

# THE PENDULUM

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## Blue lights aim to prevent crime at cost to university

Michael Bodley  
News Editor

A walk across Elon University's campus in the middle of the night is never completely pitch-black, thanks in large part to the 31 blue light emergency response systems that illuminate the darker reaches of campus.

The blue lights, which cost \$5,000 to install and have yearly electricity fees, are a necessary crime deterrent on campus, according to Dennis Franks, Elon University police chief. The systems function on a distress button that immediately calls police to the scene, with the goal of a two-minute response time.

Though the blue lights have been pressed accidentally twice and have never been used for a real emergency in the two years since Franks has been at Elon, he said statistics can't accurately reflect the number of potential crimes the system has prevented.

"To me, it's a good deterrent that if something happens around those blue lights, the person knows they have access and can get emergency services there quickly," Franks said.

Even in places without blue lights, though they are few and far between, someone is usually watching. In a move to increase campus security and safety, the university, under the guidance of the Elon University Police Department and others, approved a substantial increase in the number of cameras around campus, from just over 200 to more than 300 cameras this year.

The department maintains a 24/7 call center in its Oaks area office. The police precinct also features a video dashboard that flicks between the 300-odd cameras around campus, many of which are located in parking lots and other areas off the beaten path.

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J.R. Goode is a level-one engineer at the Elon Fire Department. Goode said every fire-related alert received at the station is treated as an emergency.

Katy Canada  
Managing Editor

The Elon Fire Department responded to 216 calls from Elon University in 2013, and each one of them came at a price. Each time the fire department is dispatched, it costs the department \$400 to \$500, according to Elon Fire Chief Eddie King.

The trend shows no signs of stopping. In January 2014 alone, the department responded to 21 false alarms.

Each time the fire department reacts to a triggered alarm, multiple fire trucks from around Alamance County are required to report to the site of the incident. Fuel, manpower and maintenance of the depart-

ment's vehicles are expenses the department takes into account.

"It's coming out of our budget," King said. "The university gives us a contribution each year, but that's just for normal fire and medical protection. What we're seeing with these false alarms is that it's going over a normal expected amount."

Donations from the university, along with the Twin Lakes community, the Town of Elon and Alamance Rural, comprise the budget for the Elon Fire Department. The department was promised \$560,391 for the 2013-2014 year. Elon University's contribution made up only 8.9 percent of the total budget.

In 2013, the Elon Fire Department re-

sponded to a total of 466 fire alarms in Alamance County, 46 percent of which were set off on Elon's campus. The department spent anywhere from \$86,400 to \$113,000 responding to calls from the university alone. This exceeds the university's \$50,000 contribution by as much as \$63,000.

Each piece of equipment dispatched to the scene of a fire alarm has its own price. A single fire truck can cost as much as \$124 for one hour of use, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Captain David Wright, who has served at the Elon Fire Department for 22 years, said the department has done its best to

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CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor / DESIGN BY TERENCE MCLAUGHLIN, Design Editor

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# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>9</b> Softball vs. Radford 2 p.m. Hunt Softball Park	<b>10</b> Men's Golf at Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate 8 p.m.	<b>11</b> Job & Internship Expo 2 p.m. Alumni Gym	<b>12</b> Men's Tennis vs. Campbell 2:30 p.m. Jimmy Powell Tennis Center	<b>13</b> Elon Dance Company, "Looking Back to Spring Forward" 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	<b>14</b> Baseball vs. Georgia Southern 6 p.m. Latham Park	<b>15</b> Women of Color Institute 9 a.m. McBride Gathering Space, Numen Lumen Pavilion
<b>16</b> Men's Tennis vs. Radford 1 p.m. Jimmy Powell Tennis Center	<b>17</b> Patrick Earl Hammie, "Significant Other" reception, artist talk 12:30 p.m. Gallery 406, Arts West	<b>18</b> Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series with Ian Hobson 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium				

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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## Fire Statistics at Elon University

# 466

total alarms in  
Alamance County

# 216

total alarms at  
Elon University

# \$400-500

the amount it costs  
for each call

# \$86,400

the minimum spent  
responding to calls from  
Elon University in 2013

# 15%

from Danieley Center

# 10%

from Loy Center

Almost half of the calls that the town fire department responds to originate on Elon University's campus. The price of manpower, fuel for the vehicles and equipment costs the fire department thousands of dollars a year.

## FIRE

from cover

grow with the campus. But as Elon has expanded, the number of false fire alarms has proliferated.

"I know the student population has increased," Wright said. "But the number of alarms going off has increased disproportionately to how much the student population has grown."

Elon encapsulates only 620 acres of the 11 square miles covered by the fire department, and the small force of 12 firefighters, along with the department's volunteers, has noticed a few trends when it comes to fire alarms on campus.

Nearly half of the false alarms on campus are cooking related, and almost as many are caused by steam. Steam related fire alarms generally occur in the early afternoon, while fire alarms set off by cooking-related incidents typically happen in the morning and in the middle of the night.

"When the calls come at two in the morning, people are usually coming back from parties," Wright said. "They've been drinking and now they're hungry. So they

try to cook Easy Mac, and they forget to put the water in."

With only two firefighters — usually volunteers — on duty at this time of night, the sources of fire alarms from the university have become predictable and, at times, annoying for the fire department staff.

"We're noticing that it's creating burnout with our volunteers, and we're getting less response from them," Wright said. "You get complacent because it's just another call from the Danieley Center."

Of the fire alarms from 2013, 15 percent were set off in the Danieley Center, and 10 percent occurred in the Greek Courts. The Colonnades are another "problem area" for the fire department.

"We're skating by, and one of these days, it's not going to be a false alarm," Wright said.

A fire destroyed most of Elon's main campus in 1923. University historian George Troxler said the cause of the fire was never nailed down, but fire officials suspected it resulted from an electrical spark. Since then, the university has increased its fire safety precautions substantially, drastically increasing the number of alarms on campus. Trox-

ler said that when the university rebuilt after the fire, the new buildings were considered "fire-proof," erecting structures with slate rooves and other nonflammable materials.

The Elon Fire Department now responds to every alarm at the university, without fail, following an initial notification from campus security. Chief of Security Scott Jean said campus security, like the fire department, responds to each fire alarm.

"Most of them are burnt food or shower steam — so they aren't truly false — but we still have to respond and write up a report," Jean said.

Sophomore Catherine Van Eyck has lived in the Danieley Center for two years and, having experienced a number of fire alarms, isn't surprised cooking errors cause the majority.

"I know that a lot of people burn their food, but I've never seen any actual fires. It's mainly just really annoying," she said.

The false fire alarms Van Eyck finds annoying come at a price nationwide. According to the United States Fire Administration, cooking incidents were the leading causes of fires in 2011 and resulted in a loss of more than \$6 million in property na-

tionwide. Between 2007 and 2011, cooking equipment was involved in 84 percent of the nation's reported dormitory fires.

But most of the kitchen-based fire alarms are triggered by excess smoke. All of the apartments in the Danieley Center, Crest, the Station at Mill Point and the Oaks have kitchens or kitchenettes. In Colonnades, each hall contains a full kitchen, and each Greek house in the Loy Center comes equipped with a kitchen — all potential fire sources.

King said the monetary costs of responding to false fire alarms are matched by the potential dangers. While dealing with false alarms at Elon, the department cannot respond to other legitimate fire alarms.

"Every time I put a fireman out there responding to an emergency, I'm putting their lives in the hands of the people who are creating these problems," he said.

The problem is a human one, King said, and it shouldn't be so prevalent.

"It's the human problem that's growing," he said. "It's affecting the safety of all the firefighters responding because they're putting their lives on the line to come do something that's preventable."



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor / DESIGN BY KRISTEN DEMARIA, design chief.

Libertarian and personal-privacy advocacy organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which has an Elon University chapter, have expressed concerns that more and more cameras around college campuses are invading privacy, particularly when the locations of the cameras aren't disclosed to students.

Those same cameras led to the recent arrest of Colin Mahoney, 31, the Chapel Hill resident charged with exposing himself to a female student Feb. 18 near the intersection of O'Kelly and Haggard Avenues. The Elon University Police Department performed an extensive analysis of all of the cameras in the vicinity to catch Mahoney on tape.

Police officers were able to capture a partial image of the silver Nissan truck Mahoney drove, and from there the department collaborated with the North Carolina License and Theft Bureau to track Mahoney down. He was arrested in his Chapel Hill home Feb. 27 — an example of “inter-department cooperation,” Franks said.

The indecent exposure incident is a rare instance of crime at Elon — the 2010 exposure incidents notwithstanding. In 2012, the university reported 10 instances of burglary, where a person breaks into a residence, and no robberies, when a person forcibly steals from another, a testament to the effectiveness of the blue lights and cameras, according to Franks.

Elon University Chief of Security Scott Jean said the families of prospective students are comforted by the low crime figures and the presence of blue lights.

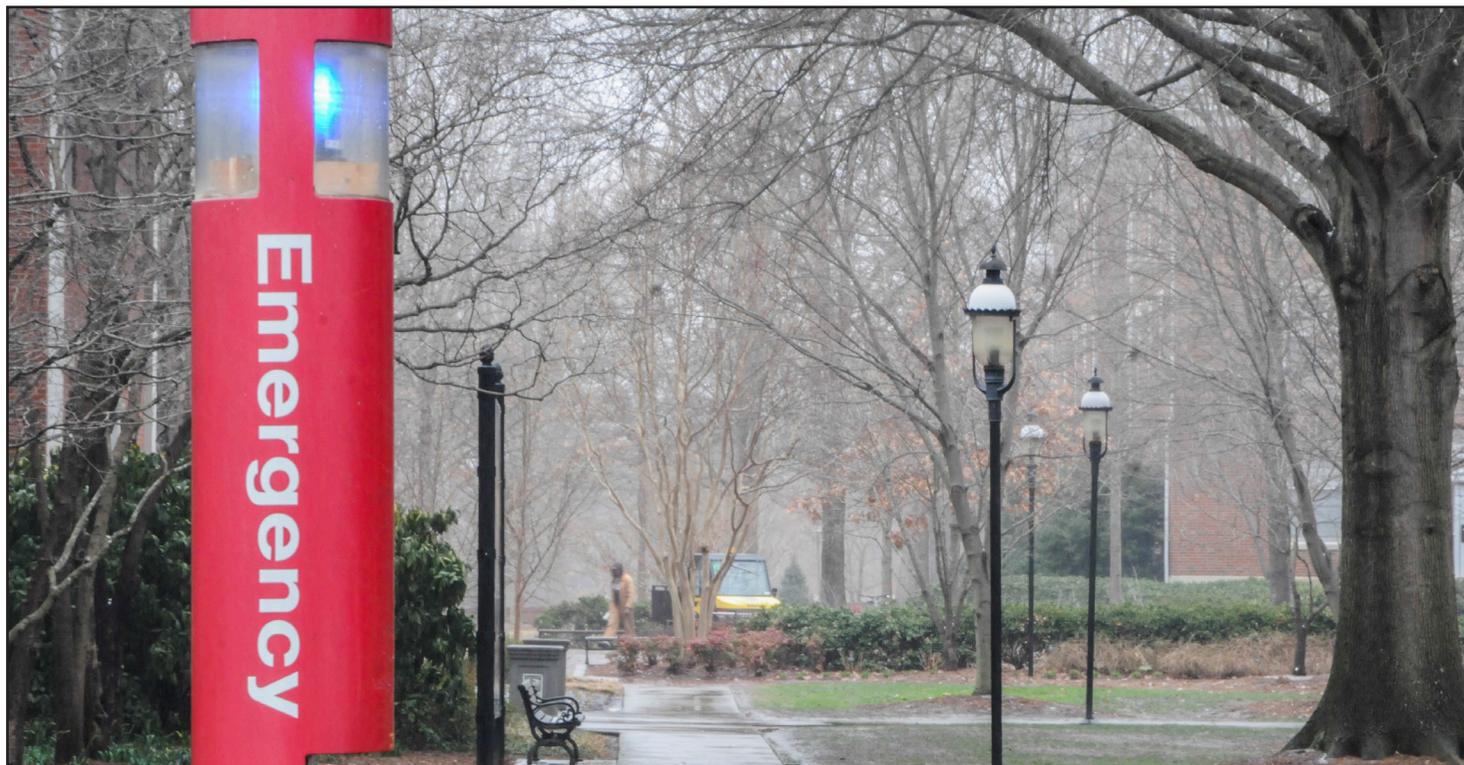
“It’s a peace of mind for family members to come and see that I know my student, though they have a cell phone, they also have this other option,” Jean said.

## Crime prevention’s unknown cost

Freshman Elizabeth Ferry said the return on the cameras and blue lights is worth a slight intrusion to student privacy.

“I’ve never felt unsafe on campus, and there’s a reason for that,” Ferry said. “It’s a good idea in case someone, someday eventually needs to use the system in a situation where they’re unsafe.”

Of course, almost everyone walking around Elon has a cellphone, said Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president of technology, but cellphones don't prevent crime — they can only respond to it.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Blue lights at Elon, and at most universities around the country, are designed so a person is always within sight of the next one while walking across campus.

“Most people do have cellphones,” he said. “That’s a fact. But they’re a responsive mechanism, which is fine, but they don’t serve the same purpose as blue lights. They’re not a preventative measure. We’re trying to stop crimes before they happen, not after.”

But freshman Zach Layne said the blue lights may be another example of misguided funding with good intentions.

“Blue lights just don’t seem as necessary as one might think anymore,” Layne said. “Everyone has a cellphone these days. Where else could we spend that money?”

Fulkerson pointed out what a small percentage of the university’s yearly budget blue lights take up, and he said leftover money in the budget should be invested directly back into the safety of students.

“When we’re looking at the budget, and when we see there’s some funding left, we first ask ourselves how this money can best serve the students,” he said. “When we can, we try to increase security measures throughout all of campus, from dark parking lots to more remote areas.”

Blue light number 31, installed at the beginning of this school year, lights up Loy Farm, the future site of a sustainable living community that has been entirely student built so far.

The farm, across from the intramural fields

and next to the Magnolia Cemetery of Elon, currently plays host to environmental studies courses. With the introduction of a solar farm in a nearby meadow, the Loy Farm will house permanent student residents.

Even here, on the outskirts of campus, cell reception is strong. AT&T and Verizon phones — two of the most popular service providers to Elon students — alike can send and receive texts and calls on the farm. Chief Franks said the farm is the perfect place for a blue light system — isolated from the rest of campus and poorly-lit at night.

“These students are going to be living and working far away from everything, from us here at the police station, and they deserve the same protection and feeling of safety as anyone else,” he said.

Sophomore Christian Smoke, a student-worker on the farm, said while he is “surely an advocate of safety precautions,” the blue light system installed at the farm may be a bit over-the-top.

“In the case of blue light systems, I believe they might be a little more than necessary, given the nature of modern technology,” he said. “Almost everyone has a cell phone that would provide a far simpler and quicker solution to emergency situations.”

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# SE Cupp finds future of politics in Millennials

Michael Bodley  
News Editor

Conservative commentator S.E. Cupp visited Elon University recently to challenge students' views of the United States' "fractured political system."

Cupp asked the audience, largely students, some adjectives that come to mind when picturing how conservatives view young people. The laundry list, which Cupp wrote down and displayed, included words like lazy, unformed, selfish and irresponsible.

While some conservatives belittle the Millennial generation, Cupp said, some liberals "pander" to youth. She said both the Democrat and Republican parties need the youth vote, now 80 million strong and projected to constitute two-thirds of the population eligible to vote by 2020.

"I'm hoping that you can, over the course of your college careers and your later professional lives, maybe open your minds about some of the preconceived notions you have about the political movements within the two parties," she said.

The Millennial generation, Cupp's audience, is unlike any other in history in its willingness to listen, to everyone from Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., to President Barack Obama.

But Cupp said she doesn't blame young people for leaving both parties in droves and registering as independents in larger numbers than any preceding generation.

"I get that impulse," she said. "I wouldn't want to be associated with either party right now. Washington is terrible, and both parties have really tarnished their brands over the past few years."

Senior Natalie Cuzmenco, president of the Elon chapter of the Young Americans for Liberty, a national libertarian organization, spearheaded the effort to bring Cupp to campus by securing funding from the SGA, her own organization, a political foundation and a private donor.

"I'm so glad she came to Elon and I think she's different than a lot of the speakers we see here," Cuzmenco said. "I wanted to come out and show people that there's more out there than preconceived liberal notions of what a college student should be. I wanted to

open their minds some."

Though Cupp openly identifies as an outspoken conservative, in what she still calls a "largely liberal" media landscape, she said she encourages political dissent and debate that is reasoned and tempered. Her political analysis show, CNN's "Crossfire," seeks to host debates with experts from across the political spectrum.

Past guests have included everyone from Sally Kohn, a liberal political commentator, to Peter Sprigg, a member of the conservative-minded Family Research Council.

As she has expressed many times on the show, Cupp said in her Feb. 27 speech, she doesn't have a whole lot of hope for her own Republican party, calling it "out of touch" and "ill-equipped" to reach women and minorities.

"I don't have a ton of optimism that the GOP as it currently exists will be able to reach a lot of women and minorities," she said. "After 2012, liberals hammered the death nail into conservatives when it comes to reaching young voters."

Not all young voters have thrown in the

towel, though, according to first-year Bryan Sullivan, a member of the Elon chapter of the College Republicans, a national collegiate organization promoting Republican ideals.

"It's really motivating, in a way, to see a speaker like her here at Elon," he said. "It's definitely not something you see everyday."

Cupp also got more specific, keying in on voter ID laws, the Affordable Care Act and the role of technology in influencing the youth vote.

"This administration does not speak your language," she said of the Affordable Care Act. "It would have been really easy to hire some teenagers from Silicon Valley to make this work better."

To get to the root of the issues, Cupp said, people have to become critical news consumers, not trusting what comes just from CNN or Fox News or MSNBC.

"I think we'd all do better, both as news consumers and producers, to challenge what we hear," she said. "Don't just sit back and watch. You have to craft the story from a culmination of different sources. You have to find the truth."

## North Carolina community colleges, state schools finalize new transfer policy

Michael Papich  
Assistant News Editor

Students transitioning from community colleges to other institutions in North Carolina will find themselves with more classes checked off their lists as the state university system and state community college system finalize their new transfer agreement.

The two systems have been working on this new agreement for the past two years. It would allow credits and specific classes to be transferred over by a student who moves from a North Carolina community college to a public university in the state's school system.

"There are over 500 faculty from both systems that have been involved in these conversations over the past two years," said Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Community College system.

Ralls said the need for changes in the agreement came as both sides began to see

that 85 percent of students who transferred from community colleges to state universities were not covered by the original transfer agreement.

Many agreements private universities have with the community college system are based those colleges have with the UNC system, but Rodney Parks, registrar at Elon University, said Elon has a "more liberal" transfer policy than other schools.

"Students take a lot of transfer credit when they come here," Parks said. "Even if we don't have a match for a course, we're able to give credit."

Parks said other universities do not have as liberal a policy on transferring credits precisely because it allows them to charge students for required classes that do not carry over.

"Students [at Elon] have a better way to get a major and a minor, or even two majors, in four years," he said. "Our flexibility allows students to get the most out of their time."

To compare, a student who took a history class at a community college and then transferred to another university would have a harder time having that class count as a major requirement than at Elon.

Elon offers other services to transfer students that other colleges rarely do, like transcript evaluations before switching.

"We will give them, in writing, how they will transfer those credits before they come in," Parks said.

Junior Emily Haring transferred from Elon from a community college and took advantage of the school's transcript evaluation. Based on the information the evaluation gave her, Haring could make decisions about her education, like whether to apply as a transfer student or as a freshman.

"I didn't have to repeat any classes, and in fact, I was able to eliminate most of the freshman core classes and prerequisites, such as college writing, public speaking and a lab science," Haring said.

Repeating classes was one of the main issues Ralls worked to eliminate in the agreement between community colleges and the state university system.

"If you're a student, you would pay tuition at community college, and then for that course, you would be paying that tuition again," Ralls said.

This would put a financial burden not only on the student but also on the state itself.

"State colleges are also subsidized by the taxpayer, so the state is also paying for the repeat classes," he said.

Haring said making the decision to attend community college has shaped her higher education experience for the better.

"I'm really happy that I made the choice to attend a community college in lieu of my senior year of high school," she said. "I think it provided a massive advantage when applying to schools, especially a school as competitive as Elon."

# Local business owners, managers voice opinions on downtown Elon master plan

Jonathan Black  
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Elon released its first downtown master plan two weeks ago. The plan calls for an eight-block change to the downtown area bordered by Williamson and Manning Avenues to the east and west and Haggard and Lebanon Avenues to the north and south.

The proposal plans for 10 mixed-use buildings to house retail and restaurants on the first floor and offices or residential space on the top floors. The area would surround a green space called Town Commons.

Victoria Toulouspas, manager of Mynt, a clothing boutique, said she hopes the new downtown area would bring in more money to the area that isn't solely based around Elon University.

"It would bring a lot more foot traffic to downtown Elon," she said. "I love seeing all of the students walking around, but it would also be nice to have more for the Elon-Burlington community."

Peter Ustach, co-owner of Fat Frog and Pandora's and an Elon alumnus, agreed with



Downtown Elon would see a significant redesign, based on the recommendations of the town's master plan.

Toulouspas and said he's all for anything that can draw more traffic to Elon.

"The way I operate both Fat Frog and Pandora's is I look at operating everything in a 9-month window," he said. "It is a seasonable business if I take 5,500 students who leave the second, third week in May, and faculty and staff as well, you are probably accounting for 6,000 people who are up and gone."

Mike Brown, co-owner of the Acorn Inn, agreed with Ustach's sentiment.

"The Town of Elon needs to come together with the university to understand that it is a seasonal environment," he said. "All restaurant owners ebb and flow seasonably here. If they

want businesses to be self-sustained, they have to work out the seasonality issue. In the summer it's not enough for these businesses to operate in the black."

Unsurprisingly, Pandora's and Mynt relies heavily on business not only from students, but also from other members of the university. Ustach said around 70 percent of Pandora's business comes from the university. Mynt and Fat Frog, on the other hand, sit at about 50 percent.

"Mynt has a great Burlington clientele," Toulouspas said. "A lot of moms and daughters in high school and people who are passing through are loyal customers."

## Study shows fewer students buying textbooks due to costs

Michael Papich  
Assistant News Editor

A new study shows that a growing number of students may be forgoing buying textbooks altogether due to rising prices.

The study, conducted by the North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (NCPIRG), said 65 percent of the 2,039 students surveyed from across the United States decided against buying a textbook because it was too expensive.

Of those students who said they were not buying textbooks, 94 percent said they were significantly or somewhat concerned not buying those class materials would hurt their grade.

"Over the past decade, college textbook prices have increased by 82 percent, or at three times the rate of inflation, making them one of the biggest out of pocket expenses for students and families," NCPIRG said in a press release.

John Burbridge, professor of operations and supply chain management at Elon University, said that at Elon, this trend of abandoning textbooks on the student's side has not happened.

"Most Elon students still get their textbooks

through a variety of ways: through Amazon or rentals or even by getting an earlier edition," Burbridge said.

The NCPIRG study pointed to the high costs of new editions of textbooks as one of the sources of high prices.

"For the most part, the textbooks don't change, and that's one of the great crimes of the publishers," Burbridge said.

Nathan James, a senior marketing and finance major at Elon, is writing a thesis on the future of textbooks. While his research focuses on books for students from kindergarten to 12th grade, James has found the market is moving away from print to digital products, and quickly.

"Industry reports, trade journals and analyses from investment banks and major consulting firms all agree on this trend," James said. "My primary sources, including interviews with industry executives, sales agents, managers and others, have all agreed with this trend."

Carly Mayer, store manager of Elon's Barnes & Noble bookstore, said new textbook purchases are down nationwide, but textbook rent-

als, which Barnes & Noble first implemented in 2010, are growing.

"Last year, sales of new rentals increased by 61 percent, and used rentals rose by a phenomenal 161 percent," Mayer said.

In its summary, the NCPIRG said alternatives to new textbooks, like rentals, used books and eBooks, are more affordable and more available in recent years, but added that, "while these options offer students upfront savings, their prices are still dictated by the prices of the new print editions."

"Most faculty do not realize what the costs of their books are," Burbridge said. "But I think faculty have cut back on what they ask students to buy."

The study goes on to say five textbook companies control more than 80 percent of the publishing market. While this gives the companies protection from competition, Burbridge said it is also indicative of the problems such companies are having.

"The publishers are getting squeezed," Burbridge said. "That's why your independent bookstores are going away unless they can find

Unlike Pandora's and Mynt, the Acorn Inn is located among the eight-block area that would be torn down if construction were to begin. Brown said this is the first time his business' property has ever been located on a plan without the inn included.

"I've never owned property on a thirty-year plan when my property isn't on the space, so I don't know what to expect," Brown said. Brown said he is concerned the plan is sacrificing practicality for aesthetics.

"Everybody's excited to see green and centralized living space that's idealistic and utopic," he said. "There's a price to that upfront, buying individuals out and ongoing maintenance of the space that's not contributing to the tax base. It's 'Field of Dreams' stuff: if they build it, they will come."

Despite the short-term hurdles that need to be cleared, Ustach said the changes to downtown Elon would be beneficial after the initial hurdles.

"You might not see it five years after it happens, but there will probably be some years in between where there is struggle happening," Ustach said. "In the long run, it will be good."

a niche."

James said his personal experiences buying back college textbooks also tells him less students are buying books.

"In my first year of business, I would guess that roughly 90 percent of the students that I visited owned physical textbooks. However, in my second year of business, I would say that only 60 percent or so of the students I spoke with owned physical textbooks," James said. "I think this is evident of just how fast the industry is changing."

As fewer students buy textbooks, Burbridge said the effects are going to reverberate.

"It's going to reduce the demand for content," he said. "It's going to shrink the number of teachers publishing. But that's already going on."

While Burbridge said textbooks do have a definitive purpose in college, he said the way classrooms use these materials will have to change in the next few years.

"Unless the course requires some kind of specialized knowledge, you really don't need a textbook," he said.

# Visiting professor explores Jewish faith through music

Stephanie Lamm  
Assistant News Editor

Students braved the snow March 3 to hear Daniel Asia, composer and professor of music at the University of Arizona, speak on the connections between classical music and Jewish prayer. Asia spoke about music as a form of religious communication while showcasing his pieces, including songs from his recent album, "Of Songs and Psalms: Symphony No. 5," commissioned for Israel's 60th birthday.

Asia spoke of the ways Jews can become close to God: studying the Torah, following the commandments, observing the Sabbath and praising God. By practicing music as a means of praise and worship, music becomes an important part of the religious experience.

Psalms have always related faith to rhythm and lyricism. In later times, Jewish composers converted drinking tunes into hymns because people were familiar with the melody.

Asia argues that music is approached in much the same way as Jews approach God

— with "radicalized amazement."

"Music is reaching out to a land that lies beyond the reach of verbal propositions," Asia said. "Both prayer and music allow us to enter into the realm of miracles and into the mystery of the universe with an open heart and an open mind."

Asia's first piece, "Songs of Transcendence," is based on three songs in the Jewish Sabbath prayer service. He encouraged listeners to close their eyes and listen carefully to the progression of the music, looking for similarities and differences throughout.

The piece moved forward at a charismatic, beckoning pace, giving the classical instrumentation a human feel. Much of the music sounded like it would fit in an early-era musical or in the soundtrack to a film.

"It was interesting to listen to music as an intellectual exercise rather than letting it wash over you. It was an active listening, and rather than shutting the brain off you had to engage with the music," said senior Paige Ransbury.

Asia stressed that even people with very little knowledge of music theory or composition could understand his pieces. Just as

everyone who participates in prayer does not need to be a religious scholar, engaging with classical music does not require formal training.

"We relate to music in a very fundamental way," he said. "Just as people are born, live, and die, music starts, builds and reaches a conclusion where it ends."

His second piece, "Why (?) Jacob," was written for a friend who died during a conflict in Israel and the piece featured a mix of quiet piano melodies, loud crashes on the keyboard and periods of silence.

Asia said music is made up of moments of sound and silence, made sacred by the melodies and texts attached to them. Each composer adds his own influences and style into a piece, just as Jewish scholars must do when interpreting the Torah.

"Judaism is a religion of sacred moments. We practice rituals to make moments sacred. Music lets us find and experience sacred moments in time," Asia said.

The final selection was the last two movements of "Breath in a Ram's Horn," "Rosh-Hashanah/Yom Kippur" and "My Mother's Name is Charlotte and My Father's Name



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Daniel Asia is a visiting professor and composer from The University of Arizona.

is Bernard." The compositions were based off Paul Pines' writings on growing up Jewish in America.

Junior Herbie Lutvak, a Hillel member, said he is a great admirer of Asia's work.

"He's got an interesting style with a lot of Jewish influences. Tons of artists combine religion and art, but nobody else does it in quite such an obvious and relatable way," Lutvak said.

## Elon Poll shows drop in approval of Hagan, General Assembly

Stephanie Lamm  
Assistant News Editor

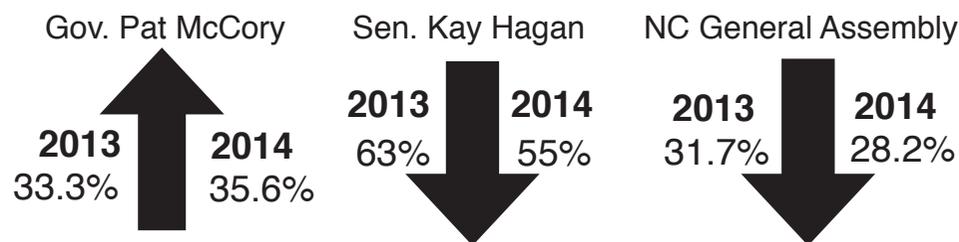
Last week, the Elon University Poll surveyed people across North Carolina about their opinion on state and national leadership as well as social issues.

More than 925 registered voters were polled via telephone from Feb. 23-26. Students asked questions about gay marriage, the Affordable Care Act and Sen. Kay Hagan's, D-N.C., leadership in order to gauge the North Carolinian political climate going into the midterm elections and the short legislative session.

The study found public approval of Gov. Pat McCrory's job performance was at 35.6 percent, up slightly from 33.3 percent last year.

Approval of the N.C. General Assembly dropped from 31.7 percent to 28.2 percent. The cause of the decrease in approval is hard to pinpoint since the General Assembly has

### 2013 vs. 2014 North Carolina approval ratings



not convened since the last poll was conducted.

Going into the midterm elections, Senator Hagan faces several challenges to her seat. The Elon Poll numbers do not bode well for Hagan's re-election campaign. Only one-third of registered voters approve of Hagan's job performance, with 49 percent of respondents saying they disapproved of the way Hagan was handling her job as senator.

Among Democrats, 55 percent favored

her, down from 63 percent last November.

"Kay Hagan's slight drop in approval rating would not necessarily be a concern by itself. However, this is the fourth straight fall in a year. And this last decline occurred when many elected counterparts saw increases in approval ratings," said Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll. "The trend suggests the senator will face a tougher-than-expected re-election battle this November."

A leading Republican candidate running

against Hagan, Speaker of the House Thom Tillis, has struggled with name recognition. Thirty-eight percent of registered voters recognized Tillis' name, up from 28 percent last November. Among those who recognized the name, only 18 percent reported they had a favorable opinion of him.

Congressional approval ratings remain low, having dipped below single digits in November. At 8 percent approval, the poll detected a slight increase in congressional approval compared to the poll conducted during the debt ceiling crisis.

President Barack Obama saw a two-point increase in approval, up to 39 percent.

Over half of respondents said they believe the Affordable Care Act would make the overall healthcare situation in North Carolina worse in the long run. Public opinion on the Affordable Care Act has not shifted since the November poll, despite campaigns by both parties to attack or bolster the program.

# Renovations to Writing Center draw a record number of students

Stephanie Lamm  
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's Writing Center boasted a record number of appointments last fall as the Writing Excellence Initiative moved into year two of its five-year plan.

The Writing Center, now located in the back of the first floor of Belk Library, was founded as a part of the Writing Excellence Initiative. Last fall, the center moved into a permanent location, furnished with moveable tables, large computer monitors, bar stools and white boards.

The renovations to the Writing Center have paid off. It held 1,870 consultations last semester, up from an estimated 900 in spring 2013.

Paula Rosinski, director of the Writing Center, said the flexible layout is supposed to encourage students, faculty and staff to make the space their own.

"It makes me so happy when I go into the Writing Center in the morning and see the tables and chairs arranged in new positions and the white boards full of diagrams and words and drawings, because that means that lots of writing and thinking and collaborating happened in the space the previous day and night, and that is exactly what we hoped would happen," Rosinski said.

A second wave of construction this summer will add presentation rooms, office space and multimedia tools.

Senior Rachel Lewis, a Writing Center consultant and scheduling expert, said she hopes the second wave of construction will encourage students to come to the center for help with more than just essays.

"People think of the Writing Center as a place where you can bring a Word document, but we do a lot more. We can help people with speeches, presentations, design issues and PowerPoints," Lewis said. "The renovations this summer will allow us to better serve students' multimedia needs."

The Center for Writing Excellence oversees both the Writing Center and the Writing Across the University program. The Writing Center in Belk Library will expand to house the offices for the Center for Writing Excellence, allowing campus



New renovations to Elon's Writing Center have resulted in a 108 percent increase in consultations since Spring 2013. The center is located in Elon's Belk Library. PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

writing programs to collaborate on projects like the Student's Choice writing contest held this past February.

The Center also plans to continue encouraging freshmen to take advantage of the center's resources. 1,000 of last semester's consultations were with freshmen, compared to only 317 consultations with upperclassmen.

"I think students are more aware of the Writing Center because admissions and first-year professors are promoting it as a great resource on campus," Lewis said.

Many "Global Experience" professors require their students to have their papers reviewed by the Writing Center. Rosinski said faculty play a big role in educating students about the resources the Writing Center has to offer.

"I've found that one of the best ways to educate students about the Writing Center and what consultants do is by having faculty talk to them about it in the context of their own class writing projects," Rosinski said. "Faculty are the ones who have the opportunity to talk with students about what is considered effective writing in their own disciplines, and out of those discussions faculty can talk with students about how it's valuable to get feedback on their writ-

ing."

However, some students feel professors coddle them by requiring them to get help from the center. Freshman Bria Samuels was required to go to the Writing Center for a political science course, but felt the people who helped her were not trained on how to write a political science research paper.

"I don't think professors should mandate their students go to the Writing Center," Samuels said. "If a student is comfortable with their own paper, that is fine, but they should only have to seek out help when they want to."

While getting help from the center is a great way for students to improve their writing skills, Lewis said professors need to collaborate with the center as well. She said the biggest problem students face when beginning a paper is understanding the expectations the professor has for the assignment.

"Many times I'll start my session by going through the rubric or instructions for a paper and trying to figure out what the professor wants," Lewis said. "It would be beneficial to develop ways we could communicate with professors about assignments, especially when the professors require their

students to visit the Writing Center."

Freshman Tyler Patchen said professors are often unclear on assignments, leaving the consultant and the student to guess at the professor's expectations.

"I think if professors gave details on certain papers to the Writing Center it would cut down on a bit of confusion and allow the people working in the center to focus more on helping the student," Patchen said.

One proposal to fix the disconnect between professors and Writing Center consultants is a "Fellows" program that could debut as soon as next fall. A Writing Center Fellow would take the prerequisite class, English 319, but also receive additional training in a particular discipline such as political science papers, scientific lab reports or media writing.

The fellow would be matched with a faculty member from the corresponding department who would work with him or her to develop assignments, hold writing workshops for particular classes and meet with students to discuss writing strategies.

"Ideally, both the consultant and the faculty member would learn from each other and thereby enhance the writing instruction and learning for all students in a particular disciplinary class," Rosinski said.

# Cheat Sheet: Voter ID Laws in NC

## News Section

Voter ID is the colloquial name for laws that require voters to show some form of identification before voting. These laws have received national attention because the number of voter ID laws has increased sharply in the last decade and because people, mainly Democrats and left-leaning organizations, consider them discriminatory.

While some states have had some form of voter ID law for many years, like Hawaii's requirement for photo ID that started in the 1970s, 2011 saw a jump in the number of states that either adopted or strengthened voter ID laws.

The catalyst for this increase is twofold: the Supreme Court's ruling in 2008's *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*, which found voter ID laws constitutional, and the 2010 midterm elections that also gave Republicans sizable majorities and governorships across the United States. States with Republican control of the legislature largely passed voter ID legislation, although there are exceptions, such as Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Discrimination complaints are targeted especially at laws that require photo voter ID, as those least likely to have a driver's license or passport — African-Americans, working-class residents and young voters — are traditional Democratic supporters. A 2011 study funded by the Brennan Center for Justice and the



In the 2016 election, North Carolina voters will need an approved form of government photo ID to vote. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

University of Washington found that 86.4 percent of eligible white voters had a valid form of identification for voting, as opposed to 73.4 percent of eligible black voters.

North Carolina joined the now 30 states with some form of voter ID laws in 2013 as part of a larger voting reform bill. Starting in 2016, voters will be required to show some form of ID, which includes a driver's license, military or veteran's card, tribal identification or a passport. Exceptions for religious objections to photographs or elderly residents who do not

have a valid driver's license have also been put in place. In February 2013, when the bill was first considered in the state General Assembly, the Elon University Poll found that 72 percent of North Carolinians supported the requirement.

Justifications for voter ID bills have ranged from a way to preserve the integrity of voting to a preventative method against voter fraud. While opponents of such laws say the number of individuals who vote under a faulty identity are exceedingly rare, supporters such as

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest said fraud can be found in other ways of voting like provisional ballots, saying in *The Charlotte Observer*, "50 percent of the provisional ballots are thrown out during the provisional ballot counting process because the Board of Elections cannot verify that the voter exists."

Provisional ballots are a way for voters who arrive at the wrong precinct to vote. As a part of the larger voting reform bill, provisional ballots will not be accepted.

North Carolina's voter ID bill also allows voters to get voter ID cards from the Department of Motor Vehicles for no cost. To obtain the card, one needs to show proof of identity and age, proof of residency and citizenship and a document with a valid Social Security number.

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against North Carolina over its current voter ID law on the basis that it discriminates against minorities. Section Two of the Voting Rights Act allows the DOJ to sue states if their voting policies discriminate on the basis of race.

In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down Section Five of the Voting Rights Act that allows the DOJ to review changes to voting policies in states and counties with a history of racial discrimination. Neighboring Caswell, Guilford and Rockingham Counties were all covered under Section Five.

*Something in the news you want explained? Email [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) and tell us.*

## News Briefs

### Board of Trustees appoints new lifetime advisers

Elon University's Board of Trustees named Barbara Bass and James Maynard life trustees and named Tom Mac Mahon emeritus trustee for the board. Typically, time on the Board of Trustees is limited, but members given this title continue to give advice and counsel after their retirement. Including Bass and Maynard, there have only been six life trustees in Elon's history.

Bass graduated Elon in 1961 and received

the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award in 1986 as well as the National Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching.

Maynard, a former president of Alamance County's Chamber of Commerce, donated his family home to be the residence for Elon's president. Maynard financially supported the construction of Rhodes Stadium and the Koury Business Center.

Mac Mahon created a scholarship fund for local students and donated funds for the new Inman Admissions Welcome Center. Mac Mahon was also the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business' executive-in-residence.

### State amendment gets hearing date

A constitutional amendment that would allow defendants the right to select a trial by judge instead of a trial by jury is scheduled for a hearing March 17.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed the amendment in 2013 with wide-ranging support.

In most states and in federal court, criminal defendants can already opt for a bench trial. Misdemeanor defendants in North Carolina currently have the option of a bench trial. Under the constitutional amendment, cases that involve the possibility of the death penalty cannot waive trial by jury.

### Artifacts from Blackbeard's ship open to public

Starting March 4, the public will have access to the conservation lab where coins, weapons and anchors belonging to Edward "Blackbeard" Teach are being held.

Blackbeard was a feared pirate from the late 17th century to the early 18th century whose ship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, was found shipwrecked off North Carolina's Outer Banks in 1996.

More than 60 percent of the ship's artifacts have been recovered so far. The lab, which individuals can now visit on monthly tours, is located on East Carolina University's campus.

## Solving a problem that doesn't exist: voter ID laws in NC

North Carolina recently passed laws that seek to not only tighten ID verification at the polls but also to shorten the voting period by one week and end same-day voting registration. Supporters of the new laws argue they will successfully curtail the prevalence of voter fraud in the state of North Carolina as well as save the state substantial amounts of money by shortening the voting period. These arguments are simply a weak attempt to mask the true purpose of these laws — to keep certain people from having access to the polls.

Many believe one person's vote is very unlikely to have an effect on the outcome of an election. Though this may be true, providing a clear path to polls and keeping voting turnout percentages high means citizens will strive to be better informed

about issues facing their states or countries. North Carolina's new voter ID laws alienate college students, specifically those who were not born in the state and who are already wary about voting in the first place.

Only 17 percent of the class of 2017, hails from the state of North Carolina. With a majority of Elon students residing outside of the state, these new laws put a massive divide between Elon students and the polls. Elon is not the only school that has a majority of out of state students. Duke University, Wake Forest University and High Point University all draw an overwhelming majority of their student body from outside North Carolina.

College provides an intellectually stimulating platform from which students grow and mature as individuals. On their

own for the first time, students form opinions and political views that are unique to them. As the newest eligible members of our democracy, the state and federal government should ensure college students have a clear and concise path to the polls.

A recent Elon University Poll showed that 65 percent of North Carolina residents supported the new law requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls. The law is most popular amongst Republicans, 96 percent of whom support the new security measures that are now in place. The law is least popular among Democrats, only 36 percent of whom support the voter ID requirements.

The Elon Poll, as well as several other data collection organizations, have found that voter fraud, which has been cited as one of the main reasons for the creation of

the law, is very rare. In fact, many cases of voter fraud are often incorrectly classified as fraud. It seems as though only those who support the new law view voter fraud as a crippling threat to our democracy.

The 2014 election cycle will be the first time these new laws are enacted. Furthermore, the 2016 election cycle will be the first time in North Carolina when college student's university IDs will not be an acceptable form of identification. These new measures will have a direct effect on not only limiting participation, but they will also intimidate first time or minority voters.

This issue is not one that is obvious to college students. Elon students have a knack for keeping themselves busy. College students, especially those who hail from outside North Carolina, should pay attention to these laws for they are directly limiting citizens' rights to participate in elections.

Since the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, voter turnout in the United States has stayed relatively stagnant. According to the Bipartisan Research Center, the average percentage of eligible voter turnout in the U.S. has hovered between 48 and 57 percent since 1900. With women winning the right to vote in 1920, one would think voter turnout would increase as we move further into the century, but this is not the case.

Having a more informed and engaged electorate is not only good for the government, but it is also good for the state of North Carolina. The U.S. was founded on the belief that government officials would be elected by the people and serve the people. Each state should be striving to increase voter turnout, not restrict and limit it.

North Carolina's new voter ID laws are in direct conflict with that constitutional right. Voting is a right that all citizens of the United States should be able to participate in regardless of race, sex or economic background. Government officials in North Carolina should reverse these new restrictions so all people may participate in our constitutional right to vote.



Graphic courtesy of MCT Campus

# It's all smoke and mirrors in agronomy

I have been surrounded by cigarettes since before I was born. No, my family wasn't made up of smokers, nor have I ever smoked, but it's been prevalent in my life nonetheless. I am a child of big tobacco.



**Jonathan Black**  
Columnist

My father, who is an agronomist, has worked with tobacco companies since the day I was born. Brown & Williamson, RJ Reynolds, British-American Tobacco and Korea Tobacco and Ginseng are all companies he has or is

working with. His technical work focuses on the production and quality of the tobacco leaf, and I've only seen him smoke a cigarette once in my 21 years.

Gone are the days of "Mad Men", when the working man and woman caused an office's air quality to mirror that of Beijing. Gone are the days of smoking having health benefits against throat irritation and other medical maladies.

Today, life is saturated with damaging anti-smoking ads of people with lost limbs,

family members and dreams. As a nonsmoker, I simply avoid these commercials because they have no influence over me — but as a child of big tobacco, I am staunchly against these propagandist advertisements.

The United States was the first country in the world to require a health warning on cigarettes. "Caution: Cigarette Smoking May be Hazardous to Your Health" was put on cigarette packs from 1966-1970. Since then, the message has included the Surgeon General's warning that smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease and birth hazards. The warning also says cigarettes contain carbon monoxide and quitting greatly reduces health risk.

Today, these health risks, among others, are obvious to everyone who has received a basic education and are the reason I do not smoke. These commercials victimize the very action individuals chose to adopt. Sure, if someone forced you to start smoking from a young age I would feel differently, but for the majority of smokers, no one has held a gun to their head to light up a cigarette.

I am fully in favor of educating children on the dangers of smoking, and most are with programs like D.A.R.E, but ultimately, it's an individual's prerogative on whether or not

he or she wants to begin, continue or quit smoking.

Am I glad smoking has been eliminated from restaurants in the United States? Of course. Am I glad I don't have to worry about fellow Elon University students smoking in classrooms, on-campus housing and other buildings? Yes.

Smoking has become more and more privatized in the United States, an action that I wholeheartedly agree with due to the

dangers of secondhand smoking.

Eventually there will be a way to curb smoking, as seen with the recent boom in electronic cigarettes. Until then, or when the dangers of smoking has been diminished, it will be a destructive habit.

But I can't admonish my peers for choosing to smoke when my very attendance at this university, and all of the other benefits I've received from my parents, is thanks to the people who chose to buy a packet of cigarettes.



EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Danielle Parris sits outside of Belk Library as she lights a cigarette.

# Bitcoin Bubble fueled by novelty, not true value

With the recent collapse of Mt. Gox, the world's largest Bitcoin exchange, new calls for tighter regulation of the digital currency are emerging worldwide.



**Alex Francis**  
Columnist

Started in 2009 by an anonymous individual, Bitcoin is the first decentralized digital currency that takes the form of online digital coins that can be sent directly from person to person through the Internet. These coins are generated throughout

the world on computers running Bitcoin mining software and have value when people are willing to exchange them for goods or services. Each Bitcoin transaction is recorded in a public log, but the names of buyers and sellers are never revealed. Since this keeps Bitcoin

user transactions private, it also lets them buy and sell anything without it being traced back to them.

The subsequent bankruptcy of Mt. Gox has left roughly \$480 million worth of Bitcoins missing. Exemplifying the problem with the untraceable currency, the coins have disappeared, and there are no regulatory forces in place to ensure their recovery. Bitcoin is most often known as the currency on the dark side of the Internet, the monetary backing behind the infamous Silk Road website, the preferred money laundering method for crime rings worldwide and the purchasing power for hit men and heroin across the web.

I'm skeptical to truly consider Bitcoin as an actual currency, for it has more characteristics of an extremely volatile stock, at times fluctuating hundreds of dollars in value in a day and proving a terrible store of value. The U.S. dollar is a fiat currency that is legal tender,

which means you are required by law to accept it for any transaction. Although the dollar has been off the gold standard since 1971, it is still backed by the U.S. government and their power to tax which is enforced by the legal system. But unlike other fiat currencies Bitcoin is not backed by any regulatory forces.

People need to stop bolstering the fervor around these meaningless currencies. There is no legal recourse, no financial system, no government backing and no regulation. If a Bitcoin is stolen, for example, the criminal gets to keep the coin. The process is complicated further by the anonymity Bitcoin touts so proudly. When the Bitcoins go missing, there is virtually no way to recover them.

Bitcoin emerged in a world where citizens of nations worldwide are leery to put their faith in banks or rely on federal regulators to keep the value of their currencies strong. The Cyprus banking crisis serves as an example, Cyprians

pulled their money from the central banks rapidly and dumped it in to Bitcoins where the government could not get their hands on it.

As the Mt. Gox disaster goes to show, there seems to be less trust in unregulated, anonymous enterprises now. The irony behind the Bitcoin fiasco is that the cryptocurrency can only succeed with the backing and support of the one thing it set out to avoid: the government.

Although I am an avid opponent of the Bitcoin craze, the volatile Bitcoin market represents room for growth and a niche in the global financial system. In a world of 2-3 percent transaction fees for major credit card companies, it remains clear that cryptocurrencies with no fees will serve as a disruptive force in the financial system. It would be foolish to dismiss something with so much potential, but for the moment Bitcoin is nothing but an abhorrent waste of time and real, hard money.

# Flavors of the world

PHOTO COURTESY OF: FLICKR.COM USER SERPICO-FOTOS  
An asado is a traditional Argentinian grill.



## Argentinian culture brings people together

Erin Luther  
International Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina is the land of the steak, mate and dulce de leche. The asado, similar to a barbeque, is a grill-type appliance that cooks steaks through indirect heat. Asado is an Argentine tradition that brings people together for great food, of which the meat is central.

A few of the most popular cuts of steak here are bife de chorizo, which is a sirloin, bife de lomo, which is a tenderloin and asado, which

are short ribs.

The next unique part of the Argentine diet is a tea called mate, made of yerba mate, which is a strong caffeinated herb. When drinking mate in a group, there is only one mate gourd and bombillo (straw), which are passed around the circle.

Lastly, dulce de leche is a favorite Argentine dessert food. It is a delicious caramel-like spread. The culture around the food is just as important, if not more important than the food itself. It brings family and friends together in a sense of community, which is important in the Argentine culture.

## A bit of Jersey Shore found in England

Allison Pichowicz  
International Correspondent

BRIGHTON, England — Eateries down by the seafront in Brighton remind me of those at the Jersey Shore: local fast food shops at every corner near the boardwalk. After a night out, my friends and I decided to pop by a chippery (fish and chip shop) at 1 a.m. Chips are to the Brits as french fries are to Americans. It is important to note that

the chips here are more like wedges than thin McDonalds'-esque potato sticks.

Malt vinegar is a popular topping, as is ketchup. Chips with cheese and gravy is Britain's take on Canada's poutine and America's "Disco Fries." Brown gravy is drizzled over the chips and then it's topped with shredded mozzarella cheese. It's a bit messy to eat, but luckily there are small wooden chip forks to help make it easier.

## Singapore blends together many Asian flavors

Nick Unkovic  
Reporter

During my time in Singapore, I got to try many different types of Asian food. Since Singapore is a melting pot of cultures, there are many different types of food available from China, India, Malaysia and many other Asian countries.

For the most part, I could eat in open-air cafeterias with food stalls around the outside. As you can imagine, there are plenty of noodles and rice. The most famous dish in Singapore is roasted chicken and rice, which can come with an array of different sauces.

Above all, my favorite place to eat was a small Malaysian café that was a short walk from my apartment. I would go for break-

fast most mornings and have prata, which is a doughy pancake-type food that is served with a chicken or vegetable-based curry. All in all, I was very happy to experience authentic Asian cuisine, and there is certainly a lot to explore.



## London pizzeria beckons students and royals alike

Meghan Mahoney  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Every student that studies abroad in London's posh South Kensington, home to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, will quickly discover a popular local pizzeria, Da Mario. If the fact Da Mario is said to be Princess Diana's favorite pizza place when she lived down the street in Kensington Palace doesn't convince visitors to enjoy a meal there, the authentic Italian cuisine will seal the deal.

The Neapolitan pizzas offer a fresh taste

of Italy. Whether choosing to play it safe with a margherita or American pizza, or trying something new such as the boscaiola or pollo corallo pizza, Da Mario will not disappoint. The bruschetta lido mappatella starter is served with goat cheese, roasted sweet peppers and deliciously dressed mixed leaves, an excellent way to start the dining experience.

Visits to this royal destination are perfect for families visiting their children abroad and late night pizza runs, a perfect fit for this neighborhood full of adventurous study abroad students.

## Spanish dining offers unique atmosphere

Leah Channas  
Social Media Editor

When you travel to Spain, you'll encounter a completely different way of dining. Not only is the food different, but the typical mealtimes vary from American culture as well.



While living with my host family, I ate a normal breakfast but had to wait until 3 p.m. to eat lunch and 10:45 p.m. for dinner. Spaniards also don't snack, so the periods between meals can be excruciating.

Spain is also famous for its "tapas," which are small, snack-size foods. People either eat tapas alongside drinks in the evening or they will combine two or three different tapas to form a meal. Some popular tapas are "Tortilla Espanola," which is a Spanish omelet of eggs, potatoes and onions, and "Croquetas de Jamon," which are small, lightly breaded and fried fritters filled with ham. Whatever you choose to eat during your stay in Spain, you can be sure that it will be a satisfactory experience.

**Correspondent's  
corner:**

# Students brave wind to explore historic Dover

**Carolyn Braganca**  
International Correspondent

DOVER, England — On a bright Saturday afternoon, my friend Alex and I braved the wind to visit Dover, home of Dover Castle, one of the most famous castles in England.

Dover is not exactly a tourist hot spot, so there weren't signs plastered all over the town pointing out the way to the castle. Alex and I found one small sign, and from there we found a rather obscure little path called the Harold Passage.

This passageway eventually yielded to another obscured path that cut through a small patch of wood. The Girl Scout in me was saying this might not be the best path, but Alex and I went up the road less traveled, working off breakfast as we hiked up the steep path.

It got windier and windier the higher we went — not only were we struggling to go up, we are struggling to stay up.

By the time we reached the ticket office, we were utterly winded, in every sense of the word. Our mood temporarily dropped when the ticket lady informed us that due to the wind, the medieval section of the castle was closed to tourists. So the centerpiece of the fortification — a huge reason people go to the tunnels — was closed.

After paying for our tickets, Alex and I scurried over to the other side of the castle — fighting the aggressive wind the whole way — to get to the tour of the Underground Hospital. The 20-minute tour followed the voice-simulated journey of a Royal Air Force pilot shot down over the sea who was brought in with a severely wounded leg.

The lights in the tunnels flickered as they had during the air raids in the 1940s. There were real newspapers, posters and medical equipment from the time period. They even had some of the actual food they ate back then which was found abandoned in a cabinet after the war.

Immediately after the hospital tour, we

rushed down a path against the wind to the tour of the wartime tunnels, which focused primarily on the evacuation from Dunkirk when Allied soldiers were evacuated from France in 1940.

This tour was awful. The tour guides attempted to make the experience more interactive, so the whole tour was treated like a military operation that bordered a James Bond/MI6 operation. The tour guide shepherded everyone into a room where we watched a short video about the beginning of World War II. Then an automated drill sergeant informed us that we were to obey all orders from the commanding officer without question and that we were not allowed to exit a room until the red light above the door turned green.

Then we moved on to a huge corridor where we were all lined up against a wall. Instead of facing the firing squad, we watched a huge projection video that explained the Dunkirk evacuation. After that, the tour guide let us wander around a few reconstructed rooms that were primarily communications rooms.

All in all, I can't really tell you what I learned because I didn't really gain that

much. The tours were essentially glorified audio tours, which I typically avoid. Human tour guides who are educated and trained make the experience more personal. I will take personal over interactive any day of the week.

Once Alex and I were turned loose, we continued our battle with the wind as we wandered around the grounds a bit. Despite the main part of the castle being closed, there were still plenty of spots to explore.

We visited the Saxon Church, which is a prominent military church, and the Roman Pharos — two of the oldest standing structures in Dover side by side.

Even though the wind was brutal, Alex and I decided that if we couldn't beat it, we could join it. We had a lot of fun taking funny pictures in the wind or finding cool little places to take goofy pictures. Even as the wind almost had us falling all over ourselves, we were still roaring with laughter at our messed up hair and our near-blunders. The wind made a good chunk of our agenda a failure, but we still managed to create our own adventure and enjoy our time in Dover.

I'd say, in the end, we beat the wind.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLYN BRAGANCA

Despite the strong winds that day, Braganca was able to explore historic Dover Castle.

## International Briefs

### More than 90 killed by Islamic extremists attacks in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Kenya — Twin car bombs set off in northern Nigeria by Islamic extremists March 1 killed at least 90 people.

One bomb went off in a market in the center of the densely populated city Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State. The second bomb went off 40 miles away in the village of Mainok, which has been attacked several times by extremists in the past year.

According to the Associated Press, many of the victims included children dancing at a wedding celebration and people at a theater watching a football match.

### South African Olympic star on trial for girlfriend's murder

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Oscar Pistorius, who made history after winning six Paralympic medals and becoming the first double amputee to compete in the Olympics, is facing trial this week for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp Feb. 14, 2013.

Pistorius said he accidentally shot Steenkamp when he mistook her for a burglar.

He is facing one charge of premeditated murder, a firearms charge and two gun indictments from previous incidents. If convicted of murder, Pistorius faces life in prison.

This trial will be the first in South African history to allow cameras in the courtroom, although testimony by witnesses who do not consent will not be televised.

### Israel donates more than 300 Anne Frank books to Tokyo libraries

TOKYO — After hundreds of copies of Anne Frank's diaries were vandalized in Tokyo libraries in the past month, the Israeli embassy and Jewish community in Japan are donating more than 300 Anne Frank-related books to the libraries.

The embassy said they decided to donate the books after receiving thousands of calls, letters and emails from the people of Japan, apologizing for the incident.

# Atheists nervous about coming

## *As Lent begins, those who don't identify*

Abby Franklin  
Senior Reporter

Jan Register drives to her job at Elon University's Numen Lumen Multi-Faith Center every morning and enters a building that promotes open-mindedness. When she drives home at night into Alamance County, she must convert to a Christian-only mindset for her family and friends. Little do they know she accepts atheism, among other faiths.

"It's a bubble in Alamance County. It's a completely different world than out there," Register said. "When we first announced we were going to build this building and that it would be multi-faith, there was pushback. There's a certain retired preacher in town who loves to dash off letters to the Times-News saying we're all going to hell for not trying to convert students to Christianity. It is really foreign to people around here."

As a Christian in the South who thinks differently, Register is stigmatized. And she's not alone.

It is against the law in North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee for an atheist to hold public office. Each of these states employs different language in its constitution barring this minority group from leadership but makes it clear to state residents that not believing is not accepted.

According to the U.S. Constitution, there can be no religious test for holding office, so why have these particular states failed to amend their state constitutions? It may be because they rest within the Bible Belt.

If atheist politicians aren't accepted by Southern states, atheist residents within those states assume they won't be either. This trickle-down effect encourages the silencing of a minority group that thinks differently, leaving atheists in a position reminiscent of LGBTQ-identifying citizens — with the paralyzing task of "coming out."

"A number of elected officials have quietly



The Triangle Freethought Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about issues surrounding nontheism.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

told me that they, too, are non-theist but don't want to deal with the public attention that they might trigger if they were open about it," N.C. politician Cecil Bothwell said. "I don't blame them, and really, most of us don't make much fuss about things we don't believe in. I don't believe in a flat-earth, leprechauns, astrology or spontaneous generation of mice in piles of rags, but I've never told anyone I'm an A-spontaneous generationist or an A-leprechaunist."

Bothwell was elected to Asheville's City Council in 2009. In writing "The Prince of War: Billy Graham's Crusade for a Wholly Christian Empire" before his campaign, Bothwell

realized any critique of the evangelist might be regarded as religiously inspired. In order to avoid any perceived bias, Bothwell noted in the acknowledgements that he did not subscribe to any religion. What he got in return was hate from his hometown.

"Two smear letters were sent to thousands of Asheville voters warning them I was an atheist and intended to lead Asheville to hell," Bothwell said.

### Atheism locally

Throughout history, minority groups have

had to overcome false stereotypes and the fears of the majority.

"If atheists wanted to vote as a block they would be a force to be reckoned with," said Tom Arcaro, sociology professor at Elon University and regional atheism expert. "There's going to be a backlash against politicians who use religious rhetoric to support their views eventually because the critical mass of atheists is increasing."

Polls support Arcaro's view. According to a recently published Pew study, approximately 20 percent of U.S. adults do not affiliate with any particular religion. That includes 13 mil-

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# out in southern states

## *with any religion stand out*

lion atheists or agnostics and 33 million people overall who don't identify with any religion.

"If you look at the landscape of American religious identification, the group that's growing the fastest is the one with no religious affiliation — the irreligious," Arcaro said. "If you extrapolate 5-10 years into the future, that's a lot of people, and they're going to begin having political power, making this a very timely issue."

In the South specifically, at least 71 percent of each southern state's population believes in God.

"My studies have shown that there is a clear difference between the stigma associated with atheism and the freedom with which people can come out in the South," Arcaro said. "We can look in the U.S. and divide it up into four areas — The Bible Belt as the most stigmatized, next highest Midwest, next highest is the West Coast and the most secular is the Northeast. The stigma in the South is undoubtedly the highest. Coming out in Maine or Vermont is easier than coming out in Burlington."

### Atheism from a university perspective

Elon University is often referred to as a "bubble" in discussions regarding important issues. It sits in the Bible Belt but houses a majority of students from the Northeast.

"Atheism is not something that, being raised here [Alamance County], I've had exposure to at all," Register said. "But if you look at statistics of how college students self identify when they come into school, you have so many 'unknowns' and so many 'nones.' And those are all people who are raised in a faith tradition, but they're not going to label themselves as that when they leave their home. They're searching. They're going to figure out what it is they actually believe."

Elon's Numen Lumen Pavilion was erected in the spring of last year under the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life to help students do just that — sort through their beliefs — whether they associate with a religion or not.

"Our goal is to help students become rooted in their own faith traditions, whatever that is, and if that is a no faith tradition, then that's included," Register said. "There are 14 major religions, and one of them is atheism."

As a devout Christian, Register said even as recently as five years ago, she wouldn't have pictured herself holding a position in a building called the Numen Lumen Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life. Alamance County, her home, only accepts one faith.

"Part of our mission is to try to educate the public on what we're doing, what these programs are all about and why we're multi-faith," Register said.

Register's ideas about exclusivity in Christianity have completely changed since accepting her job at Elon, but those of the surrounding county have not. Her 16-year-old son asked her why she was taking a job arranging field trips for Muslims, and one of her best friends, a Primitive Baptist, won't speak to her about her job at all because it promotes the wholehearted acceptance of a religion outside of Christianity.

While the Truitt Center holds weekly cultural events that are open to the outer community, the Secular Society at Elon works to provide an outlet for the many religiously unidentifying students at Elon who may feel unwelcome in the outer Alamance County region.

"At Elon I still never said I was atheist," said Rachael Berman, an Elon alumna. "I didn't feel as though there necessarily would've been a bad result if I told people, there just didn't seem to be a point in me [coming out as atheist] because there wasn't a place I could turn to."

### Atheism through a national lens

When Herb Silverman ran for South Carolina office in the 1990s as an atheist, he was bombarded with hate mail and anonymous phone calls. However, in the face of scrutiny he discovered something important — there was a closeted population of atheists.

"Many had thought they were the only atheists in South Carolina, and most were closeted for fear of social and family disapproval," Silverman wrote in his book, "Candidate Without a Prayer." "These isolated atheists needed a supportive community, so with my list of local names I suggested meeting to see if there was interest in organizing an [atheist] group."

This interest meeting, after years of cultivation, formed into the Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry, or SHL, and Silverman was its leader.

Less than 18 years later, Silverman was a national figurehead for atheists as president of the Secular Coalition for America. He currently blogs for The Washington Post and has spoken at numerous national debates.

Silverman and other national figureheads like him have provided the inspiration atheists need to come out in a country that's always expressed belief in God.

"The community has just exploded in the last four and a half years," said Seth Andrews, admin of "The Thinking Atheist" Facebook page. "Research shows the [number of] people who are saying they aren't religious has doubled in the last 20 years, and I largely credit the Internet. Now information is no longer logged up, no longer out of reach of those who want to double check the claims of preachers, pundits, parents and anyone else."

Now, with questions answered and resources available in bulk, skeptics are more comfortable policing the separation of church and state within their local governments — no more connecting the polls with the pews.

Until then, Faith supports political identity in the South, faith and political views shape the direction of voting and those things combine to result in a seemingly permanent bond of church and south. But more than that, a possibly permanent residue of church and state upon the laws of our nation and the representatives it elects to serve. §

## Quartet brings Latin passion to Elon performance

**Kelsey Higgins**  
Senior Reporter

It is time to reconsider any thoughts that classical music cannot be deeply moving, highly inspiring or fiercely passionate.

The Dali Quartet, with members hailing from Venezuela and Puerto Rico, describes its style as classically rooted with a Latin passion. The string quartet has been around for about 10 years, and the award-winning artists who currently make up the group have been playing together for about two years.

It seemed as if these people had been making music together for more than a lifetime at their performance Feb. 27 in Whitley Auditorium at Elon University.

Having toured internationally and collaborated with some of the greatest composers of the time, the quartet serves as Quartet in Residence for the Elite Strings Program and Resident Ensemble of the Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra in Philadelphia.

The first half of the performance included selections by German composers Mozart and Johannes Brahms.

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Dali Quartet  
Our Rating:



It took the quartet a few moments to get settled on stage, but with a swift breath in and a quick bow, they were off.

Jesus Morales' cello tone filled Whitley with a deep bass that supported and lifted the sound of each instrument up towards the ceiling, and Simon Gollo's intonation never faltered as he climbed higher and higher in the violin's register.

They rose and fell at all the right moments, and every dynamic or emotional change was effortlessly synchronized. The music exploded with life.

The only fumble of the first half of the concert belonged to the audience.

Some in attendance would have greatly benefited from reading "Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior," paying special attention to the sections about clapping between musical movements, getting up during pieces and talking throughout a performance.

After a brief intermission, the second half of the program took the audience on a journey through Cuba, Venezuela, Argentina, Panama and Puerto Rico.

The beautiful tango by Carlos Gardel and the closing tune "El Cumbanchero" were the standouts.

They breathed together, they moved to-

gether and they felt together. They looked like silent movie characters having an endlessly intense conversation to a fiery soundtrack.

In light of the events currently taking place in Venezuela, the group also expressed its sorrow for its country and its immense gratitude for being invited to perform at Elon.

The night concluded with a standing ovation and an encore performance of "La Cumparsita."

The reception was held Friday morning at El Centro de Espanol and the members

casually talked about themselves and their inspirations with the 40 people in attendance.

They performed a few pieces from the previous night, and once again they danced a dance of exquisite execution — every eye drawn to the instrument carrying the melody, every cue perfectly choreographed, every phrase beautifully stated.

As the entranced audience enjoyed the complementary Costa Rican breakfast of scrambled eggs, fried plantains and black beans and rice, not a single word could be spoken to break the spell.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VANESSA BRICENO-SCHERZER

The Dali Quartet performed a variety of Latin-inspired pieces Feb. 27 in Elon's Whitley Auditorium.

## One nation Underwood: Netflix's 'House of Cards' returns

**Terrence McLaughlin**  
Design Editor

And so the butchery begins. Frank Underwood is back with a brand-new political scheme in the second season of Netflix's original program, "House of Cards." The entire season was released on Feb. 14, and while many played in the snow, some stayed inside watching the thirteen-hour season from start to finish. Sure it's excessive, but it's hard to make the argument that time could be better spent while binge-watching every episode of a hybrid between "Breaking Bad" and "The West Wing."

TV REVIEW  
"House of Cards"  
Our Rating:



If you thought "House of Cards" couldn't get any better than the first season, think again. In almost every way, Season 2 is an improvement upon Season 1.

Season 2's twisted and intricate plot-line, paired with Robin Wright's increased role as Claire Underwood and the addition of several new characters, go together seamlessly. From the very first episode, Underwood makes a move that is sure to grab the attention of any viewer. His ruthless search for power begins right where Season 1 ended, and as the plot shifts from a focus on Congress to the White House, we come to see a varied set of relationships with the Underwoods and several minor characters.

Garrett Walker, the submissive president who lacks any and all decision-making skills,

is much more active throughout the season. As is influential businessman and professional weasel Raymond Tusk. Remy Danton and Edward Meechum also appear much more often than in the first season. To me, these enhanced reprisal roles helped aid the dark and immoral attributes of Underwood, whose overall message since the show's initial release is that he can really get things done.

One major change in Season 2 was that, despite so many moving parts, the writers of the show managed to artfully decide Underwood's fate. Among Chinese relations, an energy crisis and unsavory political contributions viewers will remain glued to the screen.

Repeating what she did in Season 1 with her Golden Globe-winning performance,

Robin Wright steals the show. More vulnerable than ever, she manages to not only solve her existing problems from Season 1, but also seems to have a knack at creating them for others. Just as her husband did, Claire comes out on top after a whirlwind of controversy that seemed as difficult to get through as some of the runs she goes on.

Looking back, it's easy to equate the entire season with some of its more wild or entertaining scenes, but as a whole, Season 2 had me begging for more. Even though it's hard to fathom waiting another year until Season 3, I'll need some time to properly digest the entirety of Season 2. Now my only worry is, what TV show gets to take the spot of "House of Cards"?

# Moscow Festival Ballet offers glimpse into professional dance world

Casey Brown  
Senior Reporter

Elon University audiences may be familiar with the fairy tale “Sleeping Beauty” which focuses on a cursed princess who pricks her finger on a spindle and needs to be saved by her prince. However, McCrary Theatre will showcase a different interpretation of the classic tale, presented by the Moscow Festival Ballet 7:30 p.m. March 6.

Formed in 1989, the Moscow Festival Ballet travels around the world performing full-length ballets from the 20th century. They will perform the Marius Petipa-choreographed ballet, which originally premiered in 1890. Dance professor Jen Guy Metcalf said she is excited for her students to see a show directly connected to their coursework.

“Some of my dance students are currently learning repertoire from this ballet in my ‘Pointe I’ course,” Metcalf said. “I’m glad they don’t need to go on YouTube to watch a recorded performance because they can see it live.”

Lauren Kearns, head of the dance program, said shows like this offer another learning experience for the dancers at Elon, getting a chance to see their craft done professionally.

“This performance is an extension of our classroom,” Kearns said. “The dance majors attending this concert will be able to connect what they are working on in their ballet classes with the exquisite dancing they will see onstage. It is yet another example of the engaged learning that we value not only in the dance program, but in Elon in general.”

The chance to get a glimpse at the professional world of dance is why students like McKenna May are looking forward to the March 6 performance. May, a freshman dance major, said seeing professionals acts as a motivating force in her own dance training.

“After seeing a professional company perform, I always go into the studio the next day more focused and driven,” May said. “An aspiring dancer can learn a lot from watching professionals who have already succeeded in the field. After seeing a show, I also feel more inspired to chase my dreams of becoming a professional dancer.”

This is not the first ballet company Elon has hosted in the last several years. Since 1986, 10 professional, national and international touring companies have performed for Elon audiences, sometimes more than once.

Jeff Clark, the executive director of Cultural and Special Programs, said he believes that, by continuing to bring in groups like the Moscow Festival Ballet, Elon diversifies

the culture its students and community members experience.

“[Hosting groups like this] is very important,” Clark said. “Exposure to different cultures, styles and people is an important part of a liberal arts education. It also brings to campus audience members who have not yet discovered Elon and all it has to offer.”

While the ballet will provide a beneficial learning experience for the dance majors on Elon’s campus, Kay encourages her classmates and fellow community members to

see the performance, not just for the art, but to understand a little bit about the hard work of a dancer.

“I think the rest of the Elon community will learn to appreciate dance, especially ballet, and all the hard work that goes into a performance,” May said. “I don’t know how someone could watch dancers turning on their toes and defying gravity in their jumps and not be impressed. What we put our bodies through as dancers is brutal. And we do it all for the audience.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOSCOW FESTIVAL BALLET

The Moscow Festival Ballet will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 6 in McCrary Theatre.

# 86th Annual Academy Awards or gourmet pizza party?

John Capetanos  
Reporter

The 86th Annual Academy Awards, also known as The Oscars, honored achievements and broke records. The host, Ellen DeGeneres, even shared pizza with the audience March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

It was a much friendlier show compared to the raunchiness of last year’s show, hosted by Seth MacFarlane, but it wasn’t without humor.

“It’s like ‘The Hunger Games.’ There are cameras everywhere, people are starving and Jennifer Lawrence won last year,” said

DeGeneres at the start of the show.

During the show, DeGeneres broke the record for most retweets ever with a selfie of herself and many of the nominees.

The show featured presenters who were Oscar winners, nominees or major presences on the Hollywood scene, including Anne Hathaway, Samuel L. Jackson, Naomi Watts, Sally Field, Emma Watson, Bradley Cooper, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Benedict Cumberbatch.

This year’s race for Best Picture was incredibly close according to members of the Academy, with films like “Captain Phillips,” the true tale of a man captured by Somali pirates and the desperate actions he took to

escape, “Gravity,” a stressful, visceral look at the dangers of space, “Dallas Buyers Club,” a harrowing tale about a man pushed to his breaking point when he learns he has contracted AIDS, “Philomena,” the true story about a mother’s search for her long lost son; and “12 Years A Slave,” a story of survival as told by Solomon Northup, a free man forced into slavery in Georgia.

“12 Years A Slave,” directed by Steve McQueen, won Best Picture and also won for Best Adapted Screenplay. Lupita Nyong’o won Best Supporting Actress for “12 Years A Slave.”

The Oscar for Best Actor went to Matthew McConaughey for his role in “Dallas

Buyers Club,” and the Oscar for Best Actress went to Cate Blanchett for her role in “Blue Jasmine.”

Jared Leto won Best Supporting Actor for “Dallas Buyers Club.”

The big winners of the night were “Gravity,” which took home seven Oscars, including Best Visual Effects and Best Director, and Disney’s “Frozen,” which took home Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song for “Let It Go.”

Lupita Nyong’o summed up the night when she said, “When I look down at this little golden statue, may it remind me and every little child that no matter where you are from, your dreams are valid.”

# Davidson proving to be SoCon Tournament favorite

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

With tune-ups against Division II schools, brutal nonconference slates and crosstown rivalries now on the back burner, Southern Conference teams now move their focus to one common goal: earning an NCAA Tournament bid.

One of 68 slots on the bracket will be filled March 10 when the SoCon Tournament culminates in Asheville. Davidson College, the two-time defending champion, returns as the No. 1 seed while the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga takes ground at No. 2. The teams are seeded as follows:

No. 11 THE CITADEL (2-14) — The Bulldogs (6-25 overall) only triumphed twice in SoCon play, but the wins were their final two games. They tend to hang around for a bit, but freeze up toward the end of the game and are often on the wrong side of a massive run. Matt Van Syoc averages 14.2 points per game and shoots 86.5 percent from the free throw line.

No. 10 FURMAN (3-13) — The Paladins (9-20 overall) have been in the cellar of the standings for the majority of the season. Their nonconference schedule was impeded with a 97-93 home loss to Division II Mars Hill. Two of Furman's three SoCon wins are against The Citadel. Stephen Croone posts 19.3 points per game.

No. 9 APPALACHIAN STATE (5-11) — The Mountaineers (9-20 overall) did not pick up a win against a Division I opponent until Jan. 18 and have only won on the road twice. Slow starts have bogged down Appalachian State, which has played much of the season without preseason SoCon honoree Jay Canty. Tab Hamilton averages 13 points per game.

No. 8 SAMFORD (6-10) — The Bulldogs (12-19 overall) have shown signs of glamour, beating Elon, Chattanooga and Western Carolina, but looked dismal in losses to The Citadel and Furman. Tim Williams (17.4 ppg, 7.4 rebounds per game) has been noted among the league's best and shoots a glaring 60.1 percent from the field. When they're on, the Bulldogs are a team to look out for.

No. 7 GEORGIA SOUTHERN (6-10) — The Eagles (13-18 overall) have had their fair share of tight games but struggled to come out on top in many of them. The high point of their season came in a Feb. 20 win at then-first-place Chattanooga. Georgia Southern thrives on its guard play, mainly the duo of Tre Bussey (15.9 ppg) and Jelani Hewitt (20.4 ppg). Both are threats to drive and shoot from long distance.

No. 6 UNCG (7-9) — Wes Miller's team looked like it might be dangerous during nonconference play with a win at Virginia Tech and a close loss to Wake Forest. But that hasn't been the case for the Spartans (14-17 overall) in SoCon action. They lost some competitive games but failed to break into the league's upper echelon. A recent high point was a 73-71 win over Wofford to end the season. Kyle Cain averages 15.5 ppg.

No. 5 WESTERN CAROLINA (10-6) — The Catamounts (17-14 overall) won their first four SoCon games, but a stretch in which they lost three of four inhibited them from taking the next step. Their only win over the league's top four was a 74-62 triumph at home against Elon Jan. 4. Trey Sumler (17.6 ppg, 4.4 assists per game) has the ability to take over a game from the point guard position.

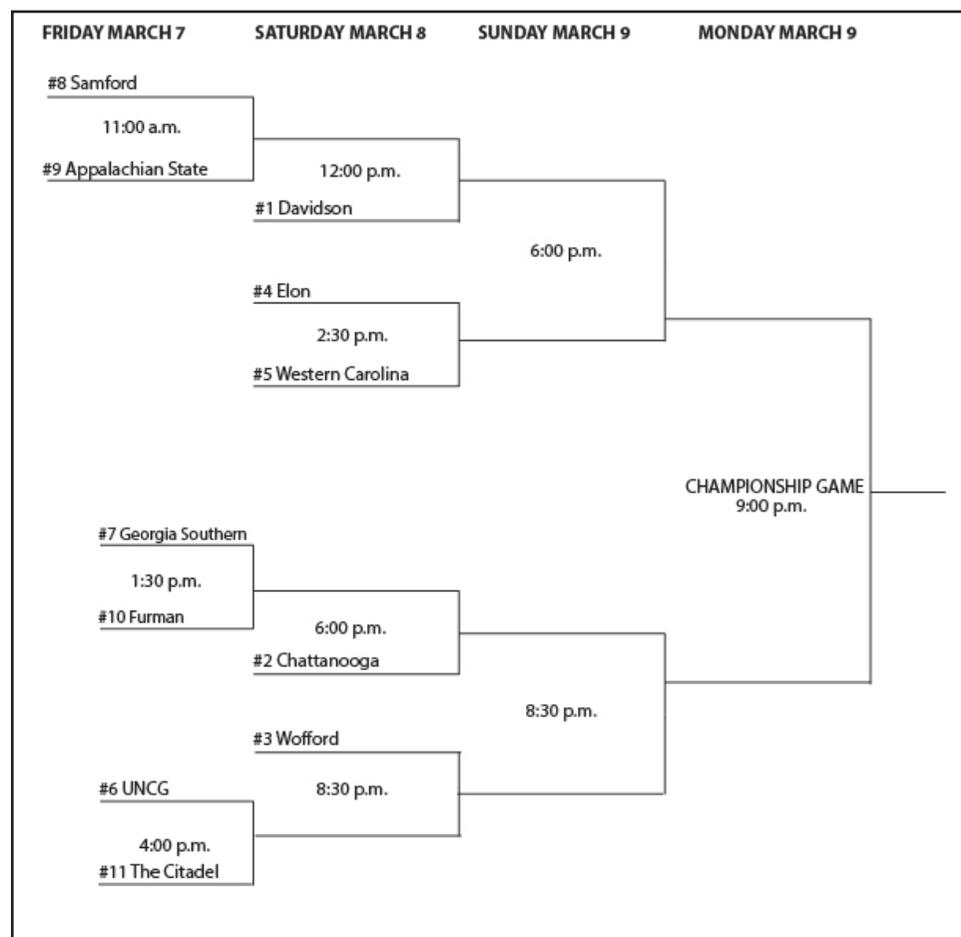
No. 4 ELON (11-5) — The Phoenix (18-13 overall) was picked as the preseason favorite to win the league after returning its entire starting lineup, but had some ups and downs during SoCon action. Elon lost to Western Carolina to begin league play and lost three straight in January after beating Davidson on the road. The victory over Davidson suggests they have what it takes to win the tournament, but the Phoenix was embarrassed by the Wildcats on senior night March 1. Lucas Troutman (16.0 ppg, 6.4 rebounds per game) has had a fantastic senior season.

No. 3 WOFFORD (11-5) — The Terriers (17-12 overall) have the tiebreaker over Elon after beating the Phoenix, 63-59, in the final week of the regular season. For head coach Mike Young's team to succeed, its defense must play at the caliber it did against Elon and Davidson. Wofford stifles its opponents' 3-point shooters while clog-

ging up the lane and the post as well. After a midseason stretch in which they lost three of four (twice to Chattanooga, once to Davidson), the Terriers won nine straight. Karl Cochran (15.4 ppg, 39.8 percent from 3-point) is a threat beyond the arc.

No. 2 CHATTANOOGA (12-4) — The Mocs (18-13 overall) won their first eight SoCon games, including an 84-63 rout of Elon, and appeared to be in the driver's seat for the title. But a 94-51 loss at Davidson was a setback, as the team lost five of nine to end the year. Those losses include one at UNCG, a home defeat to Georgia Southern and an overtime tilt with Samford. Gee McGhee (10.4 ppg) and Z. Mason (9.4 ppg) lead the Mocs.

No. 1 DAVIDSON (15-1) — Despite losing a handful of contributors and being picked to finish second, the Wildcats (19-11 overall) have proved they're still the team to beat in the SoCon. Since losing in overtime to Elon Jan. 16, Davidson has reeled off 12 consecutive wins, 11 of them coming by double digits. Head coach Bob McKillop's team shot 52 percent in SoCon action and is a threat in all offensive aspects. Preseason player of the year De'Mon Brooks (20.3 ppg) leads the conference in scoring, and Brian Sullivan has shot 45.3 percent from 3-point range. If the Wildcats keep playing the way they are, it will be a daunting task to knock them off their pedestal.



## 2014 Southern Conference Men's Basketball Championship

# Elon hoops becoming hot ticket on campus

Tommy Hamzik  
Sports Editor

Somewhere on Elon University's campus lies a cape, two lawn chairs and some basketballs. It sounds like something you'd picture in a toddler's play room, but those objects took on a new meaning March 1.

With the Elon men's basketball team playing host to perennial power Davidson College at 7 p.m. in Alumni Gym, those objects were a testament to the power of sports in uniting a group of people. In this case, it was a student body.

In front of the student entrance at the south end of Alumni Gym, hundreds of students waited outside to secure a seat to see four seniors who have taken Elon to new heights in their four years on campus. On their senior night, everyone was there. From seniors to freshmen, from die-hards to those who couldn't tell you what a 2-3 zone is, they were there.

As moans and groans from the fall about football attendance were still prevalent in students' minds, it seemed like a revolution. More than anything, that's what has occurred over the past four years in regards to Elon basketball.

At the front of the line stood three seniors, Jeff Stern, George Adams and Ben Naughton, who set up shop at the student entrance of Alumni Gym at approximately 11 a.m. that morning in a pair of lawn chairs. The trio took turns switching off, going between various Elon athletics events on campus that day.

"It was a 'why not?' scenario," Adams said. "We were considering camping out if it was warm."

In the shades of the famous Krzyzewskiville at Duke University, the three couldn't have been more thrilled for basketball. That's saying something, considering Stern said he was "dragged" to one game during his freshman year.

The three said they felt a personal

connection with the players despite not knowing them. According to Naughton, it's just one benefit to a small school like Elon.

"You actually feel like you know the players," Naughton said. "That's something you don't get at larger schools."

They went on to describe a day-and-night change from what basketball games were like their freshman year. Jokes were directed at Adams, who enjoys shaking hands with head coach Matt Matheny after games.

"Matheny's kind of personality is contagious," Naughton said.

It was Matheny himself who came to Elon in 2009, striving to make basketball games the place to be on Saturday nights. He rekindled memories of hearing his wife having a normal conversation on the other side of the gym because of how few people were there and how quiet the place was.

So what he saw when No. 16 University of Massachusetts came to town Jan. 18 and for the Davidson game was not only satisfying, but remarkable in more ways than one.

"Our dream was for this ticket to be the toughest ticket in town," Matheny said. "We said that for about two to three years. Guess what? Tonight was the toughest ticket in Alamance County. Maybe the toughest ticket in the history of Alamance County."

One person who's had a ticket to every home game since he was a freshman is senior Pete D'Abrosca, deemed Elon's "Super Fan." Dressed in his trademark cape and wig, he stands in Section 2, Row 1, Seat 12 and yells his heart out for 40 minutes of Elon basketball all winter.

From the time he set foot on campus as a freshman, he said he's seen the transformation of the culture surrounding sports from the perspective of a student. As a campus tour guide, it makes his life easier.

"One question I'm asked consistently is, 'Do kids go to games?'" D'Abrosca said. "From freshman year, it's changed from 'Well, not really,' to 'Yeah, it's getting better,' to 'Yes, absolutely.'"

Though D'Abrosca will graduate in May, the wig and cape will stay in Alumni Gym and the Delta Upsilon fraternity. The garments were passed down to D'Abrosca on his bid day freshman year, and will now be in their fourth generation when current freshman Logan Quackenbush sports them next year.

How did Quackenbush receive such a high honor? It was an easy transition, D'Abrosca said.

"I was planning on passing them down to someone in our pledge class," he said. "[Quackenbush] was out here like two hours before the UMass game. Right then, I knew he was the kid. As soon as he walked in and accepted his bid, I threw the cape and wig on him."

But beneath it all, the cape and wig would be meaningless if the person wearing them didn't have someone to cheer for.

The senior basketball players — Jack Isenbarger, Sebastian Koch, Lucas Troutman and Ryley Beaumont — have provided thrills and excitement for nearly four years. They've won more games (68) than any other Elon class during its Division I era. Isenbarger holds the school record for 3-pointers, while Troutman sits ninth on Elon's all-time scoring list.

But there weren't always big cut-out heads of them in the student section. Beaumont recalled meeting a member of the pep band on move-in weekend as a freshman and learning what the atmosphere was like in Alumni Gym.

"She told me, 'Yeah, games are fun; nobody really comes, but they're still fun,'" Beaumont said.

In four years, that's changed quite a bit.

"You reverse that to looking out there tonight," Beaumont said, "with people being there so early, it's something special that we built while we were here."

As those students waited outside, two men, seemingly alumni, strolled by with smiles on their faces.

"This is a good sign!" one of them said.

That it is. Elon men's basketball has been revitalized on this campus.



ASHLEY KING | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attendance at Alumni Gym for the Davidson game was 1,871, the largest crowd since renovations in 2010.

# Inconsistent Phoenix prepares for *Elon's success in Asheville hinging on*

Kyle Maher, Matt Mallian and Jordan Spritzer  
Senior Reporters

After a grueling 28-game regular season that had its ups and downs, the most important games of the Elon University women's basketball team's season have yet to be played.

The Phoenix will play Appalachian State University at 2:15 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Kimmel Arena in Asheville to open the Southern Conference Tournament. The Phoenix will play as the No. 5 seed, while the Mountaineers are ranked as the No. 4 seed.

Elon and Appalachian State split both regular season meetings this year, with Elon winning a 66-54 decision Jan. 17 in Alumni Gym and dropping a 71-60 game Feb. 17 in Boone.

Sophomore Jessica Farmer scored a career-high 19 points in Elon's Jan. 17 win, and the Phoenix shot 47 percent from the field. But it was a different story for the Phoenix Feb. 17 as the team struggled to a 37 percent shooting clip in the loss.

The key to stopping the Mountaineers is to stop its most effective player, SoCon scoring leader Maryah Sydnor, who averages 19.5 points per game. The junior dropped 16 and 21 points on the Phoenix in the team's two regular season matchups.

Awaiting either the Phoenix or the Mountaineers in a possible semifinal matchup is the winner of the No. 1 seed vs. No. 8/9 seed game. The likely winner of this game, top-seeded University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, earned a perfect 18-0 in the Southern Conference, and 25-3 overall. The Mocs, winners of two of the past four SoCon Tournament championships, defeated Elon by 23 and 14 points, respectively, in two games this season.

When asked about the possibility of playing Chattanooga in the tournament, senior guard Kelsey Harris said it's something the team won't worry about until it has to.

"Seedings are what they are," Harris said. "I still think that even though playing [Chattanooga] will be tough, we have the tools and the personnel to beat them. So I think we're just going to approach it like any other game."

In Elon's most recent game against Chattanooga Feb. 28, the Phoenix started

out fast and trailed by just two points at halftime. Elon led by as many as seven points in the first half of that game, proving they can compete with the best.

Freshman guard Lauren Brown said that, in the end, it all comes down to how much your team wants to win.

"There aren't any teams that are easy games — every game you have to come prepared, ready to play," Brown said. "With the way teams are playing right now, whoever plays the hardest is going to win the game."

Harris echoed her teammates' responses, saying that this time of year, seedings can be thrown out the window.

"No matter what our seeding is, everybody still has to win all their games in order to win the championship," Harris said. "It's a new day for us. We just have to go out there and play."

## Harris looked to for leadership

Harris knows she'll be relied on for leadership as the only senior on Elon's



Riding strong play from freshmen Lauren Brown (3) and Jenifer Rhodes (11), the Elon women's basketball team earned the no. 5 seed for the conference tournament.

EMILY STONE | Staff Photographer

# Southern Conference Tournament

## *Harris' leadership, beating road woes*

roster and given her bevy of experience in the Southern Conference Tournament, a three-games-in-three-days gauntlet that most of her younger teammates have yet to deal with.

"It's hard," Harris said. "Especially when they realize the number of games we play in a short amount of days. I know in previous years, the No. 1 seed has been knocked off by No. 3 and 4 seeds because they were in better shape. You have to have a mentally tough mindset to win in the end."

One thing that will help the Phoenix combat the tournament's demanding schedule is the quality of depth head coach Charlotte Smith has at her disposal. All 12 players on the roster have appeared in at least eight games, and nine of those 12 have started at least three games, including 55 combined starts from freshmen and sophomores.

"It's going to help us a lot," Harris said. "It's going to give us an edge on the competition. Just knowing that we are deep and that we can rotate a lot of players in and out will be our strong point."

As her record-breaking, storybook career with Elon winds down, and she and her teammates head to her final conference tournament, Harris hopes to conclude her career with a trophy in hand and a bid to the NCAA tournament, which she's never played in.

"From the beginning of the year, we've had the goal to win the Southern Conference championship," Harris said. "The tournament championship, regular season championship, everything."

To do so, Harris and her teammates will have to regroup and refocus as they enter the most important sector of their schedule.

"It's a new season," Harris said. "It's a new day. No matter what our seed is, everyone still has to win their games in

order to win the championship."

Brown agreed with her teammate's sentiment, stressing the need for a focused mindset going into a do-or-die, single elimination SoCon tournament.

"We want to play hard for [Harris]," Brown said. "We're really playing for things other than just ourselves at this point. We want to give everything we have."

### Weary travelers

The greatest obstacle for Elon in the SoCon Tournament may not be any of the other nine teams competing in Asheville, N.C. With just three wins in 14 tries

away from Alumni Gym in 2013-14, The Phoenix will have to figure out how to win on the road.

Brown said focusing too much on where the game is is an unnecessary distraction.

"We have struggled [on the road] in the past, but we're trying to take the approach where any gym is a home gym," Brown said.

Brown said that, as long as the team is mentally prepared for each game, the venue will become irrelevant.

"We do shoot-a-rounds before the game, but it's really mental," she said. "If we just have that mentality where we play with the amount of intensity we bring into home games and take it anywhere we go, that's really what we are focused on."

Elon's road struggles were not limited to trips outside the Tar Heel State. Elon lost at SoCon cellar-dweller the University of North Carolina at Greensboro by double figures Jan. 4, followed up by another loss to in-state opposition Davidson College a week later. The Phoenix did manage to beat Western Carolina University on the road, but was unable to sweep its mountain road trip by falling to Appalachian State by 11 on Feb. 17.

Elon also lost its only neutral site matchup of the year. A double-digits defeat at the hands of Mercer University capped off a Thanksgiving Tournament at Vanderbilt University. For Harris, the conference tournament will not just be difficult for Elon.

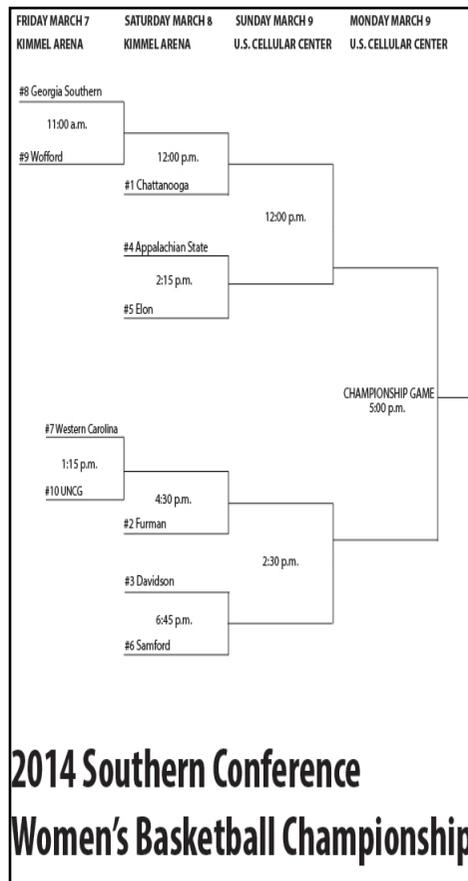
"In tournament time, everybody is traveling to a certain extent," Harris said, "Everybody's in a new environment."

The Gastonia, N.C. native said she hopes the team can rally behind fans who make the trip with them.

"Nobody has that home court at Asheville, [but] we will have our fans come out and travel to support us," Harris said.

The Phoenix has managed to beat some of the best teams in the conference at Alumni Gym, including a double-digit comeback against Davidson. But bad losses on the road have plagued much of Elon's season. Only first-place Chattanooga has a winning record on the road this year. In addition, no team has a record better than .500 on neutral courts, leaving the door wide open for Elon to regain its stride away from home.

*For updates on the SoCon Tournament March 7-10, please follow @pendulumsports on Twitter and visit elonpendulum.com*



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# Women's lacrosse captains supply competitive spark

Kate Murphy  
Senior Reporter

With 21 freshmen on roster, leadership is one pivotal piece to success for the Elon University women's lacrosse team.

Beyond the large freshmen class, four upperclassmen have been practicing with the coaching staff and preparing the launch of the program since last spring. The two senior captains on the team, Tierney Guido and Emily Bishop, were both part of the club team at Elon. When they heard the news that a varsity team was being created, they knew they had to go for it.

"I thought, 'I have to be a part of that. I want to make history at my school,'" Guido said.

Bishop agreed without hesitation. The jump from the club to varsity level may have seemed daunting, but it was something neither one could pass up.

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," she said.

Having been leaders on the club team, the two were named captains of the rising varsity team. That position carries a lot of responsibility, but it came naturally to Guido and Bishop.

"They're our captains and our two seniors. Even before we made them captains, they naturally were leaders," Elon head coach Josh Hexter said.

The two have shown a strong ability to connect with the 21 freshmen on the roster. Despite being outnumbered by such a large margin, both Bishop and Guido said it was easy to relate to the freshman.

"It was easy for them to come in and for us to get to know them," Bishop said. "We get to make our own dynamic rather than fit them into one that's already there, because everyone is new."

Stepping into a role distinguishing a person as something more than just a player is a hefty task. For the lacrosse team, a captain is a communication link between the coaching staff and the players and has to be open and honest about the team and the direction it's headed.

"I feel really fortunate to have them as our team leaders," Hexter said. "We both give and receive open criticism, which can be very dif-

icult. They're open and honest about their thoughts on where we're going and how we're doing it, and that's been very helpful to me."

Guido said the most important aspect of being a captain and a leader on the team is being vocal to maintain a positive presence for the girls.

"As seniors, we see their potential, and we have so much faith in them," Guido said. "And since I'm not on the field, I just want to be that person to help them and motivate them."

Guido tore her ACL during the team's first day of fall season, which put her out of commission for the rest of the year. She said knowing she wouldn't be able to play at all this season was hard to handle at first, especially after working so hard on the field and preparing with the coaches for months.

She said when she got injured she would lead this team when she couldn't be out on the field playing with them. But, despite the career-ending injury, Guido stayed committed to the team and remained a strong and positive influence off the field.

"She never put her head down, never complained, never gave up, stayed more commit-

ted and has been so helpful to our program," Hexter said. "She's a great example for our younger girls to see. I can't express enough how thankful we are that she didn't quit on us."

Guido has almost taken on the role of a second assistant.

"Guido has been a right hand man to both of us, helping out with practice and running stations," said assistant coach Virginia Crotty. "She has really stepped up in this new role, almost being a coach and leading the girls and keeping them focused, which has really helped our team."

Guido's leadership and commanding presence off the field is balanced by Bishop's quiet yet tenacious mentality.

"I lead by example," Bishop said. "I always put my best effort forward so the rest of the girls will hopefully follow and we can continue to get better every day."

Bishop goes into every practice with a positive attitude and works to set the tone of practice and keep everyone on their game. Her work ethic and competitive spirit is a seamless representation of the culture of the team. How she approaches practice every day

is exactly the environment the coaches are trying to build for the future of this program.

"It's very 'work hard, play hard,'" Hexter said. "We want the competitive spirit and fun to play off of each other. The girls have done a great job of embracing that culture, not shying away from it."

The players, who are fighting for starting spots each day at practice, thrive in that competitive culture. That, along with the drive to become better individually, makes the job easier for Hexter and the captains to make practice time beneficial.

Captains play a huge role in maintaining a fun, competitive environment on the field and keeping the team focused and close-knit off it. Bishop and Guido have fully embraced that responsibility and taken off with it.

"Many captains wait for direction of the coach, but they've been very proactive," Hexter said. "And hopefully, that's the culture we have because ultimately, it's their team. They're the ones we have on the field."

*For full game recaps for the Elon women's lacrosse team and all varsity athletics, please visit [elondependulum.com](http://elondependulum.com).*



Sloane Kessler leads Elon with seven goals through the team's first four games. Kessler had five goals in Elon's 16-7 win against St. Francis College.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer  
**Sophomore Michael Elefante delivers a pitch during Elon University's 8-5 win over Saint Joseph's University Feb. 28 at Latham Park.**



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor  
**Elon freshman Molly Garrigan takes a shot in the Phoenix's first-ever home game, a 16-7 win over Saint Francis College March 1.**

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
**Senior Jack Isenbarger drives around a Wofford College defender in a game Feb. 27 in Alumni Gym. The Terriers beat the Phoenix 63-59.**



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