Elgamel said when Abouzeid was taken into custody, the police turned the house upside down before taking him away.

"It is not enough that they take my husband," Elgamel said, quoting her sister's account of his arrest. "They take the car. Anything that has value, computers, cell phones. If you have \$5 in a drawer, it is gone. If you have a ring or a nice necklace, nothing. Nothing stays."

Senior Sheehan Kane, who studied at the American University of Cairo in both the spring and fall of 2010, said she always felt most uneasy around the police when she was walking through the streets of Cairo.

"They're the ones who harass you, as girls," Kane said. "The police are the ones who will harass you on the street and whistle at you and try to talk to you. It's very weird."

Senior Molly Harmen, who also studied at AUC last fall, said she felt the same way.

"I feel like if there was a real emergency, I don't think they'd help me out," she said.

While Elon canceled its spring AUC program and most of the Elon students planning to study in Cairo will be studying at the University of Haifa instead, Harmen said she has heard from friends at AUC that many of the other American students seemed to be staying put.

"Some are just really worried about what's going on," she said. "I guess it's harder because a lot of the Egyptians who go to AUC are from a very wealthy part of society, so there are a lot of mixed feelings about what's going on."

Although Ataalla said her parents are pro-Mubarak,

"The Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamic collective organization, and its members belong to the Egyptian society; they... call on all citizens of Muslims and non-Muslims to cooperate in the good, to achieve justice, to lay the foundations of the right and to put the interest of the nation before the personal interest. They call on all to unite against injustices and corruption, effectively and peacefully without causing any damage to any public and private properties. They stress the importance of the cooperation between all political and partisan forces to maintain a unified national stance."

-Muslim Brotherhood's official English website

she said she is unsure of her position.

"I'm conflicted," she said. "My dad loves him, he's very pro-Mubarak... but I feel like (Mubarak) knew all this would happen and he let it happen."

Ataalla said she thought the protests started going too far when clashes between pro- and anti-Mubarak forces became violent and the numbers of dead and severely injured people began to rise steadily.

Elgamel said the group of anti-Mubarak protesters is composed of people who are willing to die in order to instigate change.

"Some of them are people like me," she said. "Or people who think that if we can't live with liberty and justice, it is not a bad thing to die after all."

She said many of the protesters she saw interviewed on TV echoed similar sentiments of feeling as though they had no futures or promise in life, and many were unable to support their families.

"Blood is really inexpensive," she said. "There is no value to human life in the system, the Mubarak system. There is absolutely no value."

Plans progress on new downtown building

Jack Dodson
Multimedia Editor

As bricks and glass crumbled on the old site of The Pendulum office on Williamson Avenue in Elon, students gathered to take photos and video of the destruction. A bulldozer rolled on top of the building, pulling at walls until they came down.

The move to tear down the building, which until late last year housed the student newspaper, came as a part of the school's 10-year strategic plan, The Elon Commitment.

According to administration officials, the site will be a three-story building that will be the new home of the campus store. The Pendulum is looking to relocate to the top floor when the new building is completed, along with the campus bookstore.

Ken Mullen, assistant vice president for business and finance, said the deconstruction of the office was being handled by John McDonald, owner of EDG

Property, LLC, the building's developer.

The building, though, represents a part of a larger plan, The Elon Commitment, aimed at bringing more businesses to downtown Elon. The plan is being developed with the help of the Town of Elon. Mullen meets regularly with Town Manager Mike Dula and Board of Aldermen members Mark Greene and Davis Montgomery.

"We're working with some folks to try to get more tenants down there, and of course that's the ultimate goal," he said. "It's a matter of working with vendors to try to bring them down there and entice them, try to bring some vibrancy to the downtown area."

For Robert Buchholz, the director of Elon's Physical Plant, the construction involved in the strategic plan means more development downtown and more local services.

But it also means additional work with more buildings,

as the strategic plan seeks to add numerous buildings to campus, including residence halls and a convocation center.

"We're at 2 million square feet, and we're going to grow to 3 million square feet," Buchholz said. "Those buildings have to be maintained."

Buchholz said there will be a few more new hires in maintenance and other services to make sure physical plant workers can keep up with more buildings.

"It's a mixed emotion," said editor-in-chief Anna Johnson. "You're sad to see it come down because of all the great memories you've had in there, but you have to look on the bright side that you'll be moving into a new building."

The Pendulum moved from its old building to McEwen 009 in December, renovating an unoccupied room in the School of Communications' basement.

University officials offered the organization a house on College Avenue when they first told The Pendulum it would have to



JEFF STERN | Photographer

Construction was set to begin in January but was held in order to complete paperwork.

leave the office on Williamson Avenue, but the paper instead chose to move to McEwen.

"It's been stressful just because I think it's been

difficult for the staff to adjust to a new location, and it's not as exciting for them. Hopefully it's just for a semester," Johnson said.

Law School's upcoming competition looks to provide experience, positive reputation

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Elon University School of Law will host its inaugural Billings, Exum & Frye National Moot Court Competition next month, with former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor delivering the keynote address.

Organizing a reputable competition showcases the quality of the institution, said Alan Woodlief, associate dean for administration and director of Moot Court programs.

Seventeen schools and 31 teams will compete in the competition held between March 31 and April 1. Moot Court competitions allow law students to practice writing briefs, presenting oral arguments and answering questions about the case.

The competitions are an opportunity to transfer class lessons into experience, said

Other schools participating in the Moot Court:

- *Appalachian School of Law
- *Charleston School of Law
- *Duke University School of Law
- *George Washington University School of Law
- *Liberty University School of Law
- *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law
- *University of Virginia School of Law

Jessica Yanez, a third-year law student who participated in Elon's intramural Moot Court Competition.

"It's a spring board from law school into practice," she said.

The competition honors former justices Rhoda Billings, James Exum and Henry Frye, all of whom served on the North Carolina Supreme Court and currently serve on the Elon University School of Law advisory board. They will be

in attendance at the banquet for the competitors, alongside keynote speaker O'Connor.

"The fact that three chief justices have lent their name to the competition certainly adds prestige to the competition," Woodlief said. "That Justice O'Connor is willing to be the first keynote speaker lends itself to enhance the prestige of the competition as well."

Justice O'Connor dedicated Elon University School of Law when it opened in 2006.

"We feel a special connection to her and feel it is a good fit to have such a prestigious member of the judiciary come speak with us," Woodlief said.

Jason Burton, a third-year law student, predicts that the four justices, all of whom will be speaking, add another element of attraction.

National competition rules do not allow students who host the competition to compete. Although previous

competitions allowed Elon students like Yanez and Burton to gain experience in the legal system, their role during the Billings, Exum & Frye competition will be purely administrative. Nevertheless, Elon law students embrace the new responsibility.

"Our Elon students really have a sense of excitement and pride over the establishment of the first competition," Woodlief said.

They are aware that their actions contribute to the development of this relatively new institution.

"We're setting the standards," Yanez said. "We're not coming into something that is already set up for us."

Woodlief said that during the infancy of an institution there are many firsts along the way, including this competition.

"The greatest challenge at a new school is that we want to make it a competition that is

inviting to all the competitors," Burton said.

Burton said he also considered coordination to be another challenge, but said the faculty, administration and the students are all striving for a common goal.

Yanez identified the goal as the development of a challenging atmosphere for law students.

"We hope to establish a tradition of a great competition that is held every year," she said.

While Elon law students will not participate in the competition, Yanez still found an opportunity to grow beyond the perimeters of the institution.

"We are basically establishing (extracurricular activities) like the Moot Court Competition program, and the best thing we learned is not just to be attorneys, but to be leaders in the community," she said.

With purchase in Greensboro, Law School set to expand

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Elon University's School of Law has signed an agreement to purchase three properties in Greensboro in order to expand its campus and better accommodate student needs.

The buildings, located on 234 Commerce Place, 240 Commerce Place and 209 Bellemeade St., are located in the downtown area less than one block away from the law school's main campus.

According to Philip Craft, director of communications, the land was purchased in order to allow for student enrollment expansions and to provide facilities needed for future growth of legal clinics and student organizations.

"Long-range plans are to use the property to provide facilities needed for future growth of the law school's enrollment and its expanding legal clinics and student organizations," Craft said.

Mark York, a second-year student in the School of Law, said he believes the expansion reflects the school's

educational institution.

"President Lambert has assembled an outstanding team from Dean Johnson to the newest associate professor," York said. "This team has provided an environment where we, as students, cannot only learn the law but make a difference in the community around us at the same time. This is reflected by the growing number of legal clinics the school has and continues to establish."

The buildings, constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, are currently vacant, but the law school has made no specific plans for remodeling, Craft said.

"Plans for the use of the properties will be developed through Elon's long-term strategic planning processes," he said.

Craft said because the buildings' poor conditions will prevent students from using the facilities quickly, the school has not made any immediate plans to increase enrollment numbers.

"The law school's enrollment may increase," he said. "But enrollment decisions in the immediate future will not be impacted by these properties."

In addition to the three recently purchased buildings, Elon has also agreed to consider purchasing additional plots of land in the same downtown area.

"The expansion of the law school during the last academic year, through the addition of the Clinical Law Center, enhanced the school's ability to offer law students hands-on learning experiences through clinical programs," Craft said. "Such as the new Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic. In years ahead, as Elon creates additional facilities in Greensboro, law students will benefit from the additional space to study and to practice law."

York said he believes the school's administration is answering its need for additional classroom, office and study space while also serving as a testament to its hope of expanding the student body.

"This expansion indicates that President Lambert continues to provide the resources our law school team requests," he said. "And I am equally confident he will continue to hold our team accountable for the goal



Elon students teach financial literacy, compete in nationwide competition

Eva Hill
Copy Chief

What do fliers, information sessions and coloring books have in common? They are only a few ways that four Elon University students are helping members of the Elon and Burlington community become more financially literate.

These four students are members of the Bateman Team, a group of students in Public Relations Student Society of America who are competing in a public relations case study competition against schools from around the country.

The Bateman Case Study Competition is only open to members of Elon's public relations organization, PRSSA. This nationwide competition gives select students the ability to research, plan, implement and evaluate a comprehensive public relations campaign for a national client, according to Frances Ward-Johnson, professor in communications and academic adviser to the Bateman Team.

"Their client this year is Ally Financial, formerly GMAC Inc., one of the world's largest automotive financial services companies," she said. "The goal of the team's campaign is to promote financial literacy with an emphasis on reaching low- to moderate-income consumers."

To achieve this goal, the Bateman Team held training sessions at local churches and high schools, sponsored a financial trivia night at The Fat Frog and

created crossword puzzles and coloring books. According to Annie Hellweg, Bateman Team leader, the students are also working on implementing new media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to educate as many people as possible.

"We're trying to make a difficult topic more interesting," she said. "We (the Bateman Team) want to get basic financial information into peoples' hands."

Each year, the client for the competition changes and schools compete against one another for cash prizes for their PRSSA chapters. Previous clients include Nutella and the U.S. Census Bureau. Wake Forest University and UNC-Chapel Hill are among the competitors in this year's competition, according to Hellweg.

According to Beth Coggins, public relations manager at Ally Financial, credit scores can cause some people confusion.

"People have a hard time understanding the three credit agencies and how the scores are derived," she said. "They also struggle with the actual process of creating a budget."

Elon Bateman Team members are selected by Ward-Johnson based on faculty and internship recommendations, completed communications classes and GPA.

According to Lianna Catino, president of Elon's PRSSA chapter, financial literacy classes are offered at Elon, but the Bateman Team's efforts are still



Elon Bateman Team members set up a booth in Moseley Friday to provide financial literacy information to students.

EVA HILL | Photographer

benefiting students.

"It's (the Bateman Team's efforts) bringing awareness," she said. "We're all going to learn about it someday, so it's good that they're bringing awareness (to students)."

The team has even involved Elon students in its campaign by using them as a way to research financial literacy, Catino said.

"I think a lot of Elon students are focused on the career with the dream of

moving to a big city when we graduate," she said. "You really need to know you can't live in downtown Manhattan when you graduate, because the monthly bill payments will blind you. Being able to balance your checkbook and financial literacy play a big role in that."

The active portion of the campaign officially ends at 12 p.m. on March 8, and the finalists from around the country will meet in Florida to present their products to a panel of judges in May.

Egypt unrest illuminates controversial U.S. legislation

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

In light of the Egypt Internet shut down, controversy surrounding government Internet surveillance has resurfaced, provoking three United States senators to reframe a piece of U.S. legislation that would provide the president with greater authority over electronic communication.

In the aftermath of the Egypt Internet shut down, Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn, Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Tom Carper, D-Del, defended the "kill switch" bill, formally known as The Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act, which was introduced in June.

"All authoritarian regimes that confront the challenge of an open media world must look at it (the unrest in Egypt)," said Jason Kirk, professor of

political science.

The Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act grants the president authority to shut down particular systems or assets in the event of a cyber attack, states a press release from the United States Senate Committee of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs released June 23, 2010.

The senators explained that the bill does not have the same intentions as the censorship in Egypt. According to a statement released by the three Senators, the objectives are not to protect the government from the people, but rather to protect the U.S. people from a cyber attack.

"If the United States were to implement the kind of media controls that Egypt has tried to induce in a clumsy way, it wouldn't be recognizable as the U.S. anymore," Kirk said.

Is the bill technologically possible?

A CNN article, "Could the U.S. shut down the Internet" said that while the U.S. could enact the same censorship Mubarak had, the number of Internet service providers would make it difficult.

Laura Roselle, professor of political science, attributes the ineffectiveness to the number of Internet Service Providers, or ISPs, and public's ability to overcome many blockages.

Even with the small number of ISPs in Egypt, Kirk said he did not believe the attempt to control the Internet benefited the authoritative government. He points to the continued protests in Egypt and Google's mobile access development as evidence for the futility of Internet censorship.

"Really, in the case of the Mubarak government in Egypt, it's really out of touch with today's media environment and what the media allows people to do," Kirk said.

The balance between liberty and security

Although the authors of the bill do not call for a total "kill switch," they do advocate for presidential authority over elements of the Internet.

In order to appease the people, the U.S. government is going to claim the bill benefits security, Roselle said.

"And that's an ongoing conversation about democracy," she said. "To what degree are all your freedoms preserved in the midst of a potential crisis or during crisis and conflict?"

Given the infancy of the Internet, present legislation sets the boundaries for the relationship among the governed, governing and Internet.

While the Communications Act of 1934 provides the president with unchecked power over wire

communications platforms, the current Internet controversy revolves around the extent to which the public associates the Internet with freedom.

"The Internet provides multiple channels of information so that people can share information and people can express their views," Roselle said. "And that goes to notions and rights associated with free speech."

According to Kirk, the access to smart phones and the Internet provides another check on the government.

"Somebody's camera phone somewhere is going to take a picture of the innocent Egyptian who gets hurt if the state uses violence to repress the protests," he said.

In this way, technology provides the public with as much control of the image of the government as the authority figures have.

Elon University's Internet policy

Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president for technology, describes the Internet as an equalizing tool.

"It brings everyone more to the same level," he said.

According to Fulkerson, Elon University uses this idea to combat electronically published information that counters the administration's agenda. Rather than imposing censorship on negative material, the administration posts information compliant with the university image

using the same platforms that contain negative content, he said.

Roselle said she questions how and whose voice gains notice.

"Individuals need to be concerned with how we are going to get attention in the midst of all this noise," she said.

Despite any negative content with respect to the university the administration values the free exchange of ideas, and would not censor the Internet, Fulkerson said.

"We do not censor websites, but we hold students accountable," he said.

The bill's 'ambiguous' language

Returning to the issue of Internet censorship beyond the Elon "bubble," the "kill switch" bill does not speak to the regulation of people's use of the Internet, but rather the fear of abuse by an outside force.

Despite the senators' clarification of the bill's intention, the language of the bill does not specify the president's authority, Roselle said.

"It's too vague right now, so we don't know what the government could claim to do with the current terminology," Roselle said.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the American Library Association, as well as various other national organizations, expressed concern regarding the bill in a letter addressed to the three senators.

"The Internet is vital to free speech and free inquiry," the letter said. "Americans rely on it everyday to access and to convey information."

Roselle said she expected the bill to be challenged if it is formally introduced.

"I think it just creates a sense of mistrust of the people in power when they try to censor information," Fulkerson said.

Roselle said she encourages the public to stay educated on the language of the bill in order to understand to what extent the bill will disrupt the balance of security and liberty.

"We need more time living with this technology in order to understand really the ins and outs of what's going on," she said.

A continued struggle for balance, comparing legislations:

Patriot Act (2001)

The act aims to "deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, to enhance law enforcement investigatory tools, and other purposes."

The law gives the president access to "any tangible things for an investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information ... providing that such an investigation of a U.S. person is not conducted solely upon the basis of activities protected by the first amendment."

Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act (2010)

The bill provides a National Center for Cybersecurity, or NCCC, with "significant authority over covered critical infrastructure, or CCI, owners and operators," according to a letter written by the ACLU, as well as numerous other national organizations. The bill prohibits the government from identifying systems as CCI "based solely on activities protected by the first amendment of the United States Constitution."

VS.

Student video selected to compete on PBS environmental special

Emma Howie
Reporter

Students in an environmental communications course submitted a video that has been named a finalist on PBS' "Planet Forward" special, and they aren't stopping there.

Sophomores Matthew Eastman and Kenton Beal, along with senior Logan Hardin, recently produced and submitted a video to PBS called "Recycling the Digestive System."

The video explains what is happening with the large amount of cow manure produced in North Carolina, and how it negatively impacts the environment. The video recommends that the implementation of biodigester technology would use the manure North Carolina farms produce and convert the waste into energy for heating homes.

According to PBS.org, the special will air April 8 and introduce innovative ideas from online video submissions and explore the technology involved.

The audience and online community will then select one finalist who is considered the most innovative.

"Planet Forward then follows the 'Planet Forward Innovator,' the person responsible for the idea, for a year online to see if his (or) her idea gains traction," the website reads.

Out of the 770 videos submitted, 14

were selected to compete in the special.

Barbara Miller, professor of communications, assigned the project that the students submitted for the special and said she was impressed with the final product.

"They put a lot of hours into this project, even after the semester ended," she said. "They were engaged in the material and always shared new perspectives during our discussions. I'm so proud of all three of them, and I'm excited to see their hard work being recognized."

Eastman and Beal have made future plans to continue advocating for environmentalism and creating a more pure Earth.

This past week, Eastman and Beal along with two other students, began their first documentary road trip series, focusing on bringing awareness to alternative energy usage and encouraging youth to recognize environmentalism.

They traveled through South Carolina in a 1977 Volkswagen bus, while exploring sustainable energy practices and talking to locals. A trailer of their trip will be available soon.

"We pride ourselves on bringing youth and entertainment to environmentalism," Eastman said. "A lot of environmental videos are boring and when making this video we wanted



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Kenton Beal (second from right) and Matthew Eastman (third from right) recently went on a documentary road trip with two other students. The documentary will be included in a series focusing their on environmental initiatives.

to do something different."

Eastman said this is the first of many projects he plans to work on.

"We want to eventually take the bus around and go college-to-college and talk to the individuals that are active in environmental advocacy," he said.

Eastman and Beal said they are passionate about encouraging today's youth to want to learn more about the environment.

"There's a disconnect between environmental science and environmental advocacy. We are

trying to bridge the gap," Beal said.

Their next plan includes appearing on Elon TV and continuing to work on effectively communicating alternative energy use in an entertaining manner.

The trio is dedicated to changing the general dynamic of environmental videos so people will want to listen and join the movement.

They also plan to look further into creating environmentally sustainable inventions and tactics that promote saving energy with ease.

Historically high levels of stress seen in freshmen

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

As an increased number of students visit counseling services on Elon University's campus, a recent study found first-year college students are experiencing a record level of stress.

According to a report from the Higher Education Research Institute, first-year college students' self-ratings of emotional health dropped to record lows in 2010. A survey was distributed to students entering four-year colleges and universities as part of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at University of California at Los Angeles.

"Only 51.9 percent of students reported that their emotional health was in the 'highest 10 percent' or 'above average,' a drop of 3.4 percentage points from 2009," according to a press release from UCLA news.

Bruce Nelson, director of counseling at the R.N. Ellington Health and Counseling Center, said counseling directors across the country are reporting a rise in the demand for services, as well as an increase in the complexity of issues that students are presenting. There are currently numerous professional theories seeking to explain this trend, he said.

"More people have a history of pre-existing issues and have had contact with (counseling) providers before they get to college," he said. "Some could have had a medication regimen that worked fine

in high school and then when they come to college with all of the new demands, whatever was working before doesn't anymore."

Since Elon University's counseling center opened in 2001, Nelson said the number of students seeking help from the center has steadily increased. Currently, the center will see about 10 percent of the entire student body during a year, he said.

"There are more freshmen and more seniors, which are points of natural transition for students," he said.

Specifically for freshmen arriving at college, the bar has been raised and expectations regarding student performance have gotten greater, Nelson said. Stress is typically the root cause of all major issues for students.

"The students coming in are getting brighter, more competitive and are higher-achieving," he said. "More people are well-equipped all around and there are issues of competition and fitting in."

Amanda Tapler, senior lecturer on health and human performance, said one of the main causes of stress is change and the need to adapt.

"You've got a time in life where everything is changing, and not just one aspect of their life," she said. "It's a time where social supports are critical. In the instance that students are out of state, their social supports may be far away. Building new social supports are very important but also can be difficult."

Tapler said she has also witnessed an increase in students who believe they must multitask in order to be successful.

"I have seen a transition from students primarily focusing on their academics to a time when students are double majoring, are in three or four extra activities and are working, all of which they are trying to do to the best of their ability," she said. "This is all stressful, especially if they are unable to be their very best."

Tapler said this, at times, comes as a result of the idea of success imposed on people by society.

"A lot of us are all about saying 'yes,' which isn't always good, as we don't learn to share or delegate," she said. "We take on more than what we're capable of doing so the end product may not be empowering."

Nelson said the heightened anxiety throughout society as a whole, including increased global stressors, is also embedded in students arriving at college.

"For example, you don't just see one incident on the mass media, you can tune into a lot of them at once," he said. "When students come into college, existing (stressful) tendencies are being exacerbated."

As far as health is concerned, the consequences of stress play out on a very individual basis, according to Tapler.

"Really, it is on a case by case basis so being able to listen to those students and find out what some of the root causes are

BENEFITS OF STRESS?

-According to Nelson, the learning model for students actually involves stress. Once a task is mastered, there is no stress but also no challenge or learning, he said.

-Though Tapler said excessive stress over a lifetime can lead to a shortened lifespan, she agreed it is a natural process.

"You need a balance of stress and you need good stress to help motivate you," she said. "No stress causes you to be bored and we'll always have personal, environmental stressors so it's about being able to cope with them."

is important," she said. "People will say 'I'm stressed,' but when you ask them why, they can't give a clear answer. It's about trying to get students to identify stressors, be very specific and then think about those things and the coping skills they can use."

For Nelson, this means focusing on the individual assessment of each student who visits the counseling center.

"We get a sense of where the stress is, what the issue is," he said. "We work hard to hear what's not working and also their strengths. It will be a different intervention for everybody."

Merit-based pay raises for faculty influenced by student evaluations

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

At last month's budget forum at Elon University, the budget committee proposed a salary pool of 2 percent, which would go toward raises for all faculty and staff members and reward some members based on merit.

"A salary pool is a pool of money that is available for distribution for raises," said Tim Peeples, associate provost for faculty affairs. "As a part of the budgeting process, we determine what the salary pool will be. This happens every year at Elon."

Last year, Elon had a 2 percent salary pool, compared to the average 4 percent pool in prior years.

According to Peeples, 1 percent of the salary pool is distributed among faculty and staff members who have completed all necessary tasks required

of them. The other 1 percent is given based on merit and is distributed to faculty and staff members who have done excellent work.

According to Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs, the deans of each school take many factors into consideration when deciding which faculty and staff members to reward.

"The deans of each school will look at student evaluations and talk with department chairs, faculty members and colleagues," House said. "They do their best to be fair. It's not an easy job for the deans."

Through the use of a merit-based

system, Peeples said certain employees receive more than a 2 percent pay raise.

Peeples said institutions that do not have a merit system have faculty unions that negotiate a flat raise across the board for all employees.

"It's been a tradition at the institution to have a merit system," he said. "The merit system acts as a motivator. It also helps the institution reward people for exceptional work."

The salary pool allows the university to reward those who are deserving of an increase, according to Peeples.

"The deans of each school will look at student evaluations and talk with department chairs, faculty members and colleagues."

- STEVEN HOUSE
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Frozen yogurt shop to replace 116 Oak in downtown Elon

Jack Dodson
Multimedia Editor

Following the sudden closure of restaurant 116 Oak Feb. 1, Local Yogurt co-owner Mike Bergman has been working to quickly transform the building.

The Lebanon Avenue shop will be renovated into the fourth Local Yogurt in a series of stores opened by the company since 2009. The Elon shop will open March 5.

When 116 Oak closed, former chef Chris Williams said between 10 and 12 people were laid off but he said he never found out why the store closed.

"It was rather quick," he said. "We're gathering our stuff up and getting out of here."

The property owner, Joel Brown, couldn't be reached for comment.

Since its launch, Local Yogurt has opened shops in Greenville and Raleigh, which Bergman has attributed to early success in the business.

When Bergman's sister, Leah, first came to Elon within the past year, the two decided they wanted to open a shop in the town.

"She loved the Town of Elon," Bergman said, "loved how the people were out and about."

Mike and Leah first looked at Sidetrack Grill, which has been closed since early August, but they decided the space was too big for them.



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

After abruptly closing Feb. 1, downtown Elon restaurant 116 Oak will be replaced by Local Yogurt, opening March 5.

"That didn't quite fit our needs," Bergman said. "It's a pretty big restaurant."

Brown suggested they look at another building he owned, which at the time was 116 Oak.

Bergman said when Brown first showed him and his sister around, he told them about all the development planned for the downtown area as a part of Elon University's 10-year strategic plan, The Elon Commitment.

"We'd like to be a first mover and create an initiative for other businesses to come to Elon," Bergman said.

The restaurant's main product is frozen yogurt

and it will have two machines, each holding four flavors.

Bergman said he's hoping to add a third machine later on, which could hold two more flavors.

The shop buys fruit and toppings from local farmers, as long as the food is in season.

"One thing we'll always have local is our honey," Bergman said.

Bergman said Local Yogurt is popular with college students, given that its business is run out of North Carolina college towns.

Even though Elon is much smaller, he said he

thinks the area will be a good one for the shop.

"We're committed to the fact that Elon is a smaller school," Bergman said. "We just see it as a longtime place to be involved with."

Already, he said, he's had multiple Elon students contact him about employment opportunities at the shop.

The shop will be run by a local manager, Bergman said, and he or his sister will come by regularly to be around the store.

"We would find ourselves in the store weekly, between the two of us," he said. "We hit all the stores once a week."

NEWS BRIEFS

Multicultural Center to host diversity council for accepted Elon students

Elon Multicultural Center will be hosting a spring diversity council to attract students already accepted to the university. Last year more than 200 people attended, and 70 percent of students that attended the diversity council are now enrolled at Elon.

Tim Wise, an essayist, author and educator, will speak at the conference about race issues.

SGA has provided some of the funds for the speaker because the speech will focus on power, privilege and equality, said Matt Campbell, SGA executive treasurer.

He said he believes the council and speaker pertains to Elon's strategic plan's No. 1 goal to increase diversity.

"Having a speaker for (diversity) helps to increase the talk about diversity and bring people around the regional area and bring different perspectives," Campbell said.

Elon alumnus wins two Emmys

Phillipe Charles, an '06 Elon alumnus, won two Emmy awards at the 25th annual MidSouth Regional Emmy Awards Jan. 29 for his coverage of the Duke men's basketball national championship and the aftermath of the January 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Charles is currently a creative services producer at FOX 50, an affiliate of WRAL-TV in Durham, N.C.

Four Elon students featured on WXII 12 News for original music video

Four Elon University students were featured on WXII 12 News Feb. 2 for their original music video "Hooked on Phoenix." Sophomores Dan Enders, Greg Gentile, Will Anderson and David Gwynn created an auto-tuned music video about the university mascot.

Each student wrote the lyrics for his respective verse. The video followed the creation of "Ode to Smith Jackson," a humorous song about the institution's vice president and dean of student life.

Rev. Andrew O'Connor to deliver 2011 Baccalaureate sermon

Rev. Andrew O'Connor will deliver the 2011 Baccalaureate sermon at Elon and speak about the genesis of the non-profit organization Goods of Conscience. The Baccalaureate ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. on May 20 in the Koury Athletic Center.

Off Campus Housing Day



Come check out your choices!

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Editorials

Students deserve professionalism from SGA, Pendulum

A letter of apology should be just that: apologetic. But SGA Executive President Taylor Martin's letter, published on The Pendulum website on Thursday, missed the mark.

He never once apologized for bringing unofficial guests into the SGA office afterhours. Instead, he apologized for the negative attention his actions brought SGA and expressed his disappointment in the student media.

This disappointment is puzzling to The Pendulum staff. It was a SGA official who leaked the initial information about Martin's charges of misconduct. We didn't cover them until they were made official during a SGA meeting. Pendulum staff members contacted Martin, SGA adviser Jana Lynn Patterson and SGA Vice President Joe Slocum to confirm the charges and received no response. The only form of communication was a joint SGA statement of "no comment."

Martin's claim that he was not given a chance to express his side of the story is a blatant lie.

In the past, Pendulum reporters and editors have not always sufficiently covered the actions of both SGA members and the organization as a whole. Though when we do report on SGA actions and its events, it is always conducted in a fair and accurate manner. We admit that we have failed our readers by not providing consistent coverage of an organization that is a significant part of the Elon community and charged with making decisions that will affect the entire campus.

As we start a new year with a new staff at The Pendulum, our attitude will change.

Just as the members of SGA consider themselves a highly professional organization, we consider ourselves professional journalists who have a responsibility to provide information to the community.

While not all current members of SGA plan to eventually go into the field of politics, currently they do hold a position of power and must be held accountable. They influence the distribution of money, what initiatives are begun and, essentially, student life on campus.

It's time for the entire campus to be made aware of what its student government association is actually accomplishing.

While we do not question the various successes SGA has had in the past years and its positive impacts on campus, we will now closely monitor all that SGA does and bring prompt, correct and fair information directly to the student body.

While we understand SGA's displeasure with student media at this point, we now only ask it to understand our purpose as a group on campus to the same extent we understand and recognize its.

Incidents raise questions about safety

Elon is a pretty place. During the day, there are students walking about, moving from building to building, maybe carrying a bag of books or heading to the gym. At night, some students are still carrying books, but many might be walking around with friends, seeking temporary refuge from the onslaught of homework.

Even in the middle of the night, Elon doesn't feel scary. Maybe a bit spooky in the older parts of campus or around the darker corners of North Area, but not scary.

For the most part, crime statistics for Elon reflect this feeling. Aside from a few freak incidents, like the "Bator" and a student accidentally striking a pedestrian, not many students could name times when they've felt unsecure

on campus.

But normally, students can rely on Smith Jackson e-mails to alert the population when we need to be concerned. In the last two weeks on campus, significant events have taken place, and the administration hasn't felt the need to inform the student body.

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, a car was stolen from the Harper Center parking lot in broad daylight in less than two minutes.

According to the Clery Act, a set of rules governing which crimes must be reported and recorded on college campuses, auto theft is a crime that must be reported to students in a "timely manner."

At publication date, the only information released to the student

body was from the student media.

Chuck Gantos, director of campus safety and police, said students weren't informed because they weren't sure they actually had a theft at first because the video was inconclusive. But now it is being investigated properly.

The last weekend in January, a student used a metal chair to shatter two windows of the Colonnades dormitories. While this person was a student at Elon, and was reportedly under the influence of alcohol and didn't take anything from the buildings, students, even those who live in the buildings, were not informed.

In the beginning of January, a Smith Jackson e-mail was sent containing information about items being recovered after being stolen from vehicles parked in lots of on- and off-campus apartments. There was never an e-mail saying these thefts were happening in the first place.

So when will students be informed of a crime on or near campus?

"Anytime we have an incident that we think jeopardizes the safety of our students," Gantos said.

It's said that media serve as watchdogs, but on a college campus, this begs the question: What is the role of the administration? If we cannot count on it to keep us informed of crime and potential threats to student safety, what can we expect it to do?

Elon is a place that feels safe. But how much of that is real? If the incidents reported here would have gone unnoticed without the work of student media, how many events have occurred that escaped any attention?

The campus community deserves to know what is occurring on campus at all times. If they want a student body that is well-informed and vigilant about guarding against crime, the administration has to do some of the heavy lifting, too.



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

TO COMMENT ...

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

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

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

The second major holiday of 2011 is approaching. Read how five Pendulum staffers have been fairing since making their New Year's resolutions:

www.pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

Read even more commentary about Elon and beyond at:
www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

Did you catch the game on Sunday? If you did, you're not alone. Fox estimated 109.7 million households tuned in to watch the Packers beat the Steelers. Ashley Watkins explains why this event is so popular. Just click the Opinions tab on The Pendulum website.



THE PENDULUM

Established 19

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

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Opinions

Elon should examine grading alternatives



Marlena Chertock
Columnist

Your professor hands back an essay and you flip to the last page to see your grade. The page is full of comments in red but lacks a grade. Is this a mistake? What if this were the norm?

Students at high schools and colleges around the country experience this alternative every day, and Elon should consider the benefits of this different form of grading. At Hampshire College in Massachusetts, narrative evaluations take the place of

typical grades.

After every class at Hampshire, students receive written feedback detailing their strengths, weaknesses, things they could improve upon, their class performance and ideas for future research.

"The idea behind narrative evaluation is that we're eliminating the culture of competition," said Jessica Ortiz, assistant dean of admissions at Hampshire. "Students are not comparing themselves to each other."

An atmosphere devoid of competition would be beneficial for students. College students are reporting high levels of stress, anxiety and depression, according to The New York Times. If students were more focused on learning than getting specific grades, some of this stress and poor emotional health would be alleviated.

"What's great about narrative evaluations is that there's no upper limit to how a student can do, not as if you get an A or A+ and stop," Ortiz said. "It's about students continuing to achieve their personal best."

While Elon has taken a step in the direction of alternative and more engaged learning with its Experiential Learning Requirement, it is a very small one.

David Cooper, dean of the school of education at Elon, studied at Brown University under a curriculum system that didn't mandate letter grades. Faculty

members wrote extensive feedback upon request, which became a part of student's official transcripts, Cooper said.

"When you get a grade, you're often not fully informed as to what the grade indicates," he said. "With a narrative evaluation, you get specific evaluation on where your strengths are and areas of improvements. It requires faculty members to be very engaged in all students."

He said the lack of grades pushed students to go out of their comfort zones, but that it might not work at Elon.

"I think it would be somewhat jarring to somewhat change that system. My guess would be is that if you were to put a system like that in place I would imagine students would still opt for a grade if they were given a choice," Cooper said.

Perhaps a system of written feedback and no grades would work better in certain areas of study, such as creative writing or English, where grades are more subjective. But the benefits could help any student, regardless of his or her field. For instance, if science majors didn't have to worry about their grades, perhaps they could focus more on experiments and undergraduate research.

There should be punishments for students who didn't perform well or weren't doing their work, just like there are lower grades. A lower grade can often be a slap back to reality. But verbal or written feedback from professors would be more beneficial and informative for students to work to improve.

"Performance anxiety went away," said Kevin Boyle department chair of English, who studied at the University of Iowa. For his creative writing courses, there were no grades; it was a pass/fail basis, he said.

"It was liberating," he said. "You never felt as if you had to perform dutifully on every work."

Elon students should be able to hope for the same liberation.

Alternative grading

Some colleges and universities use alternative grading methods such as narrative evaluations instead of traditional letter grades.

- Colleges and Universities with alternative grading methods

- * Hampshire College
- * Brown University
- * Evergreen State College
- * Goddard College
- * Bennington College
- * Union Institute & University
- * New College of Florida

graphic by Marlena Chertock

Winter Term courses teach lessons beyond the classroom



Ashley Jobe
Columnist

We darted across lanes of traffic, slipped on algae, collected sand in our shorts, licked salt from the air off the backs of our hands, ate fish we caught hours before and stood at the meeting place of the Atlantic and Caribbean oceans with our arms outstretched.

These were just a few memories cultivated during the 2011 Winter Term trip to Barbados.

Yes, the itinerary included a visit to the national newspaper, The Nation, and a tour of its production and printing facilities, as well as the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and its radio stations. We went to the Parliament, the University of West Indies, Earthworks Pottery, the island's Wildlife Reserve and the national

cricket stadium.

But we also explored the beaches, long stretches of white sand, natural caves and gullies. We discovered the joys of sunlight, unabated, on our skin. We danced to beats unlike any we've heard in the United States, and still relished the more recognizable tunes.

While completing our mandatory journal entries, we sat together most nights, watching silently as the sun disappeared beyond the horizon.

There was the occasional display of ethnocentric entitlement at work in our daily interactions - impatience with locals, comparisons between American and Bajan restaurant service - all of which I saw coming.

Our brief immersion in island culture was not enough to completely distance us from the Elon mentality to which our group had become accustomed.

Despite that, there was an overwhelming sense of celebration present, a gratefulness for the geographical location we had chosen - an island 21 miles long, where healthcare and education is free, where the number of rum shops rival the number of houses of worship.

We were affectionately nicknamed by Rastafarians and were allowed to touch species kept behind bars in America. We made music with tree seedlings and drank tea made from tree bark. We were incomprehensibly close to nature in ways we simply could not be at Elon.

Studying abroad is about seeing yourself exactly as you are in that moment, with your feet on the pavement, with your hands enclosed in another's in greeting, exchanging money for a foreign meal or dancing with only the music to connect you to the stranger beside you, discovering how you will react in situations you've never been in before and learning what textbooks could never explain. This is what the study abroad experience offers.

The lessons learned abroad are more than the assignments completed and the lectures made in classrooms.

Of course, to earn the credits promised, some sort of academic rigor is expected. But truly, each experience is meant to be had authentically, cherished in all its original glory, in person.

Giving up your summer

Internships and jobs can be a foot in the door for hard-working students



Jennifer McAllister
Columnist

relief.

You have escaped the mundane drudgery of school; no more teachers, tedious homework or painful tests. And most of all, no more waking up in the wee hours of the morning just to make it to class on time. This is it all right - the beginning of the best three months of your life, filled with sun, swimming and most importantly, sleep.

Sounds perfect right? But what happens when this picturesque view of summer disappears and life starts to set in? And, no, I don't mean summer school, although some would say the two are alarmingly similar. I'm talking about summer jobs.

These days, it seems like more people are trading in their childhood joys of summer for internships and jobs, a much more practical and responsible approach to those summer nights. But how much does searching for these summer substitutes dampen our excitement when our last final exam is done? And why do we feel the need to get a job or internship every summer?

For freshman Scott Balerno, the answer is simple.

"It's important for me to get a job for financial reasons," he said. "If I didn't have a job, I'd have plenty to do, but I need the extra money for once school starts up again."

Even though Balerno recognizes the

There it is- the last final exam. It's the last day of school, and finally, mercifully, summer has arrived, and as you burst through those dull-colored double doors, taking your first steps into the rejuvenating sunshine, you can't help but feel

need for a summer job, he can't help but note that it also does make summer a bit less appealing.

"Instead of going out with friends all the time and spending the whole summer on the beach, sleeping, or doing nothing," said Balerno, "I'm going to be spending my time being more productive. I'm sure I'll find plenty of time to catch up with my friends, but getting a job is my number one priority."

Junior Kassi Mattera has a different view of summer activities.

Last summer, Mattera taught at local dance studios near her hometown of Howard County, Maryland. She also performed in Howard County Summer Theatre's "The Music Man" and was the director and choreographer of Howard County Summer Theatre Jr.'s "High School Musical 2." Howard County Summer Theatre Jr. holds a particularly special place in her heart; she was a founding member of this organization five years ago. Mattera emphasizes that this is not just 'work' for her.

"I love what I do," she said. "I look forward to summer every year so that I can build relationships with my students, share my knowledge with them, and learn from them."

Mattera, who is also a dance major, feels that these summer "jobs" not only give her the opportunity to do what she loves, but teach her about her future.

"I am forever grateful to all of those who hired me," exclaims Mattera. "These jobs are preparing me for my future and give me hands on experiences in the career path I have chose to follow."

Although it may not be the classic "burst-through-the-doors- and- start-belting- Alice-Cooper's- 'School's Out'- chorus," summer internships and jobs can actually provide us with that stepping-stone to keep moving forward. And, as Balerno puts plainly, "Having extra spending money is nice too."

Style



Left: Jeremey Koon owns D and K bike shop in Mebane with friend Shannon Dowd. Thirty people gathered for the grand opening Feb. 3 to check out the bike selection. Top: Elon alumna Stacey Koon designed the website for the bike shop. Koon said the response has been mostly positive.

Pedaling new wares: Local Elon alumna and husband open bike shop in Mebane

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Local Elon alumna Stacy Koon has entered a new phase in her life with the opening of a bike shop in Mebane, which is partly owned by her husband.

D and K Bike Shop opened last week and is owned and operated by friends Jeremy Koon and Shannon Dowd. Dowd owned Shannon's Bike Center in Burlington for 20 years before he closed the shop two years ago, when it was no longer profitable at the location.

"We've been talking about it again for quite a while," Jeremy Koon said. "We had an owner down here who heard what we were talking about doing and said he'd make space available for us if we wanted to make it happen. I had been a manager at Lowe's for six years and was looking for something else and had always wanted to try something on my own, so here we are."

Although Koon said no bikes have been sold yet, he anticipates the warmer weather will bring more customers and sales. Along with BMX and freestyle bikes, the shop will also carry road bikes, cruisers and mountain bikes to suit the needs of all community members. More than 30 people attended the grand opening Feb. 3.

"People were jotting down bikes they liked and said they'd be back," he said. "It's still cold out; the spring starts around April and that's when people will really be out and that's when we're hopefully (start) picking up."

While Stacy Koon said the feedback has been widely positive, some have not been as supportive and have questioned the decision to open a small business, particularly during troubled economic times.

"It doesn't phase me at all," she said. "They're questioning 'why now?' and I'm saying 'why not now?' I don't think (Jeremy) would ever be ultimately happy working for anyone but himself."

Jeremy Koon said that while a bike is available at Walmart for around \$80, if it breaks, it is almost impossible to find correct parts for it. At upwards of \$300, the bikes from D and K Bike Shop are more expensive, but will last for years and are entirely repairable and replaceable.

"You can also upgrade it like a car, with different parts," he said.

Jeremy Koon said it took about three months, starting in late October when they made the initial decision, to finalize the opening of the shop.

The owners are still working to fill the shop with more inventory, but have successfully lined up vendors and have bikes ready to sell.

"People caught word we were opening; we had people knocking on the door for weeks," he said. "It's still a process going on now, but we are open to sell."

As the only bike shop in Mebane, and specializing in BMX and freestyle bikes, Jeremy Koon said the shop meets a specific need in the community. Many families with children who ride BMX bikes at the local track buy parts from a website based in Indiana.

"It's going to be a matter of getting the word out that we're down here," he said. "We're a local small business and you don't have to pay for shipping. We want people to come support the local community and let us make a little dollar or two."

Much of the advertising to date has come from word-of-mouth and Facebook, Jeremy Koon said, which has led to a positive response. They also plan to place a sponsorship billboard at the BMX track in Burlington, which will open in a few weeks and host races every Friday night through December.

Dowd and Jeremy Koon are also recognized community members, which Koon hopes will increase their success.

"From working at Lowe's (together), we're pretty well-known," he said. "Shannon (Dowd) is also well-known from his bike shop in Burlington."

Stacy Koon, who graduated from Elon in 1996 with a degree in English, is involved with the development of the store and works to find contacts for the store. She also creates advertisements and helps with Web layout.

"Jeremy has a good eye for layouts and Shannon is good with the bikes; it's all pieced together very well," she said.

Stacy Koon said she has worked to implement the skills she learned from her studies at Elon, specifically using technology and Web building.

"The things I learned at Elon are so transferable, including having a positive attitude," she said. "The professors (there) ride bikes and I tell them to come on down."

She said she was pleasantly surprised by the feedback she's received so far on the website, which she worked to design.

"It's definitely a labor of love," Stacy Koon said. "I try to make a concerted effort to put products on there and

(images) of the inside of the store."

In order to sell bikes available in the store, vendors must see a good website, Jeremy Koon said.

"They want to see you're a legitimate business with a storefront, business license, liability insurance and not doing just Internet sales," he said. "They want a commitment that you'll buy just so many bikes and push the product."

From the extensive number of manufacturers, Jeremy Koon said the

shop chose the top three currently available, including Haro and Redline, an international company and well-known name in the racing community.

According to Stacy Koon, the family opened the business the "smart" way, without taking out any loans or money against their home.

"We'd certainly like to see it work out well," she said. "We'll give it a year and see how it goes. Hopefully, one day our sons (Trevor and Landon) will want it."



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIZABETH LEMAN

ABOVE: Senior Natalie Lampert teaches Malmi the lyrics to "Lean on Me" at Panangala Mahabodhi School. The Sri Lankan school children taught the scholars lyrics in Sinhalese. LEFT: A schoolchild in Sri Lanka holds up the Silly Bandz the Periclean Scholars brought.

Traveling with a purpose: Students hold 2-day environmental conference in Sri Lanka, film documentaries, conduct research

Marlena Chertock
Design Editor

Thirteen seniors and one junior walked through tea country, rolling green hills of tea all in lines. They were in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka.

The Periclean Scholars Class of 2011 traveled to Sri Lanka from Jan. 7 to 26 to conduct research, produce a documentary and hold an environmental conference.

They donated supplies and books to schools they have been working with for three years. They also held a two-day conference called LEAF, the Leaders in Environmental Advocacy Forum, at the University of Colombo.

"People can't be expected to act sustainably unless they're informed," senior Jesse Lee said.

That's where LEAF came in. LEAF forged a partnership with experts, professors and non-profit organizations, Lee said.

The scholars invited professors, students, businesses and non-profit organizations to the conference in order to foster conversation

and build relationships according to senior Elizabeth Leman.

"Hopefully that will be something sustainable after we graduate," Leman said.

Documenting environmental issues

Lee, Charles Smith and Jack Dodson, multimedia editor for The Pendulum, took on a separate documentary project during their time in Sri Lanka.

"The documentary is looking at the environmental issues for Sri Lanka as an example of what the rest of the world is facing," Lee said. "While it's all shot in Sri Lanka, the message is global."

They looked at waste management, water quality, deforestation, mangroves and the human-elephant conflict, Lee said. The human-elephant conflict is due to overpopulation of both humans and elephants in Sri Lanka, according to Lee.

Some scenes in documentaries unfold

spontaneously, according to Lee.

"There's a scene that I didn't expect to get at all, it wasn't really on our radar," Lee said. "We were on an island with Chathura (Welivitiya), a director of Rainforest International."

The island is home to a school for young boys to learn to become Buddhist priests.

"We were walking by a building and there are no doors and no handles on the outside," he said. "And as we go by, the doors open up and we go inside and take off our shoes," he said.

The group had ended up inside a Buddhist priest's mediation room.

"Without any prompting from us, this priest just begins speaking about how connected his faith is to the environment and how important it is for them to have that as a part of their religion," Lee said.

The documentary is in the editing stages. Lee said they hope to have a feature-length documentary finished before the semester's end.

Researching the effects of war in Sri Lanka

Leman researched international humanitarian law. She is researching three case studies: the Nuremberg tribunal, the Rwanda tribunal and the Sri Lanka war crimes situation.

Even though the situations are different, Leman said she is trying to find common threads between them.

"Overwhelmingly, what I've found was that people want to move on with their lives," Leman said. "They want to rebuild; they're more worried about having enough to eat and sending their kids to school than they are about finding out who killed their loved ones (in the war)."

Leman came away feeling more pro-government than she said she thought she would.

"The government feels like it's been singled out," Leman said. "For having defeated terrorism, it feels like it should have a pat on the back instead of being pointed fingers at."

Sri Lankans are ready to talk about and work through the issues surrounding what happened with the war, she said.

Researching water quality in Sri Lanka

Senior Julia Crowley researched water quality in the country. She focused on discrepancies between urban and rural quality and availability. She conducted a survey in English and Sinhala, a language in Sri Lanka.

People in Sri Lanka are starting to realize the impacts that development will have on their water, according to Crowley.

"I'm just hoping that my survey, as small as it was, can add to that body of knowledge as they start to gather more data," she said.

She also said Sri Lankans come from a Buddhist culture and have a different relationship with nature than Western people.

"They view themselves more directly a part of nature as I feel we view ourselves in Western culture as above nature," Crowley said. "We view ourselves as stewards, which sounds nice but is actually patronizing. It reduces the importance we put on nature."

Spring break hotspots for college students

Lindsay Kimble
Copy Editor

It's that time of year again, when college students begin the frantic scramble to plan what hopefully becomes a memorable spring break. For Elon students, spring break 2011 falls between March 18 to March 29. While many students make the trek home for those 11 days, there are numerous locales frequented by the college crowd. If you're opting to vacation, start planning.

Hilton Head Island

Location: South Carolina

Estimated car travel time (according to Google maps): Five hours and 49 minutes

Average high temperatures in March (according to Weather.com): 70 degrees Fahrenheit

Rental Companies: Island Getaway, Hilton Head Rentals, Destination Vacation Rentals and Resort Quest Rentals

Attractions: Pirates Island Adventure Mini Golf, 18-hole golf courses, Sea Pines beach club, Harbour Town lighthouse and shopping center, Coligny Plaza shopping center, Tanger Outlets, a multitude of restaurants and bars and three movie theaters, among other things. Dolphin cruises, jet-ski, bike, kayak rentals and tours are also available. It is also a one-hour drive to Savannah, Ga.

Downfalls: Hilton Head is very family-centered and there is not much of a college scene. Also, many activities and restaurants can be pricey. There are restrictions on what foods and beverages can be brought to the beach, and some

vacation plantations only let those staying there experience inside attractions.

Student Opinions: Junior Nick Livengood is traveling with a group of Elon friends to Hilton Head Island for the 2011 spring break.

"We picked to go to Hilton Head this year because it's not too far away to travel, and is a nice location that doesn't get overcrowded for spring break," Livengood said.

Panama City Beach

Location: Florida

Estimated car travel time: 11 hours and 21 minutes

Average high temperatures in March: 71 degrees Fahrenheit

Rental Companies: Student City, Panama Beach Rentals, Panama City Beach Rentals, Vacation Rentals by Owner (vrbo.com)

Attractions: Multiple beaches, Gulf World Marine Park, Golf Club, Zoological conservatory, multiple nightclubs, parasail rentals, dolphin tours, bike rentals and Shipwreck Island waterpark.

Downfalls: Panama City Beach gets overrun during spring break season, and sometimes can become dangerous. According to the Panama City Beach Police Department, a total of 1,925 arrests were made during spring break last year. The beach gets overcrowded and not all clubs are open to those under 21.

Student Opinions: Sophomore Barrett Carver is going to Panama City Beach this year with a group of friends. "I think we are going to stay in a hotel, Carver said. I'm excited to go; it should be a fun atmosphere with all the other college students."

The Outer Banks

Location: North Carolina

Estimated car travel time: Four hours and 51 minutes

Average high temperatures in March: 60 degrees Fahrenheit

Rental Companies: Sun Reality N.C., Outer Banks Vacations, Southern Shores, Resort Realty

Attractions: Beaches, pools, golf courses, miniature golfing, Segway tours, horseback riding, bicycle rentals, tennis, TimBuck II Shopping Village and Tanger Outlet Center.

Downfalls: While there are multiple areas in the Outer Banks, attractions are minimal. There is only one WalMart throughout the entire Outer Banks, so grocery shopping can be difficult.

The Outer Banks is geared toward family and romantic vacations, and shopping is minimal.

Student Opinions: Sophomore Paige Pescatore loves heading down to the Outer Banks.

"It's really never that crowded, and the Outer Banks is incredibly relaxing," Pescatore said. "There is not that much of a city atmosphere, but in my opinion that makes the luxury of the beach more enjoyable."

Orlando

Location: Florida

Estimated car travel time: 10 hours and 19 minutes

Average high temperatures in March: 78 degrees Fahrenheit



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

Rental Companies: Disney World

Attractions: Walt Disney World theme parks, Universal Studios (including the newly opened Harry Potter World), Cocoa Beach, multiple shopping centers and Kennedy Space Center.

Downfalls: The theme parks in Orlando can be very pricey. Unless you stay in one of the theme park resorts, transportation can be difficult.

Also, the area can become extremely crowded and is tourism geared. Most of the area is designed for families.

Student Opinions: "I had the greatest time when we visited Orlando for spring break last year," sophomore Jessica Schoenholtz said. "We did the 'Give a Day, Get a Day' program, so our visit to Magic Kingdom was completely free. I loved being in Disney — it made me nostalgic and carefree." Schoenholtz went to Florida for spring break 2010 and spent a day in Disney, then traveled to nearby Cocoa Beach.

Top 6 Valentine's activities for the single and the attached

Nicole Esplin
Reporter

This year, Valentine's Day happens to fall on the one day of the week where schoolwork seems heaviest and college life seems the most unbearable.

Whether it's one of your favorite days of the year or the most dreaded, Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, and if you don't make plans now, you may be spending it alone. Here are some ideas from Elon students compiled to help you, (if single), avoid the Hallmark holiday blues or enjoy time with your significant other, if attached.

1. Take your friends or significant other out to The Mad Platter in Burlington. Located less than two miles from Moseley Center, this pottery shop allows customers to paint bowls, plates, trinkets and gifts for themselves or others. "I went to The Mad Platter because I wanted to make a coffee mug for my boyfriend for Valentine's Day," freshman Ally Oram said. "It's such a nice way to say I love you." To contact The Mad Platter, call 336-584-0339 or visit www.madplatterstudio.com.

2. If you've recently experienced heartbreak, baking on Valentine's Day may put you in a better mood, and maybe you'll even score a few points with your crush by sending a few desserts his or her way. According to the National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy, the aromas from baking are scientifically proven to be relaxing and comforting. Two especially good ideas for Valentine's Day are homemade chocolate chip cookies and lemon bars. Lemon extract is one of the top-10 essential oils, and in addition to being uplifting and relaxing, it's helpful in treating wounds. We're not promising a healed broken heart, but it's worth a try.

3. Dress up and dine. Go out to dinner or host dinner at your place. Either option can be affordable or lavish, depending on your mood and budget. For deals on a new outfit for Valentine's Day, head to Mebane. The Tanger Outlets

offer popular clothing chains and designers, including Banana Republic, J. Crew and Ralph Lauren. While there, stop in the Le Creuset and Le Gourmet Chef stores, where you can pick up discounted cooking supplies if you plan on hosting. Make sure you check www.tangeroutlet.com/mebane/coupons for available coupons before heading out. For those looking to dine out, the Elon area has many restaurants. Simply Thai is celebrating Valentine's Day with special heart-shaped sushi rolls and dinner specials Feb. 11-14. For those looking to stay on campus, McEwen Dining Hall is serving up a Valentine's Day filet for dinner Feb. 14.

4. Gather friends for a game night. Ever wonder who in your group of friends will be the most successful? Or who has the best sense of fashion? Or which couple everyone thinks will end up getting married? Sit in a circle with your friends and nominate superlatives. Then, pass the papers out to your friends and have a laugh.

5. Have a movie marathon. Grab some blankets, hot chocolate from Acorn, a movie from Belk Library, which just expanded its inventory of DVDs and spend Valentine's Day snuggled up to your special someone or best friends. "I will probably get a ton of food with some close friends then have a movie marathon," freshman Hannah DelaCourt said. Irazu is also showing "Valentine's Day" on Feb. 12. The movie starts at 8 p.m., and there will be free popcorn at the SUBCinema sponsored event.

6. Whether you're missing your boyfriend, girlfriend or your family this Valentine's Day, use Skype to make the distance between you seem shorter. Plan a special dinner Skype date or just set aside a little extra time to see a familiar face fill your computer screen. Even if you're not missing them, family members will appreciate a quick call their way. Katie Magee, sister of freshman Sean Magee, uses Skype to communicate with her brother. "One of the very first times we Skyped, he gave me a tour of his room," Magee said. "Skype has made me not miss him as much, because I get to see him whenever I want."

More than Valentine's Day: February is American Heart Month



Brittany Washington
Reporter

The first thing that comes to many minds when they think of February is Valentine's Day. But February isn't just about the love your heart feels. It is also about your heart's health. February is American Heart Month and on Friday, Feb. 4, many people wore red to raise awareness about heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA) heart disease is the number one killer in America. Heart disease is also the number one killer of women in America. The AHA has a campaign specifically designed to bring awareness for heart disease among women called Go Red for Women.

The AHA started this campaign because only 55 percent of women know that heart disease is the number one killer, and less than half know the healthy levels for cardiovascular

risk factors like blood pressure and cholesterol.

Heart disease doesn't just mean a heart attack. According to WebMD.com, there are many conditions that fall under the category of heart disease. Some of these conditions are coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmia and heart failure.

WebMD.com provides a slideshow called the Visual Guide to Heart Disease. This shows viewers what heart disease does to your heart and provides warning signs and testing options to ensure your heart is healthy.

According to the American Heart Association, it is never too early to start taking care of your health. Carol Smith, professor of health and human performance at Elon University, agrees.

"Between 18 and 21, people think 'I'm young and healthy,' but if you don't start developing habits now, it will be

difficult later," Smith said. "By the time you realize you have a problem, it may be too late. Prevention is better than cure."

Smith suggested cardiovascular exercise as a way to keep your heart healthy.

"Cardiovascular exercise is anything that will elevate your heart rate, such as swimming, biking and walking," she said.

To keep her heart healthy, Smith works out and jogs.

But working out isn't the only thing you can do to keep your heart healthy. Professor Elizabeth Bailey, also a part of the health and human performance department, suggested healthy eating and managing stress.

"The best defense against heart disease is healthy eating and regular aerobic exercise, but not smoking, and staying at a healthy weight are also important," Bailey said. "Personally, I

do aerobic exercise five times a week, watch what I eat and don't smoke, but managing stress is also important."

Being college students, stress comes and goes often, going to the gym isn't always in our schedules and eating healthy can be difficult. Making a better effort to take time to relax, go to the gym and go to a dining hall with a salad bar instead of just grabbing pizza from Octagon are ways we can develop good habits to keep our hearts healthy.

In celebration of American Heart month, Colonnades Dining Hall is having a Heart Healthy lunch Feb. 16. Some heart healthy foods Colonnades may be serving are fruits, vegetables, lean meat, skinless chicken and fish. Lunch hours for Colonnades are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, visit americanheart.org, goredforwomen.com and webmd.com.

How to: Start the semester off the right way

David Turkel
Reporter

With spring semester having started a little more than a week ago, there is still plenty of time to set the tone for a fun and successful remainder of the year. With that in mind, here are tips to start the new semester on the right foot.

Review The Past

Looking back at what worked and didn't work in previous semesters can be a valuable exercise. According to studentstudyskills.com. By reviewing this, students can continue to engage in behaviors that have netted positive results in the past, such as setting aside specific blocks of time to do homework, and they can identify specific areas of improvement.

Set Specific Goals

There's proof behind the idea that setting a goal makes one more likely to reach it. According to research by Edwin Locke in the 1960s, setting goals and working toward them are a major source of motivation to reach a goal. In other words, if you set an objective, you have a good chance of reaching it. But keep in mind that Locke's research concluded that setting specific and more difficult

goals leads to better performance than setting vague and easy goals. While setting a broad goal like getting good grades may not lead to improved performance, a goal such as getting an A in a specific class is more likely to do so. Ultimately, if you know there is a certain achievement you want to reach during the semester, officially setting it as a goal is a great place to start.

Manage Your Time Effectively

Effectively managing your time is another great way to start the semester off well. This tip from suite101.com, a site dedicated to navigating college life successfully, may seem obvious. With most college students juggling some combination of courses, extracurriculars, social lives and family lives, prioritizing is important. Time management forces students to realize priorities and make time for activities that may otherwise be put off, such as homework or class projects. One tip for effective management is to buy a planner. Writing down a schedule for a given day makes it more difficult to simply forget events and activities, and forces students to set aside all components of their day.

Be Prepared

Studentstudyskills.com suggests this as yet

another way to get the semester started off on the right foot. By getting activities such as buying books, buying school supplies and locking down schedules out of the way, there are fewer distractions to deal with. While being prepared may not seem like it would make a big difference, being properly organized early in the semester gives you one fewer thing to worry about going forward.

Stay Motivated

Being motivated is a key part of being academically successful in the final semester of the year, according to suite101.com. With the end of the year looming, it can be difficult for some students to focus. One way to combat this problem is to identify your motivation. According to Carleton College professor Karin Kirk, student motivations in the classroom can be classified into two categories, intrinsic or extrinsic. Intrinsic motivation arises from a real interest in the subject matter, while extrinsic motivation comes from the desire to achieve a specific outcome, such as a good grade. Identifying which category you as a student fall into can help you focus on your reasons for taking a class. In turn it can remind you of your motivation to do well in the class, whether it's to get an A or to gain a greater understanding of the subject matter.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRINGE MAGAZINE
Electronic rock band Neon Trees is one of three artists performing at this year's Spring Show. Tickets cost \$25 for Elon students. The concert is Friday, May 6.

Neon Trees, Wale and Super Mash Bros. to play Spring Show

Julia Sayers
Staff Photographer

Neon Trees, Wale and Super Mash Bros. are this year's Spring Show, scheduled for 7 p.m. May 6 in Alumni Gym.

The Student Union Board announced the artists during the men's basketball game vs. Appalachian State University. The response to the announcement was mixed.

Students seemed excited for Wale, a rapper who has recorded with many popular artists, including Lady Gaga and Gucci Mane.

"Wale's one of my favorite rappers alive now," senior Chris Bunn said. "He's got great flow and solid hooks in his songs. I think he'll throw a good show."

Super Mash Bros. are "mash-up artists," which means they create songs by mixing together two or more recorded songs.

"I'm pretty excited about Super Mash Bros. They have some good mash-ups," sophomore Keegan Johnson said. "I don't really know Neon Trees, but I'll be there. I'm looking forward to it."

Most students seemed to agree that they would be attending the

show even though they weren't huge fans of all of the artists.

"I feel like there were better options, but I'll be there," freshman Sarah Fassett said.

SUB tries to provide a show that will appeal to everyone by pairing together artists with different styles of music.

"We figured out a mixed genre show is best for Elon," said senior Lauren Leonard, SUB music chair. "It brings a larger range of students."

But some students were disappointed with the genre choices for this year.

"I'd like to see more rock," senior Matt Sullivan said.

SUB uses the Spring Show survey as a basis for the artists they choose. The survey is built from previously suggested submissions from students at different events, as well as people on committees within SUB. Then they check with agencies to find out prices and availability.

Once the results of the survey are calculated, SUB works from the most popular down to determine who the artists will be. A bid is put in for the artist and the artist declines or accepts with certain requests,

such as date changes. The artist who is chosen is normally in the top percentage.

"The survey basically determines the Spring Show because that is where the main options come from," Leonard said.

After the artist is chosen and arrangements are made, SUB works through its agency to get the contracts signed and gets in touch with the artists for scheduling and transportation.

Most of the artists chosen are frequently booked at universities so they are used to playing college shows. My Nguyen, president of SUB, and Leonard both agreed the artists are always appreciative.

"We treat them well; we meet their needs and they enjoying coming to Elon because the students are so welcoming," Leonard said.

But what most artists find unique about Elon is the small southern town.

"Every place they go is unique and different so they're not put off by being in a small town in North Carolina, but most haven't spent time in the South, so they're intrigued by it," Leonard said.

Elon students react to Spring Show artist announcements



Steve Fales
Senior

"I'll go for Wale and I really like Neon Trees, too."



Alex Gaul
Freshman

"All I know is that Neon Trees is going to perform at the Spring Show and the opening is the Super Marios? Brothers? Something."



Dan Montalvo
Senior

"I'm definitely going for Wale. A lot of people are already talking about it."



Cleo Dan
Freshman

"I'm definitely going. There are people that know the artists more than I do. But I'm going to go because I like the Neon Trees."



Liz Feindel
Sophomore

"I don't really know anything. I went to the basketball game and I saw who was coming. There's a possibility (I'd go) but I'm not sure right now."

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

Video: Students sound off on the spring show selection.

<http://bit.ly/SpringShow2011>
Jack Dodson,
Multimedia Editor

The Oscar goes to... not many options



Michelle Wilson
Columnist

Award season is upon us, and with it comes celebrities dressed to impress, statuettes that vaguely resemble naked men and the best films of the year duking it out for that No. 1 spot.

Everyone, or at least those interested in film, has his or her own predictions about who will win the Golden Globe Awards, the British Academy of Film and Television Awards and the holy grail, The Academy Awards. Most years, it's difficult to guess who or what will even be nominated.

The Academy Award nominations were released Jan. 25, and they didn't stray too far from those nominated for the Golden Globes or others.

This past year hasn't been the best for movies (see: "The Tourist"), and the ones that shone through were fairly easy to spot for nominations, sometimes multiple times in several categories.

The Oscar race for Best Picture unfolded much like last year's. The nomination list was a mix of box office hits, like "Inception" and "Toy Story 3," with critically acclaimed indies, like "127 Hours" and "The Kids Are All Right," and the films that had Oscar buzz already surrounding them, like "Black Swan" and "The Social Network."

When you move on to Best Director, Best Actor and Best Actress, though, it's the people who worked on those same films who were nominated. The directors of "Black Swan," (Darren Aronofsky) "The Social Network," (David Fincher) and "The King's Speech" (Tom Hooper) have the race fairly tied up. But some were disappointed that "127 Hours" director Danny Boyle wasn't nominated.

There doesn't look to be much wiggle room with Best Actor or Actress either. Both Natalie Portman ("Black Swan") and Jesse Eisenberg ("The Social Network") have the up-and-coming star quality that the Academy has been known to acknowledge.

But, past snubbed nominees, like Colin Firth, a critic favorite for "The King's Speech," and Annette Bening ("The Kids Are All Right") may beat them out. One of the two actors set to host the awards show, James Franco, has a good chance of taking home the Oscar for his performance in "127 Hours."

One category that has many guessing is Best Animated Feature. Although the dramas the Academy loves so much may not have been aplenty, the animated films were top-notch.

There's the obvious "Toy Story 3," the lesser-known film "How to Train Your Dragon" and the well-reviewed French film "The Illusionist."

The animated feature category should have had five nominations instead of three, since they were of a much higher quality. "Tangled," was a personal favorite. "Megamind," "Despicable Me" and "Shrek Forever After" were also notable animated films this season.

Nevertheless, any of the animated films could easily win. At the very least, it would be a break from the obvious choices in other categories.

On the other hand, of course, the Academy has been known to surprise movie fans with something out of left field. They do like to stray from the norm and honor the underdog.



Sparkly pants and Santa coats: 'Rent' costume team clothes interesting cast of characters

Lindsay Kimble
Copy Editor

While cast members captivate audiences with their renditions of "Seasons of Love" and "Out Tonight," the experience will be aided by the often unnoticed aspect of theater production — costuming.

From Feb. 10 to 13, McCrary Theatre's stage will be ablaze with unique costumes in an array of colors and patterns, helping to set the scene for Elon's production of the Tony Award-winning musical, "Rent."

Elon senior Caitlin Graham and sophomore Andrew Ontiveros have been working hard behind the scenes of the Department of Performing Arts upcoming production since fall, pulling together ideas and getting creative to make sure actors were properly clad to portray their characters.

Ontiveros, who serves as assistant costume designer under Graham's direction, first got involved with costume design as an attempt to try out

the varying aspects of theater production.

"Creating costumes began with reading the script," Ontiveros said. "From there, the designer starts sketching and rendering the costumes. Once we know what we want the costumes to look like, we start the process of building them, buying them or pulling it from our stock. We then put the pieces together to make the final look."

The characters in "Rent" are a diverse group. From a lawyer to a drug-addicted club dancer and a free-spirited lesbian, the costuming typically used for productions of "Rent" is loud and varied.

"(The character) Angel probably has the most unique costumes in the show," Ontiveros said. "However, there are other fun items in the show like Mimi's sparkly blue pants or Maureen's sexy cat costume for New Year's."

Music theater costume production typically involves a lot of costume creation, but according to Ontiveros, many of the looks were purchased or



PHOTOS BY TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer
ABOVE: Senior Caitlin Graham started researching the costumes for 'Rent' during fall semester. Her costumes represent the mid-90s.
TOP LEFT: Graham arranges wigs and accessories backstage before the upcoming performances of Elon's production of 'Rent.'

pulled from existing costumes. "Rent" is set in the 1990s, so period-fitting clothing was not difficult to find. Ontiveros said that two costumes had to be built for Angel, the drag queen character in the show.

For those who have seen a production of "Rent" or the movie-version of the film, Angel's costumes are typically rather outlandish.

"We took a ratty-looking Santa coat and added fabric and fur to make a more feminine coat," Ontiveros said. "In Act II, Angel dresses as a Bond Girl, so we created a raincoat with printed images of James Bond and other Bond girls."

The costume designer and assistant costume designer are aided by a three-member backstage crew for the show. Crew members are assigned backstage to help actors with quick changes.

According to Ontiveros, professional theater usually assign certain people just to sew and to do alterations. The department at Elon is small, so all crew members do a little bit of everything.

Ontiveros said costume design can take between a year, the typical time frame for professional theater, to even a month, the frame more typical to productions like

Elon's "Rent."

Graham began her research and designing in the fall and was joined by Ontiveros this Winter Term.

Currently, the costume team is in their Tech Week, during which all technical elements and last-minute details are added. Graham said the entire process of costume design for "Rent" took around five months.

Though they may look commonplace to students who grew up in the '90s, the costumes help celebrate and commemorate the counter culture around 1996 and get special attention all their own.

Iconic 'Rent' to be performed in McCrary

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Elon University faculty and students bring the lessons and values of "Rent," a contemporary Broadway show rooted in the 1990s, into the 21st century.

"No matter when you are on stage you have to absorb that time period," said professor Lynne Formato, director and choreographer for the production.

Nevertheless, the story is not foreign to both the cast and audience.

"The important message is to spend your life with the people you love," said sophomore Taryn Tonelli, who plays Joanne Jefferson.

The AIDS epidemic serves as the backdrop for the characters and their relationships.

"The theme is living with disease, not dying with disease," said senior Richard McNulty, who plays Roger Davis, an aspiring musician infected by AIDS.

"Rent" chronicles the story of three couples and explores the friendships of the six individuals: Roger; Joanne; Mimi Marquez, played by senior Sabrina Bradley; Angel Dumott Schunard, played by sophomore Anthony Bruno; Tom Collins, played by freshman Patrick Clanton and Maureen Johnson, played by Barrett Weed. "No one is the star of the show," Clanton said. "It's all about how this group of people can come together."

According to Tonelli, Act I provides a lot of background information and introduces each character, while Act II weaves the various storylines together to communicate a story of friendship, life and love.

Despite the disconnection among the characters, their individual stories contribute to the show's message concerning loss.

Each character represents a different stage of grief, Formato said.

"There are five different stages people

go through," Clanton said. "And Collins is definitely at the acceptance stage where he knows he has this disease, but he is going to live his life the best he can while he has time."

Despite the experiential differences between the performers and characters, performing in "Rent" is about finding universal parallels.

"I haven't experienced the exact type of situation, but the emotional connection to the circumstance," Bradley said.

Although the show contains a universal message, there are still certain terms and characteristics demonstrative of the time period.

"Rent" is a historical piece regarding its portrayal of young adults living in a world that recently learned about the disease, Formato said.

Cast members conducted research in order to accurately portray their respective characters and the setting.

In order to understand Joanne's character, a lesbian and type A Harvard Law School graduate, Tonelli researched sexuality, law, government and politics. She watched "The L-Word" and "Law and Order" to observe how the women behaved.

"I loved learning so much about this person I was going to layer onto myself," she said.

Documentaries also helped Bradley portray the struggle and fearlessness of Mimi, an exotic dancer and heroin addict living with AIDS.

Despite the age similarity between the actors and the characters, Bradley said her character's experiences uproot similarities that likeness in age usually provide.

"She is 19, but not in her behavior," Bradley said about her character.

While the script requires the characters to maintain certain qualities, Formato said she believes every student plays his or her role differently than the actors in professional performances.



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photography
Sophomore Anthony Bruno (left) and freshman Patrick Clanton (right) play a gay couple in Elon's production of 'Rent.'

Although "Rent" has established itself as an iconic Broadway production, Elon University faculty and students have developed their own spin on the familiar characters and music.

"You get the rights and royalties for the stage version, but you're not supposed to rip off other people's work," Formato said. "So hopefully we made it our own."

FormatopointedtoWeed'sinterpretation of "Over the Moon" as an example of the production's individuality.

"What I don't like about the way that everyone else has done Maureen is that her performance (of 'Over the Moon') makes her character lose all credibility," Weed said. "But if you actually look at what's written, she has a point."

The objective of her performance is to emphasize and legitimize the character's message regarding homelessness, she said.

"I didn't want anyone to say, 'Oh he's just copying the guy from the movie,' so

I tried to bring as much of myself into the role as I could," Clanton said.

Clanton identifies these innovations as one of the largest challenges.

"I try to put my own spin on the character, even though it was pretty hard because I had the movie character and the one I saw live in my mind."

For the Elon production, differences are also surface level.

"It didn't hit me that I was going to play Mimi Marquez because I'm blonde and blue-eyed," Bradley said, pulling at her hair and laughing.

Bradley encourages the audience to remain open-minded.

"Rent Heads" shouldn't expect to see what they are familiar with," she said.

"Rent" will be performed 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in McCrary Theatre. Tickets are now on sale for \$12 or free with an Elon student ID.

Softball prepares to open season in Phoenix Leadoff Classic

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Reporter

When the Elon softball team takes the field in its season opening tournament this weekend, there will be new decorations in left field for fans to see.

Now hanging on the fence at East Field is a reminder of the team's 2010 Southern Conference Tournament Championship conquest and its appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

"I get goose bumps, it's awesome," senior second baseman Jackie Gonzalez said of looking at the signs. "I think it just reminds us of what we went through last year and the hard work that it took to get those two signs up there."

But that is where the nostalgia ends for the Phoenix, as a new season means a fresh start "I forget they're out there, it's a new year," head coach Patti Raduenz. "Even though it's a new year, the vision is still the same. We still want to see a Southern Conference championship, but it's a new journey."

That journey begins this weekend, when the team will welcome Youngstown State and Kent State to Elon for the Phoenix Leadoff Classic.

The team faces each opponent twice, with doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday. Elon's games are at 1:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. both days.

This marks the second straight year for the Phoenix Leadoff Classic. In last year's tournament, the team defeated

UNC Wilmington and the University of Virginia for the victory.

According to two of the players, the Phoenix is ready to play against someone other than themselves in practice.

"It's just about time," senior outfielder Emerald Graham said. "We're excited, anxious, a little nervous and just ready to get the season started. Anticipation has just kind of been getting to us a little bit."

Gonzalez agreed, adding that it will be better to face pitchers other than her teammates.

"We're ready to get some new pitchers and hit off of someone other than our pitchers and just be able to be together as a team," Gonzalez said.

Raduenz is also excited for the start of the season, as she said it is a long offseason for the softball team.

"That's the way it works every year," Raduenz said. "It seems like we spend eight months training for a season that is about three and a half months."

In last year's championship season, the team posted a 38-21 record and a 15-9 mark in the Southern Conference. It was a fast start for the Phoenix, as the team won its first nine games and 14 of its first 16. A key to getting off to a fast start this season will be the team's biggest strength, which according to Graham and Gonzalez is the team's cohesiveness.

"Our best strength is probably team chemistry and a good cohesiveness," Graham

PHOENIX LEADOFF CLASSIC 2011 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

YOUNGSTOWN STATE VS. KENT STATE - 11AM

YOUNGSTOWN STATE VS. ELON - 1:15PM

KENT STATE VS. ELON - 3:30PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

KENT STATE VS. YOUNGSTOWN STATE - 11AM

KENT STATE VS. ELON - 1:15PM

YOUNGSTOWN STATE VS. ELON - 3:30PM

said. "And we need that because if we don't have that, we will fall apart."

For Raduenz, she said she believes that the team's biggest asset is the level of dedication her players have.

"They are a bunch of diehards," Raduenz said. "I think what you will see out here when you see this team play is they are not going to quit, they are not going to give up and they are not going to hang their heads."

Beginning with its games this weekend, the Phoenix will begin its pursuit of another championship.

MORE ONLINE: SPORTS

VIDEO:
Highlights from
the Elon vs. App
game
[http://bit.ly/
ElonApp](http://bit.ly/ElonApp)
Jack Dodson,
Multimedia Editor



Women's basketball approaches tough slate, looks to fast pace for advantages on court after losses

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

Watching a women's basketball practice at Elon University can quickly show any observer that the Phoenix enjoy an up-tempo style.

While the team practices its half-court offense, players struggle to score against the practice team, which is comprised of five male students.

Turnovers follow missed shots, and it looks like the men's team will dominate practice.

Then the team shifts to playing a full-court scrimmage.

Sophomore guard Ali Ford hits a 3-point shot. She then makes another.

Sophomore forward Kelsey

Evans gets the ball in the post and hits a hook shot. Senior guard Julie Taylor drains a transition 3-point basket.

The change is obvious, and it fits perfectly with the type of team the Phoenix is, according to head coach Karen Barefoot.

"We love to run, we love to push and share the basketball," Barefoot said. "I feel like the weakest part of the women's basketball game is transition defense. People don't really get back and stop the ball well."

It is a style of play that has led to the Phoenix ranking near the top in many Southern Conference scoring categories.

The team is second in the conference in scoring (68.5 points per game), third in field goal percentage (42.1 percent) and third in offensive rebounds (14.1 rebounds per game).

"We are a transition team, so when we're moving I guess we are more

comfortable in our flow," Evans said. "We can run the half court, but we love to run."

Junior Tiara Gause agreed, and said that sometimes the team has difficulty with slower paces.

"Not only are we a defensive team, but we're a transition team," Gause said. "It's kind of like running back and forth and then when (it slows down) it's like oh shoot, now we have to run a play."

Running will be important for the Phoenix as it comes down to the

stretch run of the season. The team has dropped back-to-back games, a 69-65 loss at Davidson College and a 70-69 overtime loss at Georgia Southern University.

The team has a 15-8 record overall, and a 9-5 record in the Southern Conference, good enough for third place of 11 teams in the SoCon.

But the focus with six conference games remaining until the SoCon Tournament is for the team to improve in some areas and not be satisfied with its current win total, according to Evans.

"People are starting to step their games up, and this is when teams are starting to peak," Evans said. "We're really trying to work on that and work on not being satisfied with 15 wins."

After consecutive road losses, the team returns home for Thursday and Saturday games against UNC Greensboro and Wofford College, respectively.

Thursday's game is slated for 7 p.m., while the Phoenix takes on the Terriers on Saturday at 2 p.m.

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Cheeseheads and Terrible Towels gather in North Texas for Super Bowl

Photos and story by Nolan Elingburg
Reporter

Editor's Note: Nolan Elingburg, a senior broadcast journalism major, attended Super Bowl XLV in Texas on Feb. 6. Below is his first-hand account from the game.

DALLAS - Super Bowl XLV was a matchup for the ages. The experienced veterans of the Pittsburgh Steelers battled the young, white-hot Green Bay Packers in the newest and biggest stadium in the NFL. The Packers continued to ride its winning streak on the backs of its defense and Aaron Rodgers and the Packers won their fourth Super Bowl.

A Long Day

Super Bowl Sunday starts early and ends late, especially when most fans stay in hotels almost an hour away from Cowboys Stadium. As a fan, you have to be patient getting to and from the game. It took three hours to get from a tailgate in Dallas to the stadium in Arlington because of heavy traffic. Buses drove right past the stadium to a parking lot a few miles away.

We then had to get on another shuttle that dropped us off outside the stadium. A long walk later and we were finally going through airport-type security, but were still not inside until much later. Once the game was over, it took another three hours to get back to the hotel.

Even the game seemed to take forever, not that I'm complaining. The highly anticipated Super Bowl commercials are fun to watch at home, but when you're at the game, players are on the

field anxiously waiting for the commercial breaks to end so they can get back to playing. Patience is a virtue, especially at a game like the Super Bowl.

Jerry's World

Approximately 103,000 people filled Cowboys stadium, marking the second-highest Super Bowl attendance in history. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had extra seats crammed into the stadium in an attempt to break the attendance record and bring in even more money. The seats were deemed a safety hazard and were blocked off for the game.

I was one of the 850 fans who had to go to Guest Services and hope there were tickets still available. Luckily everything worked out, but that wasn't the case for 400 others whose tickets were refunded after being relegated to standing or watching the game on television.

Cowboys Stadium itself was a sports spectacle. The \$1.2 billion structure is tall enough to hold the Statue of Liberty with the retractable roof closed. It is also home to the biggest high definition screen in the world, which hangs above the field and is 53 yards wide and seven stories tall.

Halftime Foreshadowing

After every Green Bay Packers win at Lambeau Field, speakers blast the Black Eyed Peas' song "I've Got A Feeling."

At Super Bowl XLV, the Black Eyed Peas started and ended their halftime show with the song that the Packers faithful, known as "Cheeseheads," have grown accustomed to hearing after victories.



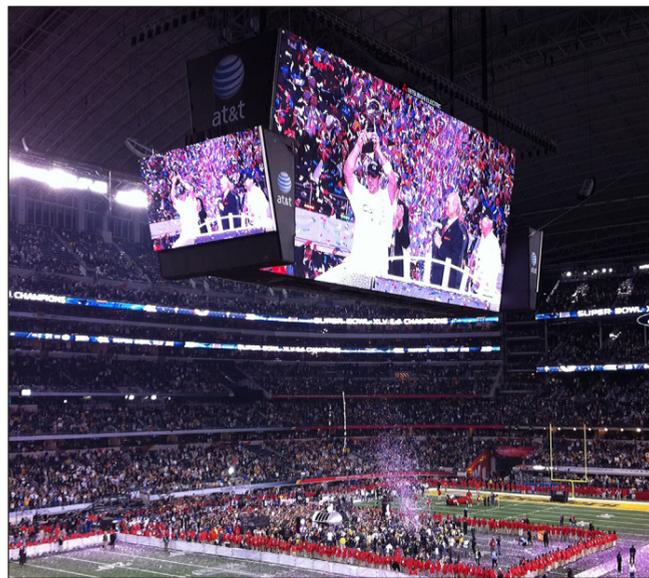
Cheeseheads vs. Terrible Towels

Although the Steelers did not win the game, it seemed like they won the attendance battle. Everywhere I looked there were people wearing black and yellow jerseys waving their "Terrible Towels." That's not to say there weren't a lot of Packer fans there as well.

The Cheesehead foam hats were scattered throughout the stadium and at times cheers of "Go Pack Go!" were deafening. Of the thousands of Packers jerseys being worn on Sunday, there were only a handful of Favre jerseys. The majority belonged to Aaron Rodgers.

A New Era

During the last three years, quarterback Aaron Rodgers has been crawling out of the shadows of Brett Favre's legacy. After a back-against-the-wall run resulting in a Super Bowl win, Rodgers has made his way from the shadows to the



TOP: Linebacker Clay Matthews celebrates with quarterback Aaron Rodgers after the Packers defeated the Steelers 31-25 in Super Bowl XLV. BOTTOM: Fans and players celebrate the Green Bay Packers' fourth Super Bowl victory.

spotlight. This was evident as linebacker Clay Matthews put the "title belt" on Rodgers' shoulder as the Super Bowl

MVP quarterback hoisted the Lombardi Trophy in front of the fans he won it for. Vince Lombardi would be proud.

Despite quick start, men's basketball falls to App State

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

In a game that featured five lead changes and no scoring margin larger than eight for the game, the Phoenix fell to the hands of the Appalachian State Mountaineers 68-62 in Alumni Gym on Saturday Feb. 5.

The Phoenix started fast, hitting six of its first seven field goals, to open up a 14-6 lead. Elon led for more than 17 minutes of the first half, due in large part to the team's aggressiveness and hot shooting. The Phoenix shot over 47 percent from the field in the first half.

"We wanted to be aggressive, we wanted to attack," head coach Matt Matheny said. "When you are aggressive and you are competitively tough, it doesn't always mean that everything goes your way."

The difference in the Mountaineers' win was the work on the glass, as Appalachian State outrebounded the Phoenix 40-30, with 15 offensive rebounds.

"They were able to get second shots that we couldn't get back, and that was what changed the game," senior guard Chris Long said.

The Phoenix was looking to come out against Appalachian State University with a different mindset than its previous game on Wednesday against Western Carolina University. In that contest, the Phoenix lost 74-58 and shot less than 30 percent from the field for the game, and only 4 for 25 from behind the 3-point line.

In the first half, Elon benefited from the play of freshman forward Lucas Troutman, who came off the bench to lead all scorers with 10 points and five rebounds. Elon went into the half leading 36-30, with seven different players

scoring from the field.

The Phoenix was able to keep Appalachian State's senior guard Donald Sims in check, who came into the game averaging more than 21 points per game, second in the SoCon. The Phoenix limited him in the first half to 3 of 11 shooting, including 0 for 4 from behind the 3-point line. Sims scored eight points in the first half.

"He's a very good player," Long said. "You just have to stay on his hip because if there's any separation, you're beat. He only needs an inch or two to get a shot off."

Elon used a variety of looks to limit Sims in the first half and throughout the game, as he was 4 for 16 from the field, and 0 for 6 from behind the arc.

The Mountaineers' offense runs through Sims, who uses an array of both high and low ball screens to either put up a shot or find an open teammate, said Matheny. There was an assortment of players guarding Sims, Long said, and Elon's defense did their best to stick with Sims and put a hand in his face.

Elon kept the lead through the 5:56 mark in the second half, where Appalachian State took a 53-52 lead. Although the Phoenix took the lead back less than two minutes later, junior forward Andre Williamson made a layup in the next possession to put the Mountaineers up 57-56, and Elon never regained the lead.

With 15 seconds left in the game, Long had a chance to tie the game with a deep 3-pointer from the top of the key. The shot rattled out, and Appalachian State took control.

"We came out of the huddle with Chris Long looking to make a decision," Matheny said. "We have not put it all together yet. When this team hits on all cylinders, we're a very dangerous team



Senior guard Chris Long drives to the basket against Appalachian State Saturday. Long scored 15 points for the Phoenix in a 68-62 loss. The Phoenix takes the floor Wednesday against division-leading College of Charleston.

come March."

The Phoenix will look to get back in the win column as it hosts the College

of Charleston, who is 17-7 overall and in first place in the South division with a 10-2 record.

Sports



LUKE LOVETT | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Elon inks 15 for 2011 football class

Conor O'Neill and Jack Rodenfels
 Executive Editors

College football coaches spend months planning and log thousands of miles visiting potential recruits, who eventually sign their National Letter of Intent to play at their respective colleges.

Then there's newly installed Elon Phoenix head coach, Jason Swepson.

Hired Jan. 10 after being the former running backs coach at N.C. State University, Swepson had 23 days to put together a recruiting class, his first as a head coach.

With what he described as "one solid commitment" when hired, Swepson and his staff put together a class of 15, who signed their National Letter of Intent Feb. 2 to play at Elon starting in the fall of 2011.

"We wanted to make sure we brought kids in that know how to win," Swepson said. "If you know how to win, then you are doing things the right way, by working hard."

In the signing class, two athletes are coming off state championships, 14 of the 15 recruits made the playoffs their senior season and 10 of 15 recruits were captains their senior year.

The 2011 class includes seven players from N.C., three from S.C., and one each from Va., Ga., Fla., N.Y. and Iowa.

Offense

The Phoenix signed a quarterback, running back, tight end, two wide receivers and two offensive linemen.

Starting with the signal caller, 5-foot-10 inch, 180-pound quarterback

Blake Rice hails from Tampa, Fla. In his final two seasons at the helm of his high school team, he threw for more than 3,300 yards and accounted for more than 50 touchdowns. A second team all-state pick, Rice was recruited by Swepson in his time at N.C. State.

"He makes plays with his feet and his arm," said Scott Browne, recruiting coordinator for the Phoenix. "When something breaks down, you want somebody who can make something happen with his legs."

Lining up behind Rice in the offense is Joe Jones, a 6-foot-1 inch, 190-pound running back from East Point, Ga. Jones brings a mix of size and speed to the Phoenix.

Will Wentz, a 6-foot-4-inch, 230-pound tight end is from Virginia Beach, Va. A first-team all-state pick, he snared 48 balls for 698 yards and six touchdowns in his senior season. "He has phenomenal hands and does a good job on the edge blocking," said Browne.

Andre Davis and Ricky Brown will line up as receivers for the Phoenix starting next fall. The former, a 5-foot-10-inch, 165-pound wide receiver from Bunn, N.C., played quarterback in high school and amassed 2,598 total yards and 35 touchdowns in his career. He was a threat whenever he had the ball in his hands, according to Browne.

The latter, a 6-foot-3-inch, 195-pound wide receiver from Winston-Salem, N.C., caught 58 balls for 783 yards and 10 touchdowns in his senior season. Browne sees a bright future for the young receiver, saying the coaches are excited for his "length to go up over the smaller corners in the conference and make plays."

In the trenches, the Phoenix recruited two offensive linemen: Thomas McGuire and Derek Vereen.

McGuire, a 6-foot-3-inch, 250-pound senior from Gilbert, Iowa was selected as a first-team all-state pick in his senior season and was a Wendy's High School Heisman nominee to honor student-athletes.

Vereen, a 6-foot-3-inch, 280-pound lineman from Durham, N.C. was a two-year team captain for a Hillside squad that won the state championship in 2010.

Defense

The Phoenix signed two defensive linemen, two linebackers, three defensive backs and a long snapper.

Michael Pearson and Gary Coates were signed on the defensive line for the Phoenix.

The former, a 6-foot-2-inch, 230-pound senior from Laurens, S.C., was a four-year letter-winner who earned all-district honors and led his team to a 2008 state runner-up finish.

Coates is the nephew of former five-time Pro Bowler NFL tight end Ben Coates. A 6-foot-2-inch, 230-pound lineman, Coates set a school single-season record for tackles for loss in his senior year.

The Phoenix added two seniors to its depth charts — Odell Benton and Robert "Bear" Davis.

Benton, a 6-foot-1-inch 185-pound linebacker from Jacksonville, N.C., was a first-team all-area selection in 2010 and was a two-time all-conference honoree.

Davis was a leader on a defense

that held opponents to 10.3 points per game. Participating in the 2010 Shrine Bowl, which pits the best players in the Carolinas, the 6-foot-1-inch, 225-pounder from Thomasville, N.C. was a three-time all-league selection.

"You like to see your linebackers run and hit, and this guy does that," Browne said of Davis.

The Phoenix also bolstered its core by adding three defensive backs.

Mark Bridges, a 5-foot-11-inch 186-pound senior from Matthews, N.C., earned a three-star rating from both ESPN.com and Rivals.com. Bridges tallied 110 tackles and intercepted five passes in his senior year and was part of a team that was ranked eighth in the nation by ESPN.com.

Clocked with a 4.23-second time in the 40-yard dash, 5-foot-9-inch 160-pounder Jerrell Armstrong hails from New Bern, N.C. Armstrong participated in the 2010 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, and intercepted six passes and returned three punts for touchdowns in his senior season.

Miles Williams, a 6-foot-1-inch 185-pound defensive back from Roebuck, S.C., was a team captain and tallied 100 tackles in his senior season.

Long snapper Michael Crispi, a 5-foot-11-inch 230-pound senior comes from Dix Hill, N.Y. In his three years as a starter, Crispi never had an errant snap in 30 games.

Spring ball is just around the corner for the Phoenix, where the team will look to improve on their 6-5 record in 2010.

"These recruits are going to become part of the Elon family and I'm looking forward to it," Swepson said.